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1. Eurosif Update

Members Meet, Mingle and Debate in London

Eurosif held a successful Advisory Council Meeting on December 1st in London. We would like to thank F&C for hosting the event which brought together over half of our members from 9 different countries. Members were able to share opinions and ideas about Eurosif's past work as well as provide input for future projects through an interactive presentation by Matt Christensen. We also heard speeches by Paolo Santella and Dominique Bé from the European Commission and a presentation on shareholder activism by Roy Jones. The afternoon was mostly dedicated to a brainstorming session on ways to "Promote Demand in SRI". A complete summary of the day's presentations as well as results from the afternoon sessions are available to Eurosif members - follow this link to the "Members Only" page (or click on 'login' in the upper right corner).

Note: If you have forgotten your password please contact Sarah Clawson at sarahc@eurosif.org.

Automobile Sector Report in the starting blocks

Eurosif is in the final stages of production for the Automobile sector report. We are partnering with SAM (Sustainable Asset Management) to produce this third report in the series. Planned for release in the beginning of 2006, the sector reports aim at helping policy makers, mainstream asset managers, companies, and pension fund trustees understand risks that lie outside the realms of traditional financial analysis, but may influence investments.

For more information please contact Sarah Clawson at sarahc@eurosif.org.

Institutional SRI Study 2006 taking shape

Eurosif has begun work on updating its landmark 2003 study of the institutional SRI market in Europe. The 2006 study will focus on collecting figures from asset management, this being the only means to collect comparable data across Europe. Expect the findings to be published at the end of June 2006.

For more information, contact jeromet@eurosif.org.

Public speaking events:

During the UK Presidency of the EU conference on "CSR and the financial sector" on December 2nd, Matt Christensen spoke about the rôle of Transparency in SRI.

On Nov 14th, Jérôme Tagger addressed an audience of European trade union representatives at the invitation of Eurocadres in Brussels. The presentation focused on SRI practices for pension funds and institutional investors in Europe.

On Nov 28th, Matt Christensen appeared in a live television interview on CNBC Europe's "Closing Bell". The news channel was investigating the position of investors in the context of the Montreal Climate talks.

2. EU Update

Investing in the Future: UK Presidency of the EU conference on “CSR and the financial sector” Dec 1-2

The traditional CSR conference held by the rotating UK EU presidency focused on CSR and the financial sector, addressing SRI, climate change and carbon issues, as well as alleviating poverty. The two-day London event saw prominent speakers take the stand, including Stephen Timms MP, Minister of State for Pensions Reform, UK Roberto Maroni, Minister of Welfare, Italy, Barry Gardiner MP, Minister for Competitiveness, UK. Several prominent finance and SRI specialists spoke during dedicated workshops, giving the audience an excellent overview of the state of play in the field of CSR and the financial sector.

www.csr.gov.uk/feature.shtml.

Business Case for Diversity - Good practices at the Workplace

The UK Presidency Conference "The Business Case for Diversity – Good practices at the Workplace" was held on 28 and 29 November in Brussels. Its objectives were to provide an opportunity to stimulate debate and share good practices on the business case for diversity at the workplace and to disseminate the results of the European Compendium on Good Practice in Workplace Diversity which was launched by the European Commission at this occasion.

www.delmit.cec.eu.int/press_highlights/1483.diversity.in.the.workplace.htm

www.conference-board.org/diversitygoodpractice.htm.

European Parliament wants 60-80% less greenhouse gas emissions by 2050

Parliament adopted a report on climate change which includes: ambitious future greenhouse gas emissions targets, a European ecotax by 2009 and mandatory targets for the road and aviation sectors.

[Click here for details on European Parliament website.](#)

DG Employment organizes CSR exhibition

DG Employment, Social Affairs & Equal Opportunities, European Commission, invites you to an exhibition on CSR - Socially Responsible from 12 to 21 December 2005 in Brussels.

