Risk Blog

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The ECB puts time pressure on banks regarding climate and environmental risks

Results of the 2022 thematic review on climate and environmental risks



On the 2nd November 2022, the European Central Bank (ECB) published the results of its 2022 thematic review on climate-related and environmental (C&E) risks. The review covered a total of 186 banks, of which 107 significant institutions (SIs), and assessed their progress with implementing the ECB expectations set out in the Guide on climate-related and environmental (C&E) risks. Together with the review results, the ECB also published a compendium of 26 good practices observed from 25 different institutions, with the aim of fostering the adoption of leading C&E approaches.

In comparison to the first C&E assessment conducted in spring 2021, this year's thematic review involved a more judgmental evaluation of C&E risk policies and procedures, especially with regard to their integration in governance, strategy and risk management frameworks. In light of the still unsatisfactory progresses, the ECB tightened the tone and revealed three staggered deadlines under which all significant institutions are expected to progressively meet all expectations by the end of 2024, at latest. An overview about some major findings and about the expected deadlines is provided in the figure below. For more detailed insights, please consult our dedicated article on PwC Plus.

ECB 2022 thematic Overview of the Results	e review on	climate and	l environmental risks
About 85% of the institutions have at least basic C&E risk practices.		96% of the institutes have blind spots in the identification of C&E risks. Several dimensions need improved coverage: risk drivers, geographies, key sectors and time horizons.	
More than 25 shortcomings per institute were identified, on average.		For about nine out of ten institutions, C&E risk information is not sufficiently granular or forward-looking to enable appropriate risk quantification and strategic planning.	
The ECB expects all significant	institutions to m	eet all C&E Expecta	tions by the end of 2024, at latest.
By March 2023	By the	end of 2023	By the end of 2024
Comprehensive categorization of C&E risks.	Inclusion of C&E risks in strategy, governance and risk management.		Integration of C&E risks in ICAAP and stress testing framework.
 Full materiality assessment of C&E risks on the bank's activities. 		eworks for credit,	Full alignment with all remaining supervisory expectations

The regulator emphasized that the progress of banks along these deadlines will be closely monitored and integrated in the SREP cycle. PwC supports banks integrating ESG regulatory requirements and developing C&E practices across a wide scope, such as ESG strategy definition, materiality assessment, stress testing and the structured extension of the data and modeling capabilities in risk management. Do you have questions? Do not hesitate and contact us.

Keywords

Climate Change, ESG, Sustainability Risk, Sustainable Finance (SF)

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