

## *12 professional commitments to the companies & other issuers we rate*

### Our role

Vigeo Eiris helps investors and asset managers make informed investment decisions and meet their fiduciary duties towards the ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) risks and performance of issuers such as companies, local authorities and states that seek finance from regulated markets.

We provide professional research and rating services on issuers' sustainability commitments and the impacts of their activities on society and the environment.

By collecting and qualifying information disclosed by and about these issuers systematically, we measure their willingness

and capacity to integrate normative and material ESG factors into their strategies and operations, and to account for their impacts and performance.

We provide comprehensive analysis and meaningful indicators to assess an issuers' current and future capacity to create value and protect and enhance their strategic assets, including human capital, operational efficiency, organisational effectiveness, legal security, their capacity for innovation, the protection and development of their brand and reputation, and social contribution and acceptability.

### Our responsibilities

We position ourselves impartially between issuer and investor interests. We proactively collect information from multiple sources, and use an unbiased process based on a clear methodology which includes forward-looking metrics to assess the ESG performance, impacts and risks of the issuers we rate.

We understand the importance of our stewardship as an independent ESG research provider and see it as our duty to collect the most accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date information available from issuers and their stakeholders.

We analyse this information diligently using a rigorous process so that asset owners and managers can make fully informed decisions.

To acknowledge our responsibilities, we make the following 12 professional commitments to the companies and other issuers that we rate.

### Contact us

Contact your analyst directly through our dedicated issuer platform, VE Connect <https://veconnect.vigeo.com/login.html> or reach us at [rating.services@vigeo-eiris.com](mailto:rating.services@vigeo-eiris.com)

# 12 commitments to the companies & other issuers that we rate:

1. Our methodology, analyses and ratings are independent of any interest or influence group, business relationship or role in our capital structure.
2. We apply our methodology equally and consistently to all rated issuers and during all stages of the rating process. We separate solicited and unsolicited rating analysis and exclude all forms of consulting from our rating activities.
3. We will not use language or express any opinions that would be detrimental to the dignity of any person.
4. We do not publish lists of worst performers, and we base our methodology and analysis on authoritative international principles rather than any other political, religious or philosophical stance. We work with index providers, corporate responsibility initiatives and other clients who may make public their own assessments of companies which made use of our research, but we would not provide our research or analysis to be used by a third party for the purpose of creating a public campaign against an issuer, territory or brand.
5. All company and local authority issuers within our universe, will receive two months' advance notice that we are rating them, including full access to our methodology, its evolutions over time and the specific process and timeframe of their rating. They will also receive technical support in using our platform to communicate with us.
6. All issuers are assigned a dedicated research manager to oversee their rating, and have continuous access to their analyst to whom they can ask questions, provide documents, and explain their viewpoints on the relevance of our assessment standards in the spirit of the 'comply or explain' principle.
7. All issuers have the right to choose not to interact with Vigeo Eiris. Our assessment of their performance will then be made in good faith on the basis of publicly available information.
8. All issuers are entitled to receive a high-level overview of their rating in a manner which respects our intellectual property rights: we will provide our main contact point at each issuer with free access to their final rating scores. However, we will charge fees if an issuer wishes to use, refer to or disseminate their rating report more widely internally, or for any external purpose, either in part or in full.
9. We guarantee issuers the right to appeal their rating at three levels: firstly, to the analyst, then to our methodology department, and subsequently to our Scientific Committee. Issuers are encouraged to report any behaviour they believe to be a breach of our Code of Conduct to our Compliance Officer.
10. Vigeo Eiris does not sign confidentiality agreements with issuers for its unsolicited ratings, and does not request, collect or use information that an issuer would deem non-disclosable, or which is confidential or sensitive to all or some of its stakeholders. Issuers have the right to inform their analyst if they provide us with interim, incomplete or partly confidential data or indicators whose use or dissemination should be limited.
11. We are aware of the demands issuers face in terms of reporting, and therefore base our questions and information requests on authoritative global initiatives that define corporate reporting requirements wherever possible.
12. We commit to responding to any question from individual issuers, as well as engaging with other stakeholders such as associations that represent issuers, with a view to continuously improving our methods and rating process.