

What's New in Social Investment

May 2002

prepared for members and affiliates of the UK Social Investment Forum
For further details, please contact us at info@uksif.org or 020 7749 4880

For Your Action

Thomson Extel SRI questions - fund managers vote now

For the first time the Thomson Extel Pan-European survey includes questions on SRI, giving fund managers the opportunity to rate the provision of SRI research and services from brokerage houses. The survey presents a detailed picture of the European institutional investment community (covering companies, fund managers and brokers). Fund managers wishing to vote should visit www.extelsurvey.com by **25 May 2002**.

Fund signatories required for Carbon Disclosure Project

The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) is seeking institutional investors to join a global coalition requesting information on greenhouse gas emissions from the 500 largest companies in the world. The initiative aims to increase the quality of corporate data on greenhouse gas emissions to help shareholders better understand the risks associated with climate change. Innovest will publish an analysis of the responses for public release next February. To join the coalition, e-mail Colin Melvin (who is co-ordinating the recruitment of fund signatories) at colin.melvin@bailliegifford.com. The deadline is **31 May 2002**.

GRI 2002 guidelines released for public consultation

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) invites all interested stakeholders to review and comment on the draft version of the 2002 GRI Sustainability Reporting Guidelines by **26 May 2002**. UKSIF will submit a response to the guidelines - to contribute please e-mail helen.wildsmith@uksif.org as soon as possible. Following this round of consultation the final version of the guidelines will be released this summer. For further information, visit www.globalreporting.org/GRIGuidelines/2002draft.html.

Entry time for Moskowitz Prize Competition

The Annual Moskowitz Prize recognises and promotes research excellence in the SRI field. The prize will be presented at the SRI in the Rockies Conference on 17-20 October 2002. If you would like to enter, email your research manuscript to LloydK@HBSS.com. The deadline is **30 June 2002**.

Job Opportunities

- *Paid Student Intern (UK)*

UKSIF is looking for a student intern to undertake desk research relating to the retail SRI market in July and August. The deadline for applications is **20 May 2002** and interviews will be held on 27 May 2002. For further information, e-mail helen.wildsmith@uksif.org

- *Head of Corporate Social Responsibility (UK)*

FTSE is looking to recruit a Head of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to take responsibility for the development, marketing, planning and future direction of the FTSE4Good Index. The successful candidate must be self-motivated and have a minimum of 4-5 years experience in marketing, SRI or CSR. Please e-mail a CV and current salary by **10 May 2002** to paula.brindley@ftse.com. Visit www.ftse4good.com.

- *Marketing Manager (UK)*

The Ecology Building Society is looking to recruit a Marketing Manager to develop Ecology's PR and advertising strategy, marketing literature and website. Candidates must be of graduate calibre with relevant experience, preferably in financial services. A commitment and understanding of green and ethical issues is essential. Please send a CV and cover letter by **20 May 2002** to Paul Ellis, Chief Executive, Ecology Building Society, 18 Station Road, Cross Hills, Keighley, BD20 7EH. For further information, visit www.ecology.co.uk.

- *Project Manager (USA)*

The Investor Responsibility Research Centre (IRRC) is looking to recruit a Project Manager to develop data management systems, manage staff, assist in departmental technical issues and develop new products. Candidates must be educated to degree level, have two years relevant experience and proficiency in Access. Please send a CV and cover letter by **5 October 2002** to CBS Project Manager, Human Resources, IRRC, 1350 Connecticut Ave, Suite 700, Washington DC 20036, USA. For further information, e-mail hr@iirc.org.

UKSIF News

Launch of Community Development Finance Association (CDFA)

The Community Development Finance Association (CDFA) - the new trade association for Community Development Finance Institutions – was successfully launched on 24 April 2002 at the Treasury, attracting over 100 guests. Speakers included the RT Hon Paul Boateng MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and Sir Ronald Cohen, Chairman of Apax Partners Holdings and the Social Investment Task Force. UKSIF has been working with a steering committee to oversee the development of the trade association following one of the recommendations from the Task Force's October 2000 report. For information, visit www.uksif.org.

Parliamentary Groups on SRI & CSR host joint meeting

The All-Party Parliamentary Group's (APPG) on SRI and CSR hosted a joint meeting on 15 April 2002 to discuss the future of corporate environmental and social reporting. Speakers included Deborah Doane (New Economics Foundation), Peter Montagnon (ABI), Katharine Walters (Co-op Group) and Robert Peston (business journalist). The meeting attracted over 25 parliamentarians, stimulating a lively debate and reflecting the heightened interest in this topic. Linda Perham MP sought support for CORE Campaign's alternative Corporate Responsibility Bill (see below). For further information, e-mail helen.barnes@uksif.org (APPG on SRI) or mclarenm@parliament.uk (APPG on CSR).

