

INTERNAT'L WOMEN'S DAY HIGHLIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES TO CLOSE GENDER GAP

More women advancing to senior management roles, but slowly; Still lack of women on boards

Hilary Clinton, a likely candidate for president in 2016, recalled a keynote speech she gave at a UN conference in 1995 this week during an introduction to a [new report](#) entitled "No Ceilings". The report concludes: "There has never been a better time to be born female... But change has been far too slow when it comes to women's security, economic opportunity and leadership."

Meanwhile, Glass Lewis recently published "[Mind the Gap: Board Diversity in 2014](#)" finding that while women are advancing to executive positions at top corporations, there is still a lack of women on boards.

Case in point: it does not appear that the UK will hit its target of women holding a quarter of FTSE 100 [board directorships](#) before May's election. In early March, women accounted for 23.5 percent of board memberships in the UK's largest listed companies.

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UK PENSION PLAN ENACTS ESG 'COMPLY OR EXPLAIN' FOR MANAGERS

Trustees representing €490bn developed the guidelines

The UK's pension trustee body, The Association of Member Nominated Trustees ([AMNT](#)), announced that it will implement a "red line" voting initiative for their fund managers regarding [ESG voting](#) at companies. "For each red line there will be a proposed voting action (short of divestment) in relation to a company crossing them," the trustees explained.

Earlier this year several pensions in the UK released the [Guide to Responsible Investment Reporting in Public Equity](#), which also includes guidance on reporting.

[AMNT](#) is a not-for-profit organization which launched in 2010. It supports member-nominated trustees, member-nominated directors and employee representatives at private and public sector pension funds.

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

10

the factor by which the green bond market has grown over the last three years from £3.1bn to 36.9bn.

13%

the percentage by which per person spending by US commercial health plans jumped in 2014, the most since 2003

40%

the percentage by which the EU will cut emissions by 2030, compared to 1990.

71%

of individual investors are interested in sustainable investing according to Morgan Stanley's new [report](#), Sustainable Signals: The Individual Investor Perspective

100-150

the number of cases of Ebola being reported per week for the last 8 weeks

REWARDING LONG TERM SHAREHOLDERS IN THE EU

EU's Shareholder Rights Directive would force member states to reward long-term shareholders

The European Parliament is considering two amendments to the EU Shareholder Rights Directive that would require the EU's 28 member states to reward long-term shareholders with either enhanced dividends, additional voting rights, or tax incentives.

One of the aims of the directive is to "improve corporate governance and ensure a 'correct and sustainable' executive remuneration policy."

Some find that additional voting rights, such as double voting rights, undermine corporate governance. The chairman of Proxinvest, a Paris-based proxy voting agency, calls the practice "a gimmick ensuring the main shareholder a disproportionate weight".

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WE'RE KEEPING AN EYE ON...

Solar powered planes

Drones are getting all the attention these days. But we're paying attention to the first [solar powered plane](#), which took off from Abu Dhabi this week, marking the start of the first attempt to fly around the world.

NORWAY BETS THAT CURBING GHGs ABROAD WILL BE CHEAPER THAN AT HOME

European Nations are expected to cut greenhouse gases (GHGs) significantly by 2030. Norway currently expects its own [greenhouse gas levels](#) to be about the same in 15 years, so will meet its 40 percent reduction goal by paying for cutting GHGs abroad.

"Carbon trading can speed up the global transition away from a fossil economy," said Jens Froelich Holte, a political adviser at the Norwegian ministry for climate and environment. "Trade creates benefits and this is as true for carbon as it is for other commodities," he noted.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Is Delhi's government trying to hide or alter data on air quality? It appears residents will not be able to access information about air quality in real time without government approval.

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