ecgi

PATRONS COUNCIL

A pioneering initiative to guide corporations through rapidly evolving global challenges

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INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

The global corporate governance landscape is undergoing significant change. Investor stewardship, new regulation, geopolitical competition, industrial policy, and technological change are reshaping the environment in which companies operate.

Boards face growing expectations from investors, evolving shareholder rights and voting infrastructure, sustainability regulation, and competition with state-backed global rivals. Governments are also revisiting industrial policy, strategic ownership, and economic sovereignty.

The ECGI Patrons Council brings together three groups that rarely meet in a structured setting:

- corporate leaders responsible for governance and strategy
- institutional investors shaping stewardship and voting practices
- policymakers and academic experts developing regulatory frameworks.

The Council provides a forum for examining governance challenges and the policy and market developments shaping companies and capital markets.

EUROPEAN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE

ECGI is an international non-profit membership organisation that provides a platform for debate and dialogue among academics, policymakers, and business leaders, with a focus on major corporate governance and stewardship issues. Harnessing research, ECGI helps to shape ideas, influence practice, and formulate policies which benefit society.

PATRONS COUNCIL MEMBERS

AstraZeneca PLC is a global, science-led, patient-focused pharmaceutical business committed to excellence in the research, development and commercialisation of prescription medicines.

Investor AB, founded by the Wallenberg family, is an engaged owner of high-quality, global companies, creating value for people and society by building strong and sustainable companies.

NBIM is one of the world's largest asset owners, with investments spread across most markets, countries and currencies to achieve broad exposure to global growth and value creation while ensuring good risk diversification.

Dassault Aviation is a French aerospace company that shapes the future by designing and building military aircraft, business jets and space systems.

Westerkirk Capital is a private investment firm that manages capital on behalf of a single Canadian investor, taking a long-term, patient approach to ownership rather than operating on typical private equity fund timelines.

La Caisse is a global investment group headquartered in Québec, Canada, managing net assets of CAD 552 billion on behalf of 48 of Québec's public and parapublic pension and insurance plans.

ABOUT THE PATRONS COUNCIL

The ECGI Patrons Council brings together senior leaders from global companies, institutional investors, policymakers, and leading academic experts to discuss developments shaping corporate governance, capital markets, and economic policy.

The Council convenes meetings throughout the year using two complementary formats.

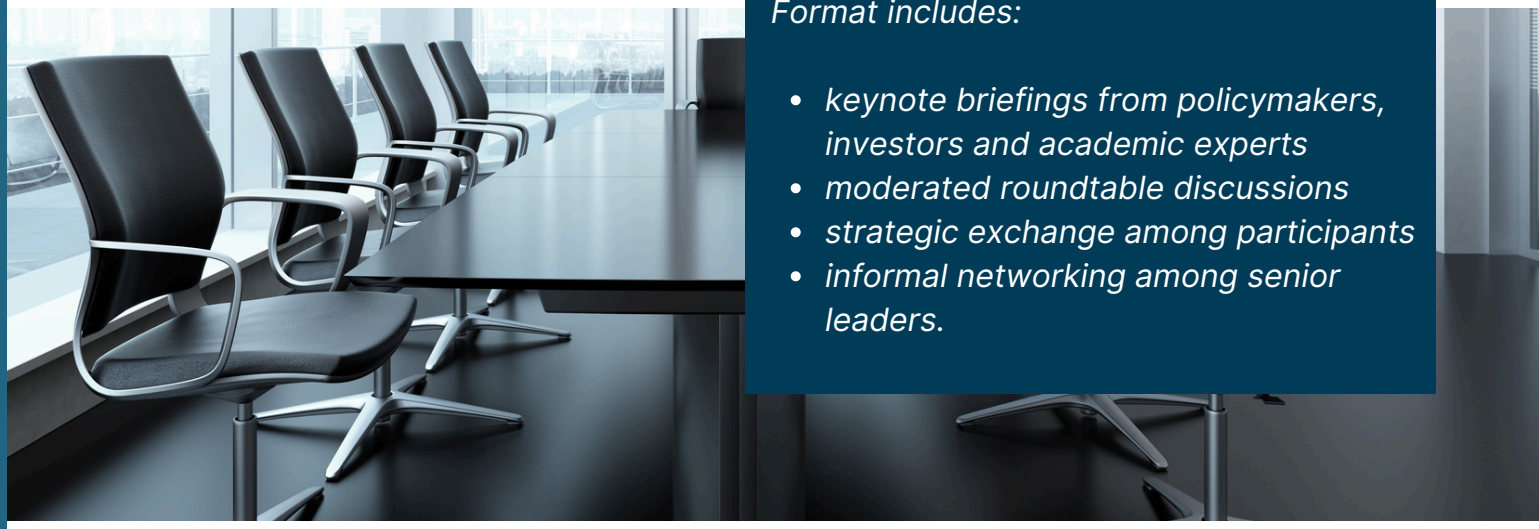
Roundtables bring together small, invitation-only groups for focused discussion of regulatory developments, market practices, and governance challenges affecting companies and investors.

