

# **MONITORING ESG** ESG Trends in 2023 & 2024 Responsible Leadership Conference

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Companies need to continue to make urgent progress with ESG reporting in a way that supports their short-term and long-term business objectives. A robust sustainability reporting ecosystem can help businesses not only measure progress on executing their ESG strategy, but also support businesses in driving value while mobilizing capital markets to help support innovative and much-needed solutions to the many societal issues we face. «

### John McCalla-Leacy

Head of Global ESG KPMG International and Head of ESG Link

## ESG TRENDS: RECAP 2023 & OUTLOOK 2024

### Top 10 ESG Developments for 2023

"The Anti-ESG movement undeniably picked up pace in 2023. More than one-third of states passed anti-ESG laws in 2023. A majority of ESG-related shareholder proposals failed to pass in 2023, and new lawsuits have been filed challenging governmental entities and companies' ESG-related activities and decisions. In addition, some companies have quietly distanced themselves from the term "ESG" itself on their websites and in their publicly disclosed reports."

08 Dec 2023 – National Law Review Link

#### Recent Developments and Key Themes in ESG-Related Regulations Globally

"Two major sustainability reporting standards were finalized in 2023: the latest update to the European Commission's European Sustainability Reporting Standards and the Sustainability Disclosure Standards of the International Sustainability Standards Board. Although the two standards are interoperable to an extent, differences in areas such as the definition of materiality or the application of material assessment could considerably reduce their comparability across companies."

21 Sep 2023 – ISS Link

### ESG in 2023: A Mid-Year Review

"Starting in 2023, companies face a considerable increase in standardized ESG disclosure rules and standards from a number of jurisdictions. This growing kaleidoscope of obligations means companies will face increasing demands for high quality data disclosure not just from stakeholders but regulators.

For instance, on June 1, 2023, the European Parliament approved its report on the proposed Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)."

> 18 July 2023 – Skadden Link

## Sustainability outlook: Focus on regulation and nature in 2024

"The urgency to reach net zero and stop nature loss is leading to increasingly complex markets in need of more policy direction.[...]'System-wide stewardship', where investors engage with a broad spectrum of stakeholders on sustainability issues, will be a driver of the ESG agenda in 2024. The aim is to help create a favourable policy and regulatory environment that enables and incentivises companies to operate more sustainably."

> 17 Oct 2023 – Fidelity International Link

### The ESG Trends to Watch in 2024

"In reality, ESG trends aren't becoming an optional or trivial excursion – but directors of companies that fail to acknowledge the importance of ESG trends are bound to face various consequences. This could include falling subject to greenwashing, failing to comply with <u>environmental regulations</u>, or losing out on potential partnerships that could expand your business."

### New Year, New Approach: ESG in 2024

"Recognize that ESG is not only a spectrum of risks, but also a cohesive set of strategic imperatives. ESG isn't just about risk. It can also help achieve business goals. Auto manufacturers have committed to changing their entire business models to electric vehicles after decades of largely ignoring the internal combustion engine's role in climate change. Clothing manufacturers, meanwhile, have begun developing more ethical and environmentally conscious supply chains."

> 04 Dec 2023 – Directors & Boards Link

# Global ESG Bond Supply Outlook: Slowing down in 2024

"We forecast a global ESG bond supply of €820 billion for 2024. This is a relatively stable amount compared to 2023, which we estimate at €815 billion by the end of the year. According to our estimates, we should see sovereigns, supranationals, agencies, financial institutions and corporates issuing €325 billion in EUR. For the US dollar, we expect the market to stay stable at €225 billion (US\$240 billion). For ESG bonds printed in other currencies, we expect the segment to grow softly from €260 billion to €270 billion."

15 Nov 2023 - ING Link

# What to expect in 2024: Changes in ESG regulations and what FSIs need to know

"2024 is already shaping up to be a big year for ESG regulation, especially in the EU, where according to Maria Patschke, CEO of ESG Solutions at SAP Fioneer, years of preparation are set to ramp into action. [...]

The EU's regulatory push is likely to have a ripple effect worldwide. More voluntary ESG frameworks will appear and existing ones, like the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) and the Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA), will experience a growth of membership. 'I expect more countries to introduce similar regulations as the EU, while ESG frontrunners Japan and Korea will most likely have a role-model effect for the Asian market,' says Maria Patschke. "

> 30 Nov 2023 – SAP Fioneer Link

### Top 5 ESG Trends to Watch in 2024

"2024 will be the year we see companies begin to take ESG seriously, not simply as an exercise in compliance and risk management, but as an opportunity to redesign their business models from the ground up. True integration of ESG will mean design processes are remade, procurement strategies are rewritten, and marketing and communication efforts change for good. ESG will no longer be simply an 'add-on', but rather a core part of business strategy."

17 Oct 2023 – Fiscal Note Link

## BECEPTUM AT THE RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



#### Sustainable sponsorship

We are pleased to have sponsored this year's Responsible Leadership Conference at the BMW Welt in Munich. The excellently organised event by the F.A.Z. Institute brings science and business together every year. We were impressed by the high quality of the presentations and the varied programme as well as the intensive exchange with the community.

### Our Contribution on stage

<u>Marc Zinkel</u> discussed current challenges and opportunities in business development in the dialogue "Sustainable business models and their implementation" with Prof. Dr Schmidpeter (Bern University of Applied Sciences). An overview of the key messages:

- Sustainability is a critical success factor for funding as well as customer and employee attractiveness. Beyond regulatory requirements, SMEs have recognised this for some time now.
- Sustainability, resilience and profitability go hand in hand in a holistic strategy.
- The tools in the areas of technology, methods and innovation are available. The regulatory framework provides a concrete framework. The complex transformation succeeds through pragmatic solutions, people and the use of partnerships and interdisciplinary, cross-company collaboration.

#### What we take with us

- We are talking about the how, not the why. In fact, the different realities of corporates and SMEs, science and political perspectives provide a wide range of show cases, learning platforms, but also challenges. The room for opportunities is immense!
- Circular economy is a key driver for sustainability, when it goes much beyond the concepts of recycling and reutilization. It is a fundamental and comprehensive economic model, providing new business models, new collaboration necessities and a continuous rethinking of value chains
- The keys to a successful transformation are people, collaboration eco-systems and comprehensive strategies, integrating sustainability, corporate resilience and economic value creation

You can find more information about this year's program here:  $\underline{\mathsf{Link}}$ 

#### Impressions



Plenary session



Managing Director Marc Zinkel (left)



Sustainability Expert Julia Grote www.beceptum.com

BECEPTUM is a boutique consultancy focused on sustainable business and corporate development. Founded in fall 2019 with offices in Munich and Berlin, BECEPTUM integrates holistic sustainability management with the levers of corporate value creation. Through expertise and various services in the field of ESG, we accompany our clients in the operationalization of their sustainability strategy - from the appropriate management system to strategic partnerships and financing. With certified experts for LkSG and climate risks, regular ESG monitoring and an individual training offer, we are a reliable partner for our clients in all aspects of sustainability.

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