

# WPK aktuell

## Mitgliederinformation

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### **Update Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung und -prüfung in der EU – Was kommt auf den Berufsstand zu?**

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WP/StB Gerhard Ziegler, Präsident der Wirtschaftsprüferkammer, Berlin

WP/StB Georg Lanfermann, Präsident des DRSC, Berlin

Berlin, 1. April 2022

# Übersicht

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1. Vorbemerkungen
2. Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung und –prüfung in der EU
3. Fragerunde
4. Ausblick



## 1. Vorbemerkungen (1)

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Der **European Green Deal** hat das Ziel, Europa zum ersten klimaneutralen Kontinent zu machen.

Dafür sollen die **Umweltziele der EU** umgesetzt werden:

1. Klimaschutz
2. Anpassung an den Klimawandel
3. Wasser- und Meeresressourcen
4. Kreislaufwirtschaft
5. Umweltverschmutzung
6. Biologische Vielfalt und Ökosysteme



## 1. Vorbemerkungen (2)

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Der Green Deal umfasst eine Reihe von Maßnahmen, unter anderem zur Förderung **nachhaltiger Finanzierung**.

Wesentliche Pfeiler sind:

**EU Taxonomie-Verordnung**

**Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)**

## 1. Vorbemerkungen (3)

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Die CSRD wird die Berichtspflicht in Deutschland von 500 auf rund **15.000 Unternehmen** ausweiten.

Sie sieht zudem die **inhaltliche Prüfung** der Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung vor.

Wir als Berufsstand der Wirtschaftsprüfer und vereidigten Buchprüfer werden mit unserer Expertise **stark eingebunden** sein, die Qualität der Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung sicherzustellen.



## **2. Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung und -prüfung in der EU**

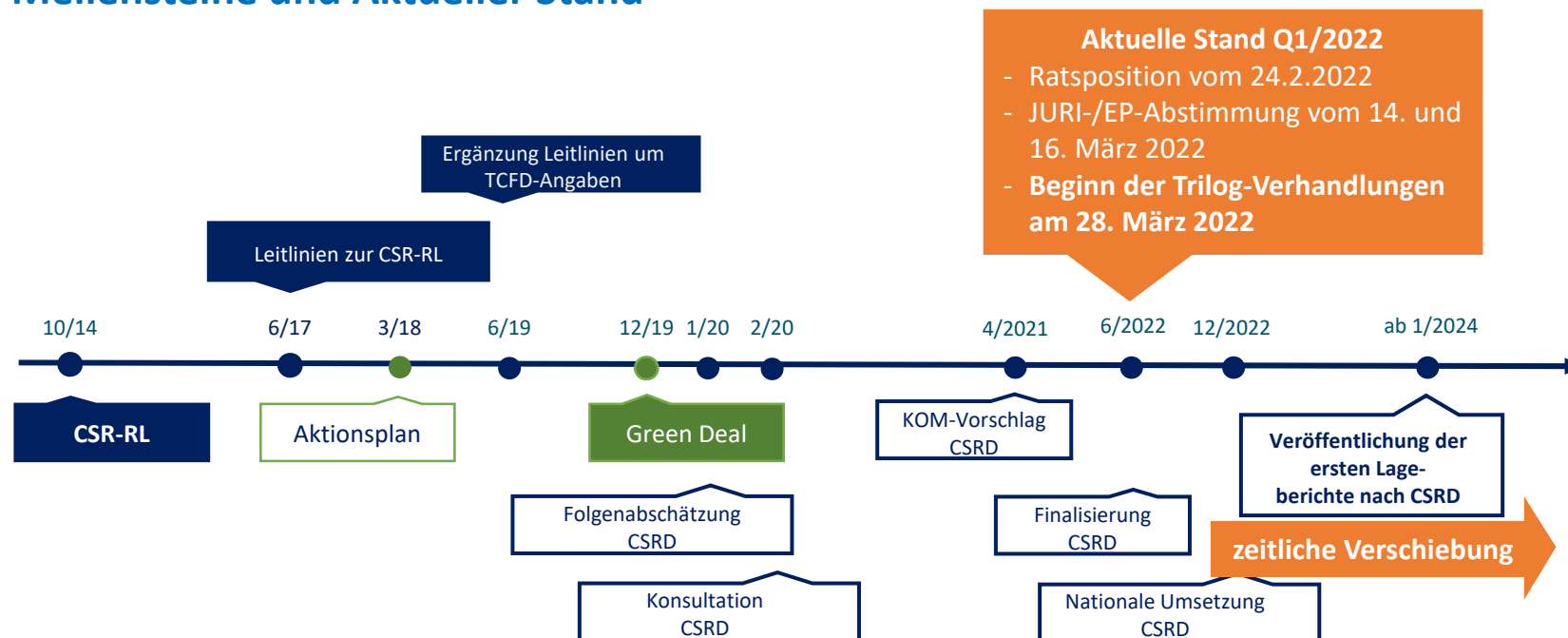
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WP/StB Georg Lanfermann, Präsident des DRSC, Berlin

