External report

CSRD oversight needs continued attention

In short, the CSRD substantially extends the duties of audit committees. Our survey reveals that audit committees have invested in extending their expertise to oversee the new requirements of the CSRD. Double materiality, data collection and reporting are the topics that require most attention and preparation. The survey reveals that CSRD implementation is a challenge that demands the full attention of audit committees. Transparency concerning the choices made during the CSRD implementation is important in informing the stakeholders why information is or is not included in the report. We also call on audit committees to realise that the CSRD learning curve does not end with limited assurance. To promote fair and transparent financial markets, it is important in our view that companies assume their responsibility and continue developing the necessary reporting and control environment to report under the CSRD. Audit committees should also encourage companies to develop methods, obtain reliable data and stay motivated in order to move forward in the development of the CSRD reporting cycle with the ultimate aim of achieving reasonable assurance opinions from auditors. On this basis, we urge the audit committees of the companies required to report under the CSRD in 2025 to make an early start with the CSRD implementation process.

October 2024



Table of Contents

| 1 | intro | duction | 3 | | |
|-----|--|---|----|--|--|
| | 1.1 | Role of the audit committee with respect to the CSRD | 3 | | |
| | 1.2 | Contribute to improving the quality of external reporting | 3 | | |
| | 1.3 | CSRD oversight needs continued attention | 3 | | |
| 2 | Audit committees are preparing to oversee CSRD | | | | |
| | repo | orting | 4 | | |
| | 2.1 | Preparing for the CSRD is on the agenda | 4 | | |
| | 2.2 | Investing in a high level of expertise | 4 | | |
| | 2.3 | Sustainability expertise is key | 5 | | |
| | 2.4 | Audit committees are preparing in several ways | 5 | | |
| | 2.5 | Double materiality, data collection and reporting required the most attention | 6 | | |
| 3 | Challenges to ensure readiness | | | | |
| | 3.1 | Overall audit committees have recognised the need for adequate resources | 7 | | |
| | 3.2 | Increase involvement in CSRD implementation | 7 | | |
| | 3.3 | On average audit committees experience moderate challenges with CRSD implementation | 9 | | |
| 4 | Higher ambition level needed with regard to | | | | |
| | assu | irance | 10 | | |
| | 4.1 | Vast majority of companies select current statutory auditor also for CSRD information | 10 | | |
| | 4.2 | Raising the ambition level with regard to assurance on CSRD information | 11 | | |
| | 4.3 | Various obstacles need to be overcome to obtain reasonable assurance | 12 | | |
| | 4.4 | Topics for further discussion | 13 | | |
| Арр | endix | 1 - Methodology and respondents | 14 | | |
| App | endix | 2 - Survey audit committees CRSD 2024 | 16 | | |

1 Introduction

The implementation of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) marks a new phase in companies' sustainability reporting. The sustainability statement plays a key role in enabling users to make well-informed decisions. Furthermore, it may help companies to identify their own impacts, risks and opportunities and determine their direction in terms of sustainability. Audit committees play an important role in the transition. Therefore, the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM) conducted a survey to investigate how they are preparing for the CSRD. This report gives an overview of how audit committees are preparing for the CSRD, the challenges they face and their role in the assurance process. It offers audit committees valuable insights for the CSRD implementation.

1.1 Role of the audit committee with respect to the CSRD

Audit committees play an important role in sustainability reporting. For companies subject to its requirements, the CSRD gives audit committees an explicit role with regard to sustainability reporting. Under the CSRD, audit committees will have additional responsibilities, including:

- informing the company's administrative or supervisory body on the outcome of the assurance of sustainability reporting,
- explaining how the audit committee contributed to the integrity of sustainability reporting and what the role of the audit committee was in that process,
- monitoring the sustainability reporting process, including the digital reporting process and the process of identifying the information reported according to relevant reporting standards,
- submitting recommendations or proposals to ensure the integrity of the sustainability information,
- monitoring the effectiveness of the company's internal quality control and risk management systems, as well as its internal audit functions,
- monitoring the assurance of annual and consolidated sustainability reporting and reviewing and monitoring the independence of the assurance provider.

