

## ${\sf Eurosif}$ The European Sustainable Investment Forum

Question	Eurosif response									
I. General principles and key attributes of the non-financial information  Q1. What aspects of disclosure of non-financial information do you think that should be addressed by the GUIDELINES?	Please, order in terms of importance (1 least important, 9 most important)									
		(least important)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 (most important)
	*Materiality/Relevance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	•
	*Usefulness	0	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	*Comparability	0	0	0	0	0	•	0	0	0
	*Avoiding undue administrative burden	0	0	0	0	0	0	•	0	0
	*Comprehensiveness	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	*Fairness and balance	0	0	0	0	•	0	0	0	0
	*Understandability	0	0	•	0	0	0	0	0	0
	*Reliability	0	0	0	•	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0

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Please specify what other aspect of disclosure of non-financial information should be addressed by the GUIDELINES:	Reporting timeframe of at least 3 years.							
Q2. Who should be considered in your opinion the main audience of the nonfinancial statement?  Please, check the box of the alternative that you consider more appropriate.	<ul> <li>The shareholders</li> <li>The investment community in a broad sense</li> <li>Users of information with an economic interest, such as suppliers, customers, employees, etc.</li> <li>All users of information (including consumers, local communities, NGOs, etc.)</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>							
Q2.1 Could you please provide a brief explanation on your answer regarding who should be considered the main audience of the non-financial statement?	The larger community of stakeholders: investors, regulators, third parties service providers, Asset Managers pension funds, civil society, company employees.							
	Please, order in terms of importance (1 least important, 7 most important)							
Q3. In your opinion, what features make a piece of information relevant (or material) for the purposes of the non-financial statement?		(least important)	2	3	4	5	6	7 (most important)
Please, order in terms of importance (1 least	*Useful for the management/directors of the company	0	0	0	0		0	0
important, 7 most important)	*Relevant for shareholders or investors' decision-making	0	•	0	0	0	0	0
	*Relevant for stakeholders in general	0	0	0	0	0	•	0
	*Necessary to understand the impacts of the company's activity	•	0	0	0	0	0	0
	*Necessary to understand the company's development,	0	0	0	•	0	0	0
	performance and position							
	*Necessary to understand how the company manages non- financial risks	0	0	•	0	0	0	0

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Please specify what other features make a piece of information relevant (or material) for the purposes of the non-financial statement:	Helpful in clarifying the company's level of interactions with business partners and service providers to assess its level of accountability in a way to enable investor's decisions.				
Q3.1 Could you please provide a brief explanation on your answer regarding the features which make a piece of information relevant (or material) for the purposes of the non-financial statement?	Non-financial information should focus on the material aspects for a company, representing a true and fair account of the way it does business and interacts with different stakeholders. Indirect and direct operations should be taken into account also in terms of a reporting framework and in order to give a fair and true account of how companies manage their accountability along the value chain.				
II. Content of the non-binding guidelines  Q4. Do you think that the GUIDELINES will be	1 2 3 4 5 No opinion				
more useful for companies and users if they set out general principles and key ideas or if they put forward solutions in a detailed manner, including on specific sectoral issues?	Please, indicate on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 geared towards general principles, 5 high level of detail/prescription)				
Q4.1 Could you please provide a brief explanation on your answer regarding whether the GUIDELINES will be more useful for companies and users if they set out general principles and key ideas or if they prescribe solutions in a detailed manner, including on specific sectoral issues?	The guidelines should determine the main issues that are material for companies and investors, and set specific minimum reporting requirements based on reporting standards that companies are already using. For instance, a reference could be the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) guidelines, used by 74% of the world's largest 250 corporations who report on their sustainability performance.				
Q5. Please, provide a brief description of how you think that the following matters should be treated in the GUIDELINES, including as appropriate how they should be defined and described:	a. Business model:  400 character(s) maximum  In this section companies should be asked to describe their Business Model explaining the parameters that define their value proposition according to the product/service they are selling (activities description), the structure of their operations, the geographies in which they are present, their financing and governance structure and the relation with their suppliers (policies).				

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b. Policies:  400 character(s) maximum  The presence of policies should be disclosed on the basis of materiality. Companies should explain what were the triggers that pushed them to issue policies (how they are linked to the Business Model and core values) and indicate the main points that are covered by each.  c. Due diligence process:  400 character(s) maximum  Companies should indicate any measure or process in place to ensure they prevent adverse impacts they might be causing directly or indirectly through their operations or via third parties (Business Partners), in line with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.  d. Business relationships:  400 character(s) maximum  Suppliers (Business Partners), companies do business with should be assessed against their own organisational structures as part of a management due diligence process. Companies should also be able to report on the level of significance the Business Partners represent in their business (tier 1, 2, 3).  e. Key performance indicators –KPIs:  400 character(s) maximum  Companies should disclose those KPIs which they have identified as relevant and as part of their materiality exercises. They should disclose who are those players and which are those issues that they consider as relevant for them and explain how/through which KPIs they are going to measure their performance in being able to meet the demands of those material issues/shareholders.  f. Outcome of policies:  400 character(s) maximum  Companies should disclose how the economic, environmental and social impacts related to material aspects are managed.

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	g. Principal risks:  400 character(s) maximum  Companies should be able to assess and report on the main risks classes they have identified for their business and the processes and controls they have put in place to ensure that those risks are mitigated.
	h. Impact of the activity:  400 character(s) maximum  Companies should detail the processes they have put in place to assess, monitor and control their impacts in an active way (setting metrics, linked to processes) involving civil society (organising roundtables, running surveys) to follow the trail of their activities.
	i. Adverse impacts:  400 character(s) maximum  Following the OECD notion of Adverse Impacts (MNEs guidelines of Responsible Business Conduct), companies should be able to detail the measures they have put in place to prevent and limit any adverse impacts (further detailing how they have determined such adverse impacts and further disclose how directly and indirectly linked those are to their operations and their business relations.
	j. Information omitted in exceptional cases where disclosure would be seriously prejudicial:  400 character(s) maximum  There are no circumstances in which disclosures should not be made.