# EU-Regulierung der Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung



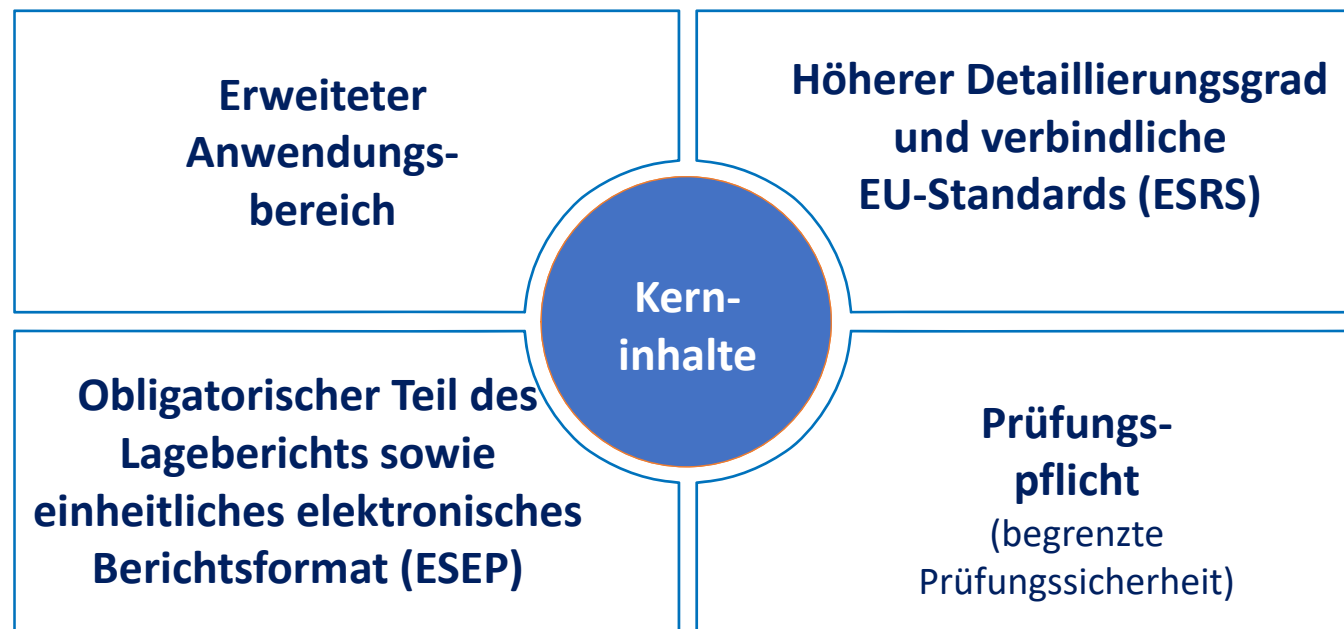
## Meilensteine und Aktueller Stand



# Künftig neue Rechtslage durch CSRD



## Hohes Ambitionsniveau

