

ESRS G1

BUSINESS CONDUCT

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Objective

1. The objective of this Standard is to specify disclosure requirements which will enable users of the undertaking's **sustainability statements** to understand the undertaking's strategy and approach, processes and procedures as well as its performance in respect of business conduct.
2. This Standard focusses on the following matters, collectively referred to in this Standard as 'business conduct or business conduct matters':
 - (a) business ethics and **corporate culture**, including anti-**corruption** and anti-**bribery**, the protection of whistleblowers, and animal welfare;
 - (b) the management of relationships with **suppliers**, including payment practices, especially with regard to late payment to small and medium-sized undertakings.
 - (c) activities and commitments of the undertaking related to exerting its political influence, including its **lobbying activities**;

Interaction with other ESRS

3. The content of this Standard on general disclosures as well as impact, risk and opportunity management and **metrics** and **targets** shall be read in conjunction respectively with ESRS 1 *General principles* and ESRS 2 *General requirements*.

Disclosure Requirements

ESRS 2 *General disclosures*

4. The requirements of this section should be read in conjunction with and reported alongside the disclosures required by ESRS 2 on Governance (GOV), Strategy (SBM) and Management of impacts, risks and opportunities (IRO).

Governance

Disclosure Requirement related to ESRS 2 GOV-1 – The role of the administrative, management and supervisory bodies

5. When disclosing information about the role of the **administrative, management and supervisory bodies**, the undertaking shall cover the following aspects:
 - (a) the role of the **administrative, management and supervisory bodies** related to business conduct; and
 - (b) the expertise of the administrative, management and supervisory bodies on business conduct matters.

Impact, risk and opportunity management

Disclosure Requirement related to ESRS 2 IRO-1 – Description of the processes to identify and assess material impacts, risks and opportunities

6. When describing the process to identify material impacts, risks and opportunities in relation to business conduct matters, the undertaking shall disclose all relevant criteria used in the process, including location, activity, sector and the structure of the transaction.

Disclosure Requirement G1-1– Business conduct policies and corporate culture

7. The undertaking shall disclose its policies with respect to business conduct matters and how it fosters its corporate culture.
8. The objective of this Disclosure Requirement is to enable an understanding of the extent to which the undertaking has policies that address the identification, assessment, management and/or **remediation** of its material **impacts, risks** and **opportunities** related to business conduct matters. It also aims to provide an understanding of the undertaking's approach to **corporate culture**.
9. The disclosures required under paragraph 7 shall include how the undertaking establishes, develops, promotes and evaluates its **corporate culture**.
10. The disclosures in paragraph 7 shall cover the following aspects related to the undertaking's policies on business conduct matters:
 - (a) a description of the mechanisms for identifying, reporting and investigating concerns about unlawful behaviour or behaviour in contradiction of its code of conduct or similar internal rules; and whether it accommodates reporting from internal and/or external **stakeholders**;

- (b) where the undertaking has no policies on anti-**corruption** or anti-**bribery** consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption ⁽¹²⁰⁾, it shall state this and whether it has plans to implement them and the timetable for implementation;
 - (c) how the undertaking protects whistleblowers, including:
 - i. details on the establishment of internal whistleblower reporting channels, including whether the undertaking provides for information and **training** to its own workers and information about the designation and training of staff receiving reports; and
 - ii. measures to protect against retaliation its own workers who are whistleblowers in accordance with the applicable law transposing Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹²¹⁾;
 - (d) where the undertaking has no policies on the protection of whistle-blowers ⁽¹²²⁾, it shall state this and whether it has plans to implement them and the timetable for implementation;
 - (e) beyond the procedures to follow-up on reports by whistleblowers in accordance with the applicable law transposing Directive (EU) 2019/1937, whether the undertaking has procedures to investigate business conduct **incidents**, including incidents of **corruption** and **bribery**, promptly, independently and objectively;
 - (f) where applicable, whether the undertaking has in place policies with respect to animal welfare;
 - (g) the undertaking's **policy** for **training** within the organisation on business conduct, including target audience, frequency and depth of coverage; and
 - (h) the functions within the undertaking that are most at risk in respect of **corruption** and **bribery**.
11. Undertakings that are subject to legal requirements under national law transposing Directive (EU) 2019/1937, or to equivalent legal requirements with regard to the protection of whistle-blowers, may comply with the disclosure specified in paragraph 10 (d) by stating that they are subject to those legal requirements.

Disclosure Requirement G1-2 – Management of relationships with suppliers

12. The undertaking shall provide information about the management of its relationships with its suppliers and its impacts on its supply chain.
13. The objective of this Disclosure Requirement is to provide an understanding of the undertaking's management of its procurement process including fair behaviour with **suppliers**.
14. The undertaking shall provide a description of its **policy** to prevent late payments, specifically to SMEs.
15. The disclosure required under paragraph 12 shall include the following information:
- (a) the undertaking's approach to its relationships with its **suppliers**, taking account of risks to the undertaking related to its **supply chain** and of **impacts** on **sustainability matters**; and
 - (b) whether and how it takes into account social and environmental criteria for the selection of its suppliers.

⁽¹²⁰⁾ This information supports the information needs of financial market participants subject to Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 because it is derived from an additional indicator related to principal adverse impacts as set out by indicator #15 in Table III of Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 with regard to disclosures rules on sustainable investments ("Lack of anti-corruption and anti-bribery policies").

⁽¹²¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law (OJ L 305, 26.11.2019, p. 17).

⁽¹²²⁾ This information supports the information needs of financial market participants subject to Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 because it is derived from an additional indicator related to principal adverse impacts as set out by indicator #6 in Table III of Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 with regard to disclosures rules on sustainable investments ("Insufficient whistleblower protection").

Disclosure Requirement G1-3 – Prevention and detection of corruption and bribery

16. The undertaking shall provide information about its system to prevent and detect, investigate, and respond to allegations or incidents relating to corruption and bribery including the related training.
17. The objective of this Disclosure Requirement is to provide transparency on the key procedures of the undertaking to prevent, detect, and address allegations about **corruption** and **bribery**. This includes the training provided to own workers and/or information provided internally or to **suppliers**.
18. The disclosure required under paragraph 16 shall include the following information:
 - (a) a description of the procedures in place to prevent, detect, and address allegations or **incidents of corruption** and **bribery**;
 - (b) whether the investigators or investigating committee are separate from the chain of management involved in the matter; and
 - (c) the process, if any, to report outcomes to the **administrative, management and supervisory bodies**.
19. Where the undertaking has no such procedures in place, it shall disclose this fact and, where applicable, its plans to adopt them.
20. The disclosures required by paragraph 16 shall include information about how the undertaking communicates its policies to those for whom they are relevant to ensure that the **policy** is accessible and that they understand its implications.
21. The disclosure required by paragraph 16 shall include information about the following with respect to training:
 - (a) the nature, scope and depth of anti-**corruption** and anti-**bribery** training programmes offered or required by the undertaking;
 - (b) the percentage of functions-at-risk covered by training programmes; and
 - (c) the extent to which training is given to members of the administrative, management and supervisory bodies.

*Metrics and targets***Disclosure Requirement G1-4 – Incidents of corruption or bribery**

22. The undertaking shall provide information on incidents of corruption or bribery during the reporting period.
23. The objective of this Disclosure Requirement is to provide transparency on the incidents relating to **corruption** or **bribery** during the reporting period and the related outcomes.
24. The undertaking shall disclose:
 - (a) the number of convictions and the amount of fines for violation of anti-corruption and anti- bribery laws ⁽¹²³⁾; and

⁽¹²³⁾ This information supports the information needs of: financial market participants subject to Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 because it is derived from an additional indicator related to principal adverse impacts set out in indicator #17 of Table III of Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 with regard to disclosures rules on sustainable investments ("Number of convictions and amount of fines for violation of anti-corruption and anti-bribery laws"); and benchmark administrators to disclose ESG factors subject to Regulation (EU) 2020/1816 as set out by indicator "Numbers of convictions and amount of fines for violations of anti-corruption and anti-bribery laws" in section 1 and 2 of Annex II.

- (b) any actions taken to address breaches in procedures and standards of anti-corruption and anti-bribery ⁽¹²⁴⁾.
25. The undertaking may disclose:
- (a) the total number and nature of **confirmed incidents** of corruption or bribery;
 - (b) the number of **confirmed incidents** in which own workers were dismissed or disciplined for corruption or bribery-related incidents;
 - (c) the number of **confirmed incidents** relating to contracts with business partners that were terminated or not renewed due to violations related to corruption or bribery; and
 - (d) details of public legal cases regarding **corruption** or **bribery** brought against the undertaking and its own workers during the reporting period and the outcomes of such cases. This includes cases that were initiated in previous years where the outcome was only established in the current reporting period.
26. The disclosures required shall include **incidents** involving actors in its **value chain** only where the undertaking or its **employees** are directly involved.

Disclosure Requirement G1-5 – Political influence and lobbying activities

27. The undertaking shall provide information on the activities and commitments related to exerting its political influence, including its lobbying activities related to its material impacts, risks and opportunities.
28. The objective of this Disclosure Requirement is to provide transparency on the undertaking's activities and commitments related to exerting its political influence with political contributions, including the types and purpose of **lobbying activities**.
29. The disclosure required by paragraph 27 shall include:
- (a) if applicable, the representative(s) responsible in the **administrative, management and supervisory bodies** for the oversight of these activities;
 - (b) for financial or in-kind political contributions:
 - i. the total monetary value of financial and in-kind political contributions made directly and indirectly by the undertaking aggregated by country or geographical area where relevant, as well as type of recipient/beneficiary; and
 - ii. where appropriate, how the monetary value of in-kind contributions is estimated.
 - (c) the main topics covered by its **lobbying activities** and the undertaking's main positions on these in brief. This shall include explanations on how this interacts with its material impacts, risks and opportunities identified in its **materiality** assessment per ESRS 2; and
 - (d) if the undertaking is registered in the EU Transparency Register or in an equivalent transparency register in a Member State, the name of any such register and its identification number in the register.
30. The disclosure shall also include information about the appointment of any members of the **administrative, management and supervisory bodies** who held a comparable position in public administration (including regulators) in the 2 years preceding such appointment in the current reporting period.