1.2 Contributing to improvements in the quality of external reporting

The audit committee and the AFM have a shared interest in contributing to improvements in the quality of external reporting, including sustainability reporting. Our earlier research on CSRD topics was focused on companies. See our reports No time to lose, Transparent net zero targets require courage and Ten waypoints for CSRD – Double Materiality. This year, we conducted a survey to obtain further insights into the role of the audit committee and the CSRD implementation in relation to a range of topics. This report presents the results.

1.3 CSRD oversight needs continued attention

The CSRD implementation requires huge investments in expertise, preparation and discussions with management boards, specialists, and auditors. Our survey shows that audit committees are involved in helping companies to cope with CSRD requirements. Our main conclusions of the survey are:

- Audit committees are preparing to oversee CSRD reporting
 Challenges to ensure readiness
 (3)
- Higher ambition level needed with regard to assurance (4)

The CSRD is a journey for everyone and will require more steps to provide meaningful reporting. Our main conclusions can help audit committees to improve their CSRD reporting. This will be explained in the following chapters.

2 Audit committees are preparing to oversee CSRD reporting

The CSRD substantially extends the duties of audit committees. Preparing for the CSRD is on the agenda and audit committees have invested in extending their expertise to oversee the CSRD. The survey shows that more in-depth knowledge of the CSRD is a key requirement for audit committees, closely followed by financial expertise and data knowledge. Discussions in regular audit committee meetings and company reports on the implementation of the CSRD are considered important to prepare for the CSRD. Double materiality, data collection and reporting are the topics that require most attention and preparation. The AFM feels that these topics are indeed important for the CSRD implementation and encourages audit committees to remain or become involved in the company's process to assess and engage with these topics.

2.1 Preparing for the CSRD is on the agenda

The survey included questions on time spent by the audit committee. Figure 1 gives an overview of the average hours spent per year on the CSRD. On average audit committees spent 200 hours per year on fulfilling their duties, 20% of which was spent on duties relating to the CSRD.

If established, the sustainability committee is also involved in preparing for the CSRD. On average such committees spent 51 hours per year on the CSRD, almost 29% more than audit committees.



Figure 1 Average hours per year spent by audit committees.

2.2 Investing in a high level of expertise

Audit committees invested in obtaining a higher level of expertise to cope with the extended duties placed on them by the CSRD. The responses to the survey show that most audit committees consider that in terms of expertise they are quite well prepared for the CSRD through experience in similar positions, training, and

discussions. The audit committees rated their CSRD expertise at 7.8 out of 10 on average. The audit committees described the available CSRD expertise in the audit committee in a few quotations below:

What audit committees say about: available expertise in their committee

"All AC members have followed permanent education program. ESG has been a topic twice. On top one member is CEO of an investment firm focusing solely on ESG investments. Another member has a consultancy background and is asked to advise the government in complex ESG casus."

"All members have sufficient expertise due to their previous executive background as board members complemented by an extensive in company training program."

"The Chair of the AC, as well as one of the AC members have ample knowledge and experience about ESG, also from their other positions as AC members with other large international organizations."

"Experience in corporations who focus on managing the impact of environmental issues, with special sensitivity on social aspects to their stakeholders, non-financial risk management and in Board of Directors familiar with various international corporate governance regulations."

2.3 Sustainability expertise is key

The competences that audit committees consider important with regard to the CSRD implementation are sustainability/ESG expertise, followed by financial expertise and data knowledge. See Figure 2 for the results.

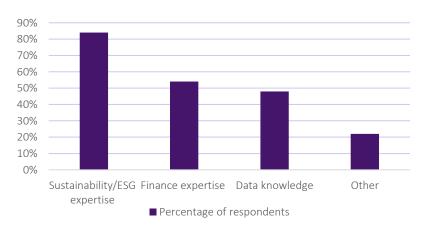


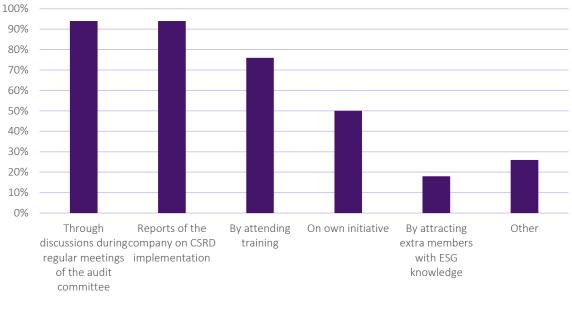
Figure 2 Important competencies audit committee members

The audit committee's expertise in financial reporting enables it to understand and assess the soundness of the methodologies and policies management uses to develop metrics and other sustainability disclosures.

