

**ESG SUMMIT 2024**



# RESUMEN DE LAS JORNADAS REALIZADO POR EY



## Embracing complexity: unleashing the power of regenerative thinking

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
José Luis Blasco, Global Sustainability Director at Acciona	9:35

### Topics covered

1. *Embracing Regenerative Concepts in Professional Endeavors*
2. *Addressing Global Overpopulation Through Innovative Infrastructure*
3. *The Future of Urban Development: Principles of Regenerative Design*

### KTAs

The concept of regenerative design emerges as an inspiring source, marking a significant movement in the industry. In 2020, a concerning milestone was highlighted: anthropogenic mass, that is, objects made by humans, exceeded the total biomass of the planet for the first time. This phenomenon underscores the growing human influence and the environmental impact of our activities. As the global population is projected to reach 9.8 billion by 2050, there is an urgent need to build cities capable of housing a million inhabitants each week, leading to an increased demand for construction materials and a doubled consumption of cement and fossil fuels.

The current approach to sustainable development, which seeks to minimize environmental damage, has become insufficient in the face of rapid growth. We are faced with a dilemma: either reduce our growth (degrowth) or reinvent the way we grow. Regenerative design emerges as a solution, based on five fundamental principles. The first, embracing complexity, invites us to imitate nature in our businesses and designs, creating adaptive and efficient infrastructures that integrate with the natural environment. The second principle, inspiring our designs in nature (biomimicry), is reflected in projects like airports and desalination plants that merge with the landscape.

The third principle, radical circularity, is inspired by organisms like the *Turritopsis dohrnii* jellyfish, capable of regenerating and living indefinitely, suggesting that our infrastructures could also be designed to be eternal and regenerative. However, the main challenge lies in changing our mindset: instead of addressing problems from a fragmented and specialized perspective, we must learn to connect different disciplines and perspectives, both physical and digital, metaphysical and biological. At this crucial moment, technology offers us the opportunity to think differently and embrace holistic solutions for the problems we face.



## Panel discussion: advancing sustainable Finance in the EU\_ expanding reach and impact

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
Robert Sprujit- Head sustainable finance EMEA ING Andrea Gonzalez- Managing Director Spainsif Pablo Perez- Global Head of Sustainable Finance & ESG Advisory CIB at CaixaBank	10:00

### Topics covered

- *Advancing sustainable finance in the EU*

### KTAs

1. Transitioning to Sustainable Finance: Challenges and Strategies
2. Supply Chain Finance Innovation: CaixaBank's Approach
3. Sustainable Finance Market: Growth and Key Risks
4. Transition Planning and the Role of Financial Institutions
5. Addressing Greenwashing in Sustainable Finance Regulation

### Summary:

In an expert panel on sustainable finance, the discussion focused on financial transition and how to support organizations in the face of current challenges. In Europe, the taxonomy defines transition activities, such as in the automotive sector, and roadmaps have been created to guide investments. Transition plans are crucial for both companies and banks, and they must align with other plans and benchmarks. A significant challenge is achieving the net-zero emissions goal, with investments in projects like rooftop solar panels in the Netherlands.

CaixaBank has met its sustainable finance targets in mid-2024, surpassing its ambitious goals and working on new objectives for 2025. Supply chain financing is a key issue, and CaixaBank is collaborating with the LMA to develop solutions that cover traceability and accessibility in the supply chain. Products reflecting these objectives will be presented in November in London.

The sustainable finance market has seen substantial growth since 2017, with Europe leading and sectors such as energy, oil, and transportation at the forefront. Concerns include transitioning to decarbonization and how companies can address Scope 3 emissions. Banks are developing transition plans with their clients and seeking best practices to partner in the sustainability transition.

Regarding regulation, but rather clarifying existing policies and ensuring that the financial market and government policies are aligned is crucial. CaixaBank strives to harmonize the classification of sustainable finance and align it with risk management policies and market benchmarks, maintaining transparency in reporting.

