



Eurosif

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European Car Makers Need to Get up to Speed

Eurosif, in partnership with SAM (Sustainable Asset Management), today publishes an overview report of the Automobile sector. This is the third such report in a 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 the sector.

This sector report aims 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. It describes the companies' impacts on the environment and society, discusses the opportunities and risks such issues present and outlines ways in which companies can address them.

Eurosif and SAM worked with a steering committee made up of asset managers from BNP Paribas Asset Management, Crédit Agricole Asset Management, Dexia Asset Management and UBS Global Asset Management to debate the issues in the report and develop a way to present both the stakeholder and financial points of view.

"We were pleased to work with Eurosif and the steering committee to highlight trends and risks in the automotive market. 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", says Philipp Mettler, CFA, Equity Analyst at SAM.

Eurosif and SAM have highlighted five key challenges for the automobile sector over the next five to ten years: Fuel Efficiency & Climate Change, Air Quality & Public Health, Safety, Human Resources Management and Supplier Relations.

David Diamond, Sustainability Analyst at Crédit Agricole Asset Management states, "This sector report clearly outlines the main social, environmental and ethical issues companies and investors in the automobile industry should be keeping an eye on as they will potentially affect financial performance in the years to come."

This third report on the automobile sector follows Eurosif's publication on the hotel & tourism sector last June, and chemicals last October. Matt Christensen, Eurosif's Executive Director says, "Eurosif plans to continue producing sector reports in 2006 as they have been well received by the public as well as EU policy makers."

To view the report 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**. Current member affiliates of Eurosif include pension funds, financial service providers, academic institutes, research associations and NGO's. The association is a not-for-profit entity that represents assets totalling over €600bn through its membership.

The main benefits Eurosif member affiliates receive are:

1. An insiders view on **EU lobbying** efforts and key information about recent EU developments.
2. Privileged access to current **research** on legislation, policies and practices for the integration of social, environmental and ethical issues into European financial services.
3. Numerous possibilities to participate in various **pan European initiatives** with Eurosif and other members.
4. Timely **communications** on the state of SRI across Europe and invitations to international **events**.

SAM

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Headquartered in Zurich, SAM Group was founded in 1995 as an independent asset management company specialising in sustainability investments. Today SAM is one of the world's leading institutions in this sector. Its clientele includes banks, insurance companies, pension funds, foundations and private clients.

SAM carries out systematic research to identify successful companies that meet sustainability criteria. The integration of these future-oriented criteria into the investment process provides investors with a high degree of security, transparency and an attractive return. SAM's expertise is based on its own independent research and an active worldwide sustainability network.

Together with Dow Jones Indexes and STOXX, SAM has launched a family of sustainability indexes to track the performance of companies that are industry leaders in terms of sustainability.