2.4 Audit committees are preparing in several ways

The responses to the survey show that audit committees are preparing in several ways to fulfil their duties with regard to the implementation of the CSRD (Figure 3). The most important tools are discussions during regular meetings of the audit committee and company reports on the CSRD implementation. Attending training is also an important tool.

Figure 3 Means of preparations



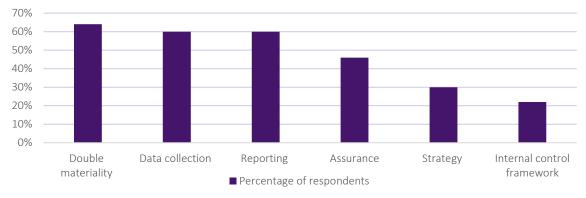
■ Percentage of respondents

2.5 Double materiality, data collection and reporting required the most attention

Although audit committees have to deal with a large number of different topics, depending on how far the companies' CSRD implementation projects have advanced, double materiality, data collection and reporting were the most important topics. See Figure 4 for the results.

The AFM feels that these topics are indeed important for the CSRD implementation and encourages audit committees to remain or become involved in the company's process to assess and engage with these important topics. The survey reveals that the CSRD implementation is a challenge that demands the full attention of audit committees.

Figure 4 Top 3 topics that required most attention from audit committees



3 Challenges to ensure readiness

Our survey revealed that as at mid-2024 the audit committees assessed the status of the CSRD implementation on average, 64%. With only a few months remaining until companies need to report CSRD information the AFM would have expected a higher percentage. While we acknowledge there are diverse challenges, we urge audit committees to increase their involvement in the CSRD implementation. Challenges experienced are related to the complexity of the implementation and technical requirements. In addition, approximately 50% of respondents saw the timeline as a challenge in preparing for sustainability reporting, which underlines the relatively low number of 64% in relation to the status.

3.1 Overall audit committees have recognised the need for adequate resources

An important implication of the CSRD is that there will be a significant resource challenge for companies to be able to report according to the CSRD. The diversity and complexity of the data collected and processed require many new skills. In addition, companies will use external expertise to ensure they have the necessary knowledge and skills. The audit committees also indicated how they are coping with the need for additional internal and external resources and increased expertise to ensure the CSRD implementation. Periodic meetings, assessments and updates on the process are an important source of information. In addition, the external auditor fulfils an important role for a number of audit committees. Respondents mentioned the following points amongst others:

What audit committees say about: adequate resources

"A budget is specifically allocated and in case of additional resources needed the issue is promptly brought to the audit comm. to fill in needs"

"Ensuring that the entity has adequate resources and expertise for the implementation of CSRD is primarily with the executive management. The Audit Committee supervises this and if necessary, challenges management to increase resources. These resources can be both internal as well as external."

"Periodic meetings with the ESG team to (i) delve into the directive requirements (ii) understand its management and identify any critical issues (iii) grasp the nature of the issues to construct solutions, possibly tied to the implementation of new resources."

"The Audit committee has assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of the Company's department leading the process of implementation of CSRD. During the meetings of the Audit Committee the issue has been expressly dealt with confirming such assessment."

"Regular updates from the company's ESG director, including assessment of progress by the external auditor in each audit committee meeting."

3.2 Increase involvement in the CSRD implementation

As companies will be required to report according to the CSRD in 2025, it is important to assess the status of the CSRD implementation. Our survey revealed that on average audit committees assessed the status at 64% in mid-2024. The lowest reported level was 30% and the highest was 100%. Figure 5 shows the assessment per index. The AEX companies seem to be on track with an average of 71%. The companies in the other indices are less advanced.