Disclosure Requirement G1-6 – Payment practices

31. The undertaking shall provide information on its payment practices, especially with respect to late payments to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

⁽¹²⁴⁾ This information supports the information needs of financial market participants subject to Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 because it is derived from an additional indicator related to principal adverse impacts set out in indicator #16 of Table III of Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 with regard to disclosures rules on sustainable investments ("Cases of insufficient action taken to address breaches of standards of anti-corruption and anti-bribery").

32. The objective of this Disclosure Requirement is to provide insights on the contractual payment terms and on its performance with regard to payment, especially as to how these impact SMEs and specifically with respect to late payments to SMEs.
 33. The disclosure under paragraph 31 shall include:
 - (a) the average time the undertaking takes to pay an invoice from the date when the contractual or statutory term of payment starts to be calculated, in number of days;
 - (b) a description of the undertaking's standard payment terms in number of days by main category of **suppliers** and the percentage of its payments aligned with these standard terms;
 - (c) the number of legal proceedings currently outstanding for late payments; and
 - (d) complementary information necessary to provide sufficient context. If the undertaking has used representative sampling to calculate the information required under point (a), it shall state that fact and briefly describe the methodology used.
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Appendix A

Application Requirements

This appendix is an integral part of the ESRS G1 *Business conduct*. It supports the application of the disclosure requirements set out in this standard and has the same authority as the other parts of the Standard.

Impact, risk and opportunity management

Disclosure Requirement G1-1 – Business conduct policies and corporate culture

- AR 1. The undertaking may consider the following aspects when determining its disclosure under paragraph 7:
- (a) the aspects of **corporate culture** that are taken into consideration and discussed by the **administrative, management and supervisory bodies** and with which frequency;
 - (b) the principal themes that are promoted and communicated as part of the corporate culture;
 - (c) how the members of the undertaking's administrative, management and supervisory bodies provide direction to promote a corporate culture; and
 - (d) specific incentives or tools for its own workers to foster and encourage its corporate culture.

Disclosure Requirement G1-2 – Management of relationships with suppliers

- AR 2. For purposes of this standard, management of relationships with the undertaking's **suppliers** may include the following:
- (a) how the undertaking's practices, including activities to avoid or minimise the impacts of disruptions to its **supply chain**, support its strategy and risk management;
 - (b) training of the undertaking's procurement/supply chain workforce on engagement and dialogue with **suppliers** as well as incentives of its procurement workforce including whether such incentives refer to price, quality or sustainability factors;
 - (c) the screening and evaluation of social and environmental performance of suppliers;
 - (d) the inclusion of locally based suppliers in its supply chain and/or suppliers with certification;
 - (e) how the undertaking's practices deal with vulnerable suppliers;
 - (f) the undertaking's **targets** and **actions** with regard to communication and management of relationships with suppliers; and
 - (g) how the outcomes of these practices are evaluated, including supplier visits, audits or surveys.
- AR 3. 'Vulnerable suppliers' includes **suppliers** that are exposed to significant economic, environmental and/or social risks.

Disclosure Requirement G1-3 – Prevention and detection of corruption and bribery

- AR 4. 'Functions-at-risk' means those functions deemed to be at risk of **corruption** and **bribery** as a result of its tasks and responsibilities.
- AR 5. Disclosures may include details about the risk assessments and/or mapping, as well as monitoring programmes and/or internal control procedures performed by the undertaking to detect **corruption** and **bribery**.

AR 6. The undertaking's policies on **corruption** and **bribery** may be relevant to specific groups of people, either because they are expected to implement them (for example, the undertaking's **employees**, contractors and **suppliers**), or because they have a direct interest in their implementation (for example, **value chain** workers, investors). The undertaking may disclose the communication tools and channels (e.g., flyers, newsletters, dedicated websites, social media, face to face interactions, unions and/or workers representatives) to communicate policies to such groups. This may also include the identification and/or removal of potential barriers to dissemination, such as through translation into relevant languages or the use of graphic depictions.

AR 7. The undertaking may disclose an analysis of its training activities by, for example, region of training or category of **own workforce** where its programmes differ significantly based on such factors and such information would be useful to users.

AR 8. The undertaking may present the required information about training using the following table:

Anti-corruption and bribery training illustrative example

During the 20XY financial year ABC provided training to its at-risk own workers in terms of its policy (see note x). For those at-risk functions the training is mandatory, but ABC also made available voluntary training for other own workers. Details of its training during the year is as follows:

	At-risk functions	Managers	AMSB ⁽¹²⁵⁾	Other own workers
Training coverage				
Total	20 000	200	16	70 000
Total receiving training	19 500	150	8	5 000
Delivery method and duration				
Classroom training	5 hours			
Computer-based training	1 hour	2 hours	1 hour	
Voluntary computer-based training				1 hour
Frequency				
How often training is required	Annually	Annually	Bi-annually	-
Topics covered				
Definition of corruption	X	X	X	X
Policy	X	X	X	X
Procedures on suspicion/detection	X	X		
Etc.	X			

Metrics and targets

Disclosure Requirement G1-5 – Political influence and lobbying activities

AR 9. For purposes of this Standard 'political contribution' means financial or in-kind support provided directly to political parties, their elected representatives or persons seeking political office. Financial contributions can include donations, loans, sponsorships, advance payments for services, or the purchase of tickets for fundraising events and other similar practices. In-kind contributions can include advertising, use of facilities, design and printing, donation of equipment, provision of board membership, employment or consultancy work for elected politicians or candidates for office.

⁽¹²⁵⁾ Administrative, management and supervisory bodies.

- AR 10. 'Indirect political contribution' refers to those political contributions made through an intermediary organisation such as a lobbyist or charity, or support given to an organisation such as a think tank or trade association linked to or supporting particular political parties or causes.
- AR 11. When determining 'comparable position' in this standard, the undertaking shall consider various factors, including level of responsibility and scope of activities undertaken.
- AR 12. The undertaking may provide the following information on its financial or in-kind contributions with regard to its lobbying expenses:
- (a) the total monetary amount of such internal and external expenses; and
 - (b) the total amount paid for membership to lobbying associations.
- AR 13. If the undertaking is legally obliged to be a member of a chamber of commerce or other organisation that represents its interests, it may disclose that this is the case.
- AR 14. In meeting the requirement in paragraph 29(c) the undertaking shall consider the alignment between its public statements on its material impacts, risks and opportunities and its **lobbying activities**.
- AR 15. An example of what such disclosures could look like:

Political engagement (including lobbying activities) illustrative example

*During the 20XY financial year ABC was involved in activities around the proposed regulation XXX which could have significant negative impacts on its **business model** if implemented in the current format. ABC's considers that while the proposed regulation will realise some improvements to the regulatory regime such as xxx, in its current format the costs relating to xxx will outweigh the benefits. ABC and its peers continue to work with XXX (the regulator) to improve this balance.*

ABC also supported the QRP political party in Country X and EFG party in Country Y as both ABC is registered in its local transparency register, i.e., XYZ, and its registration number is 987234.

Amounts in € thousands.

	2023	2022 [TBC]
Political funding provided	100	
Funding to QRP	75	
Funding to EFG	25	
	100	

Disclosure Requirement G1-6 – Payment practices

- AR 16. In some cases, the undertaking's standard contractual payment terms may differ significantly depending on country or type of **supplier**. In such cases, information about the standard terms per main categories of suppliers or country or geographical region could be examples of additional contextual information to explain the disclosures in paragraph 33(b).

- AR 17. An example of what the description of standard contract term disclosures in paragraph 33(b) could look like:

ABC's standard contract payment terms are payment on receipt of invoice for wholesalers which encompass approximately 80% of its annual invoices by value. It pays for services received within 30 days after receipt of the invoice which are about 5% of its annual invoices. The remainder of its invoices are paid within 60 days of receipt except for those in country X which in accordance with the marketplace standards are paid within 90 days of receipt.

ANNEX II

ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This Annex presents all the acronyms found in the ESRS (Table 1) as well as all terms defined in the ESRS (Table 2).

Table 1

Acronyms

AMS	Automated Measuring Systems
AQI	Air Quality Indices
AR	Application Requirements
AWS	Alliance for Water Stewardship
BAT	Best Available Technique
BAT-AEL	Best Available Technique-Associated Emission Level
BAT-AEPL	Best Available Technique-Associated Environmental Performance Level
BREFs	Best Available Techniques Reference Documents
Btu	British Thermal Units
CapEx	Capital Expenditure
CBD	Convention for Biological Diversity
CDDA	Common Database on Designated Areas
CEN	European Committee for Standardization
CENELEC	European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
CH ₄	Methane
CICES	Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CRR	Regulation (EU) 757/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾ (Capital Requirements Regulation)
DEGURBA	Degree of Urbanisation
DR BP-1	Disclosure Requirement - General basis for preparation of the sustainability statements
DR BP-2	Disclosure Requirement - Disclosures in relation to specific circumstances
DR GOV-1	Disclosure Requirement - The role of the administrative, management and supervisory bodies
DR GOV-2	Disclosure Requirement - Information provided to and sustainability matters addressed by the undertaking's administrative, management and supervisory bodies
DR GOV-3	Disclosure Requirement - Integration of sustainability- related performance in incentive schemes
DR GOV-4	Disclosure Requirement - Statement on sustainability due diligence
DR GOV-5	Disclosure Requirement - Risk management and internal controls over sustainability reporting

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 757/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms and amending Regulation (EU) 648/2012 (OJ L 176, 27.6.2013, p. 1).

