

ecgi

PATRONS COUNCIL

A pioneering initiative to guide European corporations
through rapidly evolving global challenges

November 2024



www.ecgi.global

INTRODUCTION

The ECGI Patrons Council is conceived as a pioneering initiative to guide European corporations through rapidly evolving global challenges. This document outlines the vision, purpose, and operational framework of the Patrons Council.



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, ESG, and stewardship issues. Harnessing research, ECGI helps to shape ideas, influence practice, and formulate policies which benefit society.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



OXERA

Oxera is an economics and finance consultancy that inspires better decisions, helping to solve complex challenges and build stronger strategies, with an approach grounded in academic curiosity and enriched by the experience of a diverse team.

MOTIVATION

The landscape of corporate governance in Europe is undergoing transformation, driven by institutional investor expectations, the transition to net-zero, the emergence of AI, and the latest political developments. Company boards are positioned to lead this, implementing strategies that safeguard their future and leverage new opportunities.



PURPOSE

The Patrons Council is established with a dual objective:

To discuss the latest developments around traditional corporate governance issues ahead of and after the proxy season, including voting policies, shareholder activism, proxy advisers, corporate law reform, remuneration trends, ESG ratings, and evolving board responsibilities.

To discuss the latest policy developments around issues of direct relevance to corporate boards, such as carbon offsets, biodiversity, AI technology, and geopolitics.



BENEFITS

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Access to a network across countries and sectors.

INSIGHTFUL BRIEFINGS

Opportunities to engage with top academics, investors, and policymakers.

EXPERT PERSPECTIVES

Regular updates on policy, regulatory, and market developments.

ENHANCED DECISION-MAKING

Empowering participants with a better understanding of NZC and AI transitions.



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

12 leading European corporations will be invited, ensuring sectoral and geographical representation.

MEETINGS SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

Biannual meetings, initially in London and Brussels, with topics covering investor expectations, ESG metrics, organizational transformations, and policy developments.

London meeting will focus on investor and service providers perspectives.

Brussels meeting will focus on policy issues.

Inaugural Meeting in London: 14 March 2025.

MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The Founding Patrons are Investor AB and AstraZeneca PLC.

Annual Fee: Euro 30,000. Additional donations to the European Corporate Governance Research Foundation (ECGRF), a charitable foundation with recognised public benefit status under Belgian law, are optional.

SUPPORT AND VENUE

Oxera will assist in establishing the council. Meetings will rotate between Oxera offices and council members' facilities. ECGI will appoint an Executive Fellow and administrator to ensure smooth operations.

Appendix A

PLEDGE FOR ANNUAL PATRON MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

On completion, this form should be sent to Elaine McPartlan, General Manager, ECGL, c/o Académie Royale de Belgique, Palais des Académies, 1 rue Ducale, 1000 Bruxelles

THE UNDERSIGNED

with domicile (registered seat for companies or institutions) at

legally represented (for companies or institutions) according to justification attached hereto by (name and title)

Hereinafter referred to as the Patron,

WHEREAS

- The European Corporate Governance Institute, abbreviated as ECGI, has been established as an international non-profit scientific association in accordance with Belgian law in 2002.
- The purpose of ECGI is to promote and disseminate research of excellence in corporate governance and to support organisations that further those objectives.
- The Patron has received a copy of the ECGI's Articles of Association and a copy of the prospectus that describes the objectives pursued by ECGI Patrons Council and the means to attain them.
- The Patron wishes to join the Patrons Council by joining ECGI as a Patron Member.

with domicile (registered seat for companies or institutions) at

.....

NOW THEREFORE

1. The Patron pledges to join the ECGI as a Patron Member and pay the membership fee of Euro 30,000 plus VAT per year.
2. Any dispute regarding the interpretation or execution of this pledge shall in a first stage be the object of a mediation attempt. If the mediation is unsuccessful, the dispute shall be submitted to the laws and jurisdictions of Brussels, Belgium.

Done at (place)

This (date)

The Patron

By (Title)

By (Title)

CONTACT

Professor Marco Becht

Executive Director

European Corporate Governance Institute (ECGI)

Palace of the Academies

Rue Ducale 1 Hertogsstraat

1000 Brussels

Belgium

marco.becht@ecgi.org

cc : elaine.mcpartlan@ecgi.org

www.ecgi.global