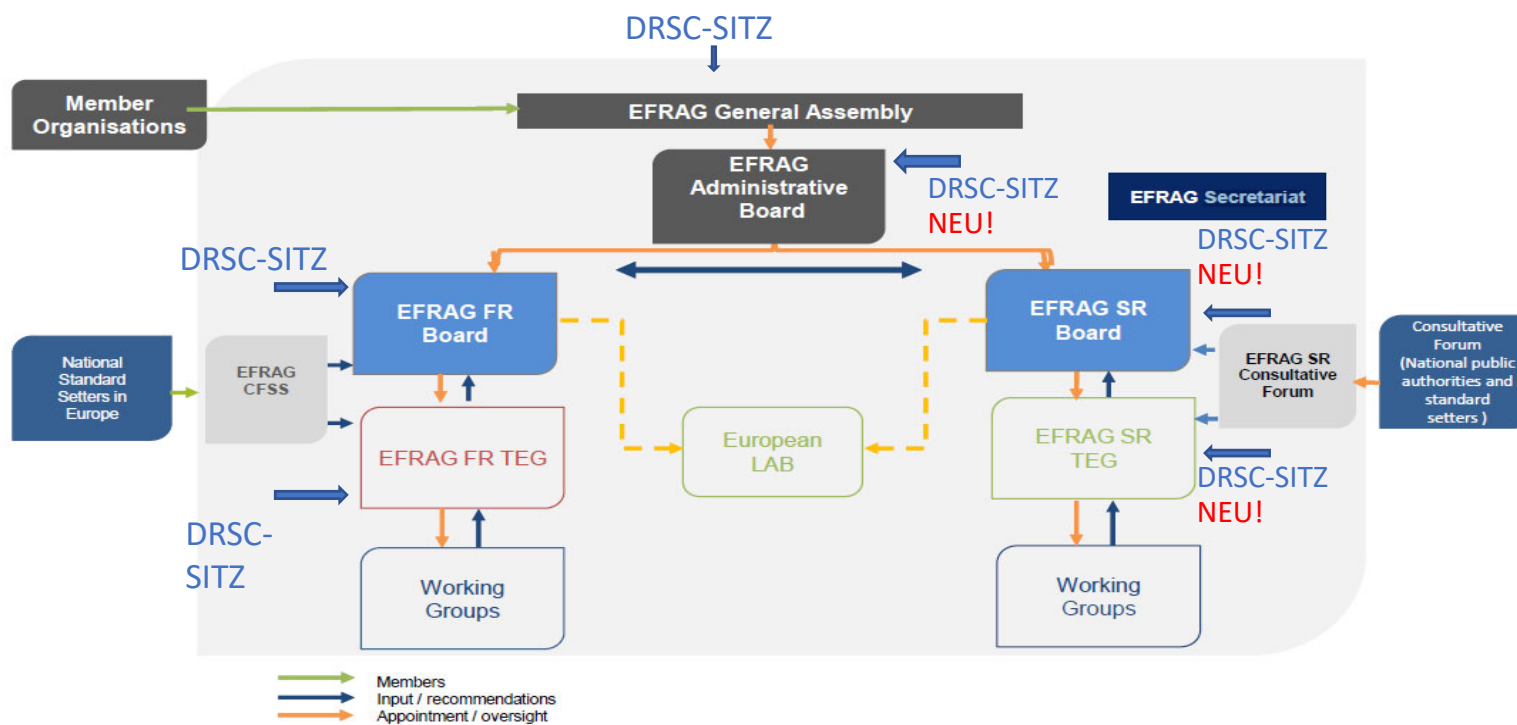




# Entwicklung der ESRS durch EFRAG



## EFRAG – Neue Struktur



Source: Final Report on the ad personam mandate on Potential Need for Changes to the Governance and Funding of EFRAG, p. 17

