CSR EUROPE

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EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY SUMMIT 2026

European Sustainable Industry Summit 2026

AGENDA

13-14 October 2026

(re)space Airport, Brussels, Belgium



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ABOUT THE SUMMIT

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY SUMMIT 2026

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European industry is entering a new phase of the sustainability transition. Global competition, shifting trade dynamics, and evolving EU policy frameworks are reshaping how companies operate, invest, and innovate.

For many businesses, sustainability is no longer addressed only through reporting and compliance processes. It is increasingly tied to operational performance, resource resilience, and long-term competitiveness.

The challenge now is translating sustainability ambitions into practical business strategies that strengthen value chains and industrial capacity.

The European Sustainable Industry Summit 2026 brings together business leaders, policymakers, investors, and civil society organizations to explore how sustainability can support industrial resilience, innovation, and long-term economic performance in Europe.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- CEOs and C-Suite Leaders
- EU Policymakers and Institutional Representatives
- Chief Sustainability Officers and Strategy Leaders
- Civil Society and Industry Organisations

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KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

Brussels Sustainability Club

RES4AFRICA FOUNDATION

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BRUSSELS CLIMATE WEEK 12-16 OCTOBER 2026

UNIDO UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION Progress by innovation 60 YEARS

Sustainability LIVE

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DAY 1

MATERIALS, WATER & ENERGY

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CONTEXT

Europe has entered a decade defined by climate and geopolitical disruption. For Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Chief Sustainability Officers (CSOs), the question is no longer whether sustainability matters, but how quickly it can be transformed into **strategic value**.

The **European Sustainable Industry Summit 2026** starts from a clear premise: sustainability is not a compliance exercise; it is a **driver of resilience, competitiveness and long-term growth**.

Rising energy volatility, increasing water scarcity, and fragile global value chains are reshaping the operating environment for European industry. These pressures expose structural vulnerabilities while also revealing where future industrial leadership will emerge. Companies that **embed energy efficiency, water stewardship, circularity, and responsible supply chains into their core strategy** will be best positioned to outperform.

Europe must secure its strategic autonomy by accelerating the transformation of its industrial base. Greater investment in decarbonisation, resource efficiency and supply chain stability is needed to position Europe as a global leader in low-carbon technologies, resilient supply chains, and sustainable production systems.

This shift is anchored in **Europe's long-term commitment to achieving net-zero emissions** by 2050. The central challenge is no longer defining the destination, but building a **credible, scalable business case** to reach it, one that aligns sustainability with enduring market leadership.

Europe's Industrial Reset

A new mandate for sustainability leadership

In partnership with the European Roundtable of Industrialists (TBC)

13/10/2026 | 11:00-12:30

PLENARY SESSION OVERVIEW

CSR Europe's "*Sustainable Value Creation*" model shows how sustainability efforts generate **economic** (lower costs, higher efficiency), **strategic** (reduced dependency, stronger resilience), and **technological value** (innovation, new business models).
An enabling policy framework can amplify this process, making sustainability a true catalyst for market wins.

For **CEOs** and **CSOs**, this reflects a broader shift in the **role of sustainability** within organisations. It is no longer limited to compliance or reporting; it is **becoming central to strategy, execution, and value creation**.

Energy, water, circularity, and responsible sourcing are now embedded in boardroom decisions, shaping risk management, capital allocation, and long-term direction. This transformation elevates the role of **sustainability leaders as architects of resilience**, stewards of transparency, and catalysts of innovation.

DAY 1:
MATERIALS, WATER & ENERGY
HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY

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As sustainability becomes central to strategic positioning, companies that excel in resource management gain more than regulatory alignment. They secure:

- **Greater operational stability** amid climate-driven pressures
- **improved access to markets and investment**, including through transparent value chains
- **Clearer pathways to growth** in Europe's emerging clean industrial markets

This plenary session brings together C-level executives, policymakers, and NGO representatives to explore what Europe expects from its companies, and what companies need from Europe – to accelerate a resilient, competitive, and sustainable industrial future.