DR SBM-1	Disclosure Requirement - Market position, strategy, business model(s) and value chain
DR SBM-2	Disclosure Requirement - Interests and views of stakeholders
DR SBM-3	Disclosure Requirement - Material impacts, risks and opportunities and their interaction with strategy and business model(s)
DR IRO-1	Disclosure Requirement - Description of the processes to identify and assess material impacts, risks and opportunities
DR IRO-2	Disclosure Requirements in ESRS covered by the undertaking's sustainability statements
DNSH	Do No Significant Harm
DR	Disclosure Requirements
EBA	European Banking Authority
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Economic Area
EFRAG	European Financial Reporting Advisory Group
EFRAG SRB	European Financial Reporting Advisory Group Sustainability Reporting Board
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMAS	Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
EPC	Energy Performance Certificate
E-PRTR	European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
ESA	European Supervisory Authorities
ESMA	European Securities and Markets Authority
ESRS	European Sustainability Reporting Standards
ESRS 1	European Sustainability Reporting Standard 1 General requirements
ESRS 2	European Sustainability Reporting Standard 2 General disclosures
ESRS E1	European Sustainability Reporting Standard E1 Climate change
ESRS E2	European Sustainability Reporting Standard E2 Pollution
ESRS E3	European Sustainability Reporting Standard E3 Water and marine resources
ESRS E4	European Sustainability Reporting Standard E4 Biodiversity and ecosystems
ESRS E5	European Sustainability Reporting Standard E5 Resource use and circular economy
ESRS G1	European Sustainability Reporting Standard G1 Business conduct
ESRS S1	European Sustainability Reporting Standard S1 Own workforce
ESRS S2	European Sustainability Reporting Standard S2 Workers in the value chain
ESRS S3	European Sustainability Reporting Standard S3 Affected communities
ESRS S4	European Sustainability Reporting Standard S4 Consumers & end-users
EU	European Union
EU ETS	European Union Emissions Trading System

EWC	European Works Council
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FTE	Full-time equivalent
GAAP	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GJ	Giga-Joules
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GWP	Global Warming Potential
HFCs	Hydrofluorocarbons
IED	Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council ^(*) (Industrial Emissions Directive)
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISEAL	International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISSB	International Sustainability Standards Board
ITS	Implementing Technical Standards
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KBA	Key Biodiversity Areas
Kg	Kilogram
lb	Pounds
LEAP	Locate Evaluate Assess Prepare
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex
MDR	Minimum Disclosure Requirement
MWh	Mega-Watt-hours
N ₂ O	Nitrous Oxide
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community
NF ₃	Nitrogen trifluoride
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NH ₃	Ammonia
NOX	Nitrogen oxides
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units of Statistics
O ₃	Ozone

(*) Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, p. 17).

ODS	Ozone-depleting substance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECM	One Earth Climate Model
OpEX	Operating Expenditure
PBTS	Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances
PCAF	Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financial
PCFs	Perfluorocarbons
PM	Particulate Matter
PMTs	Persistent, Mobile and Toxic Substances
POPs	Persistent organic pollutants
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
SBTi	Science Based Targets Initiative
SBTN	Science Based Targets Network
SCE	Societas Cooperativa Europaea
SDA	Sectoral Decarbonisation Approach
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDPI	Sustainable Development Performance Indicator
SE	Societas Europaea
SEEA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
SEEA EA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Ecosystem Accounting
SFDR	Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁾ (Sustainable Finance Disclosures Regulation)
SOX	Sulphur oxides
SVHC	Substances of Very High Concern
TCFD	Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures
TNFD	Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
vPvBs	Very persistent and very bioaccumulative substances
vPvMs	Very persistent and very mobile substances
WDPA	World Database of Protected Areas
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World-Wide Fund for Nature

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector (OJ L 317, 9.12.2019, p. 1).

Table 2

Terms defined in the ESRS

This table defines the terms to be used as reference for the preparation of the sustainability statements in accordance with the ESRS.

Defined term	Definition
Actions	Actions refer to: i. actions and action plans (including transition plans) that are undertaken to ensure that the undertaking delivers against targets set and through which the undertaking seeks to address material impacts, risks and opportunities ; and ii. decisions to support these with financial, human or technological resources.
Actor in the value chain	Individuals or entities in the upstream or downstream value chain . The actor is considered downstream from the undertaking (e.g., distributors, customers) when it receives products or services from the undertaking; it is considered upstream from the undertaking (e.g., suppliers) when it provides products or services that are used in the production of the undertaking's own products or services.
Adequate wage	A wage that provides for the satisfaction of the needs of the worker and his / her family in the light of national economic and social conditions.
Administrative, management and supervisory bodies	The governance bodies with the highest decision-making authority in the undertaking including its committees. If in the governance structure, there are no members of the administrative, management or supervisory bodies of the undertaking, the CEO, and if such function exists, the deputy CEO, should be included. In some jurisdictions, governance systems consist of two tiers, where supervision and management are separated. In such cases, both tiers are included under the definition of administrative, management and supervisory bodies .
Affected Communities	People or group(s) living or working in the same area that have been or may be affected by a reporting undertaking's operations or through its upstream and downstream value chain . Affected communities can range from those living adjacent to the undertaking's operations (local communities) to those living at a distance. Affected communities include actually and potentially affected indigenous peoples .
Annual total remuneration	Annual total remuneration to own workforce includes salary, bonus, stock awards, option awards, non-equity incentive plan compensation, change in pension value, and nonqualified deferred compensation earnings provided over the course of a year.
Anticipated financial effects	Financial effects that do not meet the recognition criteria for inclusion in the financial statement line items in the reporting period and that are not captured by the current financial effects .

Area at water risk	A water catchment, where several physical aspects related to water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. lead to one or more water bodies to be in less than good status and / or deteriorate in status (as defined in Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁴⁾), thus pointing to significant issues as regards water availability, quality, quantity (including high water-stress); and/or ii. lead to issues as regards accessibility of water, regulatory or reputational issues (including the shared use of water with communities and affordability of water) for its facilities and for the facilities of key supplier(s).
Area of high-water stress	Regions where the percentage of total water withdrawn is high (40-80%) or extremely high (greater than 80%) in the Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas tool of the World Resources Institute (WRI). See also water scarcity .
Associated process materials	Materials that are needed for the manufacturing process but are not part of the final product, such as lubricants for manufacturing machinery.
Best Available Techniques (BAT) conclusions	A document containing the parts of a BAT reference document laying down the conclusions on best available techniques , their description, information to assess their applicability, the emission levels associated with the best available techniques , the environmental performance levels associated with the best available techniques , the minimum content of an environmental management system including benchmarks associated with the best available techniques , associated monitoring, associated consumption levels and, where appropriate, relevant site remediation measures ⁽⁵⁾ .
Best Available Technique-Associated Emission Level (BAT-AEL)	The range of emission levels obtained under normal operating conditions using a best available technique or a combination of best available techniques , as described in BAT conclusions , expressed as an average over a given period of time, under specified reference conditions, i.e., the emission level that is associated with a BAT .
Best Available Technique-Associated Environmental Performance Level (BAT-AEPL)	The range of environmental performance levels, except emission levels, obtained under normal operating conditions using a BAT or a combination of BATs ⁽⁶⁾ .
Best Available Techniques (BAT) ⁽⁷⁾	The most effective and advanced stage in the development of activities and their methods of operation which indicates the practical suitability of particular techniques for providing the basis for emission limit values and other permit conditions designed to prevent and, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions and the impact on the environment as a whole: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. “techniques” includes both the technology used and the way in which the installation is designed, built, maintained, operated and decommissioned;

⁽⁴⁾ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (IED).

⁽⁶⁾ Commission Implementing Decision of 10 February 2012 laying down rules concerning guidance on the collection of data and on the drawing up of BAT reference documents and on their quality assurance referred to in Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on industrial emissions (OJ L 63, 2.3.2012, p. 1).

⁽⁷⁾ Article 3 point 10 of Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (IED).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. “available techniques” means those developed on a scale which allows implementation in the relevant industrial sector, under economically and technically viable conditions, taking into consideration the costs and advantages, whether or not the techniques are used or produced inside the Member State in question, as long as they are reasonably accessible to the operator; and iii. “best” means most effective in achieving a high general level of protection of the environment as a whole.
Biodiversity loss	The reduction of any aspect of biological diversity (i.e., diversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels) in a particular area through death (including extinction), destruction or physical manual removal; it can refer to many scales, from global extinctions to population extinctions, resulting in decreased total diversity at the same scale.
Biodiversity or biological diversity	The variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. This includes variation in genetic, phenotypic, phylogenetic, and functional attributes, as well as changes in abundance and distribution over time and space within and among species, biological communities and ecosystems .
Biodiversity sensitive area	Natura 2000 network of protected areas , UNESCO World Heritage sites and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), as well as other protected areas , as referred to in Appendix D of Annex II to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2139 ⁽⁸⁾ .
Biosphere integrity or ecological integrity	The ability of an ecosystem to support and maintain ecological processes and a diverse community of organisms.
Blue economy	The blue economy encompasses all industries and sectors related to oceans, seas and coasts, whether they are based in the marine environment (e.g., shipping, fisheries, energy generation) or on land (e.g. ports, shipyards, land-based aquaculture and algae production, coastal tourism).
BREF or EU Best Available Techniques reference documents	A document resulting from the exchange of information organised pursuant to Article 13 of Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁹⁾ on industrial emissions , drawn up for defined activities and describing, in particular, applied techniques, present emissions and consumption levels, techniques considered for the determination of best available techniques as well as BAT conclusions and any emerging techniques, giving special consideration to the criteria listed in Annex III of Directive 2010/75/EU.
Bribery	Dishonestly persuading someone to act in your favour by giving them a gift of money or another inducement.

