



Eurosif

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Eurosif examines company practices in Food and Insurance sectors

Eurosif (European Social Investment Forum) publishes today two reports covering social and environmental challenges for companies in the Food Production and Insurance sectors. These are the fourth and fifth such notes in Eurosif's series of publications aimed at raising awareness among a wide European audience on the nature and understanding of social and environmental issues, as well as related business opportunities potentially affecting long-term returns and productivity within these sectors.

The sector reports aim at helping policy makers, mainstream and specialist SRI investors, pension fund trustees, and companies understand risks that are not consistently integrated into traditional financial analysis, but which have the potential to influence companies' shareholder value and fund managers' investment decisions. They describe the companies' impacts on the environment and society, discuss the opportunities and risks such issues present and outline ways in which companies can address them.

Eurosif conducted their own research for the Food Production report and worked with Bank Sarasin for the research side of the Insurance report. Both sector notes had steering committees to debate the issues and develop ways to present the stakeholder and financial points of view. For the Food Production report the steering committee included asset managers from Bank Sarasin & Co. Ltd, Crédit Agricole Asset Management, SAM Group, Société Générale Asset Management, and Schroders. For the Insurance sector note it was made up of asset managers from Crédit Agricole Asset Management, Dexia Insurance Services, Forética, Groupama Asset Management, and Oddo Securities.

Matt Christensen, Executive Director of Eurosif, states, "Our sector report programme highlights the key environmental, social and governance issues that European industries are facing today. Eurosif's Member Affiliates play a critical role in working across countries to help us outline the most important extra-financial risks within each sector that they are measuring in today's market."

Eurosif highlighted four key challenges for the Food Production sector: Consumer Health & Nutrition, Safety of Food Products, Land Use & Water Shortage and Labour Standards & Human Rights.

As for the Insurance sector, Eurosif and Bank Sarasin noted five main issues facing the industry: Marketplace Conduct, Integration into Core Business, Access to Insurance Services, Sustainable Asset Management and Human Resources Management.

Eckhard Plinke, Head of Research from Bank Sarasin Sustainable Investment states, "We were pleased to work with Eurosif and the steering committee to highlight trends, risks and opportunities in the insurance market. As the direct environmental and social impact of the sector is comparatively small, a comprehensive sustainability management approach, including indirect impacts, is still lacking in most companies. We feel this report will help investors make better informed decisions regarding company stocks as well as show companies areas where they might need to improve."

These reports will be soon followed by two more from Eurosif covering the Paper & Forestry as well as Real Estate sectors. Robin Edme, Eurosif's President says, "We plan to continue to produce sector reports as they have proven to be very useful in demonstrating the key non-financial risks in specific sectors and how companies should be developing strategic competence in their management of them."

To view the reports please go to www.eurosif.org.

Notes to Editors

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Eurosif (the European Social Investment Forum) is a pan-European group whose mission is to **Address Sustainability through Financial Markets**. Recognised as the premier European forum for sustainable investment, Eurosif's member affiliates are drawn from leading pension funds, asset managers, academic institutes and research providers together representing assets totalling over €600bn. The key benefits that Eurosif affiliate members receive include EU lobbying, SRI information and European wide initiatives that integrate SRI and Corporate Governance issues into the financial services sector.

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Founded in 1841, Bank Sarasin is today one of Switzerland's leading private banking institutions. Its sustainable success is based on trust, confidentiality, expertise and dedication. Bank Sarasin's core activities include investment advisory and asset management services for private and institutional clients, as well as an investment funds business. Its complementary services extend to corporate finance and financial analysis. The Sarasin Group - headquartered in Basel, Switzerland - employs over 1100 staff. In addition to its headquarters in Basel, the Bank has offices in Zurich, Geneva and Lugano in Switzerland. Internationally, the Sarasin Group has offices in Dubai, Guernsey, Hong Kong, London, Luxembourg, Munich, Paris and Singapore. Bank Sarasin is a limited company. Its shares are listed on the Swiss Stock Exchange, SWX. Its majority shareholder, Rabobank, enjoys the highest qualification of credit status (triple-A rating) from prominent international rating agencies. Measured by its core capital, Rabobank is one of the world's top twenty financial institutions.

Bank Sarasin is one of the pioneers in the field of socially responsible investments (or sustainable investments) and since 1989 has built up a very experienced team of now 20 professionals. It uses its own research based on a proprietary concept and has integrated research and asset management into a comprehensive and flexible concept. Due to its reputation and success Sarasin is one of the leading sustainable asset managers in Europe and has more than €3.5 billion under Management.