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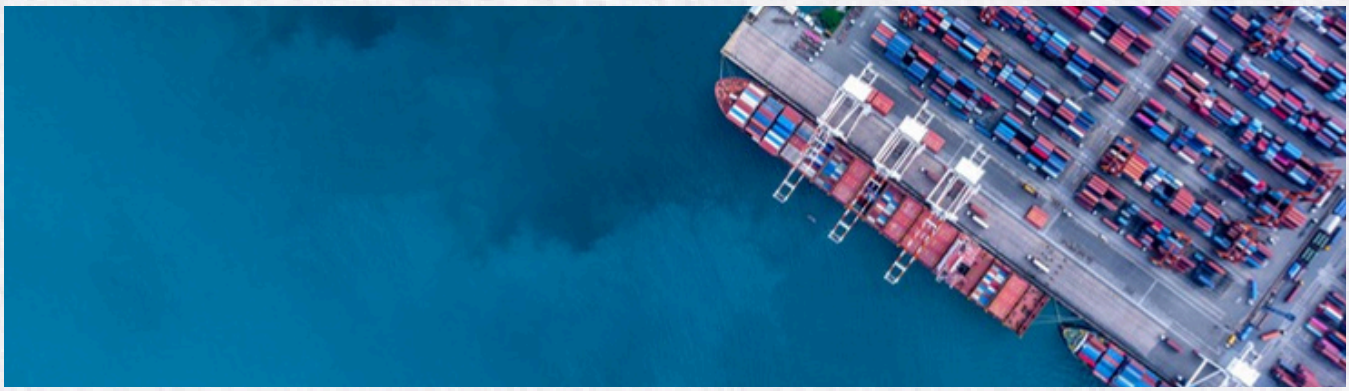
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Turning pressures into advantage:
How energy volatility, water scarcity, and supply chain fragility are reshaping Europe's industrial landscape, and how to leverage these challenges for strategic growth.

Policy and business alignment:
What CEOs and CSOs need from EU policy to manage these challenges, drive value creation, and accelerate investment in clean solutions.

A new corporate leadership mandate:
Defining how CEOs must embed sustainability into strategy, capital allocation, and risk management, and how the role of CSO is shifting from compliance to orchestrators of industrial competitiveness and systemic resilience.

Innovation and collaboration:
Scaling clean, resource-efficient technology through supplier engagement and partnerships.



Day 1 - High-level Plenary

AGENDA

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***Master of ceremony*: Stefan Crets,** Executive Director, CSR Europe

TIME (CEST)	SESSION	SPEAKERS
10:00 - 11:00	*Registration & Welcome Breakfast*	
	High Level Plenary Begins	
11:05 - 11:15	**Opening Remarks**	**Monica Pérez Lobo** Vice President Sustainability, Toyota Motor Europe & Chair of CSR Europe Board **Jochen Vincke** Lead Sustainability Partner, PWC Belgium
11:15 - 11:40	**Fireside Chat** *"Competing in a new industrial era: make sustainability your most powerful business tool"* Moderator: **Monica Pérez Lobo** Vice President Sustainability, Toyota Motor Europe & Chair of CSR Europe Board	**Kurt Vandenberghe** Director-General Climate Action (DG CLIMA), European Commission **Michele Fracchiolla** President and CEO, Hitachi Europe Ltd
11:40 - 12:25	**High-level Panel Discussion** *"Advancing industrial competitiveness through sustainable innovations and collaboration"* + Q&A Moderator: **Chris Coulter** CEO, GlobeScan	**Georgia Lordanescu** Chief of the Sustainable Energy and Just Transition Unit, UNIDO Vienna **Patrizia Heidegger** Deputy Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau **Sophia Chrysopoulou** Head of EU Public Affairs, The Coca-Cola Company **Sun Lihui** Vice President of Huayou Cobalt
12:25 - 12:30	**Conclusion**	**Agnieszka Skorupinska** Senior Manager EU Affairs Sustainability, Hitachi Europe Ltd

Please note that speakers are still in the process of being confirmed

Day 1
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TIME (CEST)	SESSION	CHOICES
12:30 - 12:45	**The Schuman Show**	
12:45 – 13:45	**Networking Lunch**	
14:00 – 15:00	**Learning Labs Round I**	**8 possible choices**: 1. ESG as a Driver of Competitiveness, Growth, and EU Market Integration 2. Social Sustainability as a Driver of Competitiveness: from Internal Processes to the Value Chain 3. From Resources to Resilience: Turning Water, Energy and Circularity into Industrial Value 4. Turning Sustainability into Value: the Impact of Ratings on Companies' Market Valuations 5. Sustainability for Value Creation Framework 6. From Compliance to Impact: Collaborative ways to enhance supplier capability 7. The Next Age of Sustainability: What Businesses Need to Stay Competitive, Resilient and Future-Ready 8. Value Sharing and Cost Allocation Across the Value Chain
15:00 – 16:00	**Learning Labs Round II**	**8 possible choices** • Same as above
16:00 - 16:30	***Afternoon Break***	
16:30 – 17:45	**Leadership Roundtables**	**3 possible choices:** • Due Diligence for Responsible Materials Sourcing and Local Value Chain Creation • Resilient by Design: Circularity in Europe's Industrial Supply Chains • Advancing Water Stewardship, creating value for business, the planet and communities
18:00 – 20:00	**Networking Cocktails**	
19:30 – 22:00	**Dinner Conversations (invitation only)**	