# Aufbau der ESRS

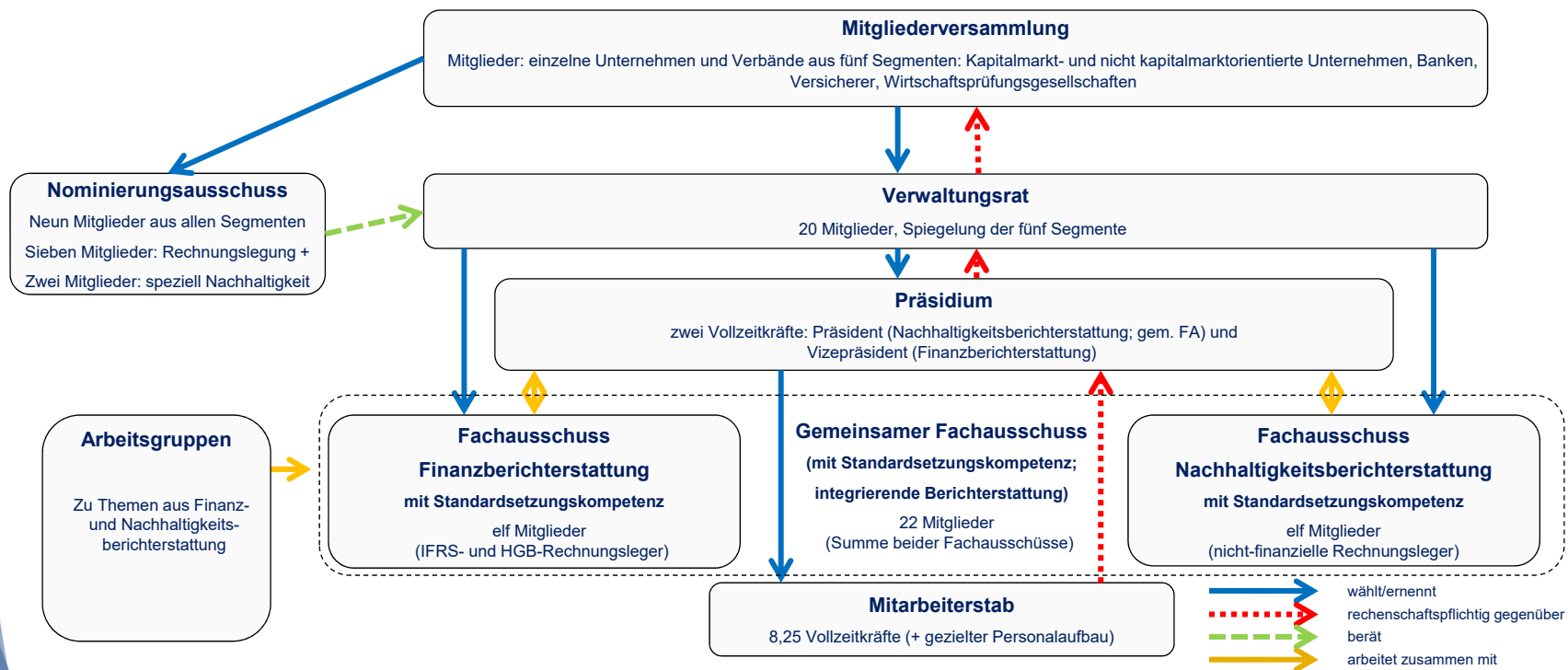


Strategy, governance, impacts, risks, opportunities	Environment	Social	Governance	SECTOR-SPECIFIC STANDARDS		PRESENTATION
				Classification	ESG sector-specific disclosures	
<b>ESRS 1</b> General provisions	<b>ESRS E1</b> Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)	<b>ESRS S1</b> Own workforce – general	<b>ESRS G1</b> Governance, risk management and internal control	<b>ESRS SEC1</b> Sector classification		<b>ESRS P1</b> Sustainability statements
<b>ESRS 2</b> Strategy and business model	<b>ESRS E2</b> Pollution	<b>ESRS S2</b> Own workforce – working conditions	<b>ESRS G2</b> Products and services, management and quality of relationships with business partners			
<b>ESRS 3</b> Sustainability governance and organisation	<b>ESRS E3</b> Water & marine resources	<b>ESRS S3</b> Own workforce – equal opportunities	<b>ESRS G3</b> Responsible business practices			
<b>ESRS 4</b> Sustainability impacts, risks and opportunities	<b>ESRS E4</b> Biodiversity & ecosystems	<b>ESRS S4</b> Own workforce – other work-related rights				
<b>ESRS 5</b> Definitions for policies, targets, action plans and resources	<b>ESRS E5</b> Circular economy	<b>ESRS S5</b> Workers in the value chain				
		<b>ESRS S6</b> Affected communities				
		<b>ESRS S7</b> Consumers/ End-users				
CONCEPTUAL GUIDELINES						
<b>ESRG 1</b> Double materiality	<b>ESRG 2</b> Characteristics of information quality	<b>ESRG 3</b> Time horizons	<b>ESRG 4</b> Boundaries and levels of reporting	<b>ESRG 5</b> EU and international alignment	<b>ESRG 6</b> Connectivity	

# Auswirkungen auf das DRSC



## Neue Struktur des Vereins



# Aktivitäten des DRSC



## Stellungnahmen und Veröffentlichungen in Bezug auf die Entwicklung von ESRS

**Critical Success Factors for EFRAG Standard Setting**

Deutsches Rechnungslegungs Standards Committee e.V.  
Accounting Standards Committee of Germany

**Critical success factors for EFRAG standard setting in the area of sustainability reporting**  
29 November 2021

The Administrative Board of the Accounting Standards Committee of Germany (DRSC) has repeatedly welcomed the aspirations of the European Union to become a world leader in sustainability reporting. According to the European Commission's proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), EFRAG will play an important role in elaborating detailed standards in this area. Such new role requires a significantly adapted structure for EFRAG which needs to be underpinned by the commitments of relevant