Forums convene a broader group of senior participants for high-level discussions featuring policymakers, business leaders, investors, and academic experts on major strategic issues in corporate governance and economic policy.

Discussions are conducted under the Chatham House Rules to enable open and candid exchange.

Participants include senior representatives from:

- Major global corporations
- Institutional investors
- Policy institutions
- Academic experts
- Governance advisers and market infrastructure



Format includes:

- *keynote briefings from policymakers, investors and academic experts*
- *moderated roundtable discussions*
- *strategic exchange among participants*
- *informal networking among senior leaders.*

PATRONS COUNCIL EVENTS 2025

Roundtable: **Navigating the Evolving Landscape of Corporate Governance**

Topics:

- CSDDD
- Investor perspectives
- Voting trends
- Shareholder engagement

London, 14 March 2025

Forum & Roundtable: **Corporate Governance and Industrial Policy**

Topics:

- Europe's competitiveness challenge
- The return of industrial policy
- Governance implications of strategic industries
- Public–private investment and capital markets

Brussels, 19 November 2025

PATRONS COUNCIL EVENTS 2026

Roundtable: **Shareholder Rights and Economic Sovereignty**

Topics:

- Reform of the Shareholder Rights Directive
- Voting infrastructure
- Proxy advisors
- Golden shares and state capitalism

London, 6 March 2026

Roundtable: **The Role of Boards — Fit for the Current Times**

Topics:

- Japan's takeover regime and the market for corporate control
- Geopolitical risk and board oversight
- Governing in the age of AI
- Specialist directors and board overload
- Independent directors in Asia

Singapore, 15 June 2026

Becoming a Patron allows organisations to play a leading role in shaping discussions on the future of corporate governance and capital markets globally.

Patrons help support the Council's activities while gaining privileged access to its discussions and network.

BENEFITS

PARTICIPATION IN HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS

Patrons participate actively in the Council's roundtables and forums, with opportunities to intervene in discussions and contribute as speakers.

ACCESS TO A SENIOR DECISION-MAKING NETWORK

Participation alongside a select group of decision-makers from global companies, institutional investors, international policy institutions and leading academic centres.

INSIGHT INTO EMERGING REGULATORY AND GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENTS

Discussions focus on policy initiatives, market developments and governance challenges affecting companies, investors and capital markets.

SET THE AGENDA

Patrons define the themes addressed in Council meetings, ensuring discussions focus on the issues most relevant to companies and investors and helping steer the dialogue on emerging developments in corporate governance and capital markets.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

A diverse group of leading corporations is invited to form the council, ensuring broad sectoral and geographical representation.

MEETING SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

The Council meets 2-3 times per year. Planned discussion topics include investor stewardship and voting trends, shareholder engagement and voting infrastructure, proxy advisers, capital market dynamics, industrial policy, economic sovereignty, strategic ownership structures, governance challenges in strategic industries, institutional investor expectations, board composition, and broader regulatory and policy developments affecting companies and investors.

CONTACT

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