## Sustainability and regeneration in global value chains: navigating the complexities

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
VALENTINA DE MARCHI - Associate Professor, Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability at Esade	11:35

### Topics covered

1. Emissions in the value chain exceed in-house operations by 11.4%
2. Blockchain facilitates traceability in emissions reduction
3. Has the role of Chief Sustainability Officer become obsolete?
4. Resilient companies will be the ones to survive the system's complexity

### KTAs

#### Summary:

Companies are facing significant challenges related to climate change, including extreme weather events and biodiversity loss. Although they are part of the problem, companies can also be victims of the physical risks of climate change that disrupt their supply chains. However, they have the potential to become part of the solution by transforming their business models and strategies. Merely reducing negative impacts is not enough; it is necessary to regenerate and place nature at the core to assess and measure progress. Examples like Patagonia, which promotes regenerative organic farming practices in its supply chain, and products that store CO<sub>2</sub>, demonstrate this commitment.

One of the major challenges for companies is the complexity of systems and supply chains. For instance, Nike does not produce any of the products it sells but relies on hundreds of thousands of suppliers, with supply chain emissions being 11.4 times higher than operational emissions. Companies must understand their supply chains and take responsibility for sustainability, even beyond their operational boundaries, up to the extraction phase.

To shift from reducing negative impacts to becoming regenerative, companies must embrace complexity and be resilient. It is crucial to collaborate with NGOs and other organizations in local and global contexts, not just between companies and suppliers. By confronting this complexity, companies have the opportunity to lead a change towards sustainability across their global value chain.



## PANEL DISCUSSION: Harmonizing Sustainability Standards

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
GEMMA SÁNCHEZ-DANES - Leadership Team - Sustainability reporting ESRS) at EFRAG JONATHAN BRAVO - Director of Regulatory Affairs at IFRS Foundation JAVIER GARCÍA DÍAZ - General Director of the Spanish Association for Standardization Spanish (UNE) / Vice President of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Moderador: ÁNGEL ÁLVAREZ ALBERDI - Head of Brussels Office at LLYC	12:00

### Topics covered

1. EFRAG leads the first set of European sustainability standards with a holistic approach
2. ISO aims to help companies understand how their efforts impact ESG commitments
3. Over 95% of companies are small and need guidance towards sustainability for success?

### KTAs

#### Summary:

Following the Paris Agreement, ESG reporting has become a complex issue for corporations in the EU, not just a matter of compliance but also due to its varied requirements. The EU has implemented the first set of mandatory ESG standards, aiming to provide balanced, comparable, reliable, and digital information. ISO is helping companies understand how to translate the standards they have been implementing for years into this new sustainability disclosure framework. Companies can leverage existing ISO management systems to address the new sustainability framework.

Harmonizing different frameworks is crucial as new business models and strategies require financing, and financial actors need comparable and reliable information to avoid greenwashing. ISSB is working to align different organizations and has achieved a considerable degree of alignment with EFRAG. Interoperability between management systems and ESG standards is important to avoid duplication and evolve towards more robust ESG commitments.

Challenges for companies include implementing ESG reporting, which, although not new, does represent a shift for some companies requiring new positions and budgets. EFRAG is creating voluntary standards with modules for SMEs, recognizing the need for flexibility and limited resources. ISSB focuses on proportionality and supports jurisdictions in the adoption of standards to provide comparability.

Large corporations must comply with different regulations across various geographies, and harmonization is key. ISSB is working with 25 jurisdictions on adoption processes, and the interoperability guidance is a tool that provides a degree of compliance with EFRAG and ISSB. The future includes joint work on digital reporting and sector-specific standards between EFRAG and ISSB. ISO supports regulation and is committed to minimizing market confusion, supporting both ISSB and EFRAG in Europe.



Impediments for EFRAG include the need for sector-specific standards, as sustainability involves reporting the business model. While climate is a global issue, biodiversity is not, and data will help to change and adapt according to the topic and locality. EFRAG will have private meetings with ISSB to discuss these issues.



## ESG 2030: from responsible businesses to regenerative markets ...?

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
JOHN ELKINGTON	01 october 2:30pm

### Headlines:

1. The Evolution of ESG in the Coming Years: Focus on Businesses and Markets.
2. Significant Changes in Business and Redefining the Triple Bottom Line.
3. World Economic Forum 2024 Report: Emerging Global Challenges.
4. "Greener Swans": Exponential Solutions for Unforeseen Challenges.
5. The Intersection of ESG and AI in Addressing Current Problems.
6. The Need for High-Quality Sustainability Data and the Evolution of ESG Under Pressure.

