



european corporate governance institute

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Online Policy Workshop

European Commission study by Ernst & Young (EY) on  
**Directors' Duties and Sustainable Corporate Governance**

11, 12, 13 November 2020

The European Commission recently published a [study by Ernst & Young \(EY\) on directors' duties and sustainable corporate governance](#) commissioned in 2019. Studies of this type are usually a stepping stone for policy proposals that will be put forward for consideration by EU Member States and the European Parliament. In the words of the Commission:

*"the Study found a **clear trend of short-termism in the focus of EU companies**. It identified key drivers of this issue, ranging from the narrow interpretation of directors duties and the company's interest with the tendency to favour the short-term maximisation of financial value, through growing pressure from investors and the lack of a strategic perspective on sustainability all the way to the limited enforcement of the directors' duty to act in the long-term interest of company. In order to lengthen the time horizon in corporate decision-making and to promote a corporate governance that is more conducive to sustainability, the Study also identified specific objectives that EU intervention could aim to reach".*

The study identifies **a number of policy options for the European Commission to consider (summarised at pp. 51-60)**, which may deeply impact corporate law and governance across the European Union. Topics include directors' duties, the company's purpose, corporate disclosures, executive compensation, and engagement with stakeholders. The European Commission has conducted a [public consultation](#) on these policy options, that closed on 8 October 2020, and is expected to issue proposals at the beginning of 2021, if not earlier.

ECGI will hold a three-day online policy workshop to discuss the report, the academic literature, and recommendations on the topics referenced in the report.

### Registration

To register, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2TeWP9y>

## 11 November 2020

14:30 – 14:35 **Day 1 | Introduction**

**Luca Enriques** (University of Oxford and ECGI)

14:35 – 15:05 **Presentation of the Report**

15:05 – 15:20 **Break**

15:20 – 15:50 **Keynote Briefing: “What Do Financial Economists Know About Short Termism?”**

**Zacharias Sautner** (Frankfurt School of Finance & Management and ECGI)

15:50 – 16:05 **Part 1 | Responses to the European Commission’s Consultation by ECGI Research Members**

**Wolf-Georg Ringe** (Hamburg University and ECGI) ([Response](#))

16:05 – 16:35 **Discussion**

**John C. Coffee, Jr.** (Columbia Law School and ECGI)

**Oren Sussman** (University of Oxford and ECGI)

16:35 – 16:50 **Q&A**

16:50 – 17:00 **Day 1 | Concluding remarks**

**Marco Becht** (Solvay Brussels School and ECGI)

## 12 November 2020

14:30 – 14:45 **Day 2 | Introduction**

**Luca Enriques** (University of Oxford and ECGI)

14:45 – 15:15 **Part 2 | Responses to the European Commission’s Consultation by ECGI Research Members**

**Paul Davies** (University of Oxford and ECGI) ([Response](#))

**Mark Roe** (Harvard Law School and ECGI); **Holger Spamann** (Harvard Law School and ECGI) ([Response](#))

15:15 – 15:30 **Break**

15:30 – 16:30 **Discussion**

**Jesse Fried** (Harvard Law School and ECGI)

**Jennifer Hill** (Monash University and ECGI)

**Marc Goergen** (IE and ECGI)

**Theo Vermaelen** (INSEAD and ECGI)

16:30 – 16:50 **Q&A**

16:50 – 17:00 **Day 2 | Concluding remarks**

**Marco Becht** (Solvay Brussels School and ECGI)

### 13 November 2020

14:30 – 14:45 **Day 3 | Introduction**

**Lucrezia Reichlin** (London Business School), Chair, ECGI

14:45 – 15:15 **Part 3 | Responses to the European Commission's Consultation by ECGI Research Members**

**Alex Edmans** (London Business School and ECGI) ([Response](#))

**Steen Thomsen** (Copenhagen Business School and ECGI) ([Response](#))

15:15 – 15:30 **Break**

15:30 – 16:30 **Discussion**

**Mariassunta Giannetti** (Stockholm School of Economics and ECGI)

**Amir Licht** (IDC Herzliya and ECGI)

**Rolf Skog** (University of Gothenburg and ECGI)

**Per Strömberg** (Stockholm School of Economics and ECGI)

16:30 – 16:50 **Q&A**

16:50 – 17:00 **Day 3 | Concluding remarks**

**Marco Becht** (Solvay Brussels School and ECGI)

Useful links:

Workshop Registration: <https://bit.ly/2TeWP9y>

EY Report: <https://bit.ly/3jcBBUt>

All Public Responses to the Consultation: <https://bit.ly/3khuNGq>

Submitted Response from Wolf-Georg Ringe: <https://bit.ly/3jhTxgx>

Submitted Response from Paul Davies and Rolf Skog (ECLG group): <https://bit.ly/3dPqY95>

Submitted Response from Mark Roe and Holger Spamann: <https://bit.ly/2TdHRkp>

Submitted Response from Alex Edmans: <https://bit.ly/2TdxBIJ>

Submitted Response from Steen Thomsen: <https://bit.ly/3kfjuyJ> and <https://bit.ly/2Hb9Xui>