The exhibition will explore the various facets of Corporate Social Responsibility, through production, work, consumption and investment activities. Several stakeholder organisations will present their views on CSR. Oxfam products will be on sale on selected days. Entry is free of charge.

More at: europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/soc-dial/csr/.

3. News from Eurosif members

Eurosif proudly welcomes two new members:

BNP Paribas Asset Management is the investment management arm of BNP Paribas, the leading bank in the euro zone in terms of net profits. A subsidiary with its own resources, BNP Paribas Asset Management has EUR 263bn of assets under management and is one of the leading players in European fund management. The asset management business employs over 1,300 staff in 20 countries. Its fund management teams are active in all of the world's major financial markets, including Paris, London, New York and Tokyo and Hong Kong. They are specialised by asset class, investment style and geographical area.

BNP Paribas Asset Management takes the view that sustainable development has a number of potential implications for businesses, and that social, environmental and corporate governance practices can reveal sources of value creation for investors. BNP Paribas Asset Management has developed a complete range of products and services integrating "extra-financial" research for retail and institutional clients totalling about EUR 4bn.

www.am.bnpparibas.com/BNPPAM/assetmanagement/home/jsp/home_int_a

[ccess.jsp](#)

GES Investment Services offers analysis and advice to institutional shareholders and asset managers concerning responsible investments. Their vision is to create a global independent house of analytics. Their mission "Every day, we make it a little bit better" represents their ambition to create better value for their clients, improve the companies they invest in and thereby contribute to a better society. Founded 1992 they not only have been a pioneer but also developed a leading position on the market with more than 80 billion Euro invested in accordance with their advice and analysis.
www.ges-invest.com

EIBE (Universiteit Nyenrode): "Knowing the price, but also the value?" research on mainstream analysts and SEE issues published

This study, produced jointly with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, shows that analysts tend to be aware of the social, ethical, and environmental (SEE) aspects of a business. They do *not*, however, typically view these aspects as necessarily material, and therefore relevant for the valuation of a company. If SEE aspects do play a role in the valuation and assessment of companies, it is still only at the margin.

EIRIS report: Only 25% of companies manage social and environmental risks well

Global socially responsible investment specialists EIRIS have found that 24 per cent of companies world-wide have good or advanced systems in place to manage social, environmental and other ethical (SEE) risks. The survey, SEE Risk Management: an analysis of its adoption by companies, is the first of its kind and analysed companies in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region and Canada. Download a full copy of the report here:

www.eiris.org/files/research/SEERiskDec05.pdf [PDF, 116kb]

or email: Stephen.hine@eiris.org

ESADE wins award for corporate ethics

Forética and Merck Sharp & Dohme de España awarded a prize to the ESADE faculty members for their research in the field of corporate ethics.

For more information, visit: www.esade.org

ETHOS publishes third study of Corporate Governance in Switzerland

The Swiss Corporate Governance Rating has shown regular growth for the last three years. Ethos suggests progress stems from more demanding international shareholders while companies with large majority shareholders remain laggards in implementing international best practice.

More at: www.ethosfund.ch

Financial Reporting: Progress on the Convergence Roadmap

FEE is organising a high level policy seminar on convergence between IFRS & US GAAP. Commissioner McCreavy, David Tweedie (IASB) and Pervenche Berès (European Parliament) will address the seminar. The latest edition of FEE's newsletter European Update is now available to download from the internet:

www.fee.be/publications/default.asp?library_ref=4&content_ref=528

Insight Investment finds New Recommendations for Board Action on Corporate Responsibility

Insight Investment, in partnership with Business in the Community and FTSE Group, has published a new report, Rewarding Virtue: effective board action on corporate responsibility. The report follows consultation with board directors of a number of FTSE 100 companies. It seeks to encourage more convergence between corporate governance and corporate responsibility agendas. The report is available for download at www.insightinvestment.com/Responsibility/RewardingVirtue.asp.