### Summary:

ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) is set to evolve significantly in the coming years, with an increasing focus not only on companies but also on markets. An example of this is Boeing, whose financial performance highlights the importance of science and technology, as well as other global changes.

In his introduction, the author discusses his experience in creating four businesses and notes more changes in the last fifteen years than in the previous fifty. He raises the need to rethink the triple bottom line, highlighting Volans' work with companies such as Acciona, Zouk, Unilever, Ecovadis, UBQ, Neste, and Novartis. Despite the common perception of ESG and the triple bottom line as a win-win situation, the author suggests that the reality is more complex. He recommends the Financial Times article "Who killed the ESG Party?" and sees reasons for optimism with the advent of the CSRD (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive), which will require companies to be more transparent and accountable.

At the "Peak ESG" event of the World Economic Forum 2024, several global challenges were identified, such as social polarization, involuntary migration, misinformation, and adverse outcomes of AI technologies and cyber insecurity. The concept of "Greener Swans" refers to exponential solutions for these unforeseen challenges, emphasizing the importance of solar energy, wind, and batteries. The author emphasizes that now is the time to influence these technologies and how ESG must meet AI to face current challenges. Despite the fact that markets do not adequately reward companies' actions in sustainability, there is a lack of good quality sustainability data. Under pressure, ESG is expected to evolve towards a more professionalized approach.

## Credible company transition plans for climate change mitigation: research exploring geographic dependencies

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
Nickas Pickard García	01 october 3pm

### Headlines:

1. Joint Research Center Works on Tool for Company Transition Plans
2. The Role of Dependencies in Company Transition Plans
3. The Importance of Transparency and Credibility in Transition Plans
4. A Three-Step Process for Evaluating Geographical Dependencies

### Summary:

The Joint Research Center is in the process of developing a tool to assist with company transition plans, although it is currently a work in progress. A company transition plan typically includes considerations of time, equipment, and location, along with a detailed and credible strategy that may require collective planning.

The OECD has proposed a framework to assess the credibility of a transition plan, which involves triple consistency; this includes ensuring the plan's ambition is relevant to the sector and local context, and that it accounts for both internal complexities and external factors.

Dependencies play a crucial role in transition plans, particularly geographical dependencies that vary based on a company's location in the world. Companies are increasingly becoming transparent about these dependencies, which is essential for managing risks associated with transition plans.

The significance of caring about these aspects lies in the need for companies to invest in technologies and manage risks effectively. Credibility is also a key concern, as companies are expected to report on their dependencies.

When evaluating geographical dependencies, a three-step process is recommended. This involves selecting a company and identifying where its assets are located, the technologies used, and the external factors that are less controllable. The next step is to characterize these geographically, followed by an assessment of the credibility of the geographical characteristics. This includes determining whether any dependencies exist and if the company is addressing them, as well as identifying assets that may raise questions.



## Nutrition and sustainability: future innovations in sustainable food systems

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
Juan Arguiniano - Kerry	01 october 3:35pm

### Headlines:

1. Accelerating Change in the Global Food System
2. Visualizing Extremes to Find a Middle Ground for the Future of Food
3. Preparing for the Future: Embracing Uncertainty in Food Innovation
4. Food Industry's Role in Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Call for Change
5. The Stark Contrast of Hunger and Obesity in the World: The Impact of Consumer Choices on the Food Market
6. The Food Industry's Need for Investment and Digitalization

### Summary:

Change within the food system is occurring at an unprecedented pace. To envision a balanced future, we must consider extreme scenarios that highlight the need for innovation and preparedness in the face of uncertainty. The food industry is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 30% of the total. This highlights the importance of sustainable food practices, as food is an essential need, unlike luxuries such as phones.