UKSIF publishes Review of Activities 2001

UKSIF has published its Review of Activities for 2001. The review includes a report from Executive Director, Helen Wildsmith and Chair, Andrew Robinson; a list of UKSIF members and affiliates; and details of our 2001 events. For copies, e-mail info@uksif.org.

UKSIF responds to the European Parliament's report on the CSR Green Paper

UKSIF responded to the European Parliament's (EP) draft working document on the European Commission's CSR Green Paper by Richard Howitt MEP. UKSIF's response covered non-financial reporting, external verification, SIP legislation across Europe and SRI representation on the EU multi-stakeholder CSR platform. Recent reports suggest it is likely that MEPs will call on the Commission for mandatory environmental and social reporting (See Ethical Performance, May 2002). To view UKSIF's response to the Green Paper and the EP's working document, visit www.uksif.org.

UKSIF comments on government's response to Myners Review

UKSIF has submitted a consultation paper on the government's response to the Myners Review. The response focuses on ensuring that SRI is explicitly part of any guidance or legislation about trustee knowledge and shareholder activism. To view UKSIF's response, visit www.uksif.org.

UKSIF submits response to CP121

UKSIF has submitted its response to the FSA's Consultation Paper 121 – 'Reforming Polarisation: Making the Market Work for Consumers'. UKSIF's response covered broad support for multi-ties, concerns over bancassurance dominance, remuneration for independent advice, the importance of IFAs in the development of ethical investment and SRI as a consumer education tool. To view the submission, visit www.uksif.org.

Secretariat News

UKSIF's Community Development Finance Officer, Ros Boyle and Administrator, Selva Romero-Toledo have been seconded to the Community Development Finance Association (CDFA). Helen Harrison will join UKSIF as our new Administrator on 8 May 2002. Helen graduated in Environmental Management from Leeds University in 2000 and joins us from Future Forests. UKSIF is looking for a paid student intern for the summer (see previous section).

Welcome to New Members and Affiliates

At the March board meeting the following new members and affiliates (Af) were approved:

- Cazenove Fund Management
- Innovest Group
- Mercer Investment Consulting (Af)
- The Centre for Tomorrow's Company (Af)

News from Members and Affiliates

People Moves

- Mark Thompson has joined **Friends Ivory & Sime (FIS)** as a fund manager in its Global Equities team. Thompson will be responsible for researching global environmental technologies. Prior to joining FIS, Thompson was an Assistant Director with Impax Capital's corporate finance team. Robin Wrench has also joined FIS as a fund manager in the US Equities team. Wrench will be responsible for the management of the team's ethical funds. Wrench joins from Deutsche Asset Management.
- Andrew Peciuch has permanently joined the Ethical team at **Gerrard**. Peciuch originally joined on a temporary basis in February 2001.
- The **Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRIS)** has appointed Esther Garcia as an environmental researcher and Anna Cuskin as client services adviser. Garcia previously worked as an environmental consultant specialising in environmental supply chain management and risk assessment. Cuskin previously worked for a London local authority. EIRIS has also appointed David Coles and Richard Hughes as new board directors. Coles, now retired, was a partner of KPMG and Hughes is a director of an environmental consultancy. Coles and Hughes replace Rosemary Hartill and Dr Andrew Herxheimer.
- **Global Risk Management Services (GRMS)** has appointed 7 new analysts for its SRI research team, including Elisa de Santis, Helena Broadbridge, Stephanie Dunn, Stephanie Faure and Camilla Herd.
- **Innovest** has appointed Jay Kantaria and Aled Jones as analysts. Both join from GRMS.
- **The GÆIA Partnership** has recruited Morag Robertson as financial adviser for its new office in Scotland.
- Stephen Hale has joined **Forum for the Future** as Senior Policy Advisor. Hale previously worked at ERM.
- **ASrIA** has appointed Louisa Mitchell as Executive Director to lead ASrIA through its next phase of development. Mitchell previously worked at Goldman Sachs in Hong Kong.
- Ken Thorpe from Greater Montreal Financial Services has been elected President of the **Canadian Social Investment Organisation (SIO)**.
- The **US Social Investment Forum** board of directors has elected Timothy Smith as its new president. Smith, who succeeds David Berge, is senior vice president and director of SRI at Walden AM.

