

MONITORING ESG

Planet Budapest - Green Finance - Sustainable Business

2021/03



Connections across key sectors help to build shared communities of interest and reinforce the resilience of our supply chains. A stronger Europe in the world means a resolute engagement with our partners, firmly grounded in our core principles. With the Global Gateway Strategy, we are reaffirming our vision of boosting a network of connections, which must be based on internationally accepted standards, rules and regulations in order to provide a level-playing field. «

Josep Borrell

High Representative of the European Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
1 December 2021

[Link](#)



“Acting globally as well as locally”

The decades-old motto "think globally, act locally" is no longer enough, President János Áder said in his address at the Sustainability Fair and World Summit in Budapest (29 November – 5 December). It should be changed to "act globally, act locally," he added.

From more than 100 countries around the world, experts, policymakers, academics and high-level representatives of international organizations, as well as business representatives, gathered at Planet Budapest 2021, the first Sustainability Fair and Summit of the Visegrád States (V4), to discuss concrete responses to the challenges of sustainable development.

The summit discussed threats and opportunities in nine thematic areas:

1. sustainability in a post-COVID world;
2. climate change;
3. circular economy;
4. energy efficiency and energy security;
5. smart cities;
6. water and food security;
7. transport;
8. financing sustainable development; and
9. waste management.

[Link](#)

Key statements of [Marc Zinkel](#), Managing Director of Beceptum during Planet Budapest 2021, panel discussion: [Transport – Leapfrogging in Technology or Changing Our Behavior?](#)

5 theses for sustainability in transport sector

1 “The future lies in flexible mobility and transportation services in order to increase resilience. We will discover a different market structure with new players, restructured business models and new types of offerings to better adapt to new sustainable innovations, but also to crisis situations like nowadays.”

Mobility and Transportation providers need to gain for business models, that enable a faster conversion to sustainable technologies and a higher flexibility to adapt fleets and services to volatile demands. This will drive more ecosystem models, new financing, asset and resource structures and respective intermediary businesses.

2 “We have to remain the variety in engines, devices, fuel and power systems. We need all of them in the future and innovation is the key to make them even more sustainable.”

Sustainability in Mobility and Transportation must be considered globally. Instead of optimizing particular perimeters with particular solutions, a variety of systems has to be maintained in a sustainable manner in order to decrease climate effects globally in a balanced and feasible way.

3 “Hydrogen has an enormous potential in Transport. But as for most industries we are lacking end to end solutions. This includes hydrogen powered solutions, but also the value chain of production, transportation and distribution – in a sustainable and profitable way.”

Hydrogen is discussed as one of the most promising sustainable energy alternatives all over the place. But as long as the industries are not served with fully applicable and reliable supply solutions, hydrogen will not achieve a breakthrough as a scalable mass source of energy.

4 “Due to heavily increasing energy prices mobility is on its way to develop from a basic right to a luxury good. A further increase of tolls and mark-up charges will not function as a sustainable solution. Governments need to define the right incentives for behavioral change and investments.”

In other words, sustainability is also a question of marginal costs – maybe less in terms of willingness to pay, but more in terms of solvency. The only way out is either to reduce utilization and consumption or to accelerate innovation that is leading to lower price levels.

5 “Financing of sustainable transportation will be a common effort. Governmental financing role in a first instance needs to focus on required infrastructures and investment incentives. But industries and consumers will have to take on parts of the bill, too.”

Not all financial effects can be taken over by the public sector. Financing will only succeed if all economic entities play their part in their respective core areas. This, off course, also means higher prices for consumers and customers – but with a limited rate of increase.

EU & ARTICLES

The European Union works with G7 partners to promote investments, based on the Global Gateway strategy

"The EU is working closely with its G7 partners to promote sustainable investments worldwide, in line with its newly adopted Global Gateway strategy. The [Statement on Partnership for infrastructure and investment](#) issued today by G7 leaders sets out a new approach and concrete steps to narrow the existing infrastructure investment gap at global level."

3 December 2021 – European Commission
[Link](#)

Global Gateway: up to €300 billion for the European Union's strategy to boost sustainable links around the world

"The EU will offer not only solid financial conditions for partners, bringing grants, favourable loans, and budgetary guarantees to de-risk investments and improve debt sustainability – but also promote the highest environmental, social and strategic management standards. The EU will provide technical assistance to partners to enhance their capacity to prepare credible projects ensuring value for money in infrastructure."