Day 1

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Leadership Roundtables

16:30 –18:00

3 possible choices - Connected to the topic of the plenary

ROUNDTABLE	TOPIC	CONTEXT
Roundtable #1 16.30 to 18.00 PM	**Local Value Chain Creation and Due Diligence for Responsible Materials Sourcing** *In collaboration with RES4Africa Foundation*	Using the Lobito Corridor as a case study, this roundtable explores how Europe and Africa can build responsible, resilient raw material value chains that create local economic value, strengthen industrial competitiveness, and support meaningful due diligence through long-term partnerships.
Roundtable #2 16.30 to 18.00 PM	**Resilient by Design: Circularity in Europe's Industrial Supply Chains** *In collaboration with PwC*	This roundtable explores how circularity can strengthen Europe's industrial competitiveness and resilience by overcoming barriers to adoption, creating stronger business incentives, and driving collaboration across value chains.
Roundtable #3 16.30 to 18.00 PM	**Advancing Water Stewardship: Creating Value for Business, Nature and Communities**	This roundtable explores how businesses can strengthen resilience and long-term value by embedding water stewardship into strategy, scaling nature-based solutions, and collaborating across value chains and sectors.

DAY 2

CONSUMERS & INVESTORS

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CONTEXT

As companies redesign production systems around energy efficiency, water optimisation, circularity, and ethical sourcing, the ability to translate these efforts into **tangible value** depends on how effectively **policy, capital, and demand align** to reward sustainable performance. **Europe's industrial reset can only succeed if this alignment is achieved.**

Sustainability is increasingly a determining factor in **market access, investment decisions, and consumer preferences**, with rising expectations for transparency, accountability, and measurable impact. Businesses are expected to demonstrate **how sustainability drives performance, strengthens risk management, and supports long-term value creation.**

In this context, regulators and investors are key to scaling sustainable solutions and ensuring their economic viability

On the Summit's second day, the focus shifts to how **demand signals, investment strategies, and policy tools can converge** to accelerate the adoption of clean solutions, rewarding sustainable business models and enabling **market success.**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- CEOs and C-Suite Leaders
- Investors and Financial Institutions
- Chief Sustainability and Strategy Officers
- EU Policymakers and Market Regulators

Policy, Investment, and Industry

Building Markets for a Sustainable Economy

14/10/2026 | 10:30-11:30

The High-Level Plenary on Day 2 will convene **investors, policymakers, and industry leaders** to explore how sustainable solutions move from corporate transformation to market uptake.

Emphasis is placed on the **external conditions that drive this shift**, examining how upcoming regulation, consumer demand, and investment flows can influence the pace at which sustainable business models are implemented and scaled.

Participants will delve deeper into the role of financial instruments such as green bonds, blended finance, and public-private partnerships in mobilising sustainable investment, alongside policy tools that enhance transparency and improve market access for low-carbon products.

By bringing together corporate, institutional, and financial stakeholders, the session aims to identify the key steps needed to better align the ecosystem actors and strengthen demand for sustainable solutions.



KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Market Demand and Consumer Trust:
How harmonised standards and the use of incentives (e.g., "Made in Europe" criteria) strengthen consumer confidence and drive demand for sustainable products.

Investment and Policy Alignment:
Leveraging financial instruments and policy measures to reduce risk and improve access to capital for sustainable innovation.

Creating Enabling Conditions:
Exploring how collaborative actions among businesses, investors, and policymakers can accelerate the transition to a sustainable economy.



Day 2 - High-level Plenary

AGENDA

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY SUMMIT 2026

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TIME (CEST)	SESSION	SPEAKERS
8:30 – 10:20	**CSO Network Breakfast Meeting** *(closed-door meeting)*	
9:30 – 10:30	*Registration & Welcome Breakfast*	
	High Level Plenary Begins	
10:30 - 10:40	**Keynote Speech** *"Setting the conditions for sustainable and competitive markets"*	**Jessika Roswall** Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and Competitive Circular Economy, European Commission
10:40 - 10:55	**Fireside Chat** *"Making Sustainable Solutions the Market Choice"* **Moderator:** **Agnieszka Skorupinska** Senior Manager EU Affairs Sustainability, Hitachi Europe Ltd	**Philippe Kehren** CEO, Solvay
10:55- 11:30	**High-level Panel Discussion** *"Investing in Europe's competitive future: turning transformation into business opportunity."* **Moderator:** **Katarin Wagner** Co-Executive Director, Econsense	**Albena Taneva** Expert on sustainable finance, DG GROW, C1 Access to finance European Commission **Giorgio Vitali** Head of Development & Export Credit Financing, Enel **Thomas Schulte** Senior Vice President, Head of Sustainability, Robert Bosch GmbH
11:30 - 11:40	**Conclusions**	**Monica Pérez Lobo** Vice President Sustainability, Toyota Motor Europe & Chair of CSR Europe Board **Stefan Crets** Executive Director, CSR Europe