The world faces a dichotomy where some go hungry while others suffer from obesity-related health issues. To address these challenges, four scenarios are presented:

1. "Innovate or Die": This scenario emphasizes high science and the cultural shift required to move towards more sustainable nutrition patterns, such as replacing meat with soy. It also focuses on reducing food waste and creating a circular system.
2. "Business as Usual but Better": This scenario envisions a world where food becomes an experience, with special diets catering to a growing segment and technology playing a pivotal role in informing dietary choices. However, it notes that the food industry is currently the least digitalized.
3. "Everyone for Themselves": In this crisis scenario, the rising prices of commodities like coffee and cocoa hint at future conflicts over resources like water. The statement "If we do half of what we say we will do, we will be in a very good place" suggests that even partial fulfillment of our goals could lead to significant improvements.
4. "Fragile Stability": This scenario acknowledges that degrowth is not occurring, implying that stability is delicate and may be disrupted.

The choices consumers make about their food have a profound impact on the market. Alternative products may be available, but without consumer support, no change will occur. The food industry is currently underinvested, which is an important consideration for future investments.



## UN Global Compact presentation - Communication on Progress (CoP) a voluntary reporting requirement for companies committed to the UNGC 10 Principles

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
REGINA MONJE	01 october 4:50pm

### Headlines:

1. Global Compact: A Framework of Shared Values and Principles
2. Private Sector's Crucial Role in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals
3. The Gender Gap Challenge: A 257-Year Journey to Equality
4. SDGs as Drivers of Growth: The Forward Faster Initiative
5. Europe's Need for Increased Environmental Due Diligence

### Summary:

The Global Compact is a universal framework based on 10 principles that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with participation from over 20,000 companies. These businesses recognize the private sector's essential role in achieving the SDGs, although only 17% of these goals are currently on track. One of the critical challenges highlighted is the gender gap, which could take 257 years to close if current trends continue.

The SDGs are increasingly viewed as catalysts for corporate growth, and the Forward Faster initiative aims to guide companies in making a tangible impact. This initiative focuses on five areas of action: climate action, gender equality, living wage, water resilience, and finance and investment.

The Global Compact enables companies to report their progress annually through the Communication of Progress (CoP). This voluntary report allows companies to monitor their performance in areas such as human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption. The CoP collaborates with key reporting frameworks to enhance its effectiveness, and the data collected through the CoP will contribute to capacity building.

Half of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) participants are European companies. The CoP questionnaire reveals high involvement of governance bodies across regions. Oceania leads in due diligence to human rights, while Europe shows low percentages in environmental due diligence, indicating a need for improvement in this area.



## Evolution of ESG regulation in Europe.

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
KRIS NATHANAIL (IOSCO)	01 october 4.50pm

### Headlines:

1. Private Capital as the Catalyst for Sustainable Transition
2. Overcoming Regulatory Fatigue to Combat Greenwashing
3. The Global Economy's Stability Hinges on Immediate Action for Sustainability
4. Society's Active Role in the Sustainable Financial System
5. Encouraging Voluntary Adoption of Standards for Consistent Results

### Summary:

The evolution of ESG regulation in Europe signifies a shift towards meaningful actions derived from the consequences of our societal actions. Laws and their enforcement are pivotal in making a sustainable society possible, with commitments already in place to fund a green economy, amounting to \$1 trillion per year for developing countries' climate actions.

Private capital is identified as the key driver for the transition, which necessitates consequences for inaction and coordinated efforts to prevent greenwashing, as seen in cases like the Japanese green bonds. Transparency and stewardship are expected, with a growing demand for genuinely green investments amidst fears of greenwashing, which can slow down investment and miss opportunities.

Regulators play a crucial role in ensuring investor protection, market integrity, and stability by promoting transparency, clarity, and trust. A strong foundation for sustainable financial markets is necessary, which includes auditing, assurance, and forward-looking information such as transition plans. The real test lies in the implementation of standards, as sustainable finance relies on rules, business practices, and education, where knowledge is fundamental.

Despite the challenges of regulatory fatigue and the costs of compliance, there is a need to look at ESG benchmark markets to address greenwashing and engage the private sector to take action. ISSB standards are currently suffering from implementation problems, highlighting the need for consistent action rather than promises.