stakeholders, in particular national standards setters. This restructuring effort led by its president Jean-Paul Gauzes is now well advanced. Today, the Administrative Board has formally approved the participation of DRSC in the sustainability reporting pillar of EFRAG and the respective financial contribution to support EFRAG's work in this area as one of the large national standard setters in the European Union. At the occasion of this important decision, the Administrative Board would like to accompany this commitment to the new EFRAG structure with key advice regarding critical success factors for standard setting in the area of sustainability reporting. Ideally, these success factors should already be entrenched into the final CSRD legislation to provide binding guidance to EFRAG.

- EFRAG should be ambitious in tackling pressing issues, in particular the climate crisis, but not all ESG issues may bear equal weight in terms of urgency. In light of the EU Green Deal, there is no doubt that in order to achieve the European climate objectives, effective reporting on climate-related issues which caters in a concise manner to the information needs of stakeholders is absolutely necessary. Other areas, e.g. to what extent and how to report on intangibles from a sustainability perspective under the CSRD, will need more time to develop meaningful reporting concepts. In the meantime, EFRAG should also be careful in setting up new initiatives in the area of financial reporting, as companies need to cope with the sustainability reporting challenges. Further clarity on prioritisation on ESG reporting issues should be provided by the Co-legislators during the legislative process.
- EFRAG should address the specific information needs of European stakeholders, particularly in the context of EU sustainable finance regulation. The EU sustainable

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**Initial Reaction Batch 1**

Deutsches Rechnungslegungs Standards Committee e.V.  
Accounting Standards Committee of Germany

**Initial Reaction of the ASCG on the Working Papers of EFRAG's Project Task Force on European Sustainability Reporting Standards (PTF-ESRS)**

The European Commission (COM), in the letter dated 12 May 2021, has asked EFRAG to develop draft sustainability reporting standards consistent with the requirements set out in the CSRD proposal of 21 April 2021. On 20 January 2022 EFRAG's Project Task Force on European Sustainability Reporting Standards (PTF-ESRS) has published the first batch of Working Papers (WP).

