

EU Roadmap to BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Session 13: Corporate Governance and Capital Markets

11 May, 10:15-11:35

There is increasing recognition of the connection between corporate governance and human rights, both as an ethical issue and part of business risk management. This session will explore how EU corporate governance can encourage greater respect for human rights and discourage practices which exacerbate the risk of human rights abuses. Speakers will debate what should be expected of boards and investors to ensure adequate oversight for risk management and mitigation.

This session will also explore for business and policy-making to mitigate pressure on companies to focus on short-term financial results, which has been criticized for encouraging short-term thinking and the excessive externalization of costs. It will examine the relationship between companies' long-term success and their ability to consider their purpose, respect for human rights and sustainability in their strategy and decision making.

Speaker biographies



Paige Morrow is Head of Brussels Operations at Frank Bold, where she specialises in corporate governance and company law. Currently she is a visiting law lecturer at the University of Kent (BSIS). Paige is a Canadian-qualified lawyer who advised clients and litigated human rights, employment and commercial law matters for several years at McCarthy Tétrault LLP. She has also held positions at the Centre for the Study of Human Rights at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights and the South African Legal Resources Centre.



Herman Mulder is an institutional adviser, speaker, lecturer and author on sustainable finance issues. He is most notable for being an advocate, expert in international law and has been attributed to be a key player in the development of corporate responsibility, impact investment and the ESG integration. He is currently a chairman of the True Price Foundation, member of the Board of the Dutch National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines for MNEs, co-initiator of the Dutch Global Goals Charter Coalition, former chairman of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and member of the TEEB Advisory Board. A former Director-General, Head of Group Risk Management at ABN AMRO Bank (1998-2006) and Head of Global Structured Finance (1995-1998), Herman Mulder was the initiator of the Equator Principles (2002/2003: the first voluntary, global sector code on environmental and social issues for the financial sector).



Marcello Palazzi. BSc, MSc, MBA. Founder President, Progressio Foundation for Human Progress, Rotterdam. Founder & Board Members, B Lab Europe, Amsterdam. Marcello is a serial entrepreneur for human progress. Following 11 years as co-head of his international family business in environmental technologies from Italy and the UK in the 80s and early 90s starting at age 23, he founded Progressio Foundation at age 31, which has completed 300 projects in 30 countries under his leadership, in pursuit of the 'civic economy', which Palazzi wrote about in 1990 in a pamphlet which has proved prescient, predicting the rise of CSR, sustainability, public-private partnerships, ethical investments and other forms of a more 'integrative' economy and enterprise. Since 2014, Marcello has also been leading the B Corp movement of 'best-for-the-world' companies in continental Europe from Amsterdam.



Jeroen Veldman is Senior Research Fellow at Cass Business School, City University, London. He has previously held appointments at Cardiff Business School and the Utrecht School of Governance, Utrecht University and a visiting professorship at UPMF, Grenoble. His research addresses the historical development of the public limited liability corporate form and how this corporate form currently functions in and between organization studies, management, company law, economics, finance, accounting, politics, and corporate governance. With Hugh Willmott, he is engaged in a research project on corporate governance: <http://themoderncorporation.com>.



Rosl Veltmeijer-Smits is Head of Research at Triodos Bank. After completing her BA in Business Economics, Rosl worked nine years for the Dutch Credit Insurance Company in different departments, from underwriting, to sales, account management and project management. When she left the Credit Insurance Company, Rosl took a sabbatical of nine months to think about work aspirations. During these nine months, she volunteered for a nature conservation foundation in the Netherlands and started reading about sustainability. Rosl started working for Triodos Bank on October 2001 as Sustainability Analyst and is Head of Research since May 2002. She also holds a MA in Social Banking and Social Finance from the University of Plymouth.