The text also warns that without immediate action, industries like tourism and olive oil production could collapse by 2100 due to current climate trends. The stability of investments and the global economy depends on the steps taken next. Society must actively participate in the sustainable financial system and encourage the voluntary adoption of standards to ensure consistency and achieve tangible results.

## Communication and corporate reputation

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day
Ana Gascón, DIRSE Marta Martín, Turning Point Alba García, LLYC	Wednesday

### Topics covered

1. Navigating the Benefits and Risks of ESG Communication in a Scrutinized Corporate World
2. Crafting ESG Narratives: How to Speak to Different Stakeholders and Build Reputation
3. Consumer Confusion in Sustainability: The Hidden Challenge in ESG Communication
4. Regulatory Compliance and ESG Reporting: Preparing for the Greenwashing Directive and CSR Audits

These headlines focus on the core theme of the panel, underscoring the importance of ESG communication in building and maintaining a positive corporate reputation. They reflect the nuanced discussions on the interplay between transparency, stakeholder engagement, consumer understanding, and regulatory compliance within the realm of corporate communication.

### KTAs

At the ESG Summit Europe 2024, the panel on Communication and Corporate Reputation, featuring Ana Gascón from DIRSE, Marta Martín from Turning Point, and Alba García from LLYC, delved into the critical role of ESG communication in shaping corporate reputation. The speakers unanimously agreed that ESG communication is essential in today's environment of heightened scrutiny and is a valuable tool for showcasing a company's journey towards ESG change. Transparent communication not only mitigates risks but also opens up new business opportunities.

Alba García pointed out the benefits of ESG communication, such as attracting investors and adhering to regulations, while also warning of the risks associated with generating high expectations and the potential for greenwashing accusations, which can lead to 'ecosilence' where companies refrain from discussing certain initiatives.

Marta Martín emphasized the importance of crafting messages that resonate with different audiences, from the general public to employees, ensuring that the narrative aligns with the company's sustainability goals. She highlighted the need for internal communication to foster employee engagement.

The panel also addressed the consumer's role in ESG communication, acknowledging that there is often a lack of understanding about sustainability issues among consumers, which affects their purchasing decisions. The European Greenwashing Directive and the CSR and Due Diligence Directives were mentioned as frameworks that will compel companies to refine their communication strategies and undergo external audits for ESG reporting.

In conclusion, the speakers advised companies to conduct self-assessments, prioritize their communication strategies, and employ advanced tools to stay ahead in the ESG landscape.

## Economic Policy and Sustainability

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
Victor Ausín Rodríguez, general director of economic policy, ministry of economic affairs and digital transformation	Wednesday

### Summary of Spain's Ecological Transition Strategy:

Spain's national strategy for ecological transition was a focal point at the ESG Summit, outlining an ambitious plan to shift towards a more sustainable and resilient economy. The strategy sets five main targets: reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, fostering green electrification, increasing the share of renewables in the energy mix, boosting energy efficiency, and enhancing energy independence.

Despite challenges such as the Ukrainian war, Spain has accelerated the pace of renewable energy development, with renewables now accounting for 50% of the energy mix. The goal is to reduce reliance on external energy sources and increase self-sufficiency.

The strategy is underpinned by five groups of public policies:

1. **Decarbonization:** Encouraging the deployment of renewable energy production, distribution, and storage, with a particular focus on green hydrogen for industrial use.
2. **Energy Efficiency:** Supporting technological upgrades and procedures, including a national energy efficiency fund, and promoting the rehabilitation and sustainability of housing.
3. **Energy Security:** Aiming to reduce energy dependence and ensure the production of key energy goods.
4. **Single Market:** Reforming the electricity market for greater resilience against external shocks and enhancing energy distribution infrastructure to benefit from economies of scale.
5. **Research and Innovation:** Advancing regulatory sandboxes and public-private partnerships, and encouraging the exchange of innovative ideas, as well as establishing the 'fifth freedom of movement' as advocated by Letta and Draghi.

A cost-benefit analysis was presented, weighing the reduction of fossil fuels, technology replacement, additional costs, and accelerated depreciation rates against the benefits of substantial public and private investments totaling €294 billion. The investments are projected to span energy efficiency, electrification, distribution networks, and renewable energy deployment.

