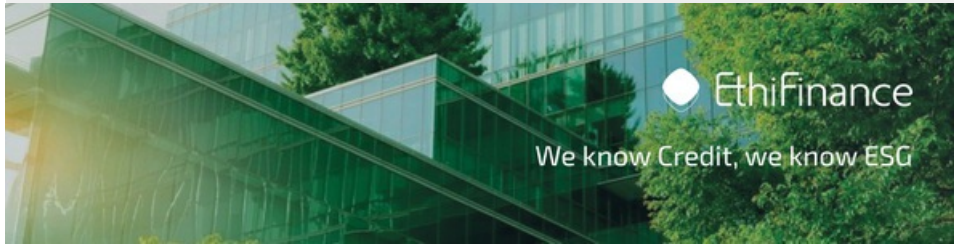


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**Press release**

**Tuesday 04 February 2025**

EthiFinance's Solicited Sustainability Rating (SSR): A new ESG rating tool to provide companies and their stakeholders with clear and pragmatic insights.

*In today's rapidly evolving ESG landscape, EthiFinance, a strong advocate of sustainable finance, has developed its new SSR — an innovative solution that combines ESG strategy with clarity and simplicity.*

### **A powerful tool to manage sustainability performance**

The SSR encompasses all dimensions of ESG—Governance, Environment, Human Resources, and External Stakeholders—assessing them not only through policies and objectives but also by evaluating concrete actions and achieved performance.

Its approach is based on three pillars:

- **A methodology in line with the double materiality approach**

Aligned with the European ESG vision, EthiFinance's methodology is built on a double materiality analysis, considering both the impact of social, societal, and environmental factors on companies and their own impact on society and the environment.

- **An adjusted sector rating**

Applied across close to 40 sectors and sub-sectors, the double materiality analysis allows to adjust the weighting of each ESG issue based on its relevance to the sector and to select tailored measurement indicators accordingly.

- **A granular and qualitative approach**

With over 200 measurement indicators as well as in-depth management interviews on key issues, challenges, and strategic impacts, the SSR delivers a rating that truly reflects each company's reality. The outcome is more than just a score, but a detailed and differentiating analysis that gives comprehensive insights into the company's sustainability performance.

### **A robust methodology deployed by pan-European teams**

Since its creation in 2004, EthiFinance has been assessing the sustainability performance of European companies (with over 2,300 companies rated annually), which allows for a robust sectoral comparison with industry peers.

Its [SSR methodology](#) is based on the following key principles:

- **A preliminary sector double materiality analysis**, using a proprietary methodology aligned with EFRAG principles.

- **A selection of qualitative and quantitative indicators**, over 80% of which align with CSRD requirements. Some indicators are common across all sectors, while others are tailored to each sector's specific characteristics.

- **ESG controversies are taken into account** based on international reference texts, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of the International Labour Organization. Depending on their severity, these controversies can negatively impact the final rating.

- **The positive impact of the product and service portfolios of the rated companies is assessed** using an in-house methodology aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Depending on the proportion of contributing activities, a bonus may be applied.

**The SSR is implemented across the EthiFinance group by a team of European analysts** fluent in around ten languages, facilitating communication with companies and ensuring a deep understanding of the challenges they face.

*"True to its convictions, EthiFinance is proud to contribute to the development of effective sustainable finance in Europe with this new in-depth sustainability rating tool, while also preparing for the imminent regulation of the ESG rating agency market,"* says Julia Haake, Director of EthiFinance ESG Ratings.

## About Ethifinance

Headquartered in Paris, with more than 160 employees in Paris, Lyon, Madrid, Granada and Hanover, Ethifinance is a pioneer in ESG rating, with more than 20 years' experience. The company supports more than 400 clients through its credit and ESG rating, research and advisory services, helping them to meet the challenges of an ever-changing economic, financial and regulatory environment.

True to its values and longstanding dedication to serving mid-sized companies, Ethifinance offers a unique and independent European approach to ESG and credit analysis.



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