

UKSIF

*the sustainable investment
and finance association*

Responsible and Sustainable Investment Update

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Welcome to UKSIF's quarterly update for pension funds and their advisers.

I. Responsible Investment Highlights

Eurosif launches pan-European study on ESG practices among Corporate Pension Funds

'[2011 Corporate Pension Funds & Sustainable Investment Study](#)' finds that 56% of corporate pension funds have an SRI policy and 60% consider that ESG factors affect pension funds' long-term performance. Visit www.eurosif.org.

UKSIF Sustainable Pensions report launched

UKSIF's third biennial '[Responsible Business: Sustainable Pension](#)' report discusses the RI approaches of the UK pension funds of Corporate Responsibility leaders. The report, launched at an event hosted at NAPF, highlights early signs of a step change in how UK corporate pension funds are responding to the case for responsible ownership and investment. Visit www.uksif.org.

Research shows beneficiaries support using NEST as minimum standard for responsible investment

[Research](#) from YouGov for UKSIF, found that 58% of all GB adults believe that employer pension schemes should match or beat the standard set by the new NEST workplace pension scheme in their approach to managing social and environmental issues. The research also found that 23% of GB adults with investments said their pension fund or financial adviser told them 'too little' about 'responsible ownership'. Visit www.neiw.org.

US SIF Foundation analyses RI in US Defined Contribution Plans

'[Opportunities for Sustainable and Responsible Investing in US Defined Contribution Plans](#)' finds that 14% of the DC plan sponsors responding to the survey already offer one or more SRI options. Visit www.ussif.org.

II. Pension Funds and Responsible Investment

1. UK Pensions

LPFA appoints Robeco for corporate engagement role

The Fund appointed Robeco as voting and engagement specialist for its segregates equity assets. Visit www.lpfa.org.uk.

NEST signs up to UN-backed PRI

National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) has become a signatory to the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment. UKSIF's comment is available on our website. Visit www.nestpensions.org.uk.

2. International Pensions

APG updates corporate governance code

APG's updated code is available on their website.

OECD explores the role of pension funds in financing green growth initiatives

The paper recommends a number of environmental policies to increase the role of pension funds in green projects such as sustainable energy sources and clean technology. Visit www.oecd-library.org.

3. Collaborative Initiatives by Pension Funds

Investors step up call for urgent policy action on climate change ahead of Durban

In a joint statement a group of 285 investors representing more than \$20 trillion in assets stressed the urgent need for policy action for climate change solutions ahead of the UN summit in Durban. Visit www.iigcc.org.

III. Policy and Research Highlights

UK Government examines investment in UK equity markets

The Kay Review of UK Equity Markets reviews investment in UK equity markets and its impact on the long-term performance and governance of UK quoted companies. UKSIF will be responding to this consultation. Visit www.bis.gov.uk.

ABI releases guidance on executive pay and effective governance

ABI publishes its first report on Board Effectiveness and issues its revised Principles of Executive Remuneration to help companies to better understand the views of institutional investors in these two areas. Visit www.abi.org.uk.

RCM analyses impact of ESG factors on investment performance

'RCM Sustainability White Paper' indicates that investors' portfolios are not negatively impacted by the introduction of ESG criteria into the stock selection process. Visit www.rcm.com.

Bank Sarasin explores sustainability and performance of sovereign bonds

The [research](#) highlights that sustainability provides a valuable additional risk filter for sovereign bonds and currencies with sustainable sovereign bonds achieving better risk-adjusted returns. Contact gabriela.pace@sarasin.ch.

Mercer launches stewardship services

Mercer has developed a [suite of services](#) to help institutional investors respond to their new responsibilities under the UK Stewardship Code as well as the EFAMA Code. Visit www.mercer.com.

For past copies of this newsletter visit www.uksif.org/projects/sustainable_pensions. Do please pass this update on to colleagues or other interested parties.

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