The ecological transition, targeted from 2021 to 2030, also considers costs from capital depreciation, risks of investment additivity, and inflationary costs. However, the benefits are significant, with an expected GDP impact of 2.5%, the creation of 500,000 jobs, a 20% reduction in energy intensity, and a 32.5% decrease in GHG emissions. The speaker concluded that this



transition will render Spain, and by extension the European Union, more productive and competitive.

**Selected Headlines:**

1. "Spain Sets Ambitious Five-Point Target for Ecological Transition, Aiming for Energy Independence."
2. "Renewable Energy Takes Center Stage in Spain's Ecological Strategy Despite Global Challenges."
3. "Spain's Public Policy Framework Paves the Way for a Greener Future with Decarbonization and Efficiency."
4. "Spain's €294 Billion Investment in Ecological Transition to Spur Job Creation and GDP Growth."
5. "Spain's Transition Strategy Promises a More Competitive Nation with Significant Reductions in GHG Emissions."

These headlines reflect Spain's commitment to a sustainable future, as presented at the ESG Summit, and the comprehensive approach the country is taking to achieve its ecological transition goals.



## ESG Compliance and Greenwashing

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
Heike Schmitz, Partner, CO-head, ESG EMEIA, Herbert Smith Freehills Martina Fondi, Partner and Head of Forestry, Treedom Akice Khouri, head of legal at Helexia Portugal & member of the operational council center for sustainable finance	Wednesday

### Summary of Greenwashing and Regulatory Frameworks:

The ESG Summit addressed the pervasive issue of greenwashing, with statistics indicating that 53% of green claims contain vague, misleading, or unfounded information. This is a significant concern, as 73% of EU citizens consider the environmental impact of a product to be very important when making a purchase. The regulatory landscape is evolving to address these issues, with increased scrutiny and accountability for companies that make false environmental claims or misuse nature imagery in their marketing.

The phenomenon of social washing, which pertains to misleading claims about workers' conditions, was also discussed. The summit emphasized the need for policies to be in line with the Paris Agreement and for careful use of environmental logos and certifications.

Effective communication strategies are essential to avoid misunderstandings in sustainability messaging. Companies are encouraged to share information internally, have messages reviewed for accuracy, and ensure that their communications are transparent, reliable, and correct.

Martina from Treedom shared her organization's experience with greenwashing accusations and stressed the importance of having a clear path for aligning with consultants and companies. Treedom's focus is on maintaining the social aspect of their tree-planting activities rather than just offsetting emissions.

Policy-making discussions revealed that some countries are lagging in transposing the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), with 17 countries still pending. This delay affects the reporting process, which is due to start a year earlier. Companies are now required to demonstrate that their products do not contribute to deforestation, and investors are increasingly demanding transparency in sustainability.

The summit also touched on the evolution of greenwashing, the role of regulation in driving market changes, and the challenges faced by small producers in meeting due diligence requirements. The importance of education over marketing, the commitment of markets, and the role of regulation were highlighted.

A notable development mentioned was the banning of fossil fuel ads by The Hague, emphasizing the need for clear information rather than just avoiding the topic. The upcoming approval of the Green Claims Directive was also discussed, indicating a move towards more stringent standards for environmental claims.

### Selected Headlines:



1. "ESG Summit Tackles Greenwashing: Over Half of Green Claims Found Misleading."
2. "EU Citizens Demand Eco-Friendly Products as Regulatory Framework Tightens."
3. "Treedom's Journey Through Greenwashing Accusations Highlights Importance of Clear Sustainability Path."
4. "Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive Delay Raises Concerns Ahead of New Reporting Cycle."
5. "The Hague's Fossil Fuel Ad Ban Sparks Debate on Transparency and Regulation at ESG Summit."

These headlines reflect the summit's focus on combating greenwashing, enhancing regulatory compliance, and fostering transparent and accurate communication in the realm of sustainability.



## Circular economy: the missing link to solve climate change

SG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
Vojtech Vosecky - Founder the Circular Economist	Wednesday

### Summary of Circular Economy as a Solution to Climate Change:

The ESG Summit highlighted the circular economy (CE) as a crucial yet often overlooked component in the fight against climate change. The current focus on reporting was contrasted with a lack of tangible implementation in transitioning from a linear to a circular model. Shell's recognition as a top brand for ESG and sustainability communication underscored the role that corporations can play in this shift.

