Dirección General de la Economía Social, del Trabajo Autónomo y de la Responsabilidad Social de las Empresas

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE SUSTAINEBLE ECONOMY LAW

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SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY LAW

The importance of the Law for promoting CSR in Spain

Articles 1 and 2 of the Law

Purpose of the Law

To introduce into the legal system, structural reforms necessary to create conditions conducive to sustainable economic development

Sustainable Economy

A pattern of growth combining economic, social and environmental development within the framework of a productive and competitive economy that promotes quality employment, equal opportunities and social cohesion and ensures respect for the environment and the rational use of natural resources, so as to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Commitment to transparency

Listed companies shall increase transparency in the remuneration of their directors and senior executives as well as in their pay policies (art. 27)

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CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Chapter VI of the Law

Promotion of corporate social responsibility (Article 39)

With the aim of providing incentives for companies, organizations and institutions, both public and private, especially small- and medium-sized enterprises and sole proprietorships, to integrate and develop corporate social responsibility policies



Shall continue promoting social responsibility by spreading relevant information and existing best practices and encouraging the study and analysis of the impact of social responsibility policies on business competitiveness.

MINISTERIO DE TRABAJO E INMIGRACIÓN

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE EMPLEO

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In particular, the Government shall put at their disposal a set of characteristics and indicators for self-assessment in the area of social responsibility as well as standard forms and reference materials for reporting purposes -all this in accordance with international standards on this subject.

OBJETIVES

- Transparency in management
- Good corporate governance
- Commitment to local and environmental issues
- Respect for human rights
- Improvement in labour relations
- •Promotion of the integration of women into society and real gender equality
- Equal opportunities and universal accessibility for disabled people
- Sustainable consumption

All this in accordance with recommendations made in this respect by the State Council for CSR.



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Public limited companies shall be able to disclose their performance and results in the field of **CSR** through annual reports based on the objectives, characteristics, indicators and international standards referred to above. These specific reports shall have to include information about whether they have been verified by third parties.

In the case of **public** limited companies with more that 1,000 employees these annual CSR reports shall be submitted to the State Council for CSR, which will allow adequate monitoring of the degree of the implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility policies at large Spanish companies.

Any company shall be able to apply voluntarily for recognition as a socially responsible company in accordance with the conditions determined by the State Council for CSR.

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The Government shall provide the resources necessary to enable the State Council for CSR to fully carry out its functions

Another objective consists in developing a legal framework for the spread of information on the use of social, environmental and good governance criteria for pension fund investment policies.

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Sustainability in the management of public sector companies (Art.35)

Public sector commercial enterprises run by the Central Government shall adapt, within one year after the Law comes into force, their strategic plans in order to:

- a) Submit annual **corporate governance and sustainability reports** in accordance with generally accepted standards, with special focus on real gender equality and full integration of disabled people into society.
- b) Encourage the adoption of the principles and practices of **corporate social responsibility by their suppliers**, particularly with regard to the promotion of women, real gender equality and full integration of disabled people into society, with special emphasis on compliance with clauses of art.38.1 of Law 13/1982, of April 7, on Social Integration of Disabled People.

The departments and bodies running public sector company groups shall draw up, taking into account the contents of companies' strategic plans, **a group sustainability plan** establishing support, reinforcement and coordination measures complementary to companies' initiatives and defining the mechanisms for the monitoring and control of the sustainability objectives targeted by the group.