Name Changes

- Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes has changed its name to SAM Indexes GmbH.
- Global & Ethical Investment Advice (GÆIA) has changed its name to The GÆIA Partnership - Global & Ethical Investment Advice.
- Following the recent merger of Halifax and the Bank of Scotland, their name has changed to HBOS plc.
- The Helm Godfrey Partnership has changed its name to Helm Godfrey Lambourn Buckingham.

ABI and BBA consider merger

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) and the British Banker's Association (BBA) have appointed KPMG as consultants to conduct a study into a possible merger to the two associations. The consultants will report to the governing bodies of the two organisations in the summer. For further information, contact Alan Leaman at the ABI on 020 7216 7440 or Brian Capon at the BBA on 020 7216 8810.

BITC anniversary dialogues

To mark their 20th anniversary, Business in the Community's (BITC) have organised a series of anniversary dialogues. The dialogues will provide an opportunity for businesses, government and the voluntary sector to discuss new and emerging issues and debate the future CSR agenda. The anniversary dialogues will feed into the content and agenda of 'A Better Way of Doing Business', BITC's international conference on 10-11 July 2002. For further information, e-mail anita.dennis@bitc.org.uk.

Co-op Group scoop ACCA sustainability reporting awards

UKSIF members, The Co-operative Insurance Society (CIS) and The Co-operative Bank scooped two awards each at the ACCA UK Awards for Sustainability Reporting on 10 April 2002 in London. CIS won the best social report award and came runner up for the best first time report in the environmental reporting category. The Co-operative Bank won joint best sustainability report award and was also awarded a commendation for social reporting. For further information and to obtain a copy of the judge's report, visit www.accaglobal.com.

GRMS management buyout

Birchin International has agreed to sell subsidiary Global Risk Management Services (GRMS) to its management for £1.3 million. Alan Banks (CEO), Andy White (Head of Research) and Peter Leonard (Head of Operations) are leading the buyout. Birchin will retain a 14% interest and Birchin's CEO, Rick Abbott will remain Chairman of the GRMS Board. For further information, contact Alan Banks on 020 7553 5997.

Hendersons launch the first edition of Henderson SRI news

Henderson has launched Henderson SRI news - a monthly e-mail bulletin designed to provide information on Henderson's SRI funds, including the AMP NPI Global Care range of funds. Henderson SRI News replaces the former service, Global Care News. For further information, e-mail james.giuseppi@henderson.com.

HSBC create \$50m eco-partnership

As part of their 'Investing in Nature' programme, HSBC is donating \$50m (£35m) over five years to fund conservation projects around the world. By giving the largest donation ever to three charities, WWF, Botanic Gardens Conservation International and Earthwatch, the programme will clean up three of the world's major rivers, benefiting 50 million people who depend upon them and help save 20,000 rare plant species from extinction. For further information, contact richard.s.beck@hsbc.com.

Impax AM raises £50m for new investment trust

Impax Asset Management has raised £50million for their new investment trust - Impax Environmental Markets. The ordinary shares are now trading on the London Stock Exchange. The investment trust was launched in February 2002 and invests in environmental technology companies. For further information, contact Ian Simm on 020 7434 1122.

ISIS launch new fund to promote sustainability

ISIS, the retail investment brand of Friends Ivory & Sime, has launched the ISIS Ecotec Fund. The aim of the fund is to deliver sustainable growth over the long term by investing in a wide range of international environmental technology and service companies expected to benefit from environmental regulation, technological advances, growing environmental concerns and new consumer preferences. For further information, visit www.friendsis.com.

Jupiter launches online service

Jupiter has launched an online service for investors of the Jupiter Global Green Investment Trust. The service offers investors the choice to access reports and accounts online rather than by mail. For further information, e-mail Cbuckle@jupiter-group.co.uk.

Morley wins Liveable City Award

Morley Fund Management has won the Sustainable and Ethical Investment Asset Management Award 2002 at 'The Liveable City Awards'. The award was presented in recognition of Morley's dedicated SRI team, commitment to positive engagement and corporate governance voting policy. For further information, contact Paul Moody, Head of SRI Business Development on 020 7809 6197.

Set sail on QUADRIS WEGA

QUADRIS has launched a research boat for conservation projects. The QUADRIS WEGA will also serve as an educational resource and help raise public awareness of environmental issues. Universities and NGOs will be invited to use the vessel for research projects. For further information, contact tracy@quadris.co.uk.

Schroders publish first social and environmental report

Schroders has published its first social and environmental report (2001), that includes their SRI, community and environmental policies. For copies of the report, visit www.ir.schroders.com/schroders/sustainreports.

