

## Konsultation der Europäischen Kommission

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**Initiative: Vorschlag für eine Verordnung**

**Nichtfinanzielle Angaben von Großunternehmen (Aktualisierung der Rechtsvorschriften)**

Am 26.02.2020 hat das Deutsche Rechnungslegungs Standards Committee seine Stellungnahme an die Europäische Kommission zum Inception Impact Assessment für die o.g. EU-Initiative übermittelt. Weitere Informationen sowie die eingegangenen Stellungnahmen sind unter folgendem Link erhältlich:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12129-Revision-of-Non-Financial-Reporting-Directive>

Die Stellungnahme des DRSC wurde über die Webseite der EU-Kommission per Eingabe in das dafür vorgesehene Textfeld versendet und hat folgenden Wortlaut:

Generally, we believe that before deciding on the appropriate policy tool, any perceived shortcomings of the NFRD need to be assessed against whether those deficiencies can indeed be addressed appropriately by any of the three policy tools.

Taking into account the recent survey results by public interest law organisation Frank Bold presented in Brussels on February 17 (<https://en.frankbold.org/news/analysis-companies-failing-report-meaningful-information-about-their-impacts-society-and-enviro>), the evidence seems to suggest, inter alia, that:

- Company reports do not seem to have yielded results that stakeholders have hoped for (notwithstanding good reporting by some and on particular aspects);
- The quality of information is perceived too low to draw conclusions, even though, for some aspects, there is an upward trend in terms of both, quantity, and quality of information; and
- Firm size, location, and industry seem to play a role.

One may therefore ask whether the Directive's objective can indeed be met through company reporting alone and sufficiently quick enough. Our view is driven by the following two issues, which we suggest being considered when defining and selecting the policy options.

### Kontakt:

Zimmerstr. 30, 10969 Berlin  
(Zugang über Markgrafenstr. 19a)  
Telefon: +49 (0)30 206412-0  
Telefax: +49 (0)30 206412-15  
E-Mail: [info@drsc.de](mailto:info@drsc.de)

### Bankverbindung:

Deutsche Bank Berlin  
IBAN-Nr.  
DE26 1007 0000 0070 0781 00  
BIC (Swift-Code)  
DEUTDE33XXX

### Vereinsregister:

Amtsgericht Berlin-Charlottenburg, VR 18526 Nz  
**Präsident:**  
Prof. Dr. Andreas Barckow  
**Exekutivdirektor:**  
Prof. Dr. Sven Morich



Firstly, on standards: We believe that one needs to differentiate between setting standards on the one hand and requiring adherence to those and defining scope on the other: Setting standards may be better placed with those that are closer to where the information deficiencies exist and information is being sought. Conversely, public policy seems better placed to address the scope as to who should be subjected to such standards as well as to enforce the quality of those companies' reporting. So, with regard to setting non-financial reporting standards, we believe that market-led approaches are genuinely more suitable in contrast to public policy reporting requirements as the former are tailored more directly to address specific information needs. This would also contribute to avoiding creating compliance exercises and box-ticking approaches (which may also be a valid interpretation of the data yielded by the study mentioned above).

Secondly, we favour pursuing a global approach by considering internationally/globally accepted reporting standards that already exist or are under development. Whilst we concede that differing degrees of willingness to proceed with mandatory non-financial reporting exist around the globe, we do not share the view of those that believe Europe should be first, go regional and create its own non-financial reporting environment. The reporting requirements are primarily targeting companies that are sourcing, selling and doing business beyond Europe's borders; further, the areas to be reported on are not genuinely limited by Europe's territory, either – so what would be the perceived benefit of creating yet another non-financial framework to which only companies domiciled in Europe would be subjected? We admit that a European framework might bring consistency and comparability within that regional area; on the other hand, any regional approach bears the risk of creating competitive disadvantage to European companies vis-à-vis their non-European counterparts who would not be subject to these regional requirements.

In light of these considerations we do see little merit in pursuing option 1. Whilst we admit that the European Commission may revise their non-binding guidelines quickly, we do not believe that the development of guidelines is in line with our two points mentioned above.

Regarding the other options mentioned in the Inception Impact Assessment we think that both options 2 and 3 have merits; however, neither option can appropriately and fully address the issue, which is why we recommend a mix of the two along our preceding comments.