⁽⁸⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2139 of 4 June 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing the technical screening criteria for determining the conditions under which an economic activity qualifies as contributing substantially to climate change mitigation or climate change adaptation and for determining whether that economic activity causes no significant harm to any of the other environmental objectives (OJ L 442, 9.12.2021, p. 1).

⁽⁹⁾ Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (IED).

Business model	The undertaking's system of transforming inputs through its activities into outputs and outcomes that aims to fulfil the undertaking's strategic purposes and create value over the short-, medium- and long-term. ESRS use the term " business model " in the singular, although it is recognised that undertakings may have more than one business model.
Business relationships	The relationships the undertaking has with business partners, entities in its value chain , and any other non-State or State entity directly linked to its business operations, products or services. Business relationships are not limited to direct contractual relationships. They include indirect business relationships in the undertaking's value chain beyond the first tier, and shareholding positions in joint ventures or investments.
By-product	A substance or object resulting from a production process the primary aim of which is not the production of that substance or object is considered not to be waste , but to be a by-product if the following conditions are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. further use of the substance or object is certain; ii. the substance or object can be used directly without any further processing other than normal industrial practice; iii. the substance or object is produced as an integral part of a production process; and iv. further use is lawful, i.e., the substance or object fulfils all relevant product, environmental and health protection requirements for the specific use and will not lead to overall adverse environmental or human health impacts.
Carbon credit	A transferable or tradable instrument that represents one metric tonne of CO ₂ eq emission reduction or removal and is issued and verified according to recognised quality standards.
Carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent (eq)	The universal unit of measurement to indicate the global warming potential (GWP) of each greenhouse gas, expressed in terms of the GWP of one unit of carbon dioxide. It is used to evaluate releasing (or avoiding releasing) different greenhouse gases on a common basis.
Child labour	<p>Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and/or ii. interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. <p>A child is defined as a person under the age of 18. Whether or not particular forms of 'work' can be called 'child labour' depends on the child's age, the type and hours of work performed and the conditions under which it is performed. The answer varies from country to country, as well as among sectors within countries.</p> <p>The minimum age of work should not be less than the minimum age of completion of compulsory schooling, and, in any case, should not be less than 15 years according to International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age. Exceptions can occur in certain countries where economies and educational facilities are insufficiently developed, and a minimum age of 14 years applies.</p>

	<p>These countries of exception are specified by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in response to a special application by the country concerned and in consultation with representative organisations of employers and workers.</p> <p>National laws may permit the employment of persons 13 to 15 years of age in light work as long as it is not likely to be harmful to their health or development and does not prejudice their attendance at school or participation in vocational or training programmes. The minimum age for admission into work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardise the health, safety or morals of young persons shall not be less than 18 years.</p>
Circular economy	An economic system in which the value of products, materials and other resources in the economy is maintained for as long as possible, enhancing their efficient use in production and consumption, thereby reducing the environmental impact of their use, minimising waste and the release of hazardous substances at all stages of their life cycle, including through the application of the waste hierarchy .
Circular economy principles	<p>The European circular economy principles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. usability; ii. reusability; iii. repairability; iv. disassembly; v. remanufacturing or refurbishment; vi. recycling; vii. recirculation by the biological cycle; viii. other potential optimisation of product and material use.
Circular material use rate	<p>Recirculation of materials, components and products in practice after first use employing the following strategies (in order of preference):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. maintenance/prolonged use; ii. reuse/redistribution; iii. refurbishment/remanufacturing; iv. recycling, composting, or anaerobic digestion. <p>The use rate is defined as the ratio of circular use of materials to overall use of materials.</p>
Classified information	EU classified information as defined in Council Decision 2013/488/EU ⁽¹⁰⁾ on the security rules for protecting EU classified information or classified by one of the Member States and marked as per Appendix B of that Council decision.
Climate change adaptation	The process of adjustment to actual and expected climate change and its impacts .
Climate change mitigation	The process of reducing GHG emissions and holding the increase in the global average temperature to 1,5 °C above pre-industrial levels, in line with the Paris Agreement.
Climate resilience	The capacity of an undertaking to adjust to climate changes, and to developments or uncertainties related to climate change. Climate resilience involves the capacity to manage climate-related Scope 1 and benefit from climate-related opportunities , including the ability to respond

⁽¹⁰⁾ 2013/488/EU: Council Decision of 23 September 2013 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 274, 15.10.2013, p. 1).

	and adapt to transition risks and physical risks . An undertaking's climate resilience includes both its strategic resilience and its operational resilience to climate-related changes, developments or uncertainties associated with climate change.
Climate-related opportunity	Potential positive effects related to climate change for the undertaking. Efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change can produce opportunities for undertakings. Climate-related opportunities will vary depending on the region, market, and industry where an undertaking operates.
Climate-related physical risk (Physical risk from climate change)	Risks resulting from climate change that can be event-driven (acute) or from longer-term shifts (chronic) in climate patterns. Acute physical risks arise from particular hazards, especially weather-related events such as storms, floods, fires or heatwaves. Chronic physical risks arise from longer-term changes in the climate, such as temperature changes, and their effects on rising sea levels, reduced water availability, biodiversity loss and changes in land and soil productivity.
Climate-related transition risk	Risks that arise from the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. They typically include policy risks , legal risks , technology risks , market risks and reputational risks .
Collective bargaining	All negotiations which take place between an employer, a group of employers or one or more employers' organisations, on the one hand, and one or more trade unions or, in their absence, the representatives of the workers duly elected and authorised by them in accordance with national laws and regulations, on the other, for: i. determining working conditions and terms of employment; and/or ii. regulating relations between employers and workers; and/or regulating relations between employers or their organisations and a workers' organisation or workers' organisations.
Confirmed incident (child or forced labour or human trafficking)	Incident of child or forced labour or human trafficking that has been found to be substantiated. Confirmed incidents do not include incidents of child or forced labour or human trafficking that are still under investigation in the reporting period.
Confirmed incident of corruption or bribery	An incident of corruption or bribery that has been found to be substantiated. Confirmed incidents of corruption or bribery do not include incidents of corruption or bribery that are still under investigation at the end of the reporting period. The determination of potential non-compliance cases as substantiated may be made either by the undertaking's compliance officer or similar function or an authority. A determination as substantiated by a court of law is not required.
Consumer	Individuals who acquire, consume or use goods and services for personal use, either for themselves or for others, and not for resale, commercial or trade, business, craft or profession purposes.
Corporate culture	Corporate culture expresses goals through values and beliefs. It guides the undertaking's activities through shared assumptions and group norms such as values or mission statements or a code of conduct.

Corruption	Abuse of entrusted power for private gain, which can be instigated by individuals or organisations. It includes practices such as facilitation payments, fraud, extortion, collusion, and money laundering. It also includes an offer or receipt of any gift, loan, fee, reward, or other advantage to or from any person as an inducement to do something that is dishonest, illegal, or a breach of trust in the conduct of the undertaking's business. This can include cash or in-kind benefits, such as free goods, gifts, and holidays, or special personal services provided for the purpose of an improper advantage, or that can result in moral pressure to receive such an advantage.
Credible proxies	Individuals with sufficiently deep experience in engaging with affected stakeholders from a particular region or context (for example, women workers on farms, indigenous peoples or migrant workers) who can help to effectively convey their likely concerns. In practice, this can include development and human rights NGOs, international trade unions and local civil society, including faith-based organisations.
Current financial effects	Financial effects for the current reporting period that are recognised in the primary financial statements.
Decarbonisation levers	Aggregated types of mitigation actions such as energy efficiency, electrification, fuel switching, use of renewable energy , products change, and supply-chain decarbonisation that fit with undertakings' specific actions .
Deforestation	Temporary or permanent human-induced conversion of forested land to non-forested land ⁽¹⁾ .
Degradation or degraded ecosystem	Chronic human impacts resulting in the loss of biodiversity and the disruption of an ecosystem's structure, composition, and functionality.
Dependencies	The situation of an undertaking being dependent on natural, human and/or social resources for its business processes.
Deposit in water and soil	An amount of a substance that has accumulated in the environment, either in water or in soil , and either as a consequence of regular activities or from incidents or from disposals of undertakings, independent of whether that accumulation occurs at the production site of an undertaking or outside.
Desertification	Land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities. Desertification does not refer to the natural expansion of existing deserts.
Discharge	Wastewater discharge means the amount of water (in m3) or substance (in kg BOD/d or comparable) added / leached to a water body from a point or a non-point source. Sewage effluent (or discharge) means treated sewage discharged from a sewage treatment plant.

⁽¹⁾ Annex I point 21 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 of 6 April 2022 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to regulatory technical standards specifying the details of the content and presentation of the information in relation to the principle of 'do no significant harm', specifying the content, methodologies and presentation of information in relation to sustainability indicators and adverse sustainability impacts, and the content and presentation of the information in relation to the promotion of environmental or social characteristics and sustainable investment objectives in pre-contractual documents, on websites and in periodic reports (OJ L 196, 25.7.2022, p. 1).

