

COP21 PRE-CONFERENCE FRENZY

Meaningful global consensus now may be our last chance says director of UN Global Compact

COP21 could be the last chance to achieve meaningful global consensus because we may be at risk of fragmentation soon says Georg Kell, founding executive director of the UN Global Compact. He argues that the [era of global agreements](#) may be coming to an end and the importance of multilateral bodies is declining.

“We have to accept that we live in a fragmenting world,” he says. “The old paradigm, like we had under trade negotiations, for example, where in some blue room decisions were made by two powers and then rolled out globally [is over].”

Will the Volkswagen scandal hurt Europe’s reputation in Paris? Some say the [emissions investigation](#) may weaken the EU’s political

influence at the climate conference in Paris. “This is an issue of reputational damage for Germany and its technology that can create political inconveniences for the EU in Paris,” Matthias Duwe, head of climate research at the Ecologic Institute in Berlin.

A climate change agreement seems even more urgent given a [new U.N. warning](#) that higher temperatures, floods, droughts and rising sea levels linked to climate change are threatening people’s access to food over the long term.

Meanwhile several industries are bracing for impact. The [shipping industry](#), which transports 90 percent of world trade, expects to be hit by some sort of carbon tax – either a levy based on fuel used by ships or a market based mechanism.

And lastly, how timely: Paris declares a [pollution alert](#) a month before climate change conference.

@SICMGMT TWEET OF THE WEEK

 International negotiations don’t “drive” pollution reductions – national policies, technological innovations do that <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/intern>

ESG STANDARDS ABOUND

The [World Federation of Exchanges](#) has developed a series of recommendations to its member exchanges on how to implement their sustainability policies, designed to be implemented by member exchanges on a voluntary basis.

Building on its existing framework, the International Corporate Governance Network

([ICGN](#)), which represents investors with USD 26trn, hopes that its new Global Stewardship Code could be an international “passport” for institutional investors. [READ MORE](#) (*subscription required*)

Of note: SASB has almost completed developing standards [across all industries](#), launching the last set of standards for public comment early next year.

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THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

1,200
mile Keystone XL project’s company (TransCanada) has requested a delay in the review approval.

150
billion US Dollars is the target set by Goldman Sachs for clean energy deals by 2025.

94
percent of companies have a board or senior manager responsible for climate change, according to the [CDP](#).

62
percent of climate change (on average) can be attributed to human activity, according to Australians.

40
billion US Dollars is a forecast for global green bond issuance in 2015.

15
percent of the \$21.1billion of climate finance (2003-2014) has been disbursed.

4.8
trillion barrels of oil equivalent could be the increase in known oil and gas recoverable reserves by using existing technologies.

2
billion Euros is a further provision VW* have announced to deal with the emission scandal.

EXXON MOBILE ACCUSED OF DECEIVING PUBLIC ON CLIMATE RISK

This week over 40 environmental and social justice groups, along with [Al Gore](#), demanded a federal investigation of Exxon Mobil*, accusing the oil giant of misleading the public about the [risks of climate change](#) to protect its profits.

In a letter to Attorney General Loretta Lynch, the groups suggested that “Exxon Mobil might be guilty of the same kind of fraud that the tobacco

companies were found to have perpetrated when they hid the risks of smoking. Those violations ultimately cost the companies tens of billions of dollars in penalties.”

The Justice department is reviewing the letter from the advocacy groups, but had no additional comment on it.

DID YOU SEE...?

TransCanada suspended its request for a permit to build the Keystone XL pipeline. Is this a win for environmentalists? Or are they dodging a near certain rejection in hopes that after the 2016 election the company may have a better chance?

[READ MORE](#)

UPDATE: BIG PHARMA FIGHTS BACK

The OECD recently [warned](#) that high drug prices are putting a strain on national health budgets. But big pharma has fought back, with one major company arguing that the drug price debate fails to take into account the years of [R&D risks](#) that the company bears. [READ MORE](#)

FOUNDATIONS ALIGN THEIR OBJECTIVES

The issues capturing today’s headlines: Climate change, inequality and a broken criminal justice system are also the [target](#) of some of the nation’s largest philanthropies.

“There is something new going on as the levels of wealth coming into the nonprofit sector grow, as the aspiration to see actual change in the world continues to grow, people are beginning to focus on these big bets.”

– William Foster, head of consulting at the Bridgespan Group, which works with philanthropies.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Global warming has been called many things, but never “a contraceptive”! A new study shows that when it’s hotter than 80 degrees F, let’s just say a large decline in births follows within 10 months. [READ MORE](#)

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