With only a few months remaining until companies need to report CSRD information the AFM would have expected a higher percentage. While we acknowledge there are diverse challenges (see last paragraph), we urge audit committees to increase their involvement in the CSRD implementation to ensure users can benefit from a sustainability statement compliant with the CSRD.

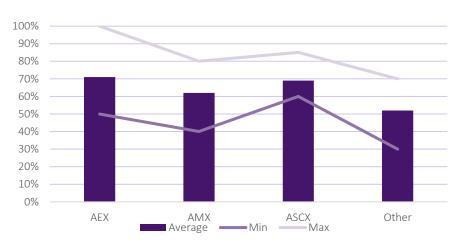


Figure 5 Implementation status per index

The audit committees indicated how they assessed the status of the company's implementation of the CSRD. Overall, discussions with management, the CFO and the auditor, as well as progress reports, are important tools. Some quotations are provided below for more background:

What audit committees say about: how they assess the status of the CSRD implementation

"A focused program with dedicated resources. Integrated into the wider reporting and assurance processes. Regular updates to the Audit Committee and input from the external auditors."

"Double materiality was performed in 2023, reporting requirements were formulated and data proces management and IT support arranged. The auditor has audited the 2023 ESG information with limited assurance but with advice to the AC were it needs to be strengthened."

"Via updates from the Board in Audit Committees meetings, supplemented by feedback from external advisors."

"By update reports in the ARC, having feedback from the external and internal auditor. Asking probing questions and having deep dives on DMA, gaps and progress of the implementation plan"

"Our company is well underway for CSRD implementation though there is still a great amount of effort needed. The company began its preparation for the CSRD readiness in 2022, which was monitored by the Board's ESG Committee, and further defined a detailed roadmap for CSRD implementation in late 2023."

3.3 On average audit committees experience moderate challenges with CRSD implementation

The audit committees are facing many challenges with regard to the implementation of the CSRD. Some audit committees experience strong challenges, whereas others only do so to a slight degree. On average audit committee reported experiencing moderate challenges for the companies to report under the CSRD.

See Figure 6 for challenges experienced by audit committees. These challenges relate to the complexity of the implementation, technical requirements and unclear legal requirements, closely followed by time pressure. On a positive note, it is good that almost all audit committees do not perceive a lack of management support as a challenge, which shows that the CSRD implementation is taken seriously by the companies involved.

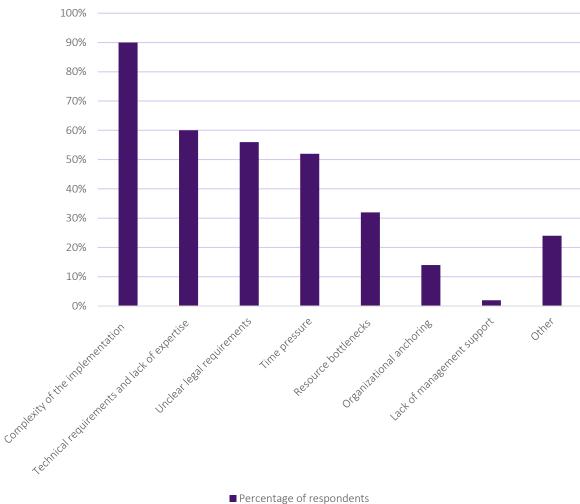


Figure 6. Challenges experienced

The above shows that the challenges will need to be reported on. Transparency concerning the choices made during the CSRD implementation is important in informing the stakeholders why information is or is not included in the report. Transparency does not imply that immaterial values need to be discussed, although if the company is still developing tools to strengthen the data gathering process it will help to inform the stakeholders about the developments and efforts made to enhance the CSRD reporting going forward.

4 Higher ambition level needed with regard to assurance

The survey shows that most companies select the current statutory auditor as the sustainability reporting assurance provider. Integration with the financial audit is a key selection criterion. We note that the CSRD learning curve will not end with limited assurance. While various obstacles need to be overcome, a key point is that the development of the reporting and control environment within the company is needed to increase the reliability of the CSRD information. We call on audit committees to encourage companies to develop methods to increase data reliability with the ultimate aim of achieving reasonable assurance opinions from auditors in the future.