Discrimination	Discrimination can occur directly or indirectly. Direct discrimination occurs when an individual is treated less favourably by comparison to how others, who are in a similar situation, have been or would be treated, and the reason for this is a particular characteristic they hold, which falls under a 'protected ground'. Indirect discrimination occurs when an apparently neutral rule disadvantages a person or a group sharing the same characteristics. It must be shown that a group is disadvantaged by a decision when compared to a comparator group.
Double materiality	Double materiality has two dimensions: impact materiality and financial materiality . A sustainability matter meets the criterion of double materiality if it is material from the impact perspective or the financial perspective or both.
Durability of a product, component or material	The ability of a product, component or material to remain functional and relevant when used as intended.
Ecological threshold	The point at which a relatively small change in external conditions causes a rapid change in an ecosystem . When an ecological threshold has been passed, the ecosystem may no longer be able to return to its state by means of its inherent resilience.
Ecosystem extent	The size of an ecosystem asset, whereas an ecosystem asset is the contiguous space of a specific ecosystem type characterised by a distinct set of biotic and abiotic components and their interactions.
Ecosystem restoration	Any intentional activities that initiate or accelerate the recovery of an ecosystem from a degraded state.
Ecosystem services	The contributions of ecosystems to the benefits that are used in economic and other human activity, respectively the benefits people obtain from ecosystems . In the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, ecosystem services can be divided into supporting, regulating, provisioning and cultural. The Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) classifies types of ecosystems services.
Ecosystem(s)	A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit. A typology of ecosystems is provided by the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology 2.0.
Emission	The direct or indirect release of substances , vibrations, heat or noise from individual or diffuse sources into air, water or soil ⁽¹³⁾ .
Employee	An individual who is in an employment relationship with the undertaking according to national law or practice.
End-users	Individuals who ultimately use or are intended to ultimately use a particular product or service.
Equal opportunities	Equal and non-discriminatory access, among individuals, to opportunities for education, training, employment, career development and the exercise of power without their being disadvantaged on the basis of criteria such as gender, racial or ethnic origin, nationality, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

⁽¹³⁾ Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (IED).

Equal treatment	The principle of equal treatment is a general principle of European law which presupposes that comparable situations or parties in comparable situations are treated in the same way. In the context of ESRS S1, the term “ equal treatment ” also refers to the principle of non-discrimination, according to which there shall be no direct or indirect discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation.
Financial effects	Effects from risks and opportunities that affect the undertaking’s financial position, financial performance and cash flows over the short, medium or long term.
Financial materiality	A sustainability matter is material from a financial perspective if it generates risks or opportunities that affect (or could reasonably be expected to affect) the undertaking’s financial position, financial performance, cash flows, access to finance or cost of capital over the short, medium or long term.
Forced labour	All work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily. The term encompasses all situations in which persons are coerced by any means to perform work and includes both traditional ‘slave-like’ practices and contemporary forms of coercion where labour exploitation is involved, which may include human trafficking and modern slavery.
Fossil fuel	Non-renewable carbon-based energy sources such as solid fuels, natural gas and oil.
Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)	A manifestation of indigenous peoples’ right to self-determine their political, social, economic and cultural priorities. It constitutes three interrelated and cumulative rights of indigenous peoples : the right to be consulted; the right to participate; and the right to their lands, territories and resources. FPIC pertains to indigenous peoples and is recognized under international human rights law, notably the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
Freshwater	Groundwater and surface water, with a mean annual salinity of < 0,5 ‰ (i.e., the limit mentioned in Annex II of the Water Framework Directive).
GHG emission reduction	Decrease in the undertaking’s Scope 1, 2, 3 or total GHG emissions at the end of the reporting period, relative to emissions in the base year. Emission reductions may result from, among others, energy efficiency, electrification, suppliers’ decarbonisation, electricity mix decarbonisation, sustainable products development or changes in reporting boundaries or activities (e.g., outsourcing, reduced capacities), provided they are achieved within the undertaking’s own operations and upstream and downstream value chain . Removals and avoided emissions are not counted as emission reductions .
GHG removal and storage	(Anthropogenic) removals refer to the withdrawal of GHGs from the atmosphere as a result of deliberate human activities. These include enhancing biological anthropogenic sinks of CO ₂ and using chemical engineering to achieve long-term removal and storage. Carbon capture and storage (CCS) from industrial and energy-related sources, which alone does not remove CO ₂ from the atmosphere, can remove atmospheric CO ₂ if it is

	combined with bioenergy production (Bioenergy with Carbon Capture & Storage - BECCS). Removals can be subject to reversals, which are any movement of stored GHG out of the intended storage that re-enters the atmosphere. For example, if a forest that was grown to remove a specific amount of CO ₂ is subject to a wildfire, the emissions captured in the trees are reversed.
Global warming potential (GWP)	A factor describing the radiative forcing impact (degree of harm to the atmosphere) of one unit of a given GHG relative to one unit of CO ₂ .
Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	The gases listed in Part 2 of Annex V of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹³⁾ . These include Carbon dioxide (CO ₂), Methane (CH ₄), Nitrous Oxide (N ₂ O), Sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆), Nitrogen trifluoride (NF ₃), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs).
Grievance mechanism	<p>Any routinized, state-based or non-state-based, judicial or non-judicial processes through which stakeholders can raise grievances and seek remedy. Examples of state-based judicial and non-judicial grievance mechanisms include courts, labour tribunals, national human rights institutions, National Contact Points under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, ombudsperson offices, consumer protection agencies, regulatory oversight bodies, and government-run complaints offices. Non-state-based grievance mechanisms include those administered by the undertaking, either alone or together with stakeholders, such as operational-level grievance mechanisms and collective bargaining, including the mechanisms established by collective bargaining. They also include mechanisms administered by industry associations, international organisations, civil society organisations, or multi-stakeholder groups.</p> <p>Operational-level grievance mechanisms are administered by the organisation either alone or in collaboration with other parties and are directly accessible by the organisation's stakeholders. They allow for grievances to be identified and addressed early and directly, thereby preventing both harm and grievances from escalating. They also provide important feedback on the effectiveness of the organisation's due diligence from those who are directly affected.</p> <p>According to UN Guiding Principle 31, effective grievance mechanisms are legitimate, accessible, predictable, equitable, transparent, rights-compatible, and a source of continuous learning. In addition to these criteria, effective operational-level grievance mechanisms are also based on engagement and dialogue. It can be more difficult for the organisation to assess the effectiveness of grievance mechanisms that it participates in compared to those it has established itself.</p>
Groundwater	All water which is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil ⁽¹⁴⁾ .

⁽¹³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, amending Regulations (EC) No 663/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directives 94/22/EC, 98/70/EC, 2009/31/EC, 2009/73/EC, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and 2013/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 2009/119/EC and (EU) 2015/652 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 1).

⁽¹⁴⁾ Article 2(20) of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13).

Habitat	The place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs. Also used to mean the environmental attributes required by a particular species or its ecological niche.
Habitat fragmentation	A general term describing the set of processes by which habitat loss results in the division of continuous habitats into a greater number of smaller patches of lesser total size and isolated from each other by a matrix of dissimilar habitats . Habitat fragmentation may occur through natural processes (e.g., forest and grassland fires, flooding) and through human activities (forestry, agriculture, urbanisation).
Harassment	A situation where an unwanted conduct related to a protected ground of discrimination (for example, gender under Directive 2006/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁵⁾ , or religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation under Council Directive 2000/78/EC ⁽¹⁶⁾) occurs with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, and of creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.
Hazardous waste	Waste which displays one or more of the hazardous properties listed in Annex III of Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁷⁾ on waste .
High climate impact sectors	Sectors that are listed in Sections A to H and Section L of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁸⁾ (as defined in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 ⁽¹⁹⁾).
Impacts	The effect the undertaking has or could have on the environment and people, including effects on their human rights, connected with its own operations and upstream and downstream value chain , including through its products and services, as well as through its business relationships . The impacts can be actual or potential, negative or positive, intended or unintended, and reversible or irreversible. They can arise over the short-, medium-, or long-term. Impacts indicate the undertaking's contribution, negative or positive, to sustainable development.
Impact drivers	All the factors that cause changes in nature, anthropogenic assets, nature's contributions to people and a good quality of life. Direct drivers of change can be both natural and anthropogenic. They have direct physical (mechanical, chemical, noise, light etc.) and behaviour-affecting impacts on nature. They include, inter alia, climate change, pollution , different types of land use change, invasive alien species and zoonoses, and exploitation.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Directive 2006/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (OJ L 204, 26.7.2006, p. 23).

⁽¹⁶⁾ Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation (OJ L 303, 2.12.2000, p. 16).

⁽¹⁷⁾ Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3).

⁽¹⁸⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 establishing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2 and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 as well as certain EC Regulations on specific statistical domains (OJ L 393, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

⁽¹⁹⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 of 6 April 2022 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to regulatory technical standards specifying the details of the content and presentation of the information in relation to the principle of 'do no significant harm', specifying the content, methodologies and presentation of information in relation to sustainability indicators and adverse sustainability impacts, and the content and presentation of the information in relation to the promotion of environmental or social characteristics and sustainable investment objectives in pre-contractual documents, on websites and in periodic reports (OJ L 196, 25.7.2022, p. 1).

	Indirect impact drivers operate diffusely by altering and influencing direct drivers (by affecting their level, direction or rate) as well as other indirect drivers. Interactions between indirect and direct drivers create different chains of relationship, attribution, and impacts , which may vary according to type, intensity, duration, and distance. These relationships can also lead to different types of spill-over effects. Global indirect drivers include economic, demographic, governance, technological and cultural ones. Special attention is given, among indirect drivers, to the role of institutions (both formal and informal) and impacts of the patterns of production, supply and consumption on nature, nature's contributions to people and good quality of life.
Impact materiality	A sustainability matter is material from an impact perspective when it pertains to the undertaking's material actual or potential, positive or negative impacts on people or the environment over the short-, medium- and long-term. A material sustainability matter from an impact perspective includes impacts connected with the undertaking's own operations and upstream and downstream value chain , including through its products and services, as well as through its business relationships .
Incident	A legal action or complaint registered with the undertaking or competent authorities through a formal process, or an instance of non-compliance identified by the undertaking through established procedures. Established procedures to identify instances of non-compliance can include management system audits, formal monitoring programs, or grievance mechanisms .
Incineration	The controlled burning of waste at high temperature with or without energy recovery.
Independent board member	Board members that exercise independent judgment free from any external influence or conflicts of interest. Independence generally means the exercise of objective, unfettered judgement. When used as the measure by which to judge the appearance of independence, or to categorise a non-executive member of the administrative, management and supervisory bodies or their committees as independent, it means the absence of an interest, position, association or relationship which, when judged from the perspective of a reasonable and informed third party, is likely to influence unduly or cause bias in decision-making.
Indigenous peoples	There is no single definition for indigenous peoples agreed on at the international level. In practice, there is convergence among international agencies on what groups can be considered indigenous peoples and should enjoy special protection as such. An important criteria for defining indigenous people is related to their connection to a traditional area, as defined in ILO Convention No. 169, Article 1, which states that the convention applies to: "(a) tribal peoples in independent countries whose social, cultural and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations; (b) peoples in independent countries who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, or a geographical region to which the country belongs, at the time of conquest or colonisation or the establishment of present state boundaries and who, irrespective of their legal status, retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions". ILO Convention 169 also states in Article 1(2) that: "[s]elf-identification as indigenous or tribal shall be regarded as a fundamental criterion for determining the groups to which the provisions of this Convention apply".