ASrIA experiences growth

The Association for Sustainable and Responsible Investment in Asia (ASrIA) has signed up 41 corporate members, including financial institutions that collectively manage over \$1 trillion globally. ASrIA has launched the online forum, which is designed to be an influential sounding board on SRI issues affecting the region. If you have a question or a viewpoint about SRI in Asia, ASrIA invite you to post it on www.asria.org/forum.

ABI monitors ESE disclosures in corporate reports

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) is monitoring corporate annual reports to assess the response to their guidelines on disclosing environmental, social and ethical (ESE) risks. Of the 131 annual reports monitored so far, 70 have responded in line with the ABI (SRI) guidelines. For information, visit www.abi.org.

CIS corporate governance concerns over easyJet

Due to major concerns about easyJet's corporate governance structure, the Co-operative Insurance Society (CIS) voted against easyJet's report and accounts at the AGM in March. Following the meeting, easyJet committed to revising its board structure and composition. Stelios Haji-loannau has since given notice that he will step down as Chairman. The news has attracted considerable national and trade press coverage. CIS also expressed concern that easyJet has no environmental impact policy. For further information, contact John-Paul Maythum at CIS on 0161 837 4099.

Manifest boosts online governance database

Manifest has added new data to 'Manifest Online' – its governance database which forms part of its research and electronic proxy voting services. Users can now access proxy poll data for meetings as well as ownership details of significant shareholders. Detailed shareholder rights relating to all types of share capital are also available. For further information, visit www.manifest.co.uk.

NAPF publish trustees guide to Myners principles

The National Association of Pensions Funds has published a new guide for pension scheme trustees, entitled 'The Myners Principles: Rising to the Challenge'. The new publication offers trustees a structured guide to help ensure that their investment procedures comply with the Myners Principles on institutional investment. For further information, visit www.napf.co.uk.

PIRC launches remuneration-rating service and shareholder voting guidelines

Pensions Investment Research Consultants (PIRC) has launched a remuneration-rating service, which will provide a clear assessment of the positive and negative features of company share incentive schemes and/or remuneration reports. PIRC will use this analysis to benchmark against standards of best practice. PIRC also recently launched its Shareholder Voting Guidelines for 2002, which highlight concerns over audit and accounting standards. For further information, contact Stuart Bell on 020 7247 2323.

ARESE responds to new French corporate ESE reporting law

ARESE has responded with enthusiasm to the nouvelles régulations économique, saying: "The new law marks one of the most important breakthroughs in sustainability reporting to date". However, ARESE criticises specific aspects of the stipulation and believes that "the updated law lacks clarity as to whether or not it applies across the international operations of a corporation and as to whether it extends to key business partners in France and across the globe." For further information, e-mail sarj.nahal@arese-sa.com.

Canadian SIO welcomes proposals for pension fund disclosure

The Canadian Social Investment Organisation (SIO) supports proposals from the Canadian Democracy and Corporate Accountability Commission calling for regulations requiring pension funds to disclose their social investment policies. The Commission also recommends in its report the creation of a set of CSR guidelines requiring mandatory corporate social and environmental reporting, which the Canadian SIO also supports. For further information, visit www.socialinvestment.ca and www.corporate-accountability.ca.

US SIF and IRRC publish a report on US shareholder activism

The US Social Investment Forum (US SIF) and Investor Responsibility Research Centre (IRRC) have published 'Towards a Shared Agenda: Corporate Governance and Social Issue Proxy Overview for 2002/2001'. The report reveals 712 shareholder resolutions so far in 2002. Of these, 428 focus on corporate governance issues, 261 address corporate responsibility concerns; and 18 focus on climate change (the fastest-growing category). The Interfaith Centre on Corporate Responsibility's (ICCR) has also published the Proxy Resolutions Book 2002. For information, visit www.iccr.org, www.socialinvest.org or www.irrc.com.

BiE publish 6th Index of Corporate Environmental Engagement

Business in the Environment (BiE) has published its 6th Index of Corporate Environmental Engagement to assess the environmental management and reporting of the UK's largest companies. Lattice, IBM and Scottish Power were ranked joint first place and the highest new entrants included Jaguar, Volkswagen and GlaxoSmithKline. Business in the Community plans to build upon the BiE index by launching a CSR index in the autumn. For further information, visit www.bitc.org.uk.

New companies join FTSE4Good

The results of the second review of the FTSE4Good series revealed that an additional 82 companies worldwide have met the CSR entry criteria and will be admitted to the index series. A total of 24 UK companies, including Safeway and Egg join the FTSE4Good UK benchmark index. In total, 83% of the FTSE All-Share index is now represented in the FTSE4Good – a 7% increase since the launch in July 2001. For information, visit www.ftse4good.com.