We would like to express our gratitude for the substantial work that the PTF-ESRS has accomplished, and we acknowledge the achievement of developing the WP on conceptual guidelines, cross-cutting issues, and climate-change in a short period of time. We appreciate this work of many experts as an important step towards high-quality, widely accepted ESRS. In the Cover Note the PTF-ESRS lays out that the WP provide information on the conceptual thinking adopted in the draft standards. While we acknowledge that it is a work-in-progress document we appreciate that EFRAG ensures transparency and would like to share our initial observations regarding the conceptual basis and the direction the proposals are taken. Due to the timeline restrictions, which imply handing over the first set of draft standards to the COM by 15 June 2022, we believe it to be essential to address these observations in a timely manner.

In general, we would like to confirm our key messages regarding sustainability reporting standards as proposed in the CSRD which were laid out in our [guidance](#) of "critical success factors" for future EFRAG standard setting in the area of sustainability reporting of 29 November 2021. We identified critical aspects such as the need for prioritisation of reporting topics, consideration of a "global baseline" and proportionality of reporting requirements. An analysis of the first batch shows these observations are still valid.

**GLOBAL BASELINE:** ESRS need a clear international orientation and compatibility

The consideration of a global baseline in our view remains one of the crucial issues. Sustainability matters address global concerns. Therefore, it is necessary that EFRAG follows a global baseline approach with special consideration paid to the current work by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB). While ESRS follows a double materiality approach and need to consider requirements specific to the EU (e.g. Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation), the ESRS's requirements should nevertheless aim at being compatible with ISSB's global baseline. The ESRS should then highlight and justify necessary extensions. This building-block-approach will allow for a level-playing field for preparers, comparability, and decision-usefulness of sustainability information, as well as acceptance of ESRS worldwide. We therefore encourage EFRAG to lay out the analysis on compatibility and include for comment its conclusion regarding the compatibility with ongoing work on ISSB's standards in terms of substance as well as terminology.

In this context we have noted that the Basis for conclusions of the WP on climate change (ESRS E1) already addresses compatibility of ESRS E1 and the Technical Readiness Working Group (TRWG) Climate-related Disclosures Prototype. We observe that the PTF-ESRS has flagged as "compatible" almost all of the requirements proposed in ESRS E1; however, it should be noted that these are much more granular and numerous compared to the TRWG paper. A compatible reporting approach should keep additional or more granular requirements at a necessary minimum.

**Call for an Integrated Reporting Option**

Deutsches Rechnungslegungs Standards Committee e.V.  
Accounting Standards Committee of Germany

**Towards better Sustainability Reporting – Call for an Integrated Reporting Option –**

The European Commission's (COM) proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) of 21 April 2022 marks an important step in implementing the European Green Deal and to reach the Sustainability Development Goals. The Green Deal's sustainable finance actions aim at channelling investments towards sustainable activities and enabling stakeholders to evaluate the activities of an entity regarding sustainability. As a result of the actions taken market participants now expect entities to integrate sustainability considerations in their corporate management, including risk management and to provide meaningful ESG performance information which connects to the financial position of the entity. The current Accounting Directive, however, not yet promotes an integrative approach as Member States may allow entities to publish non-financial information separately from the management report. In its CSRD proposal (recital (50)) the COM inter alia points out that separate reports hinder the availability of information that connects financial and information on sustainability matters. It also hinders the findability and accessibility of information for users, especially investors, who are interested in both financial and sustainability information.