CSRD assurance background

The CSRD takes a laddered approach with regarding to the level of assurance. The assurance level may be limited in 2024. However, after four years the EU can move to require a reasonable assurance level. Under the CSRD the audit committees have a key role in selecting the sustainability reporting assurance provider. In addition, the audit committee will be responsible for monitoring the assurance of sustainability reporting and reviewing and monitoring the independence of the assurance provider.

4.1 Vast majority of companies select current statutory auditor also for CSRD information

Most audit committees are considering selecting the current statutory auditor as the sustainability reporting assurance provider. Integration with the financial audit is the main criterion for the selection of the statutory auditor. A vast majority of 88% have not considered appointing an audit firm other than the firm that performs the statutory audit of financial information. Some of the respondents indicated that sustainability reporting assurance expertise will be a key factor in tendering for a statutory auditor.

See below for some quotations on the selection criteria, which underline that almost all audit committees prefer to select the same audit firm for the financial and sustainability reporting:

What audit committees say about: selection of same audit firm for financial and sustainability reporting

"Competence in the area. Efficient integration with the Financial Audit."

"The same auditors as the financial report have been selected to achieve the highest level of consistency; the financial auditors have a dedicated team for ESG topics with the appropriate expertise in these areas."

"Consistency as we use the same auditor for financial data"

"The auditor for the financial statements will also be the auditor for the CSRD information. Knowledge and expertise of the company, its strategy, reporting systems, internal control framework and audit expertise including in the area of sustainability are the main criteria."

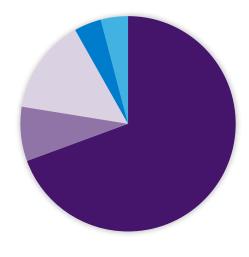
"We had to select and appoint a new auditor for 2025. Part of the selection criteria was their view and expertise on CRSR reporting,"

4.2 Raising the ambition level with regard to assurance on CSRD information

Limited assurance is required for 2024. Our survey reveals that most of the companies are pursuing limited assurance for 2024. Only one company will pursue reasonable assurance. Only a few companies have opted for a combination of limited and reasonable assurance.

As of 2028, the level of assurance will (possibly) be raised to reasonable assurance. As can be seen from Figure 7, the survey indicates that most companies will step up to reasonable assurance when required by law. Roughly one-third of the companies expect a gradual step-up to full reasonable assurance over several years with partly limited and partly reasonable assurance on the CSRD information in the meantime.

Figure 7 Expected timeframe to step up to reasonable assurance



- When required by law
- Starting from the annual report for 2025
- For the annual report for 2026, 2027 or 2028
- After the annual report for 2028
- No timeframe

We note that the CSRD learning curve will not end with limited assurance. While various obstacles need to be overcome to obtain reasonable assurance, we call on audit committees to raise their ambition and plan ahead of the introduction of legal requirements. Even when reasonable assurance is voluntary, the needs of stakeholders, developing reliable data and sound CSRD reporting, should be the key driver to pursue a higher level of assurance. Stakeholders are increasingly asking for reasonable assurance on certain KPI's, enquiring for example, whether the company has considered asking the auditor to provide reasonable assurance on the ESG measures included in the board's remuneration package. We expect such questions from stakeholders to increase in the coming years. To promote fair and transparent financial markets, we believe it is important for companies to assume their responsibility and plan ahead of the introduction of legal requirements.

4.3 Various obstacles need to be overcome to obtain reasonable assurance

Audit committees see various obstacles when it comes to obtaining reasonable assurance. As can be seen from Figure 8, reliable data collection in particular should be improved. An enhancement of the internal control framework is also required to obtain reasonable assurance.