1 December 2021 – European Commission
[Link](#)

Rising demands on environmental and social standards create new pressures in governance, board leaders say

"As multiple current and former board directors convened virtually to discuss best practices for measuring ESG, the first trend they noted was the effect of the rapidly changing business landscape, which has put a lot of pressure on corporate leaders."

6 December 2021 – Fortune
[Link](#)

Banks Are Really Cashing In on ESG Bonds

"The GEO Group, Inc. (NYSE: GEO) ("GEO") published today the company's third annual Human Rights and Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) report. The report builds on GEO's first two Human Rights and ESG reports, which provided disclosures on how GEO informs its employees of the company's long-standing commitment to respecting human rights; the criteria GEO uses to assess human rights performance; and GEO's contract compliance program and independent verification of the company's performance by third party organizations."

7 December 2021 – Lawyer Monthly
[Link](#)

Why sustainable business needs better ESG ratings

"Environmental, social, and governance data is noisy — and may not help firms protect the planet. Here's what to keep in mind as you measure and invest."

6 December 2021 – MIT Management
[Link](#)

Engagement vs divestment: What is the solution for ESG ETFs?

"The question of how passive providers construct ESG indices has been gaining prominence over recent months as climate risk mitigation and other ESG issues take pole position on investors' agendas. And while ETF issuers have been ramping up their engagement efforts, some believe they are not doing enough to deliver strategies that are able to bring about real positive change."

7 December 2021 – ETF Stream
[Link](#)

ESG Book aims to 'disrupt' sustainability sector with free data

"HSBC, Deutsche Bank and Swiss Re have thrown their support behind ESG Book, a new environment, social and governance (ESG) data platform launched on Wednesday (1 December) to 'disrupt' the market with a free "public good" service for companies and investors. Several firms provide ratings on a company's ESG risks that asset managers use to make "green" investment decisions. The ESG information sector has become a money spinner as asset managers increasingly rely on providers of such data to meet demand from sustainability focused investors."

1 December 2021 – EURRACTIV
[Link](#)

Top ESG Launches Of The Year

"As of the end of November, there have been more than 40 [socially responsible ETFs](#) launched this year. If you step back to view the broad ESG category, the largest launch in the history of ETFs occurred earlier this year when the [BlackRock U.S. Carbon Transition Readiness ETF \(LCTU\)](#) ended its first day of trading with more than \$1 billion. However, that launch overshadows the numerous interesting debuts made in the ESG space this year. Three in particular seem to have caught on with investors, with assets reaching the \$100 million milestone."

1 December 2021 – ETF STREAM
[Link](#)

Seeds Expands Asset Class Offering, Adds ESG Fixed Income Strategies With Large Managers, Including Nuveen

"Investor ("Seeds") has launched taxable fixed income strategies to complement the tax-free bond and customized equities strategies that are available to financial advisors on its platform. The Seeds platform enables advisors to deliver complete portfolios that align clients' financial goals and personal values. The new Seeds fixed income strategies include institutional investment managers that are industry leaders in integrating ESG in fixed income funds, such as Nuveen, as well as funds managed by BlackRock. Earlier this year, Seeds partnered with AllianceBernstein to offer tax-free municipal bond exposure with impact."

7 December 2021 – Cision
[Link](#)

ARTICLES, STAKEHOLDERS & STATISTICS

Why B2B Financial Services Should Meet the ESG Criteria

“For years, businesses in the B2B sector had a behind-closed-doors mentality. While their B2C counterparts had to address – and be seen to address – the growing concerns of consumers and the outside world, that didn’t really apply to them. But times are changing fast. Look at [fossil fuels](#) as an example. For many years they made up the most significant chunk of the S&P 500 and believed they could push aside the complaints of environmentalists. Now share prices have dropped dramatically, and they’re being forced to make pledges and embrace renewables.”

5 December 2021 – FinTech [Link](#)

Many Business Leaders Surveyed Say ESG Goals as Important as Financial Outcomes

“Chief financial officers have made it a priority to invest in environmental, social and governance efforts, with a wide majority saying the goals are just as important as financial success, according to a new survey. The [third quarter survey by Grant Thornton LLP](#) shows that nearly 70% of CFOs who responded say ESG is either a top consideration in their companies or equally as important as financial success with another 17% saying ESG initiatives are a financial driver of their companies. Nearly a quarter of respondents say ESG investments are much more important to their organizations than they were prior to 2020.”