FIS publish survey results on bribery and corruption

Friends, Ivory & Sime (FIS) surveyed 82 companies to evaluate the quality of their management of corruption related risks. The survey found that 59% of companies had a code of conduct relating to bribery and corruption. However, fewer than a quarter reported having clearly defined management systems or lines of accountability needed to back up their policy statement. For further information, visit www.friendsis.com.

SustainAbility produces virtual resource on triple bottom line

SustainAbility has produced a web and CD-ROM report entitled 'Virtual Sustainability: Using the Internet to Implement the Triple Bottom Line'. The publication combines research and case studies to address issues such as reporting and business-stakeholder interactions on the web. It is the latest report in SustainAbility's Engaging Stakeholder programme. For further information, visit www.VirtualSustainability.com.

NEF publish SRI report and develop online social auditing service for SME's

The New Economics Foundation (NEF) has published 'An Ethical Door Policy: How to Avoid the Erosion of Ethics in SRI'. The report critically analyses current practices in the SRI market and proposes baseline criteria for an ethical standard. For information, visit www.neweconomics.org. NEF has also started to develop the 'Ethical Explorer' - a new online social and ethical auditing service for small and medium sized enterprise, which should be ready for use in the autumn. For information, visit www.ethicalexplorer.org.

WWF publish CSR toolkit for companies

WWF and Cable & Wireless have published 'To Whose Profit?' - a principles to practice toolkit for managers seeking to develop the business case for bringing environmental, social and ethical issues to the forefront of their company's agenda. For further information, visit www.wwf.org.uk/towhoseprofit.

KLD upgrade pollution prevention rating

Kinder, Lydenberg, Domini & Co (KLD) has upgraded its 'Pollution Prevention Strength' rating for companies. The updated rating shifts the emphasis from pollution control (based on waste minimisation and recycling programmes) to pollution prevention programmes. For further information, e-mail abrenge@kld.com.

oekom prove positive correlation between financial and sustainability performance

In January 2002, oekom research conducted a study examining the relationship between company share price and performance in oekom's corporate responsibility rating (CRR). The study found that the share price of companies with an above average CRR outperformed companies with a below average CRR over one, two and three years periods. In March, oekom research added the pharmaceutical sector to its CRR, which now covers 12 sectors. For further information, visit www.oekom-research.com.

AXA Sun Life research into depolarisation

Axa Sun Life's quarterly 'IFA Issues Research' has revealed that 83% of IFAs believe they will adapt and survive post depolarisation. However, 28% thought they would have to adopt a different business model. When asked where their future would lie in a depolarised regime, 27% responded by saying they would become multi-tied; 24% said they would be divided between multi-tied and IFA; 9% said they would become a fee-based IFA and only 2% said they would become tied. The survey also highlighted the groups that IFAs believe will benefit under CP121 proposals: 35% of respondents believed that banks would be the key beneficiary while 20% considered it would be the product providers. Only 7% thought that consumers would benefit the most and only 4% thought IFAs. For further information, contact Peter Webb on 0117 989 3615.

Co-op Bank revise ethical policy

The Co-operative Bank has launched its revised ethical policy. The policy includes a section on genetic modification for the first time and identifies the businesses it proactively seeks to support, such as companies which takes a responsible position over labour rights, recycling, sustainable waste management, renewable energy and social enterprise. In a poll of its 2m customers, over 97% backed the revised policy. For further information, visit www.co-operativebank.co.uk.

Ecology assets up 18.3%

The Ecology Building Society celebrates its 21st anniversary this year. In its 2001 financial summary, Ecology reveals a growth in assets of 18.3%. Ecology has also published a brochure 'Can an Ecology Mortgage Help You?' to inform customers about their mortgage services. For further information, visit www.ecology.co.uk.

EIRIS publish guide to ethical mortgages

The Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRIS) has published a guide for consumers on ethical mortgages and insurance. For further information, visit www.eiris.org.

Gerrard examines ethics in the UK banking sector

Gerrard's ethical newsletter 'Ethical Investment Quarterly' reviews ethics in the UK banking sector, examining disclosure, environmental risk and financial exclusion policies of UK banks. The newsletter also features a case study about Triodos Bank. For further information, e-mail andrea.moran@gerrard.com.

iHilal briefs Pefg on Islamic investment

iHilal has briefed the Personal Finance Education Group (Pefg) about Shariah compliant investment to help Pefg carry out research and develop a school curriculum to inform children about Islamic investment. For further information, e-mail aftab@ihilal.com or wendy.vandenhende@pefg.org.