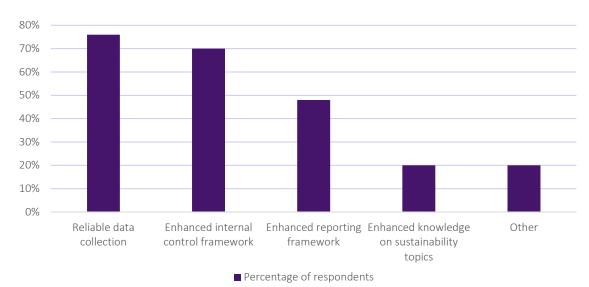


Figure 8 Changes needed to obtain reasonable assurance

Our survey reveals that all audit committee discussed the progress of the CSRD implementation with the auditor. See Figure 9. Topics such as double materiality and the scope of the assurance are high on the agenda for discussions with the auditor.

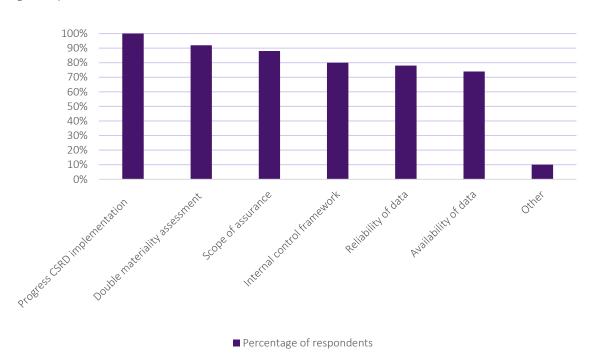


Figure 9 Topics discussed with auditor

4.4 Topics for further discussion

Moving to reasonable sustainability assurance is a learning curve. We advise the audit committee to keep in mind the following topics in that process.

- Enhancement of the internal control framework that will result in reliable data and developing the CSRD reporting in the coming years.
- Implications of assurance providers giving a modified opinion (similar to a qualified audit opinion), for example, when data are not available, or data cannot be tested (because of insufficient quality or granularity). Do you want stakeholders to get used to modified opinions?
- The impact that the level of assurance (limited versus reasonable) might have on stakeholder confidence in the disclosures.
- Are investors and/or other stakeholders requesting reasonable assurance concerning the sustainability reporting? If so, have they indicated full scope or relevant KPI's?
- How is management keeping track of emerging regulatory assurance requirements? Is the company ready for when (reasonable) assurance is required?

We encourage the audit committees of the companies that will be required to report under the CSRD as of 2025 to make an early start with the CSRD implementation process, as many challenges must be faced to be able to report under the CSRD.

Appendix 1 - Methodology and respondents

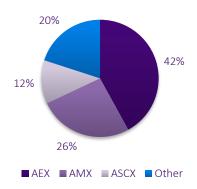
Survey

The number of companies subject to the new reporting requirements will increase substantially from 2024 because of the CSRD. The CSRD and the ESRS will become effective for large public issuers from the 2024 financial year, for other large non-PIEs from the 2025 financial year and for small and medium-sized listed companies from the 2026 financial year. To obtain further insight into the role of the audit committee and the CSRD implementation, we sent a survey to 83 listed companies that will have to prepare the sustainability report required by the CSRD as part of their 2024 management report. See appendix 2 for the questions asked.

Respondents

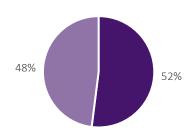
A total of 50 audit committees responded to our survey. See Figure 10 for a breakdown of the responses by stock market index. As can be seen from the figure, the large AEX companies in particular participated actively in our survey.

Figure 10 Listing representation



A large part of the companies which responded to our survey have both an audit committee and a sustainability committee which fulfils some duties with regard to the CSRD (Figure 11).

Figure 11 Committees installed



- Audit committe only
- Both audit committee and sustainability committee

Quotations

The survey consisted of closed and open questions. The objective of the open questions was to obtain more company-specific and qualitative information. The report includes quotations from the open questions to give

some background/company-specific information. Generally, the quotations represent the response of more than one audit committee and are anonymised were necessary.

No assessment of adequacy answers

The information collected with the questionnaires is a summary of the observations and views of the audit committees themselves. We did not assess whether the responses, for example on the assessment of the status, accurately reflect the reality and/or are based on appropriate evaluation and evidence.

