

Conclusions from ESG Europe 2010 Conference

ESG Europe 2010 was held in Amsterdam on October 12-13 and was attended by RepRisk sales representative Robert Klijn. Robert's impression was that it was a fantastic event, with 250 delegates from 175 institutions participating. These included a good mix of brokers, consultants, ESG researchers, governmental organizations, institutional investors, NGOs and private banking teams

Some conclusions Robert came away with:

- 1) The new trend is stakeholder engagement instead of shareholder engagement. Engagement is a better route than exclusion.
- 2) Several participants believe that the development of a universal set of KPIs is unrealistic, with new initiatives such as EFFAS not being well communicated and confusing the market.
- 3) Standardized reporting about ESG needs to be developed. GRI and the national accounting boards could do this. The current systems are not fit for this purpose.
- 4) There is still a great deal of work to be done in regard to the implementation of the report by UN Special Representative Ruggie on Business and Human Rights.
- 5) One speaker viewed regulation as the partial answer to capital market dysfunctionality. Giants funds are the solution as long-term investment is key (not trend following, like hedge funds).