Barclays backs credit unions

Barclays has sponsored the Association of British Credit Unions Ltd (ABCUL) to help improve the financial stability and growth prospects of UK credit unions. ABCUL plans to implement PEARLS, a new financial monitoring tool, which will enable credit unions to expand and offer their services to a greater number of people. PEARLS provides a series of financial ratios to monitor the stability of credit unions and acts as an early warning system. Barclays' support will enable a pilot group of ten credit unions to install the system. For further information, visit www.newsroom.barclays.co.uk/news/data/684.html.

CAF launch Charity Bank

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) has launched Charity Bank to provide investors with the opportunity to combine savings and charitable donations. The Charity Commission and the Financial Services Authority have granted approval for Charity Bank to be registered as both a charity and regulated financial institution. The bank is due to open for deposits in September 2002 for people wanting use their savings to help benefit charities. The bank aims to create a source of affordable loans for charitable enterprise. For further information, visit www.charitybank.org.

LIF launch the Advantage Community Loan Fund

Together with Advantage West Midlands and Unity Trust Bank, the Local Investment Fund (LIF) has launched the 'Advantage Community Loan Fund' (ACLF). The fund will lend sums from £15,000 - £80,000, with the aim of providing a new source of finance to social enterprises working in regeneration across the West Midlands. The ACLF has made its first loan of £50,000 to Burslem Community Development Trust, which is involved in a range of economic heritage, leisure, environment and arts projects. The loan to the Trust will assist in the refurbishment of a former hospital, which will act as a new centre for the trust. For further information, visit www.lif.org.uk.

Other News and Information

81 MPs sign up to NGO Corporate Responsibility Bill

An Early Day Motion (EDM: 1130) was filed on 16 April 2002 in support of the CORE campaign's Corporate Responsibility Bill. So far, 81 MPs have signed the EDM. The EDM urges the government to enshrine in new company legislation, policies to ensure that companies manage and disclose information on the impacts of their business activities on the environment and society. For a list of signatories, visit <http://edm.ais.co.uk>. The Corporate Responsibility Bill is supported by a coalition of environmental, human rights and economic reform NGOs, including UKSIF members, the New Economics Foundation, WWF-UK and Amnesty International. For further information, e-mail campaign co-ordinator Brian Shad at brians@foe.co.uk.

Government departments support CSR guidelines for finance sector

DEFRA, DTI and DFID are supporting the development of new 'Guidance on Corporate Social Responsibility Management and Reporting for the Financial Services Sector'. The guidance is being prepared by the FORGE group, led by CGNU and comprising of a number of UKSIF members. The guidance will build upon environmental guidelines launched by FORGE in November 2000. Following consultation with external stakeholders including regulators, trade associations and NGOs they will identify best practice and priority CSR issues for the sector. For further information, e-mail alan.leaman@abi.org.uk.

Just Pensions publishes survey of UK practice on SRI

The Just Pensions project has published 'Assessing Engagement', a survey on the way investment managers engage on social responsibility issues with the companies in which they invest. The survey found that 85% of investment managers saw engagement as an essential part of SRI and 65% would consider collaborative engagement projects with other investment managers. In-depth interviews with 14 fund managers established that there is a real need for credible benchmarks on SRI performance. For further information, contact Rob Cartridge at rcartridge@waronwant.org.

62% senior managers want socially responsible pensions

A study by Ashridge Centre for Business and Society of almost 700 senior managers in both the private and public sectors reveals that 62% think their pension fund should use social and environmental criteria in its investment decisions. The study also found that 77% rated responsible business practice as "very important" to the long-term commercial success of a company. For information, e-mail adam.faruk@ashridge.org.uk.

11% vote in favour of BP shareholder resolution

11% of BP shareholders voted in support of a shareholder resolution, which called on the company to report on how it analyses and minimises the business risks from operating in environmentally and culturally sensitive areas, such as the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The resolution was filed by a transatlantic coalition of European, Canadian and American investors including UKSIF member WWF-UK. In advance of the AGM, Pensions Investment Research Consultants (PIRC) recommended a vote in favour of the resolution, stating that far from damaging shareholder value it would enhance BP's CSR positioning. For further information, e-mail Jules Peck at Jpeck@wwf.org.uk.

Boost Bond for London's East End

On 5 March 2002 the Boost Bond was launched to encourage entrepreneurial activity and to help the long-term unemployed in three London boroughs: Tower Hamlets, Newham and Hackney. The Boost Bond is a 5-year, zero interest bond, with return of capital guaranteed. It hopes to raise £50m, which will be leveraged by matched funding from EU regeneration programmes and government funds, to support the creation of 1,000 new businesses and 6,000 new jobs. The Boost Bond hopes to attract institutional investors and companies who want to have social investments as part of their portfolio and can afford to give up the return on a portion of their capital for a short time. For further information, e-mail henrietta@boostlondon.org.uk.