For more information contact: craig.mackenzie@insightinvestment.com

KLD introduces new Sudan Compliance Service

KLD have introduced the Service to help money managers who are increasingly being required to divest companies doing business in the Sudan. The Service identified more than 120 publicly-traded companies doing business in the Sudan.

For details contact Karen Agredo at kagredo@kld.com.

SNS REAAL Group to start investment fund of US\$50 million with "Water" as central theme

SNS REAAL Group has taken the initiative for a Fund that targets investment projects dedicated to sustainability, entrepreneurship and innovation in the field of water control and water management. Over the next 5 years, SNS REAAL Group will invest US\$ 50 million in international water projects in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe, targeting drinking water supply, sanitation, water purification and irrigation. The Fund will also invest in Dutch small and medium sized companies that are active in this field and stimulate sustainability in the field of water. The SNS REAAL Water Fund will exclusively select investments that comply with the social, environmental and economic criteria of SNS REAAL Group according to the triple bottom line investment strategy, serving People, Planet and Profit (3P).

For more information, visit: www.snsreaalgroep.nl/index.asp?NID=4691.

Vigeo creates EQUI-GLOBAL COMPACT

The EQUI-GLOBAL COMPACT is based on Vigeo's EQUITICS database and allows investors to identify companies that do not comply with Global Compact Principles.

For details please contact sylvain.guyoton@vigeo.com.

4. News from SIFs

FIR (French SIF)

FIR Finance & Sustainability Prizes awarded

On December 5th, the French SIF awarded three academic awards in the field of Finance & Sustainability. The EUR 5,000 prizes were awarded to:

Best article: From the Netherlands: Bauer, Derwall, Guenster, Koedijk "The Eco-efficiency premium puzzle"

Best Master's thesis: From Finland: Anna Kumpulainen "Environmental Business Accounting in four Finnish case companies - follow up study between 1996 and 2005"

Best PhD. thesis: From France: Céline Louche "Ethical Investment: Processes and mechanisms of institutionalisation".

A jury of prominent academics and stakeholders selected the winners among 36 candidates altogether. The ceremony received exclusive coverage from French daily "Le Monde".

To find out more about the winning articles, and the prize:

www.frenchsif.org

www.lemonde.fr

Or contact jpdesmartin@oddo.fr

Forum NG (German SIF)

Forum NG to produce consumer brochure on SRI

This publication will build on the success of a previous effort entitled "Mehr Wert: nachhaltige Geldanlagen" (More value: sustainable investments). With the support of the German ministry for consumer protection, the publication should be released mid-2006 and be followed by dedicated conferences in different German cities.

More at: www.forum-ng.de

UKSIF

UKSIF wins grant for Sustainable Pension Procurement Project from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

UKSIF is delighted to announce that they will be starting a Sustainable Pensions Project in April. The project aims to persuade occupational pension funds to support the delivery of the low carbon economy and sustainable development by using their investment services procurement to encourage more environmentally responsible corporate behaviour. The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation grant will support the appointment of a Sustainable Pensions Procurement Adviser for a two-year period (job advert will be posted on [UKSIF's job opportunities page](#)).

For information contact penny.shepherd@uksif.org

Swesif (Sweden)

Swesif's Seminar Microfinance on November 30, 2005 illuminates low-risk projects with high financial and social returns

In recognition of the UN's year on Microfinance, Swesif hosted a Microfinance seminar that illuminates low-risk projects that achieve high financial and social returns. Wagane Diouf (AfriCap) and Carl Grevelius (Absolute Plus) informed about the development of the microfinance sector and emphasized the importance of small-scale financial services to low income countries. They also highlighted profitable opportunities for investors—in terms of good financial and social returns.