Indirect GHG emissions	GHG emissions that are a consequence of the activities of an entity but occur at sources owned or controlled by another entity. Indirect emissions are Scope 2 GHG emissions and scope 3 GHG emissions combined.
Installation	A stationary technical unit within which one or more activities are carried out which could have an effect on emissions and pollution .
Internal carbon price	Price used by an undertaking to assess the financial implications of changes to investment, production, and consumption patterns, and of potential technological progress and future emissions abatement costs.
Internal carbon pricing scheme	An organisational arrangement that allows an undertaking to apply carbon prices in strategic and operational decision making. There are two types of internal carbon prices commonly used by undertakings. The first type is a shadow price, which is a theoretical cost or notional amount that the undertaking does not charge but that can be used in assessing the economic implications or trade-offs for such things as risk impacts , new investments, net present value of projects, and the cost-benefit of various initiatives. The second type is an internal tax or fee, which is a carbon price charged to a business activity, product line, or other business unit based on its GHG emissions (these internal taxes or fees are similar to intracompany transfer pricing).
Invasive or alien species	Species whose introduction and/or spread by human action outside their natural distribution threatens biological diversity , food security, and human health and well-being. ‘Alien’ refers to the species’ having been introduced outside its natural distribution (‘exotic’, ‘non-native’ and ‘non-indigenous’ are synonyms for ‘alien’). ‘Invasive’ means ‘tending to expand into and modify ecosystems to which it has been introduced’. Thus, a species may be alien without being invasive, or, in the case of a species native to a region, it may increase and become invasive, without actually being an alien species.
Key Biodiversity Area (KBA)	Sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity , in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems . Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity ; geographically restricted biodiversity ; ecological integrity ; biological processes; and, irreplaceability. The World Database of KBAs is managed by BirdLife International on behalf of the KBA Partnership.
Land degradation	The many processes that drive the decline or loss in biodiversity , ecosystem functions or their benefits to people and includes the degradation of all terrestrial ecosystems .
Landfill	A waste disposal site for the deposit of the waste onto or into land ⁽²⁰⁾ .
Land-system (change)	The terrestrial component of the Earth system, encompassing all processes and activities related to the human use of land. These include socio-economic, technological and organisational inputs and arrangements, as well as the benefits gained from land and the unintended social and ecological outcomes of societal activities. The land-systems concept

⁽²⁰⁾ Article 2 point (g) of Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste (OJ L 182, 16.7.1999, p. 1).

	combines land-use (the activities, arrangements and inputs associated with land-use) with land cover (the ensemble of physical characteristics of land discernible by Earth Observation).
Land-use (change)	The human use of a specific area for a certain purpose (such as residential; agriculture; recreation; industrial, etc.). Influenced by, but not synonymous with, land cover. Land-use change refers to a change in the use or management of land by humans, which may lead to a change in land cover.
Legitimate representatives	Individuals recognised as legitimate under law or practice, such as elected trade union representatives in the case of workers, or other similarly freely chosen representatives of affected stakeholders .
Leverage	The ability of the undertaking to effect a change in the wrongful practices of another party that is connected with a negative sustainability-related impact.
Lobbying activities	Activities carried out with the objective of influencing the formulation or implementation of policy or legislation, or the decision-making processes of governments, governmental institutions, regulators, European Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies or standard setters. Such activities include (non-exhaustive list): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. organising or participating in meetings, conferences, events; ii. contributing to/participating in public consultations, hearings or other similar initiatives; iii. organising communication campaigns, platforms, networks, grassroots initiatives; iv. preparing/commissioning policy and position papers, opinion polls, surveys, open letters, research work as per the activities covered by transparency register rules.
Locked-in GHG emissions	Estimates of future GHG emissions that are likely to be caused by an undertaking's key assets or products sold within their operating lifetime.
Longevity	Designed for maintenance and durability in such a way that encourages longer use than the industry standard in practice and at scale and in such a way that does not compromise circular treatment at the end of functional life.
Marine resources	Biological and non-biological resources found in the seas and oceans. Examples include but are not limited to deep sea minerals, gravels, and seafood products
Material opportunities	Sustainability related opportunities with positive financial effects that materially affect, (or could reasonably be expected to affect) the undertaking's cash flows, access to finance, or cost of capital over the short, medium or long term.
Material risks	Sustainability related risks with negative financial effects that materially affect (or could reasonably be expected to affect) the undertaking's cash flows, access to finance, or cost of capital over the short, medium or long term.
Materiality	A sustainability matter is material if it meets the definition of impact materiality , financial materiality , or both.

Metrics	Qualitative and quantitative indicators that the undertaking uses to measure and report on the effectiveness of the delivery of its sustainability-related policies and against its targets over time. Metrics also support the measurement of the undertaking's results in respect of affected people, the environment and the undertaking.
Microplastics	Small pieces of plastics, usually smaller than 5mm. A growing volume of microplastics is found in the environment, including the sea, and in food and drinking water. Once in the environment, microplastics do not biodegrade and tend to accumulate, unless they are specifically designed to biodegrade in the open environment. Biodegradability is a complex phenomenon, especially in the marine environment. There are increasing concerns about the presence of microplastics in different environment compartments (such as water), their impact on the environment and potentially human health.
Minimum Disclosure Requirement	A minimum disclosure requirement sets the required content of the information that the undertaking includes when it reports on policies, actions , metrics or targets , either pursuant to a Disclosure Requirement in an ESRS or on an entity-specific basis.
Natural resources	Natural assets (raw materials) occurring in nature that can be used for economic production or consumption.
Nature-based solutions	Actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater , coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services , resilience and biodiversity benefits.
Net-zero target	Setting a net-zero target at the level of an undertaking aligned with meeting societal climate goals means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. achieving a scale of value chain emissions reductions consistent with the abatement required to reach global net-zero in 1.5°C pathways; and ii. neutralizing the impact of any residual emissions (after approximately 90-95% of GHG emission reduction with the possibility for justified sectoral variations in line with a recognized sectoral pathway) by permanently removing an equivalent volume of CO₂.
Non-employees	Non-employees in an undertaking's own workforce include both individual contractors supplying labour to the undertaking ("self-employed people") and people provided by undertakings primarily engaged in "employment activities" (NACE Code N78).
Non-renewable energy	Energy which cannot be identified as being derived from renewable sources.
Operational control	Operational control (over an entity, site , operation or asset) is the situation where the undertaking has the ability to direct the operational activities and relationships of the entity, site , operation or asset.
Opportunities	Sustainability-related opportunities with positive financial effects .
Overtime	The number of hours actually worked by a worker in excess of his or her contractual hours of work.

Own workforce/own workers	Employees who are in an employment relationship with the undertaking (employees) and non-employees who are either individual contractors supplying labour to the undertaking ('self-employed people') or people provided by undertakings primarily engaged in 'employment activities' (NACE Code N78).
Ozone-depleting substances	Substances listed in the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
Packaging	Products made of any materials of any nature to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery, storage, transport and presentation of goods, from raw materials to processed goods, from the producer to the user or consumer ⁽²¹⁾ .
Pay	The ordinary basic or minimum wage or salary and any other remuneration, whether in cash or in kind which the worker receives directly or indirectly ('complementary or variable components'), in respect of his/her employment from his/her employer. ' Pay level' means gross annual pay and the corresponding gross hourly pay. 'Median pay level' means the pay of the employee that would have half of the employees earn more and half less than they do.
Persons with disabilities	Persons who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
Physical risks	All global economic enterprise depends on the functioning of earth systems, such as a stable climate and on ecosystem services , such as the provision of biomass (raw materials). Nature-related physical risks are a direct result of an organisation's dependence on nature. Physical risks arise when natural systems are compromised, due to the impact of climatic events (e.g., extremes of weather such as a drought), geologic events (e.g., seismic events such as an earthquake) events or changes in ecosystem equilibria, such as soil quality or marine ecology, which affect the ecosystem services organisations depend on. These can be acute, chronic, or both. Nature-related physical risks arise as a result of changes in the biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) conditions that support healthy, functioning ecosystems . Physical risks are usually location-specific. Nature-related physical risks are often associated with climate-related physical risks .
Planetary boundaries	This concept allows to estimate a safe operating space for humanity with respect to the functioning of the Earth. The boundary level for each key Earth System process that should not be transgressed if we are to avoid unacceptable global environmental change, is quantified.
Policy	A set or framework of general objectives and management principles that the undertaking uses for decision-making. A policy implements the undertaking's strategy or management decisions related to a material sustainability matter. Each policy is under the responsibility of defined person(s), specifies its perimeter of application, and includes one or more objectives (linked when applicable to measurable targets). A policy is validated and reviewed following the undertakings' applicable governance rules. A policy is implemented through actions or action plans.

⁽²¹⁾ Article 3(1) of Directive 94/62/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste (OJ L 365, 31.12.1994, p. 10).