The summit pointed out that nature has been operating on circular principles for centuries, unlike the prevalent linear economy that results in significant waste and environmental damage. The circular economy aims to address the 45% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions embedded in the resources and materials we use, which contribute to 55% of total emissions.

The potential benefits of adopting a circular economy are substantial, with an estimated €1.8 trillion in economic gains for the EU. The transition requires a rethinking of product use and design to ensure that items can have multiple lifecycles and minimize resource loss.

Six strategies for advancing the circular economy were outlined:

1. Retain: Extend the lifespan of existing products and resources.
2. Rethink: Innovate in venture capital organization and address challenges such as battery life and recycling, with companies like Gouach leading the way.
3. Regenerate: Support ecosystems where both nature and business can thrive, exemplified by Ecosia's tree-planting search engine.
4. Reduce: Aim for efficiency and minimalism, especially in the face of a growing global population. Address food waste with initiatives like Too Good To Go.
5. Reuse: Keep resources in use for as long as possible, with startups like Repack introducing reusable packaging solutions.
6. Recover: Ensure end-of-life products are recycled and disposed of responsibly.

Selected Headlines:

1. "Circular Economy: The Overlooked Solution to Climate Change, ESG Summit Explores."
2. "Shell Lauded for ESG Communication as Summit Calls for Action Beyond Reporting."
3. "Nature's Circular Economy: A Model for Sustainable Business Practices."
4. "From Linear to Circular: ESG Summit Unveils Six Strategies for an Eco-Friendly Economy."
5. "EU's Potential €1.8 Trillion Windfall from Circular Economy Transition Highlighted at Summit."



These headlines capture the summit's emphasis on the circular economy as a viable and necessary approach to mitigating climate change, the importance of corporate responsibility in this transition, and the innovative strategies required to make the circular economy a reality.



# Leveraging Technology and Innovation for Advancing Sustainability

ESG Summit Europe 2024

Speakers	Day and time
Kyriakos Exadaktylos - Vodafone Group Ibo Sanz - LLYC Frederick Royan - Frost & Sullivan	Wednesday

## Topics covered

### Selected Headlines:

1. "Artificial Intelligence Emerges as Key to Sustainability at ESG Summit."
2. "ESG Summit Proposes Six 'P's for a More Inclusive and Effective Sustainability Strategy."
3. "Europe Paves the Way to Net-Zero, as Africa Joins Global Sustainability Efforts."
4. "Smart Cities: The Proposed Solution for Reducing Emissions and Enhancing Urban Living."
5. "The Urgency of a Unified ESG Platform: A Step Towards Transparency and Effective Action."

These headlines capture the essence of the discussions and conclusions from the ESG Summit, highlighting the need for technological innovation and collaboration to address sustainability challenges on a global scale.

## KTAs

The ESG Summit underscored the critical importance of integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into sustainability strategies. The need to incorporate cutting-edge technologies to tackle environmental, social, and governance (ESG) challenges was identified. Participants emphasized the shift from the old rule of the three "P"s (people, planet, and profit) to a broader approach encompassing six "P"s: policies, products, processes, people & personas, partnerships, and platforms. This holistic approach aims to minimize environmental footprint and meet the diverse needs of society through collaboration and co-creation.

It was acknowledged that the situation regarding ESG needs varies by region, with Europe already on the path to net-zero emissions and ongoing efforts to establish similar agreements in Africa. Cities, identified as major greenhouse gas emitters, require actionable data to drive behavioral changes and effective policies. In India, the challenge is to provide quality water to 800 million people, highlighting the need to shift climate finance from mitigation to adaptation.

The concept of smart cities was presented as a solution to synchronize sustainability initiatives with public transportation and other urban services. However, the adoption of sustainable technologies faces hurdles, such as a lack of public awareness about the economic feasibility of renewable energies and political reluctance in places like the United States.



The summit concluded with a call to develop a unified platform that collects and presents ESG data, enabling better decision-making and greater transparency in sustainability metrics