

## TBLI Conference in London sheds light on current ESG landscape

Head of Sales and Marketing, Charlotte Mansson, together with Senior Analyst Lauren Crockett from the RepRisk team, attended the TBLI Conference Europe 2010 on November 11 and 12 in London. The conference was meant to present a platform to exchange ideas and information as to how ESG policies and issues can be implemented into the current financial landscape. Several speakers at the conference addressed the challenges of developing a specific and quantifiable approach to incorporating ESG issues into the investment analysis process, while others were in search of ways to measure these risks in connection to the bottom line.

Charlotte gave a speech at the 'Future of ESG Research' workshop where she presented RepRisk as a tool that could be used to anticipate and/or prevent future ESG controversies from damaging clients' portfolios.

At the workshop entitled 'Sustainability Indices', participants discussed the importance of a company's attitude towards disclosure and transparency in regard to ESG risks. Several participants expressed the opinion that such issues will only be resolved through engagement with companies found to be in violation of set standards rather than with a swift divestment policy.

Another 'hot topic' at the conference was the implementation of the recently introduced UK Stewardship Code into investment practices. Participants discussed the 'comply or explain' policy of the code as well as the actual gains that could be identified by using the Code. A Hermes Equity Ownership Services panel member for the discussion expressed the idea that 'the code should be used as a tool, not a rule'.