

EUROPEAN SDG ROUNDTABLE

Transitioning to a Sustainable Business: Challenges & Opportunities for EU Corporates and SMEs

Wednesday, 12 October 2022 | 16:00 -17:30 CET

Co-organized with: [CSR HELLAS](#), [econsense](#), [Grace](#), [UPJ](#)

CONTEXT:

Companies play a key role in creating a sustainable and fair economy and society, but they need guidance in the form of a clear regulatory framework and support.

Even though many European businesses are already leaders in sustainable business practices, they still face **challenges in understanding and improving their environmental footprint and human rights track record**. Complex global value chains as well as the fragmentation of national rules further slowdown the uptake of good practices.

The European Commission has adopted an ambitious and comprehensive package of measures to enhance a just and green transition of business and society across the European Union. Among these measures are the **EU Taxonomy Regulation**, the proposal for a **Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence**, the new **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive**, and the **EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation**.

The new set of measures enhances not only a sustainable transformation, but at the same time businesses competitiveness, efficiency, financial performance, preparedness and long-term resilience. However, businesses still expect coherence of the measures to avoid unnecessary burdens and need to adapt processes to cope with the expectations to find their way towards sustainable business models.

ABOUT THE SESSION:

This session is aimed at exploring the **challenges and opportunities that the new set of EU wide measures poses for European businesses**, both large and smaller ones. You will get a chance to hear from regulators, policy experts, industry practitioners, and company representatives about the latest developments and practical impacts of the upcoming regulations. During the session panelists will discuss **key questions about the green transition of European business** in the context of the new EU regulatory framework:

- What are the different initiatives on the EU level which target the transition to a new sustainable business model?
- How are businesses preparing for the upcoming regulations?
- What are the benefits and costs for EU businesses of the new regulations?
- How will SMEs be affected by the new legislation?
- What role can European sector and multi-stakeholder initiatives play in supporting businesses' transition to the new regulatory framework?



The European SDG Summit

TOGETHER FOR AN INCLUSIVE GREEN DEAL | 10-12 OCTOBER 2022

Register

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- SME and Corporate representatives
- Industry federation and Chamber representatives
- EU Policy Experts
- NGOs Representatives
- Sustainability Consultants

CONTACT:

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TIME (CET)	AGENDA ITEM	GUEST SPEAKERS & PANELISTS
16.00 – 16.10	Welcome & Introduction Overview of European Commission initiatives and strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giorgia Miccoli, <i>Project Manager,</i> CSR Europe
16.20 – 16.25	Poll: EU legislative initiatives at the top of the agenda for the participants in the audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Pavlos Vlachos (Moderator), <i>Associate Professor of Marketing,</i> Alba Graduate Business School The American College of Greece
16.25 – 17.10	Panel: The EU's ambitious legislation for sustainable business and its impacts on corporates and SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria Alexiou, <i>Chair BoD,</i> CSR HELLAS <i>Member BoD,</i> CSR Europe <i>ESG Senior Advisor,</i> TITAN <i>Member,</i> PTF-RNFRO, EFRAG Henning Ohlsson, <i>Director of CSR,</i> Epson Europe Arthur Schneider, <i>Head of Sustainability Management,</i> Bechtle AG Juliette Barré, <i>Senior Director of Sales Engineering,</i> Sourcemap
17.10 – 17.20	Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator (Pavlos Vlachos)
17.20 – 17.25	Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator (Pavlos Vlachos)



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ABOUT THE EUROPEAN SDG SUMMIT 2022

Ahead of the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt, CSR Europe and its members are happy to welcome you at [the European SDG Summit 2022: Together for an Inclusive Green Deal](#).

After the pandemic and amid the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the world needs to accelerate the journey towards climate neutrality and the adoption of an inclusive approach to the green and digital transition. Together with Environment and Governance, the **Social dimension of ESG** is now well understood as an equally important driver to enhance sustainability, but more attention is needed on how to address inequalities. The scale and magnitude of the effort ahead require not only individual commitments but also collaborative actions from all stakeholders.

At the Summit, CSR Europe will also release the second edition of the [European Sustainable Industry Barometer](#) in collaboration with **Moody's ESG Solutions**. The Barometer will provide data on the sustainability level and maturity of European industry federations, with a focus on the **social dimension of their ESG efforts**, demonstrating the progresses made and where additional efforts are needed.