



Eurosif

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Eurosif looks at sustainability in Forestry & Paper and Real Estate sectors

Eurosif (European Social Investment Forum) publishes today two more sector reports, this time covering social and environmental challenges for companies in the Forestry & Paper and Real Estate sectors. These are the sixth and seventh 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.

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 partnered with Ethix SRI Advisors for the research side of the Forestry & Paper sector note and worked with Dutch Sustainability Research, on behalf of SiRi Company, for the Real Estate 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 Forestry & Paper report, the steering committee included asset managers from HSBC, Meeschaert, Pictet Asset Management, and Schroders. For the Real Estate sector note the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative Property Working Group (UNEP-FI PWG) served as the steering committee bringing a unique point of view to the project.

Jean-Pierre Sicard, Head of Sustainable Development at Caisse des dépôts et consignations and Co-Chair of UNEP FI Property Working Group says *"Investors can, and do, have significant influence on the environmental and social performance of existing built stock, as well as new buildings. Assessing criteria such as green building certification, GHG emissions per square meter, link to public transport and indoor air quality can help improve the environmental impact of buildings and create a much needed SRI framework for real estate. Eurosif's Real Estate Sector report is a valuable tool to assist decision-makers in this process."*

Eurosif and Dutch Sustainability Research noted five main issues facing the Real Estate industry: Climate Change, Sustainable Buildings, Community Regeneration and Consultation, Supply chain issues and Occupier satisfaction.

Philippe Spicher, Managing Director at SiRi Company Ltd. says, *"This project allowed one of our key partners and founding member, Dutch Sustainability Research, to build on SiRi research to provide analysis for a sector that is rapidly gaining more attention when it comes to sustainability issues. The Real Estate market is becoming more transparent, but still has to take steps to concretely act on the key challenges raised in the report."*

As for the Forestry and Paper sector, Eurosif and Ethix SRI Advisors highlighted six key challenges for the Forestry & Paper sector: Biodiversity, Responsible Forest Management & Traceability, Human Rights & Labour Standards, Resource use, Pollution and Climate Change.

Ulrika Hasselgren, Executive Vice President of Ethix SRI Advisors states *"We were pleased to work with Eurosif and the steering committee to highlights trends, risks and opportunities of the Forestry & Paper market. Throughout the whole life cycle of forest products, companies are facing various and important social and environmental challenges. We believe this report will help investors make better informed decisions regarding company stocks as well as show companies areas where they might need to improve"*.

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

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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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Ethix SRI Advisors

Ethix is an SRI advisory company based in Stockholm. We help investors and asset managers achieve their goals for responsible investment in line with their strategy and/or values. Our platform Norm Based Screening is the largest of its kind covering over 7,000 companies including emerging markets.

We work with our clients as partners, providing the best support in order to meet their needs and to strengthen their position as responsible investors. We provide advice for investment decisions and engagement. We develop policies, strategies and solutions for SRI. We have a strong and experienced research and analysis team which provides a thorough base for all our services.

Through our cooperation with world leading experts in key areas for responsible investment, we are able to provide tailor-made solutions to meet our clients' needs and requirements. This includes norm-based screening, in-depth research of ESG-factors, best-in-class approaches, engagement programmes and tailor-made indices.

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Dutch Sustainability Research, SiRi Company

DSR is the leading independent sustainability research organisation for the financial sector in the Benelux serving a wide range of institutional investors. DSR conducts research on the sustainability performance of major Benelux stock-listed companies. DSR is a founding member and shareholder of Sustainable Investment Research International, known as SiRi Company.

SiRi Company Ltd is one of the world's largest independent providers of CSR research and consulting services for institutional investors and financial professionals. SiRi Company was established in 2003 and is the successor of the SiRi Group association. The key strength of the independent research and consulting philosophy of SiRi Company is the recognition that, while global investing requires global research, company analysis must take account of local circumstances and cultural differences. SiRi Company provides detailed profiles and ratings on the largest global companies through its unique and innovative internet-based platform SiRi Pro. SiRi Company clients include some of the largest asset managers, insurance companies, pension funds, banks, and social investment institutions in the world.