

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY

Investment Strategies in Sourcing Countries for a Competitive European Industry

25/06/2024, 11:40 CEST

With the supporting partnership of the European Investment Bank (EIB)

CONTEXT

Respect for human rights and other ESG standards in the supply chain rose to the attention of all stakeholders and companies. However, the real purpose of all these efforts is the improvement of the working and living conditions of the people in our supply chains. This requires **more than just compliance with the regulatory expectations as expressed in CSRD, CS3D, EU deforestation regulation, EU Battery regulation** and other sets of individual company-oriented regulatory expectations.

This session will explore how an **investment- and engagement approach by companies** and their collaboration with other companies and civil society and other EU policy instruments can contribute to real change and improvement and evade a commonly seen risk-avoidance approach.

ABOUT THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY

Because of increasing regulatory requirements, companies need to ensure that **the level of sustainability in their entire value chains improves**. Currently, a lot of attention and company resources are devoted to supply chain due diligence efforts, just to get to the required levels of compliance and to avoid business disruption or negative reputational challenges.

However, individual companies do not always have the leverage to make an impactful change in the environmental, social or governance conditions in and around their supply chains. This can lead to risk-avoiding behavior resulting not only in deterioration in sourcing countries but also in diminished availability of raw materials needed for the Green Transition. Especially in an increasing global competition for raw materials, this puts the industry in Europe in a challenging position.

Leading companies have understood that **to improve their sourcing practices it is important to engage with and invest in their upstream partners and stakeholders**, especially with regards to sourcing raw materials required for the transition.

Such an investment approach is also more and more demanded by the sourcing countries that aim to play a more important role in global supply chains and not only want to be confronted with raw materials exports and externally imposed standards and requirements. One unintended side-effect of the rising regulatory standards is that these countries shift to other customers.

But also for Europe's industrialization and security, **it is important to have a genuine investment- and partnership approach with sourcing countries:** not only to ensure the mere access to materials but also to contribute to the creation of new markets, new employment and growth opportunities and the advancement of ESG-related standards.

Downstream companies cannot assume this challenge alone and need to join forces. **CSR Europe runs a partnership of 16 automotive companies ([Drive Sustainability](#))** but also in other sectors similar initiatives have been created. However, a collaborative upstream effort remains a challenge.

The European Commission has developed the **Global Gateway** approach and the **Critical Raw Materials Act** with a similar purpose but both China and the US are implementing encompassing investment programmes. Europe delivers these in a more fragmented way. Investment and investors play a key role, not only in making the Green Transition possible but also in enhancing the economic and social tissue in sourcing countries that are crucial for Europe's industry.

This session wants to explore with companies and investors, the European Commission, and stakeholders what the current blockages are to increase this investment- and engagement approach, what companies can do by themselves and what can be learned from some initiatives and alliances that already have practical work being delivered to pave the way from compliance to impact.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- CEOs/C-Suite level representatives
- Sustainability Officers
- EU policymakers
- Civil society organisations

CONTACT:

- Stefan Crets, *Executive Director*, sc@csreurope.org

REGISTER:

- CSR Europe members, representatives of the EU institutions, and civil society organizations can [register for free here](#).
- Non-members and other stakeholders can [buy the Summit ticket here](#). Register before 31st April and get access to the Early Bird rate.

SPONSOR:

If you are a company striving to implement sustainable business practices, [download our sponsorship package](#) and discover the many benefits of becoming a Summit sponsor.



The European Sustainable Industry Summit

SHAPING THE NEXT ERA OF CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES
25-26 June 2024, Brussels

ABOUT THE SUMMIT:

The European Sustainable Industry Summit stands as the premier gathering for forward-thinking companies leading the charge in shaping the next era of corporate sustainability practices, advancing a resilient, inclusive, and environmentally responsible Europe. Following the European elections and drawing inspiration from the Antwerp Declaration for a European Industrial Deal and [CSR Europe's Business Manifesto 2024-2029](#), this Summit is poised to delve into tangible approaches for securing a sustainable future for Europe: how can Europe shift from ambitious sustainability goals, as outlined in the EU Green Deal policies, towards active multistakeholder engagement and investment? Over two days, c-level representatives of business, European institutions, and civil society organizations, will share invaluable knowledge and strategies to **boost the engagement and impact of the European industry with stakeholders inside and outside Europe.**

TIME (CET)	SESSION	SPEAKERS
11:40 – 11:45	Welcome & Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stefan Crets, <i>Executive Director, CSR Europe</i> <p>Moderator: Julie Schindall, <i>Director, Levin Sources</i></p>
11:45– 11:55	Keynote Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patricia Bingoto, <i>Global Minerals & Metals Strategy Impact Leader, McKinsey</i> Isabelle Magne, <i>Head of Unit, DG International Partnerships, European Commission</i>
11:55 – 12:35	Panel Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roberto Vigotti, <i>Secretary-General, Res4Afrika</i> Dr. Kelly Alexander, <i>Adjunct Faculty, GIBS Business School, Johannesburg</i> TBD TBD
12:35 – 12:40	Closing Remarks	CSR Europe