More information about Microfinance and this event, please contact Swesif or Lars-Olof Hellgren, Kyrkornas U-fond loh@conceptsweden.com

5. SRI news in Europe & elsewhere

OFR project in the UK cancelled

Gordon Brown surprised investors, companies, accountants and environmentalists, by abandoning plans to force listed companies to disclose more about their operations, including how companies manage social and environmental risks. This disclosure project was an important initiative in Europe and beyond, and had been piloted by companies in the last year. The UK Social Investment Forum expressed its disappointment in a letter to the Financial Times, available from www.uksif.org.

Investors monitor companies and freedom of expression

With the support of Reporters Without Borders, an alliance of investors is pledging to monitor technology companies that do business in countries with poor human rights reputations, and is asking the companies to proclaim their commitment to freedom of expression. Twenty-five investment groups, representing about \$21 billion (euro17.8 billion) in assets in the United States, Europe and Australia, including Eurosif member Ethos, are signatories to the "joint investor statement on freedom of expression and the Internet" The statement comes after several instances in which technology companies have been criticized for cooperating with governments, notably China, in order to secure strong market positions.

www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=15529 [in French]

CorporateRegister.com publishes FTSE100 CSR reporting status

CorporateRegister.com has published statistics and a listing of the current FTSE100, showing their CSR reporting status. Only one company has published no CSR related information, while 83 companies have full CSR / sustainability reports:

www.corporateregister.com/charts/FTSE.htm.

CorporateRegister.com currently profiles over 10,000 CSR and related reports from 3,000 companies across 80 countries:

www.CorporateRegister.com.

HIV: Religious Investors Engage 7 Companies

Shareholder HIV/AIDS activists connected to the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) successfully worked with companies such as Ford Motor Company and Coca-Cola to

expand the HIV-TB-Malaria response of companies in the automotive and beverage sector. Now they are bringing their message to Dell, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Intel, Lucent, Motorola & Texas Instruments.

Contact: www.iccr.org

Carbon: Institutional Investors on the March

The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) is launching round 4 of its disclosure requests, thus stepping up pressure on leading companies around the world to disclose what they are doing to manage climate change related risk. CDP is the world's largest coalition of institutional investors with assets in excess of \$21 trillion.

www.cdproject.net

PFS Program Research: Reporting on CSR by Listed Companies in 11 Central and Eastern European (CEE)

Partners for Financial Stability (PFS) Program published a report entitled, "Survey of Reporting on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by the Largest Listed Companies in Central and Eastern Europe." For more information, see the full report:

www.pfsprogram.org/capitalmarkets_research.php

(Or via the home page: <http://www.pfsprogram.org>)

U.S. & International Trade Unions Call for Strong Climate Change Targets for Kyoto's 2nd Period

The United Steelworkers Union has pledged a campaign with other US unions to persuade the American Government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Speaking at a COP11 news briefing, USWA Vice-President Jim Pannell said: "Failure to ratify Kyoto puts US workers at a massive disadvantage. We will work with Trade Unions from the United States and the rest of the world and to help build support for the Kyoto Protocol with strong targets for its second commitment period after 2008-2012."

For more download: www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_7g.EN.pdf [PDF, 32kb]

IPE AWARDS: SRI prize goes to UK Environmental Agency Pension fund

Last year, the Environmental Agency revised its investment guidelines to better reflect its environmental concerns in its active pension fund. As a result, six new investments mandates were awarded this spring to fund managers that demonstrated they could best meet the environmental overlay.

