



The  
SUSTAINABILITY  
Code

Welcome to the

## MULTISTAKEHOLDERFORUM

# The Sustainability Code

12/13 April 2016, Frankfurt am Main, HoLM

The German Council for Sustainable Development is hosting the Multistakeholderforum in order to further develop The Sustainability Code (DNK).

About 150 experts, both German and European, from economy, civil society, the financial sector, science and politics discuss the opportunities of a new sustainability momentum caused by the global climate agreement in Paris, the adoption of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the national implementation of the EU-Directive on disclosure of non-financial information.

We argue current developments, the value of relevant environmental, social and governance information and how the Sustainability Code needs to be refined in order to increase its effectiveness in terms of a sustainable development, market relevance and to give added value to companies and users of the information.

Moderation: **Frauke Fischer** and **Michael Sahn**

**Preliminary note:** The language of the conference is English. German plenary speeches will be translated. The Break-Away Sessions are scheduled to be English speaking (exceptions are Session 2.3 and 3.3 (German)); the chairs are encouraged to change the language flexible with regard to the actual participants.

## PROGRAMME DAY 1

9:00 Registration, Welcome Coffee & Networking

### 10:00 – Welcome and Introductions



will be  
translated

**Marlehn Thieme**, Chairwoman of the German Council for Sustainable Development  
*The Sustainability Code – political, social and economic sustainability goals. Recent developments on a global, European and national level. Observations of the chair.*

### 10:20 – Key Note



will be  
translated

**Gerd Billen**, State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection (BMJV)  
*Reporting obligation and the Sustainability Code: What is its use and what does it need to become? A political perspective.*

### 10:40 – Plenary

*Part 1: Basics and Context*

10:40 Handover to the Sessions; Introduction of the Chairs

### 11:00 – Break-Away Sessions

*Part 1: Basics and Context*

Session 1.1



*The Sustainability Code – flexible to implement on the national level: how can the Sustainability Code be adopted and adjusted to different circumstances while securing a common approach?*

Chair: **Prof. Dr. Alexander Bassen**, Full Professor of Capital Markets and Management at the University of Hamburg, German Council for Sustainable Development

Panelists:

- **Chrysoula Exarchou**, Vice-President, QualityNet Foundation (Greece)
- **Elina Kruzkopa**, Advisor for Public Affairs, Cross-Sectoral Coordination Center (Latvia)
- **Birgit Riess**, Director Program Business in Society, Bertelsmann Stiftung
- **Dr. Kyoko Sakuma-Keck**, Director of Trade and Sustainability, Avisa Partners / World Intellectual Capital/Asset Initiative (WICI) (Japan)

Session 1.2



live  
voting

*Coherecies instead of competition. How can companies navigate between the Sustainability Code and other sustainability initiatives?*

Chair: **Steffen Schwartz**, econsense / thyssenkrupp AG

Panelists:

- **Filip Gregor**, ECCJ European Coalition for Corporate Justice

- **Jan Noterdaeme**, Senior Advisor, CSR Europe
- **Heino von Meyer**, Head of the Berlin Centre, OECD
- **Thomas Walker**, Director, Institute for sustainable solutions

Session 1.3 *The Sustainability Code and recent developments in reporting – lessons to learn?*



live  
voting

Chair: **Dr. Franziska Humbert**, Policy Advisor Corporate Social Responsibility, Oxfam

Panelists:

- **Emmanuel Monnet**, Head of Unit on Financial Stability, Accounting and Corporate Governance, French Ministry of Economy and Finance (MINEF)
- **Prof. Dr. Edda Müller**, Chairwoman of the Board, Transparency International Germany
- **Dr. Lothar Rieth**, Group Expert Sustainability, EnBW
- **Ruth Steinhoff**, Political adviser for European and International Social Affairs, German Federation of Chemical Employers Associations (BAVC)

13:00 Lunch & Networking

14:00 – Plenary

*Part 2: Success Stories and Best Practices*

14:00 Handover to the Sessions; Introduction of the Chairs

14:30 – Break-Away Sessions

*Part 2: Success Stories and Best Practices*

Session 2.1 *Future outlook/common ground: SDGs, COP21, fop47 – how can transparency contribute to a sustainable future?*



Chair: **Dr. Wolfram Tertschnig**, Director of the department on “Environmental Aid Policy, Sustainable Development, and Biodiversity“, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW)

Panelists:

- **Robin Edme**, Chair, Group of Friends of Paragraph 47 Initiative
- **Alexandros Koulidis**, EIA Expert, General Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy (Greece)
- **Yannis Salavopoulos**, Managing Director & Group Head International Affairs, Global Sustain GmbH
- **Michael Zimonyi**, Senior Project Officer, Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB)

Session 2.2 *How can the capital markets contribute to a more sustainable business? How can sustainability be integrated into (credit) ratings and indices?*



Chair: **David Mark**, Executive Director, MSCI

Panelists:

- **Delia Kaiser**, Head of Sustainability Management, DZ Bank
- **Doris Kramer**, Head of Investment Strategies and Sustainability, KfW
- **Dustin Neuneyer**, Head of Continental Europe, Global Networks & Outreach, UN PRI
- **Volker Weber**, Chair of the Board, Forum Nachhaltige Geldanlagen e.V.

Session 2.3 *Best Practice: Nonfinancial information in global supply chains – a company's perspective.*



Chair: **Uwe Bergmann**, Head of Sustainability Management, Henkel

Panelists:

- **Julia Jaspers**, Sustainability Management, Deutsche Bahn AG
- **Alexander Kraemer**, CSR Manager, AfB gGmbH
- **Dr. Daniela Simpson**, Sustainability and CSR, Bilfinger
- **Matthias Wohlfahrt**, Senior Manager, BearingPoint

16:30 Coffee Break & Networking

17:00 – 18:30 World-Bar

**World-Bar** [Continuation of the session's topics. Various questions, brainstorming, creative working] – forum for questions that remained open

18:30 – 20:30 Conclusion – Buffet, Drinks and Get-together

approx. 18:30

Dinner speech:



**Dr. Andreas Hoepner**, Associate Professor of Finance, ICMA Centre of Henley Business School


## PROGRAMME DAY 2

7:45 Side event for Sustainability Code Mentors (by invitation only)

from 8:30 Registration, Welcome Coffee & Networking

### 9:15 – Key Note and Plenary

#### *Part 3: Challenges, Developments and Capacity Building*

Key Note: **Prof. Dr. Alexander Bassen**, Full Professor of Capital Markets and Management at the University of Hamburg, German Council for Sustainable Development  
 *ESG and Financial Performance: Aggregated Evidence from more than 2000 Empirical Studies.*

Q&As

9:45 Handover to the Sessions; Introduction of the Chairs

### 10:00 – Break-Away Sessions

#### *Part 3: Challenges, Developments and Capacity Building*

Session 3.1 *Challenges: (third party) assurance, credibility, indicators – how can the Sustainability Code improve the quality of information?*



live  
voting

Chair: **Susan Dreyer**, Director DACH, CDP

Panelists:

- **Andreas Hecker**, Luther Lawfirm
- **Carsten Kuschnerus**, Union Investment Institutional GmbH
- **Dr. Matthias Schmidt**, Technical Manager for Accounting and Auditing, Institute of Public Auditors in Germany, Incorporated Association (IDW)
- **Prof. Dr. Volker Wittberg**, Center for Sustainable Governance, Fachhochschule des Mittelstands (FHM) Bielefeld

Session 3.2 *Capacity Building in Europe – how to do it best!*



Chair: **Ralf Frank**, Managing Director and Secretary General, DVFA GmbH

Panelists:

- **Chrysoula Exarchou**, Vice-President, QualityNet Foundation (Greece)
- **Nikica Kusinikova**, Eastern Europe Representative, Global Compact Network
- **Natalie Tomlinson-Kurz**, CSR-Expert, Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK) Munich

Session 3.3



*Sector specific challenges for adopting the Sustainability Code in financial institutions and developing sector guidelines.*

Chair: **Markus Becker-Melching**, Member of the Management Board, The Association of German Banks

Panelists:

- **Ingeborg Esser**, Chief Executive, GdW (German housing industry)
- **Prof. Dr. Christian Klein**, University of Kassel (Corporate Finance)
- **Klaus Krummrich**, Director, German Savings Banks Association (DSGV)
- **Stefanie Lehmann**, The Federation of German Food and Drink Industries (BVE)

12:00 Coffee break

12:15 Wrap-up Break-Away Sessions 3

12:30 – Wrap-up of the Conference and Outlook

Closing of the Conference & Lunch

**Moderators** and **Yvonne Zwick**, German Council for Sustainable Development

13:00 Lunch

14:00 End of the conference