Pollutant	A substance , vibration, heat, noise, light or other contaminant present in air, water or soil which may be harmful to human health and/or the environment, which may result in damage to material property, or which may impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment ⁽²²⁾ .
Pollution	The direct or indirect introduction, as a result of human activity, of pollutants into air, water or soil which may be harmful to human health and/or the environment, which may result in damage to material property, or which may impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment ⁽²³⁾ .
Pollution of soil	The introduction into soil – independent of whether that introduction occurs at the production site of an undertaking or outside or through the use of the undertaking's products and/or services – as a result of human activity, of substances , vibrations, heat or noise which may be harmful to human health or the environment, result in damage to material property, or impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment ⁽²⁴⁾ . Soil pollutants include inorganic pollutants , persistent organic pollutants (POPs), pesticides, nitrogen and phosphorus compounds, etc.
Protected area	A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.
Purchased or acquired electricity, heat, steam, or cooling	When the undertaking has received its electricity, heat, steam, or cooling from a third party. The term “acquired” reflects circumstances where a company may not directly purchase electricity (e.g., a tenant in a building), but where the energy is brought into the undertaking's facility for use.
Raw material	Primary or secondary material that is used to produce a product.
Recognised quality standards for carbon credits	Quality standards for carbon credits that are verifiable by independent third parties, make requirements and project reports publicly available and at a minimum ensure additionality, permanence, avoidance of double counting and provide rules for calculation, monitoring, and verification of the project's GHG emissions and removals.
Recordable work-related injury or ill health	Work-related injury or ill health that results in any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. death, days away from work, restricted work or transfer to another job, medical treatment beyond first aid, or loss of consciousness; or ii. significant injury or ill health diagnosed by a physician or other licensed healthcare professional, even if it does not result in death, days away from work, restricted work or job transfer, medical treatment beyond first aid, or loss of consciousness.

⁽²²⁾ Article 2(10) of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment.

⁽²³⁾ Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (IED).

⁽²⁴⁾ Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (IED).

Recovery	Any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy ⁽²⁵⁾ .
Recycling	Any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations.
Resource regeneration	Promotion of self-renewal capacity of natural systems with the aim of reactivating ecological processes damaged or over-exploited by human action.
Remedy/remediation	To counteract or make good a negative impact. Examples: apologies, financial or non-financial compensation, prevention of harm through injunctions or guarantees of non-repetition, punitive sanctions (whether criminal or administrative, such as fines), restitution, restoration, rehabilitation.
Renewable energy	Energy from renewable non-fossil sources, namely wind, solar (solar thermal and solar photovoltaic) and geothermal energy, ambient energy, tide, wave and other ocean energy, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas, and biogas ⁽²⁶⁾ .
Renewable materials	Materials that are derived from resources that are quickly replenished by ecological cycles or agricultural processes, so that the services provided by these and other linked resources are not endangered and remain available for the next generation.
Resource inflows	Resource that enters the undertaking's facilities.
Resource outflows	Resource that leaves the undertaking's facilities.
Resource use optimisation	The design, production and distribution of materials and products with the objective to keep them in use at their highest value. Eco-design and design for longevity , repair, reuse , repurposing, disassembly, remanufacturing are examples of tools to optimise resource use.
Reuse	Any operation by which products and components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived. This may involve cleaning or small adjustments so it is ready for the next use without significant modification.
River basin	The area of land from which all surface run-off flows through a sequence of streams, rivers and, possibly, lakes into the sea at a single river mouth, estuary or delta.
Risks	Sustainability-related risks with negative financial effects arising from environmental, social or governance matters that may negatively affect the undertaking's financial position, financial performance, cash flows, access to finance or cost of capital in the short, medium or long term.

⁽²⁵⁾ Article 3(15) of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste.

⁽²⁶⁾ Article 2(1) Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 82).

Scenario	A plausible description of how the future may develop based on a coherent and internally consistent set of assumptions about key driving forces (e.g., rate of technological change, prices) and relationships. Note that scenarios are neither predictions nor forecasts but are used to provide a view of the implications of developments and actions .
Scenario analysis	A process for identifying and assessing a potential range of outcomes of future events under conditions of uncertainty.
Scope 1 GHG emissions	Direct GHG emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the undertaking.
Scope 2 GHG emissions	Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased or acquired electricity, steam, heat or cooling consumed by the undertaking.
Scope 3 GHG emissions	All indirect GHG emissions (not included in scope 2 GHG emissions) that occur in the value chain of the reporting undertaking, including both upstream and downstream emissions . Scope 3 GHG emissions can be broken down into scope 3 categories .
Scope 3 category	One of the 15 types of Scope 3 GHG emissions identified by the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard and detailed by the GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard (adapted from GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard, Glossary (Version 2011)). Undertakings that choose to account for their Scope 3 emissions based on the indirect GHG emissions categories of ISO 14064-1:2018 may also refer to the category defined in clause 5.2.4 (excluding indirect GHG emissions from imported energy) of ISO 14064-1:2018.
Sensitive information	Sensitive information as defined in Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽²⁷⁾ establishing the European Defence Fund.
Site	The location of one or more physical installations . If there is more than one physical installation from the same or different owners or operators and certain infrastructure and facilities are shared, the entire area where the physical installation are located may constitute a site .
Social dialogue	All types of negotiation, consultation or simply exchange of information between, or among, representatives of governments, employers, their organisations and workers' representatives , on issues of common interest relating to economic and social policy. It can exist as a tripartite process, with the government as an official party to the dialogue or it may consist of bipartite relations only between workers' representatives and management (or trade unions and employers' organisations).
Social protection	The set of measures designed to reduce and prevent poverty and vulnerability across the life cycle.
Soil	The top layer of the Earth's crust situated between the bedrock and the surface. The soil is composed of mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and living organisms ⁽²⁸⁾ .

⁽²⁷⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the European Defence Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1092 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149).

⁽²⁸⁾ Article 3(21) of Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (IED).

Soil degradation	The diminishing capacity of the soil to provide ecosystem goods and services as desired by its stakeholders .
Soil sealing	Covering soil in a way that makes the covered area impermeable (e.g. a road). This non-permeability can create environmental impacts as described in Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/2026 ⁽²⁹⁾ .
Specific loads	Mass of pollutant released per mass of product manufactured. Specific loads allow for the comparison of the environmental performance of installations irrespective of their different production volumes and are not influenced by mixing or dilution ⁽³⁰⁾ .
Stakeholder engagement	An ongoing process of interaction and dialogue between the undertaking and its stakeholders that enables the undertaking to hear, understand and respond to their interests and concerns.
Stakeholders	Those who can affect or be affected by the undertaking. There are two main groups of stakeholders : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Affected stakeholders: individuals or groups whose interests are affected or could be affected – positively or negatively – by the undertaking's activities and its direct and indirect business relationships across its value chain; and ii. users of sustainability statements: primary users of general purpose financial reporting (existing and potential investors, lenders and other creditors including asset managers, credit institutions, insurance undertakings), as well as other users, including the undertaking's business partners, trade unions and social partners, civil society and non-governmental organisations, governments, analysts and academics. Some, but not all, stakeholders may belong to the two groups.
Substances	Any chemical element and its compounds, with the exception of the following substances : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. radioactive substances as defined in Article 1 of Council Directive 96/29/Euratom ⁽³¹⁾ laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionising radiation; ii. genetically modified micro-organisms as defined in Article 2(b) of Directive 2009/41/EC of the European Parliament and the Council ⁽³²⁾ on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms;

⁽²⁹⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/2026 of 19 December 2018 amending Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) (OJ L 325, 20.12.2018, p. 18).

⁽³⁰⁾ Commission Implementing Decision of 10 February 2012 laying down rules concerning guidance on the collection of data and on the drawing up of BAT reference documents and on their quality, assurance referred to in Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on industrial emissions.

⁽³¹⁾ Council Directive 96/29/Euratom of 13 May 1996 laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation (OJ L 159, 29.6.1996, p. 1).

⁽³²⁾ Directive 2009/41/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms (OJ L 125, 21.5.2009, p. 75).

	<p>iii. genetically modified organisms as defined in point 2 of Article 2 of Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³³⁾ on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms. ⁽³⁴⁾</p>
Substances of concern	<p>A substance that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. meets the criteria laid down in Article 57 and is identified in accordance with Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁵⁾; ii. is classified in Part 3 of Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁶⁾ in one of the following hazard classes or hazard categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — carcinogenicity categories 1 and 2; — germ cell mutagenicity categories 1 and 2; — reproductive toxicity categories 1 and 2; — endocrine disruption for human health; — endocrine disruption for the environment; — Persistent, Mobile and Toxic or Very Persistent, Very Mobile properties; — Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic or Very Persistent, Very Bioaccumulative properties; — respiratory sensitisation category 1; — skin sensitisation category 1; — chronic hazard to the aquatic environment categories 1 to 4; — hazardous to the ozone layer; — specific target organ toxicity, repeated exposure categories 1 and 2; — specific target organ toxicity, single exposure categories 1 and 2; or iii. negatively affects the re-use and recycling of materials in the product in which it is present, as defined in relevant Union product-specific ecodesign requirements.
Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs)	<p>Substances that meet the criteria laid down in Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH) and were identified in accordance with Article 59(1) of that Regulation.</p>
Supplier	<p>Entity upstream from the organisation (i.e., in the organisation's supply chain), which provides a product or service that is used in the development of the organisation's own products or services. A supplier can have a direct business relationship with the organisation (often referred to as a first-tier supplier) or an indirect business relationship.</p>

⁽³³⁾ Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC (OJ L 106, 17.4.2001, p. 1).

⁽³⁴⁾ Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (IED).

⁽³⁵⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1)

⁽³⁶⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (OJ L 353, 31.12.2008, p. 1).

