



PRESS RELEASE

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Vigeo's methodology is awarded AI CSRR* certification

Paris (France) - Today, Vigeo proudly received the CSR Research Quality Standard certification (CSRR-QS), a mark of recognition for its Equitics methodology and its analysis and monitoring processes.

Leading corporate sustainability research organisations from across Europe have come together to create a new international Voluntary Quality Standard (VQS) for corporate sustainability and responsible investment research.

Launched by the Association of Independent Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility Research (AI CSRR), this robust international Voluntary Quality Standard has been developed to drive high quality research and analysis standards for organisations in the field.

It is a direct response to growing investors demands for research into the environmental, social, governance (ESG) and ethical performance of companies and it is based on the key principles of integrity, transparency, accountability.

The Standard assessment and auditing process requires research groups to :

- focus on continuous quality improvements and establish quality control systems across all research areas,
- develop and implement best practice and codes of conduct to ensure independence, integrity, probity, transparency and accountability in the research process,
- monitor and report on improvements across all aspects of research quality.

This certification is very much welcomed by Vigeo : *"When you issue opinion on other organisations, it is important to submit your methodology and transparency to third-party evaluation"*, believes **Fouad Benseddik, Vigeo's Institutional Methods Director**.

Herwig Peeters, the AI CSRR's Chairman said: *«This pioneering new Standard is a celebration of excellence and will push research quality to the highest levels. The Standard has been specifically developed to promote quality in a diversity of research approaches ».*

* Association for Independent Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility Research

James Gifford, Executive Director of the UN Principles for Responsible Investment said:
«The principles of integrity, probity, transparency and accountability have never been so important. The Voluntary Quality Standard will help to further increase confidence in ESG research providers at a time when openness and accountability are valued by an ever increasing number of responsible investors'».

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www.csrr-qs.org

About Vigeo

Vigeo is the leading European CSR rating agency. The agency measures the commitment of companies and identifies ESG-related risk factors.

Vigeo offers two kinds of service:

- SRI analyses, company ratings and benchmarks for investors and asset managers;
- social responsibility audits for companies and local authorities.

The Vigeo team:

- comprises 83 members of staff from 14 different nationalities;
- is spread across four sites, i.e. Paris, Brussels, Milan and Casablanca.

www.vigeo.com