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Q6. How do you think that the GUIDELINES	between 2 and 2 answered rows					
should approach the disclosure of key performance indicators (KPIs)?		1 (best option)	2 (second preferred option)			
	The GUIDELINES should highlight key principles on how to disclose relevant KPIs and complementariness with narrative and/or financial information as applicable	0	0			
	The GUIDELINES should make reference to KPIs proposed by other frameworks where addressing concrete matters or issues	0	•			
	The GUIDELINES should include a comprehensive list of KPIs, general and sectoral	•	0			
	The GUIDELINES should provide flexibility for companies to exercise judgement in deciding what KPIs should be included in their disclosures	0	0			
	Other					
Q6.1 Could you please provide a brief explanation on your answer regarding how	The KPIs and other reporting requirements should be accompanied by disclosure of metric objectives both quantitative and qualitative and they should be directly correlated to the t					
you think the GUIDELINES should approach the disclosure of key performance indicators (KPIs)?  Q7. Do you think that the GUIDELINES should include guidance on specific sectoral issues	1 2 3 4 5 No opinion					

Question	Eurosif response
Q7.1 Could you please provide a brief explanation on your answer regarding whether the GUIDELINES should include guidance on specific sectoral issues such as responsible supply chain management of conflict minerals?	Companies involved in different sectors/industries are facing different business challenges which affect their ability to take into account ESG criteria. Accordingly, companies will consider 'material' to them some issues more than others. Along these lines, we are convinced of the value added for companies to make use of specific sectorial guidelines as a guide for their management and reporting.

## **Eurosif response** Question III. Interaction with other frameworks Please, order in line with your views (1 least in line, 6 most in line) and other aspects 2 1 3 5 6 4 Q8. How do you think that the GUIDELINES (least in (most in should relate to existing national, line) line) international or other EU-based frameworks (such as UN Global Compact, the UN Guiding \*The GUIDELINES should include detailed solutions and be an exhaustive document in a way that could Principles on Business and Human Rights, 0 0 0 0 0 make unnecessary for companies the use of other OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises, quidelines the ILO Tripartite Declaration of principles concerning multinational enterprises and \*The GUIDELINES should be complementary to other 0 0 0 0 0 frameworks social policy, EMAS, etc.)? Please, order in line with your views (1 least in \*The GUIDELINES should make reference to other line, 6 most in line) frameworks where addressing concrete matters or 0 0 0 . 0 0 specific issues \*The GUIDELINES should get general inspiration from 0 0 0 0 0 • other frameworks \*The GUIDELINES should explain how content produced in the context of other frameworks could be 0 . 0 0 0 0 used in the non-financial statement \*Other • 0 0 0 0 0 \* Please specify what other approach you would advocate: Not applicable

Question	Eurosif response
Q8.1 Could you please provide a brief explanation on your answer regarding how you think the GUIDELINES should relate to existing national, international or other EUbased frameworks?	The guidelines should, where possible and helpful, clearly refer to existing reporting frameworks, in order to guarantee a certain degree of flexibility for companies, while at the same time capitalising on specialist knowledge already in store by companies today (GRI, UN Global Compact, OECD guidelines for MNEs, CDP, etc.).
Q9. Do you think that when preparing the GUIDELINES only the companies included in the scope of the DIRECTIVE should be considered, or that the interests, characteristics and/or requirements of other companies that prepare management reports should be taken into account as well? Please, check the box of the alternative that you consider most appropriate.	Please, check the box of the alternative that you consider most appropriate.  Specific to the requirements of the companies under scope of the DIRECTIVE  Consider all large companies  Consider all companies  Focus on the requirements of the companies under the scope of the DIRECTIVE, but also propose best practice for other companies that prepare management reports
Q9.1 Accordingly, do you think that the content of the guidelines should be different according to the targeted companies? Could you please provide a brief explanation?	Guidelines should be adapted to companies taking into account their size, industry and location.
Q10. Does your company disclose annually relevant non-financial information?	Please, check the box of the alternative that you consider most appropriate.  Yes  No  Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question	Eurosif response
IV. Disclosures related to board diversity policy	Please, check the box of the alternative that you consider most appropriate.    Yes
Q11. Should the GUIDELINES provide more clarity on what companies should disclose as regards their board diversity?	No     Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Q11.1 Could you please provide a brief explanation on your answer regarding whether the GUIDELINES should provide more clarity on what companies should disclose as regards their board diversity policy?	Companies should disclose how diversity is incorporated into the process by which director candidates are considered for nomination to a company's board of directors.

## **About Eurosif**

Eurosif — The European Sustainable Investment Forum is the leading European sustainable and responsible investment (SRI) membership organisation whose mission is to promote sustainability through European financial markets. A partnership of national Sustainable Investment Fora (SIFs) across Europe, Eurosif draws from a pool of over 400 organisations and some of the main stakeholders within the sustainable investment industry. These organisations include institutional investors, asset managers, financial services, index providers and ESG research and analysis firms totalling over €8 trillion in assets. Eurosif is also a founding member of the Global Sustainable Investment Alliance, the alliance of the largest SIFs around the world. The main activities of Eurosif are public policy, research and creating platforms for nurturing sustainable investing best practices.

## www.eurosif.org

Eurosif's EU Transparency registration number with the European Commission is 70659452143-78.