Allchurches Amity A Fund wins S&P's UK Fund Award

The Allchurches 'Amity A' fund has been awarded 1st place out of 18 funds in the ethical marketed fund category of Standard & Poor's UK Fund Awards 2002. For further information, visit www.funds-sp.com.

French Parliament announce CSR reporting requirements for French companies

The French Parliament have announced the CSR reporting requirements of the new economic regulation 'Nouvelles Régulations Économique' (NRE) passed in 2001. The NRE imposes mandatory environmental and social reporting on French listed corporations from 2003. Companies will be expected to report against a set of social indicators and key health, safety and environmental issues in their annual report and accounts.

Transparency guidelines for Dutch SRI funds

VBDO - the Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development - has published transparency guidelines for Dutch retail SRI funds. Fund managers can choose to adhere to the guidelines designed to increase the transparency of socially responsible investment policies. The guidelines call on SRI funds to disclose their research methodologies, portfolio composition, composition changes and the reasons for inclusions and exclusions. For further information, e-mail piet.sprengers@vbdo.nl.

Italian SRI funds set to double

According to research by 'Socially Responsible Italia', the number of SRI funds in Italy is likely to rise at least 50% by the end of the year. There are currently 13 SRI funds domiciled in Italy. Andrea Di Turi, Head of Socially Responsible Italia suggests pressure from church bodies and consumer demand is driving the Italian SRI boom. For further information, e-mail Andrea Di Turi at dituri@srispa.it.

SRI in Germany on the up

A study conducted in Germany by ecoreporter.de on behalf of Öko-Zentrum NRW found that last year a total of 2.41bn euros were invested in environmental and sustainability funds in Germany, four times the amount recorded in 1999. For further information on this study and other market trend data visit Oekom's February 2002 Newsletter at www.oekom-research.com.

ECGS welcomes new German corporate governance code

The European Corporate Governance Service (ECGS), an alliance of the leading corporate governance research and advisory groups in Europe, welcomed the final version of the corporate governance code recently presented to the German Federal Justice Minister. The new code is the first set of nationally recognised rules on corporate governance in Germany. The ECGS welcomes the fact that the code will have legal backing in the forthcoming Transparency and Publicity Act, but are concerned that it does not formally apply until 2004. For further information, contact Alan MacDougall at PIRC on 020 7247 2323.

Report published on ethical mutual fund performance

A report entitled 'International Evidence on Ethical Mutual Fund Performance and Investment Style' has been published. The report reviews 103 German, UK and US ethical unit trusts/ mutual funds. The report found that there is little evidence of significant differences in risk-adjusted returns between ethical and conventional funds for the 1990-2001 period. For information and copies of the report, e-mail R.Otten@Berfin.Unimaas.nl.

GRI formally inaugurated at UN event

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) was formally inaugurated at a luncheon attended by over 200 guests at the United Nations headquarters on 4 April 2002. The event marked the launch of the GRI as a permanent, independent global institution and included the announcement of GRI's permanent secretariat headquarters, which will open later this year in Amsterdam. For information, visit www.globalreporting.org.

Guide published on SRI rating agencies, indices & funds

A new guide has been published on the types and methods of evaluation used by global sustainable analysis organisations and social/ environmental rating agencies. The guide also provides information on the selection criteria of the main ethical indices and funds. For information see www.epe.asso.fr or www.orse.org.

Canadian study challenges underperformance myth

A study entitled 'Socially Responsible Investing: Better for your Soul or Your Bottom Line?' provides evidence that SRI does not underperform traditional investment. The study looked at the financial returns of socially screened mutual funds invested in Canadian equities with 5 and 10 year performance histories compared with the Toronto Stock Exchange 300 index. Visit www.investmentreview.com/archives/winter01/social.html.

Domini publish proxy voting guidelines and shareholder activism booklet

Domini Social Investments has published its 7th annual 'Proxy Voting Guidelines and Shareholder Activism' booklet. The booklet describes the firm's voting policy on more than 95 types of corporate resolutions ranging from environmental reporting to labour relations. The 2002 guidelines include new proxy voting policies aimed at supporting auditor independence, curbing executive compensation and requiring in-person annual shareholder meetings. Domini has filed nine shareholder resolutions for the 2002 proxy-voting season and is engaged in ten separate dialogues with companies on a range of social and environmental issues. To download a copy of the guidelines, visit www.domini.com.