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DAY 2:
Consumers and Investors
AGENDA

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TIME (CEST)	SESSION
11:45 – 13:00	**Leadership Roundtables** 3 possible choices: • Navigating the Sustainable Finance Ecosystem: Value Creation through Transition Finance and Impact Investing • Boosting Demand for Sustainable Solutions: From Green Premium to Industry Standard • Sustainability Around the Globe: A Cross-Regional Dialogue on a Sustainable, Competitive, and Resilient World Economy
13:00 – 14:00	*Networking Lunch*
14:00 – 16:00	**Closed Network Meetings** (*invitation only*) • National Partner Organisation's Annual Meeting • Drive Sustainability Grievance Platform Advisory Board Meeting • Responsible Trucking Platform Group Meeting

DAY 3	INVITATION ONLY
9:30 – 14:00	*Sustainability as a Driver of Value Creation and Competitiveness: Leading International Business Delegations in Meetings with EU Representatives*



DAY 2:
Consumers and Investors
AGENDA

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY SUMMIT 2026

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Leadership Roundtables

11:45 – 13:15

3 possible choices - Connected to the topic of the plenary

ROUNDTABLE	TOPIC	CONTEXT
Roundtable #1 11.45 AM to 13.15 PM	**Sustainable Transition and Access to Capital: A Dialogue Between Corporates, Investors and Impact Players** *In Collaboration with Impact Europe*	This roundtable explores how transition finance and impact investing can help companies accelerate sustainable transformation, strengthen resilience, and enhance Europe's competitiveness.
Roundtable #2 11.45 AM to 13.15 PM	**Boosting Demand for Sustainable Solutions: From Green Premium to Industry Standard** *In Collaboration with Brussels Sustainability Club*	This roundtable explores how stronger demand, public procurement, and business collaboration can accelerate the uptake of sustainable solutions and strengthen Europe's industrial competitiveness.
Roundtable #3 11.45 AM to 13.15 PM	**Sustainability Around the Globe** *With International Delegations*	This session explores how global collaboration can strengthen a sustainable, competitive, and resilient world economy despite growing geopolitical fragmentation.

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13-14 October

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De Kleetlaan 2, 1831,
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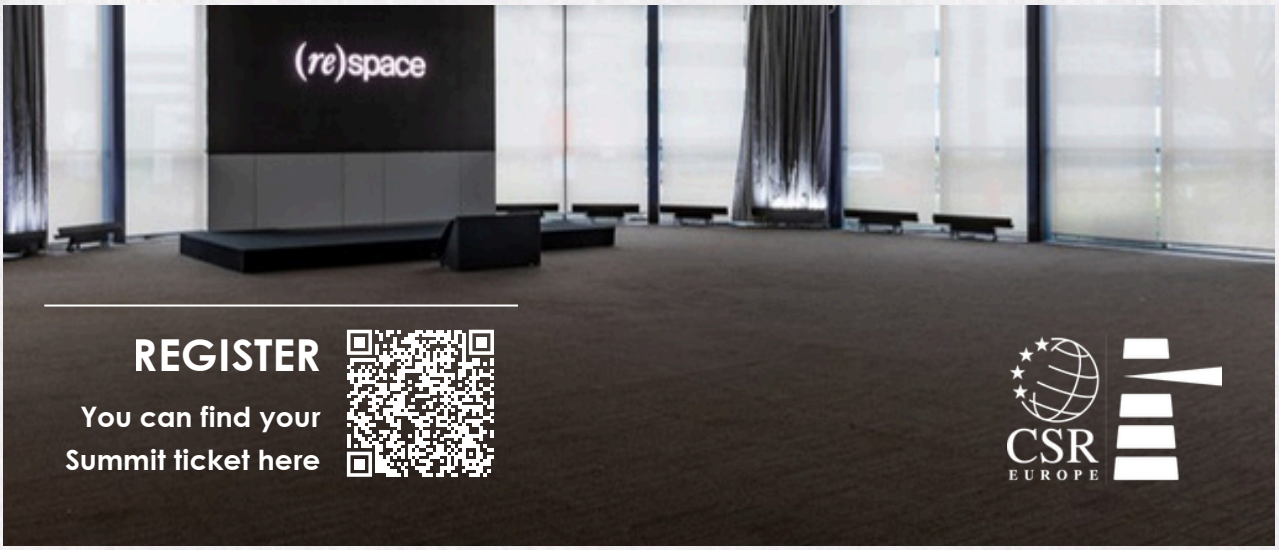

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