No statistical sample taken

We have not performed statistical sampling. Our results are based on the questionnaires voluntarily completed by audit committees. The responses were not equally divided across indices and are therefore not representative of the whole index. Consequently, we cannot draw any conclusions about all companies included in an index.

Appendix 2 - Survey audit committees CRSD 2024

The survey consisted of the following questions:

Explorative thematic review on the CSRD implementation

Welcome to the survey on the CSRD implementation. Your contribution to this survey is of great importance for us to obtain insights. We will report on the outcome of the survey to provide relevant support for audit committees. The key topics of the survey are:

- Composition of the Audit Committee
- Preparation for the Implementation of CSRD
- Current Status of the Implementation of CSRD
- Auditor and Sustainability Reporting
- AFM support.

Composition of the Audit Committee

- 1. What committees does your company have installed? *
 - Audit committee
 - Sustainability/ESG committee
 - o Both, please explain how responsibilities are divided: <open field>
- 2. What is your position in the audit committee of the company? *
 - o Chairman of the audit committee
 - Member of the audit committee
 - o Chairman of the ESG/sustainability committee
 - o Member of the ESG/sustainability committee
- 3. On which part of the Euronext stock exchange is the company listed? *
 - o AEX
 - o AMX
 - o ASCX
 - o Local
 - o Other, namely: <open field>
- 4. How many members does the audit committee consist of? *

<open> members

5. How many members does the sustainability/ESG committee consist of, if installed? <open> members

- 6. How many members of the audit committee participate in the sustainability/ESG Committee, if installed? <open> members
- 7. In general, how many hours does your audit committee spend on average on yearly basis to fulfill their duties? *

<open> -

total hours per year: number of persons * meeting hours + number of persons * preparation hours

8. How many hours does your audit committee spend on average per year to fulfill the duties regarding the CSRD? *

<open>

total hours: number of persons * meeting hours + number of persons * preparation hours

| 9. | If installed, how many hours does the sustainability committee spend on average per year to fulfill the duties regarding the CSRD? <pre><open></open></pre> |
|---------------------|---|
| | total hours: number of persons * meeting hours + number of persons * preparation hours |
| 10. | Can you briefly describe which expertise is available in your audit committee regarding ESG? * <pre><open></open></pre> |
| 11. | To what extent do you feel your audit committee has the necessary knowledge to assess the implementation of the CSRD? * Please select a number, ranking from 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest). |
| | Scale 1-10 |
| Pre | eparation |
| The itse sust | following questions are about how the audit committee and/or sustainability/ESG committee prepared lf for the implementation of CSRD. Should the responsibilities been split between audit committee and tainability/ESG committee, please read sustainability/ESG committee if only is referred to the audit nmittee in the following questions. |
| 12. | How did the audit committee prepare itself to fulfill its duties regarding the implementation of CSRD? Please select the answers that are applicable. * |
| | ☐ Through discussions during regular meetings of the audit committee |
| | □ Reports of the company on CSRD implementation□ On own initiative |
| | □ By attending training |
| | □ By attracting extra members with ESG knowledge |
| | ☐ Other, please explain: <i><open></open></i> |
| 13. | Which of the following topics required the most attention? Please choose the top three topics. * |
| | □ Strategy□ Internal control framework |
| | □ Double materiality |
| | □ Data collection |
| | □ Reporting |
| | □ Assurance |
| | ☐ Other, please explain: <i><open></open></i> |
| 14. | Which competences do you consider important for audit committee members regarding the CSRD? Please select the answers that are applicable. * |
| | ☐ Finance expertise |
| | ☐ Sustainability/ESG expertise |
| | □ Data knowledge |
| | ☐ Other, please explain: <open></open> |
| Cui | rrent Status |
| The | following questions are about the current status of the CSRD implementation. |
| 15. | Please provide your assessment of the current status of the company's implementation of the CSRD. * Provide a number, ranking from 0 (not implemented) to 100 (fully implemented). <entry field=""></entry> |