US SRI funds earn top marks

14 out of 18 screened US SRI mutual funds with more than \$100m in assets have continued to earn top performance marks from Morningstar and Lipper for the first quarter of 2002. For the SRI mutual fund performance list, visit www.socialinvest.org/areas/news/2002-Q1performance.htm.

Free Ergo magazine

Global Action Plan are offering a free copy of their recently launched Ergo magazine if you register on their website. The publication aims to help you live the life you want, whilst considering the environment and features people, places, food, homes and gardens. Visit www.ergo-living.com.

LSx launches online directory

The London Sustainability Exchange (LSx) has launched an online directory of nearly 100 London-wide networks and organisations working on different aspects of social, economic and environmental development within London. To access the directory, visit www.lsx.org.uk/directory/whoswho/main.

Forthcoming Conferences and Courses

SRI and CSR

National Association of Pension Fund (NAPF) Annual Conference, 9-10 May 2002, Brighton. For further information, visit www.napf.co.uk.

Business in the Community Conference: Cause Related Marketing – Reaping the Benefits, 10 May 2002, Birmingham. For further information, visit www.crm.org.uk.

Marcus Evans' 4th Annual Socially Responsible Investment Conference: Fund Strategies and Corporate Disclosure, 13-14 May 2002, London. For further information, visit www.macusevans.com/banking/sri.

IBC Conference: Depolarisation: Changing Business Relationships, 22 May 2002, London. For further information, visit www.ibc-financial.com/depol.

New Zealand Socially Responsible Investment Conference 2002, 21 May 2002, Auckland, New Zealand. For further information, visit www.epa.vic.gov.au/Progams/UNEP.

BITC Anniversary Dialogue: Doing it Differently: New Models of Corporate Community Investment (CCI), 22 May 2002, London. For further information, e-mail anita.dennis@bitc.org.uk.

Eurosif Interchange Seminar: How Does SRI Change the Relationship Between Investors and Corporations? 23 May 2002, Paris, France. For further information, visit www.eurosif.info.

PIRC Conference: Pension Fund Reactions to the Myners Report, 25 May 2002, London. For further information, visit www.pirc.co.uk.

The Economist Corporate Social Responsibility Conference: Strategies to Unlock Hidden Shareholder Value, 29 May 2002, London. For further information, visit www.economistconferences.com.

IMN's 2nd Annual North European Pensions & Investing Summit - European SRI Conference, 30-31 May 2002, Stockholm, Sweden. For further information, visit www.imn.org.

Triple P Performance Conference: Corporate Sustainability Conference 2002 - The Impact of CSR on Management Disciplines, 6-7 June 2002, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. For further information, visit www.triple-p.org or www.tbli.org.

The 2nd Ethical Investment Management Conference, 18-19 June 2002, London. For further information, visit www.euromneyseminars.com.

Business in the Environment Conference: Buying into Sustainability, 20 June 2002, London. For further information, visit www.business-in-environment.org.uk.

BITC Anniversary Dialogue: Thinking Global: Acting Local, 26 June 2002, London. For further information, e-mail anita.dennis@bitc.org.uk.

Environmental Finance: Monetising Carbon Credits in Emerging Economies, 8-9 July 2002, London. For further information, e-mail www.environmental-finance.com.

Earth Summit +10 on Sustainable Development, 2-11 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa. For further information, visit www.johannesburgsummit.org.

Community Finance, Regeneration and Community Development

Retail and Regeneration: Perfect Partners, 13-14 May 2002, Birmingham. For further information, contact BURA on 0800 0181 260 or visit www.bura.ork.uk.

5th Annual Conference of the Micro Finance Institutions in Central and Eastern Europe, 16-18 May 2002, Budapest. For further information, visit www.mfc.org.pl.

International Association of Investors in the Social Economy (INAISE) Annual Conference, 23-24 May 2002, Mulhouse, France. For further information, visit www.inaise.org/inaise/fr_2.html.

10th Social Venture Network Europe Conference, 23-25 May 2002, Windsor. For further information, visit www.svneurope.com.

INSEAD and UNEP Conference: Sustainable Venture Finance, 7-8 June 2002, Fontainebleau, France. For more information, visit www.unepfi.net (includes a workshop on sustainability orientated venture capital).

The 3rd Annual Community Development Finance Conference: Risk – Reward – Values, 20-21 June 2002, Glasgow. For further information, visit www.uksif.org.

Sustainable Urban Renewal Expo, 10-12 September 2002, Birmingham. For further information, visit www.sure-expo.com.

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