More at: www.ipe.com

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/environmental_overlay_998382.pdf

[PDF, 108kb]

Morocco organizes pioneer SRI conference on African continent

Under the patronage of his Highness King Mohammed VI, a world-wide group of SRI specialists gathered in Rabat on Dec 1-2 to discuss and debate SRI. The "Integrales de l'Investissement" conference on SRI was a pioneer event in Morocco and the African continent.

www.investment-conference.com/fr/apropos.asp?annee=2005 [in French]

Renewables market seen leaping by 70% by 2008

The global market for renewable energy technology is expected to soar by 70% over the next three years, according to a new report by Mcllvaine. The US-based specialist industry analysis company estimates the market is currently worth \$27 billion and expects this to reach \$46 billion in 2008. www.environmental-finance.com

Ethical Finance on Television

Ethical Markets, an independent media project working towards the integration of ethical concerns into the corporate sector is broadcasting a weekly half-hour financial TV series, exploring opportunities and success stories in the implementation of the triple bottom line. All 13 TV shows produced so far are available online at: www.ethicalmarkets.com

CONTEXT reveals Lack of Stakeholder Involvement in Reporting

Corporate Responsibility strategy and communications consultancy CONTEXT's latest research and analysis on reporting trends in the US and Europe ("Corporate Responsibility: a united state?"), indicates that despite apparent enthusiasm for partnership and engagement, few companies provide space for stakeholder voices in their Corporate Responsibility reports. Full report available online at: www.econtext.co.uk

Coro Strandberg researches the future of SRI

Canadian SRI pioneer Vancity Credit Union commissioned sustainability consultancy Strandberg Consulting to conduct a survey of 42 SRI thought leaders on the future of SRI. The resulting report, The Future of Socially Responsible Investment: Thought Leader Study, shows a gradual shift from SRI as an instrument of moral philosophy to SRI as an instrument for mainstream investors who are not interested in morality itself but recognize that immoral behaviour of companies will hurt their investments.

Available online at: www.corostrandberg.com

Goldman Sachs First Investment Bank to Adopt Environmental Policy

The policy matches the robustness of other such policies recently adopted by global financial institutions, but the status of Goldman Sachs as an investment bank brings added significance.

www.gs.com/our_firm/our_culture/social_responsibility/environmental_policy_framework/index.html

6. Upcoming events

CSR EXPO - Socially Responsible - an exhibition on CSR

12 - 21 December 2005

DG Employment, Social Affairs & Equal Opportunities, European Commission
rue Joseph II, 37 - B-1040-Brussels (Arts-Loi metro).

europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/soc-dial/csr/.

The Seventh Annual Eco-Products 2005 Exhibition

15 - 17 December 2005

Download: www.vcc.ne.jp/eco2005/english/eco05_guidance.pdf [PDF, 1.6MB].

UNEP First Trade Union Assembly on Labour and the Environment

15-17 January 2006, Nairobi, Kenya.

www.will2006.org.

UNEP Environmentally Sound Technology Showcase

5 - 8 February 2006, Dubai.

CSR in Enlarged Europe

20 February 2006

Organised by the European Commission in association with the World Bank.

europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/soc-dial/csr/060220_cover_en.html.

Ethics Officer Association European Business Ethics and Compliance Conference

21 - 23 February 2006, London UK

<http://www.eoa.org>.

Corporate Responsibility 2006: Emerging Risks and Evolving Responsibilities

13-14 March 2006, London.

Hosted by Chatham House (supported by UKSIF).

Visit www.chathamhouse.org.uk/index.php?id=5&cid=84.

GLOBE 2006

29 - 31 March 2006, Vancouver, Canada.

Biennial international conference and trade fair on the business and the environment.

www.globe2006.com.

CSR and Sustainability Reporting

3 April 2006, Brussels

Organised by the European Commission in association with the ESRA (European Sustainability Reporting Awards).

europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/soc-dial/csr/.

CSR and Governance

15 May 2006, Brussels

Organised by the European Commission in association with The Copenhagen Centre.

europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/soc-dial/csr/.

TBLI Asian Conference

25-26 May (tentative), Bangkok.

Visit www.tbli.org.

Second International Conference on Quantified Eco-efficiency analysis for sustainability

28th - 30th June, 2006 Netherlands

www.eco-efficiency-conf.org/.

TBLI Europe Conference 2006

16-17 November (tentative), Paris.

Visit www.tbli.org.