Many entities have been enhancing their approach on sustainability for years. Entities have worked on considering sustainability matters throughout their organisation by, for example, establishing a sustainability strategy, integrating it in their corporate governance structures and operational decisions, and, ~~and~~ by reporting on sustainability matters in detail and in reference to financial information. While many entities are still working on developing and establishing these processes, they have found that the connection of financial and sustainability information is most valuable not only for their stakeholders but also for the entities themselves. Entities have found that integrating sustainability information in the management report instead of separate reporting has raised the awareness for sustainability matters within the entities. This facilitated the integration of sustainability matters throughout the organisation, while at the same time increasing the visibility externally. Essentially, integrating sustainability considerations in the entity's structure and operations allows for the most efficient way to achieve the goals set out in the European policy.

Consistent with this integrative approach the COM emphasized the importance of connecting sustainability and financial information and proposes to require entities to disclose financial as well as sustainability information within the management report. The COM (recital (45)) also points out that reporting standards should promote a more integrated view of all the information published by entities in the management report to provide users of that information with a better understanding of the development, performance, position, and impact of the entities.

While we acknowledge that there are still numerous entities that do not prepare integrated reports, we believe that an integrated reporting is a logical consequence of integrating sustainability matters at an organizational and operational level of the entity. It is the fair presentation of the structures implemented; the structures which are deemed most appropriate for reaching

# Verpflichtende Prüfung



**Ansatz CSRD: Starke Bezugnahme auf Regulierungsrahmen Abschlussprüfung;  
Mitgliedstaatenwahlrecht für Zulassung weiterer Assurance Service Provider;  
Aus- und Weiterbildungserfordernisse für Prüfer**

## Prüfungsgegenstand

- Compliance der Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung mit Art. 19b B-RL (Standards)
- Prozess zur Identifikation der gem. der Standards berichteten Information
- Etikettierung gem. Art 19d B-RL
- Taxonomie-Quoten (Umsatz, CapEx, OpEx)

## Prüfungsniveau

- **Limited assurance**
- **Reasonable assurance** vorbehaltlich der Festlegung spezifischer Prüfungsstandards durch die KOM (del. Rechtsakte)

# Umsetzungsfristen



## Zeitliche Verschiebungen

### Kommissionsentwurf

- Umsetzung durch Unternehmen
  - 1. Januar 2023 für große Unternehmen (Berichterstattung im Jahr 2024 über die Daten von 2023)
  - 1. Januar 2026 für börsennotierte KMU
- Übergang zur hinreichenden Prüfungssicherheit:
  - Bericht zur Umsetzung der Prüfungsanforderungen 3 Jahre nach Inkrafttreten, ggf. mit strengeren Legislativvorschlägen
  - In Abhängigkeit der Annahme von Standards für die hinreichende Prüfungssicherheit durch die KOM

### Ratsposition

- Umsetzung durch Unternehmen
  - 1. Januar 2024 für Unternehmen, die bereits der NFRD unterliegen (Berichterstattung im Jahr 2025 über die Daten von 2024)
  - 1. Januar 2025 für große Unternehmen, die derzeit nicht der NFRD unterliegen
  - 1. Januar 2026 für börsennotierte KMU sowie kleine und nicht komplexe Kreditinstitute und firmeneigene Versicherungsunternehmen
- Übergang zur hinreichenden Prüfungssicherheit: sechs Jahre nach Inkrafttreten

### EP/JURI-Abstimmung

- Umsetzung durch Unternehmen
  - 1. Januar 2024 für große Unternehmen (Berichterstattung im Jahr 2025 über die Daten von 2024)
- Erlass von Prüfungsstandards
  - für begrenzte Prüfungssicherheit bis zum 1. Oktober 2023 und
  - für hinreichende Prüfungssicherheit bis zum 1. Januar 2026

**Zeitliche Verschiebung der Erstanwendung um ein Jahr sowie konkretere Vorgaben zum Übergang auf eine Prüfung mit hinreichender Prüfungssicherheit absehbar**



## **WP/StB Dipl.-Kfm. Georg Lanfermann**

Präsident des DRSC



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## 3. Fragerunde

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## 4. Ausblick

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**Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit.**

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