OPENING ADDRESS

Advancing Corporate Sustainability: Action over Ambition

25/06/2024,

AUDITORIUM | 11:00 CEST

CONTEXT

On 25-26 June, over 300 stakeholders from industry, European institutions, and civil society organizations will come together at the BNP Paribas Auditorium in Brussels. Together, they will define the path forward for industries navigating the complexities of the green and digital transition. Over two days, business leaders, in dialogue with representatives of European institutions and civil society organizations, will share invaluable knowledge and strategies aimed at empowering European businesses and boosting their engagement with stakeholders inside and outside Europe.

Immediately after the European elections and considering the key messages from the Antwerp Declaration for a European Industrial Deal and CSR Europe’s own Business Manifesto 2024-2029 this Summit will explore practical ways to secure a sustainable future with Europe: moving from ambitious sustainability goals and standards - as expressed throughout the Green Deal related policies - towards an engagement and investment agenda. A direction that can only be achieved through strong and practical partnerships.

Global competitiveness and the Just Transition, both need a lot more than prescriptive and detailed sustainability regulations. The Green Deal implementation will need strategies that integrate security, resilience, and global competitive potential, not in the least with regards to energy- and materials sovereignty.

The Summit agenda features high-level plenaries, sustainability roundtables, and practical business cases aimed at addressing key questions on the future of the European industry:

- What proactive measures can Europe and companies adopt to secure access to essential raw materials?
- How can different industries harness the power of AI and digitalization to bolster their corporate sustainability performance?
- How can the energy challenge for European industries be tackled?
- How can we leverage the current EU regulatory frameworks as a springboard for meaningful business transformation beyond compliance? What proven tactics exist for engaging the entire value chain can be demonstrated to achieve sustainability impact?
- How can we unlock and streamline access to sustainable investment opportunities? What role for the European Union on this agenda?

ABOUT THE SESSION

In this session leading voices in the debate on the current position of Europe, from a competitiveness and sustainability perspective, will have a dialogue on the challenges European companies face and what expectations they have towards European policy measures after the elections.
The session will address the following questions:

1. The EU Green Deal was conceptualized well before COVID and the Ukraine war and did not consider the new challenges and positioning by the US and China. Looking back, what do you consider that worked well and what did not work that well?

2. Companies have witnessed over the past years an avalanche of sustainability regulations and increased compliance expectations. How can these be used in a productive way and not as mere instruments to control, micromanage and regulate?

3. Given the new geo-political context, where do you see the main challenges ahead for industry and what can be done by companies themselves and where can the European Union play a catalyzing role?

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.

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.
## Advancing Corporate Sustainability: Action over Ambition

**AUDITORIUM**

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<tr>
<th>TIME (CEST)</th>
<th>SESSION</th>
<th>SPEAKERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:40</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Opening Address</td>
<td>• CSR Europe</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Kurt Vandenberghe, Director-General, DG CLIMA</td>
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<td>European Commission</td>
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<td>• Michael Anseeuw, CEO, BNP Paribas Fortis</td>
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<td>• Titta Rosvall-Puplett, CSO, Syensqo</td>
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