

Press Release

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European listed companies discussed the EU regulatory environment at the EuropeanIssuers Capital Markets Webinar Series

EuropeanIssuers, representing the interests of publicly quoted companies across Europe, organised its annual EuropeanIssuers Capital Markets Webinar Series, addressing the EU regulatory developments that are affecting European listed companies.

EuropeanIssuers held webinars on the link between Capital Markets Union and Europe's economic recovery, sustainability reporting and digitalisation of European companies. Around 250 participants watched the webinars live. The webinars gathered broad cross-sectorial company representatives of many European leading corporations as well as regulators, consultants, stock exchanges, banks and financial press.

EuropeanIssuers Secretary General Florence Bindelle commented: *"In the current recovery context, it is highly important that the EU financial regulations make the access to capital markets easier and less burdensome. Ensuring a favourable EU financial regulatory framework would help fostering the competitiveness of our companies and ease access to long term capital. Our webinar sessions provided a platform for issuers to discuss the EU initiatives and the challenges they are facing, with the EU institutions and other key market participants."*

The first webinar: [‘How Can the Capital Markets Union New Action Plan Boost Europe's Economic Recovery?’](#) discussed the action points the European Commission has laid out for the upcoming years with a special focus on primary and secondary equity markets in the EU and how to provide a better environment for listing of companies of different sizes. Panellist from the session, Adam Kostyál, Senior Vice President at Nasdaq, said: *"Through the pandemic, markets across Europe have stayed open and we have even seen record number of listings, illustrating the timeliness of this webinar in discussing the important role capital markets play for companies' growth and the economic recovery. We at Nasdaq find it very valuable to be involved with the EuropeanIssuers audience sharing views on the way forward."* Regarding the Capital Markets Union, EuropeanIssuers has long advocated for the need to focus on all companies, not only SMEs, as bearers of burdensome requirements, and the need to act by simplifying existing reporting requirements and ensure their consistency.¹

The next webinar: [‘The Role of European Companies and Boards in Sustainability Reporting’](#) focused on the EU's sustainability reporting requirements. The panellists exchanged views on the role of European companies, their management and boards of directors in addressing the

¹ Please refer to [this link](#) for EuropeanIssuers press release on the Capital Markets Union New Action Plan dated 01 March 2021.

major challenges of today, such as climate change and social issues. One of the panellists of the session, Elina Yrgård, Senior Associate General Counsel at Nasdaq, stated: *“In the rapidly changing regulatory environment around sustainability; transparency and governance have taken centre stage. Nasdaq sees first-hand the efforts and progress made by all sizes of corporates and has appreciated the opportunity to exchange views with experts on these topics from both the public and private sector.”* With regards to the EU initiatives on sustainability reporting, EuropeanIssuers agrees that the EU needs harmonised standards for environmental, social and governance (ESG) information to enhance transparency and promote sustainable investments. Nonetheless it acknowledges that the extension of the scope of the sustainability reporting standards raises major concerns. EuropeanIssuers’ [Statement on Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive](#) highlights these concerns and overall EuropeanIssuers’ position on the directive.

The last webinar: [‘Digitalisation of European Companies: Regulatory Challenges and Shaping Strategy for a Digital Future’](#) addressed the EU framework on digital innovation, fragmentation in the Digital Single Market and the cyber risks associated with this digital transformation. Panellist Nathan Birtle, Senior Vice President of Sales at Diligent, expressed: *“Companies need to address how to collect the data, and what the requirements are for data collection, as the multiple frameworks and reports which are in place and required to be applied by companies create risks.”* In a recently published [article](#), Mr Birtle also highlighted in what ways digital transformation enhances how boards and leaders work together. With reference to the webinar session, Diligent commented: *“We are delighted to have participated in the EuropeanIssuers Capital Markets Webinar Series. We hope all participants found the content interesting and felt the urge to digitise their companies to avoid cyber risk, improve their governance practices and also to prepare their organisations for today’s ESG data challenges. We would welcome issuers to reach out to find out how Diligent solutions can help overcome these challenges and gain in efficiency.”*

To view this press release online, please click [here](#).

To watch the recordings of the webinar sessions, please click [here](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS

About EuropeanIssuers Capital Markets Webinar Series

EuropeanIssuers Capital Markets Webinar Series is launched in 2020 combining a series of webinars on various topics. Each webinar is held in a roundtable format. The panellists are selected from EU policy makers, corporates issuers, stock exchanges, investors or other financial markets participants. EuropeanIssuers Capital Markets Webinars gather audience from a broad cross-sectorial of senior company's representatives of many European leading corporations as well as regulators, consultants, exchanges, bankers, financial press and other service providers. EuropeanIssuers Capital Markets Webinar Series 2021 were sponsored by [Nasdaq](#) and [Diligent](#). The webinar sessions were powered by [CompanyWebcast](#).

About EuropeanIssuers

EuropeanIssuers is a pan-European organisation representing the interests of publicly quoted companies across Europe to the EU institutions. Our members include both national associations and companies from all sectors in 15 European countries, covering markets worth €7.6 trillion market capitalisation with approximately 8,000 companies. We aim to ensure that EU policy creates an environment in which companies of all sizes—from emerging growth companies to the large blue chip companies—can easily raise capital through the public markets and deliver growth over the longer term. Published in 2019, [EuropeanIssuers Vision](#) presents key priorities and policy recommendations in a number of areas to support the EU policy makers during their mandate. More information on our positions can be found at www.europeanissuers.eu or on EuropeanIssuers [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) page.

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