16. Can you briefly describe how you assessed the current status of the company's implementation of CSRD? *

<large open text field>

| | for the implementation of CSRD? * <large field="" open="" tekst=""></large> |
|-----------------|---|
| 18. | How does the audit committee monitor whether the company is on track with the implementation of CSRD? Please select the answers that are applicable. * Discussion with the CFO Discussion with the Management Board Discussion with the auditor Progress reports Company visits Other, please explain: <open></open> |
| 19. | To what extent do you experience challenges in the execution of the duties as an audit committee member regarding the implementation of CSRD? * 1 None/not at all 2 Slight 3 Moderate 4 Strong 5 Extreme |
| 20. | What challenges has the audit committee experienced regarding the implementation of CSRD? Please select the answers that are applicable. * Complexity of the implementation Lack of management support Organizational anchoring Resource bottlenecks Technical requirements and lack of expertise Time pressure Unclear legal requirements Other, please specify: <open></open> |
| | □ None |
| The | ditor and Sustainability Reporting following questions are about the auditor and sustainability reporting. |
| The | □ None ditor and Sustainability Reporting |
| The 21 . | ditor and Sustainability Reporting following questions are about the auditor and sustainability reporting. Can you describe your main criteria(s) to select the auditor that will be/or is appointed to provide assurance on the CSRD information? * |

| 24. | What anticipated level of assurance on sustainability information has the audit committee agreed with the auditor to pursue to issue for the 2024 reporting? * | | |
|-----|---|--|--|
| | o Reasonable assurance | | |
| | o Limited assurance | | |
| | o Combination of both | | |
| | o No assurance | | |
| 25. | If you expect limited assurance, what is the expected timeframe to step up from limited assurance to reasonable assurance? O When required by law | | |
| | | | |
| | Starting from the annual report for 2025 For the annual report for 2026, 2027 or 2028 | | |
| | o After the annual report for 2028 | | |
| | o Not applicable | | |
| 26. | If you plan to step up to reasonable assurance, what is the expected timeframe? | | |
| | $\circ \text{Full step up from limited in year 202X to reasonable assurance for all CSRD information in year 202x+1}\\$ | | |
| | o Gradual step up partly limited and partly reasonable assurance on CSRD information to a reasonable assurance audit on all CSRD information over several years | | |
| | o Not applicable | | |
| 27. | If you plan to step up to reasonable assurance, what year do you anticipate to completely step up to reasonable assurance? <pre><open></open></pre> | | |
| | | | |
| 28. | What is needed to be able to obtain reasonable assurance on the CSRD information? Please select the answers that are applicable. * | | |
| | □ Enhanced internal control framework | | |
| | ☐ Enhanced reporting framework | | |
| | ☐ Reliable data collection | | |
| | ☐ Enhanced knowledge on sustainability topic | | |
| | ☐ Other, please specify: <open></open> | | |
| AF | M | | |
| The | following question is about how the AFM can support you in your duties regarding the CSRD. | | |
| 29. | In your view, what can the AFM do to support you in the execution of your duties as an audit committee member regarding the upcoming CSRD? Please select the answers that are applicable. * | | |
| | □ Webinar□ Roundtable | | |
| | ☐ Good practice from the AFM | | |
| | □ Opportunity for direct contact | | |
| | □ No support required | | |
| | ☐ Other, please specify: <i><open></open></i> | | |
| | | | |
| 30. | Do you have any additional comments or feedback you would like to share? <pre><open></open></pre> | | |
| 31. | If you have any input or questions and you want to be contacted by the AFM, please leave your contact details below: | | |
| | <pre><open></open></pre> | | |
| Tha | nk you for your participation in this survey. | | |
| | Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets | | |



The Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets

PO Box 11723 | 1001 GS Amsterdam

Telephone

+31 20 797 2000

www.afm.nl

Follow us: →







The AFM is committed to promoting fair and transparent financial markets.

As an independent market conduct authority, we contribute to a sustainable financial system and prosperity in the Netherlands.

The text of this publication has been compiled with care and is informative in nature. No rights may be derived from it. Changes to national and international legislation and regulation may mean that the text is no longer fully up to date when you read it. The Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets is not liable for any consequences - such as losses incurred or lost profits - of any actions taken in connection with this text

© Copyright AFM 2024