Supply chain	The full range of activities or processes carried out by entities upstream from the undertaking, which provide products or services that are used in the development and production of the undertaking's own products or services. This includes upstream entities with which the undertaking has a direct relationship (often referred to as a first-tier supplier) and entities with which the undertaking has an indirect business relationship.
Surface water	Inland waters, except groundwater ; transitional waters and coastal waters, except in respect of chemical status for which it shall also include territorial waters ⁽³⁷⁾ .
Sustainability matters	Environmental, social and human rights, and governance factors, including sustainability factors defined in Article 2, point (24), of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁸⁾ .
Sustainability statement	The dedicated section of the undertaking's management report where the information about sustainability matters prepared in compliance with Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁹⁾ and the ESRS is presented.
Sustainability-related opportunities	Uncertain environmental, social or governance events or conditions that, if they occur, could cause a potential material positive effect on the undertaking's business model , or strategy on its capability to achieve its goals and targets and to create value, and therefore may influence its decisions and those of its business relationship partners with regard to sustainability matters . Like any other opportunity , sustainability-related opportunities are measured as a combination of an impact's magnitude and the probability of occurrence.
Sustainability-related risks	Uncertain environmental, social or governance events or conditions that, if they occur, could cause a potential material negative effect on the undertaking's business model or strategy and on its capability to achieve its goals and targets and to create value, and therefore may influence its decisions and those of its business relationships with regard to sustainability matters . Like any other risks , sustainability-related risks are the combination of an impact's magnitude and the probability of occurrence.
Sustainability-related impacts	The effect the undertaking has or could have on the environment and people, including effects on their human rights, as a result of the undertaking's activities or business relationships . The impacts can be actual or potential, negative or positive, short-term, medium or long-term, intended or unintended, and reversible or irreversible. Impacts indicate the undertaking's contribution, negative or positive, to sustainable development.

⁽³⁷⁾ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (Water Framework Directive).

⁽³⁸⁾ Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector.

⁽³⁹⁾ Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings, amending Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 78/660/EEC and 83/349/EEC (OJ L 182, 29.6.2013, p. 19).

Systemic risks	Risks arising from the breakdown of the entire system, rather than the failure of individual parts. They are characterised by modest tipping points combining indirectly to produce large failures with cascading of interactions of physical and transition risks (contagion), as one loss triggers a chain of others, and with systems unable to recover equilibrium after a shock. An example is the loss of a keystone species, such as sea otters, which have a critical role in ecosystem community structure. When sea otters were hunted to near extinction in the 1900s, the coastal ecosystems flipped and biomass production was greatly reduced.
Targets	Measurable, outcome-oriented and time-bound goals that the undertaking aims to achieve in relation to material impacts, risks or opportunities . They may be set voluntarily by the undertaking or derive from legal requirements on the undertaking.
Threatened species	Endangered species, including flora and fauna, listed in the European Red List or the IUCN Red List, as referred to in Section 7 of Annex II to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2139.
Training	Initiatives put in place by the undertaking aimed at the maintenance and/or improvement of skills and knowledge of its own workers . It can include different methodologies, such as on-site training, and online training.
Transition plan	A specific type of action plan that is adopted by the undertaking in relation to a strategic decision and that addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. a public policy objective; and/or ii. an entity-specific action plan organised as a structured set of targets and actions, associated with a key strategic decision, a major change in business model, and/or particularly important actions and allocated resources.
Transition plan for climate change mitigation	An aspect of an undertaking's overall strategy that lays out the undertaking's targets, actions and resources for its transition towards a lower-carbon economy, including actions such as reducing its GHG emissions with regard to the objective of limiting global warming to 1.5°C and climate neutrality.
Transition risks	Risks that result from a misalignment between an organisation's or investor's strategy and management and the changing regulatory, policy or societal landscape in which it operates. Developments aimed at halting or reversing damage to the climate or to nature, such as government measures, technological breakthroughs, market changes, litigation and changing consumer preferences can all create or change transition risks .
Users	Users of sustainability statements are primary users of general-purpose financial reporting (existing and potential investors, lenders and other creditors including asset managers, credit institutions, insurance undertakings), as well as other users , including the undertaking's business partners, trade unions and social partners, civil society and non-governmental organisations, governments, analysts and academics.
Value chain	The full range of activities, resources and relationships related to the undertaking's business model and the external environment in which it operates.

	<p>A value chain encompasses the activities, resources and relationships the undertaking uses and relies on to create its products or services from conception to delivery, consumption and end-of- life. Relevant activities, resources and relationships include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. those in the undertaking's own operations, such as human resources; ii. those along its supply, marketing and distribution channels, such as materials and service sourcing and product and service sale and delivery; and iii. the financing, geographical, geopolitical and regulatory environments in which the undertaking operates. <p>Value chain includes actors upstream and downstream from the undertaking. Actors upstream from the undertaking (e.g., suppliers) provide products or services that are used in the development of the undertaking's products or services. Entities downstream from the undertaking (e.g., distributors, customers) receive products or services from the undertaking.</p> <p>ESRS use the term "value chain" in the singular, although it is recognised that undertakings may have multiple value chains.</p>
Value chain worker	<p>An individual performing work in the value chain of the undertaking, regardless of the existence or nature of any contractual relationship with the undertaking. In the ESRS, the scope of workers in the value chain include all workers in the undertaking's upstream and downstream value chain who are or can be materially impacted by the undertaking. This includes impacts that are connected to the undertaking's own operations, and value chain, including through its products or services, as well as through its business relationships. This includes all workers who are not in the scope of 'Own Workforce' ('Own Workforce' includes people who are in an employment relationship with the undertaking ('employees') and non-employees who are either individual contractors supplying labour to the undertaking ('self-employed people') or people provided by undertakings primarily engaged in employment activities. (NACE Code N78)</p>
Wage	<p>Gross wage, excluding variable components such as overtime and incentive pay, and excluding allowances unless they are guaranteed.</p>
Waste	<p>Any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard ⁽⁴⁰⁾.</p>
Waste hierarchy	<p>Priority order in waste prevention and management ⁽⁴¹⁾:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. prevention; ii. preparing for re-use; iii. recycling; iv. other recovery (e.g., energy recovery); and v. disposal.
Waste management	<p>The collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste, including the supervision of such operations and the after-care of disposal sites, and including actions taken as a dealer or broker ⁽⁴²⁾.</p>

⁽⁴⁰⁾ Article 3(1) of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste.

⁽⁴¹⁾ Article 4(1) of the Directive 2008/98/EC on waste.

⁽⁴²⁾ Article 3(9) of the Directive 2008/98/EC on waste.

Wastewater	Water which is of no further immediate value to the purpose for which it was used or in the pursuit of which it was produced because of its quality, quantity, or time of occurrence. Wastewater from one user can be a potential supply to a user elsewhere. Cooling water is not considered to be wastewater .
Water consumption	The amount of water drawn into the boundaries of the undertaking (or facility) and not discharged back to the water environment or a third party over the course of the reporting period.
Water discharge	The sum of effluents and other water leaving the boundaries of the organisation and released to surface water, groundwater , or third parties over the course of the reporting period.
Water intensity	A metric providing the relationship between a volumetric aspect of water and a unit of activity (products, sales, etc.) created.
Water (recycled and reused)	Water and wastewater (treated or untreated) that has been used more than once before being discharged from the undertaking's or shared facilities' boundary, so that water demand is reduced. This may be in the same process (recycled) or in a different process within the same facility (own or shared with other undertakings) or in another of the undertaking's facilities (reused).
Water scarcity	The volumetric abundance, or lack thereof, of freshwater resources. Scarcity is human driven, it is a function of the volume of human water consumption relative to the volume of water resources in a given area. As such, an arid region with very little water, but no human water consumption would not be considered scarce, but rather arid. Water scarcity is a physical, objective reality that can be measured consistently across regions and over time. Water scarcity reflects the physical abundance of freshwater rather than whether that water is suitable for use. For instance, a region may have abundant water resources (and thus not be considered water scarce) but have such severe pollution that those supplies are unfit for human or ecological uses.
Water withdrawal	The sum of all water drawn into the boundaries of the undertaking from all sources for any use over the course of the reporting period.
Workers' representatives	Workers' representatives means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. trade union representatives, namely representatives designated or elected by trade unions or by members of such unions in accordance with national legislation and practice; ii. duly elected representatives, namely representatives who are freely elected by the workers of the organisation, not under the domination or control of the employer in accordance with provisions of national laws or regulations or of collective agreements and whose functions do not include activities which are the exclusive prerogative of trade unions in the country concerned and which existence is not used to undermine the position of the trade unions concerned or their representatives.

Work-life balance	Satisfactory state of equilibrium between an individual's work and private life. Work-life balance in a broader sense encompasses not only the balance between work and private life given family or care responsibilities, but also time allocation between time spent at work and in private life beyond family responsibilities.
Work-related hazards	<p>Work-related hazards can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. physical (e.g., radiation, temperature extremes, constant loud noise, spills on floors or tripping hazards, unguarded machinery, faulty electrical equipment); ii. ergonomic (e.g., improperly adjusted workstations and chairs, awkward movements, vibration); iii. chemical (e.g., exposure to carcinogens, mutagens, reprotoxic substances, solvents, carbon monoxide, or pesticides); iv. biological (e.g., exposure to blood and bodily fluids, fungi, bacteria, viruses, or insect bites); v. psychosocial (e.g., verbal abuse, harassment, bullying); vi. related to work-organisation (e.g., excessive workload demands, shift work, long hours, night work, workplace violence).
Work-related incident	<p>Occurrence arising out of or in the course of work that could or does result in injury or ill health. Incidents might be due to, for example, electrical problems, explosion, fire, overflow, overturning, leakage, flow, breakage, bursting, splitting, loss of control, slipping, stumbling and falling, body movement without stress, body movement under/with stress, shock, fright, workplace violence or harassment (e.g., sexual harassment).</p> <p>An incident that results in injury or ill health is often referred to as an 'accident'. An incident that has the potential to result in injury or ill health but where none occurs is often referred to as a 'close call', 'near-miss', or 'near-hit'.</p>