19 November 2021 – Environment + Energy Leader [Link](#)

ESG investing needs standards to prevent fraud and greenwashing

“History has taught us that people don’t typically fudge numbers unless there are compelling reasons—and there are plenty of compelling reasons to misstate ESG efforts. [ESG-driven investment](#) is estimated at greater than \$35 trillion in assets under management and is on track to exceed \$53 trillion by 2025. Nearly nine out of 10 millennials report that they want their money in sustainable investments. In 2020, Goldman Sachs pledged to take public only companies with diverse boards, while NASDAQ required member companies to have at least two directors from underrepresented groups. Harvard’s endowment, the University of California, and [Cornell](#) are divesting from fossil fuel companies, while Stanford eliminated coal from its portfolio in 2014.”

22 November 2021 – Fortune [Link](#)

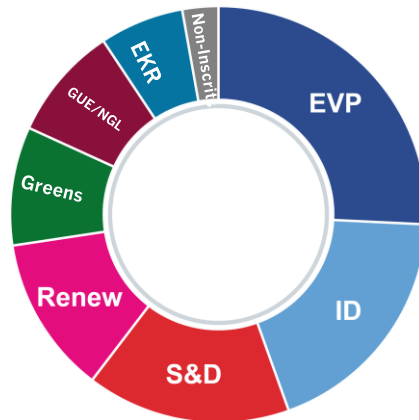
Invesco launches four climate Paris-aligned ESG ETFs

“[Invesco](#) has launched a range of Paris-Aligned Benchmark (PAB) climate ETFs that incorporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria. They are listed on the London Stock Exchange with total expense ratios (TERs) ranging between 0.09% and 0.19%. The firm said it plans to add an emerging markets ETF to the range in the coming weeks. Tracking the respective exposure of the MSCI ESG Climate Paris Aligned Benchmark Select index, the ETFs looks to reduce exposure to transition and physical climate risks and align with the Paris Agreement requirements.”

9 December 2021 – ETF STREAM [Link](#)

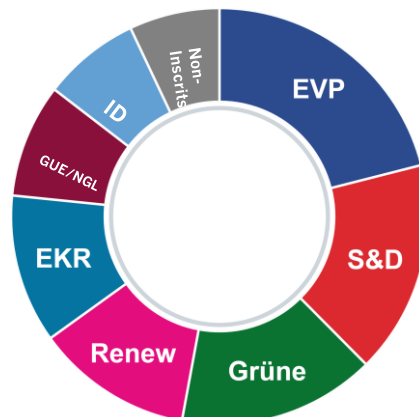
POLITICAL GROUPS ABOUT ESG IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1 November – 12 December, 2021



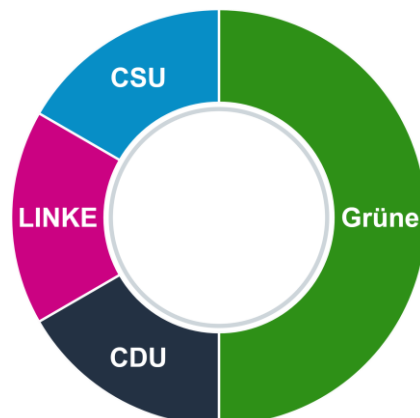
POLITICAL GROUPS ABOUT ESG IN SOCIAL MEDIA (FACEBOOK & TWITTER)

1 November – 12 December, 2021



POLITICAL PARTIES ABOUT ESG IN GERMANY (IN THE BUNDESTAG, LÄNDER PARLIAMENTS & SOCIAL MEDIA (FACEBOOK & TWITTER))

1 November – 12 December, 2021



Powered by **polit-X**

Contact



Szabina Altsach

Senior Manager & Head of Office Berlin

szabina.altsach@beceptum.com



Christian Preussen

Project Manager

christian.preussen@beceptum.com



Sophie Spilker

Junior Project Manager

sophie.spilker@beceptum.com

Imprint

Beceptum International GmbH

Office Berlin

Krausnickstr. 16

10115 Berlin, Germany

Office Munich

Trautenwolfstr. 5

80802 Munich, Germany

W www.beceptum.com

E info@beceptum.com