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## **Benelux companies report high quality climate change data however considerable room for improvement remains**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Carbon Disclosure Project Benelux 150 Report 2012**

**Amsterdam, 13 November 2012.**

In 2012 Benelux companies report high quality information regarding their greenhouse gas emissions and climate change strategies, however considerable room for improvement remains. These are the findings resulting from a year of research by CDP Europe based on questionnaires filled out by the major Benelux listed companies. This data is collected in the first “Carbon Disclosure Project Benelux 150 Report 2012” published today by CDP and PWC. According to this report the potential for companies’ participation is considerable and should be exploited.

150 Benelux companies were requested to report their emissions, strategies, risks and opportunities regarding climate change to CDP Europe; 57 companies responded (38%). The new report on “Integrating climate change into business strategy” reveals that the quality level of Benelux responses is high, with an average disclosure score of 68 (out of 100), which is just behind the average global 500 score of 76.

*“While the scores in the region are high, the participation rate needs improvement. The high scores could be explained by the fact that mostly large multinational corporations responded to CDP, and these companies at the same time often achieve above average scores.”* says Steven Tebbe, Managing Director of CDP Europe.

#### **Climate change is “scoring high” for Benelux companies**

Benelux companies perceive climate change as a relevant issue and are making efforts to disclose detailed information about their climate change management. Over 70% of respondents disclose their total scope 1 (direct) and 2 (indirect) greenhouse gas emissions in the various countries in which they operate. Regarding scope 3 emissions, more than half of Benelux respondents are making efforts to calculate these emissions along their supply chain.

Air pollution limits, carbon taxes, a cap and trade system and product efficiency requirements are the main risk drivers perceived by Benelux companies. By implementing these measures, governments motivate companies in the Benelux region to take action towards more sustainable business practices.

As the European Commissioner for the Environment, Dr Janez Potočnik stated: *“We need to move from a short-term to a more long-term vision that will help us see that there is a clear link between resource efficiency and increased profitability, and improve on both”*

In anticipation of further regulation and changes in consumer behavior, most responding Benelux companies (82%) are taking positive action and have already implemented activities leading to emission reductions.

#### **Still significant room for improvement**

Once the economy recovers, a challenge companies will have to face is how to meet carbon reduction targets. Only 20% of companies have managed to quantify the carbon saving potential related to overall reduction activities.

In order to limit global temperature rise to 2°C by 2050, an average decrease of more than 4% in carbon emissions is required annually. The average long-term target of Benelux companies of around 2°C falls short of what is necessary to tackle climate change.

The increased pressure from investors and other stakeholders for transparency and sustainability challenges Benelux companies to incorporate climate change management and strategy into their day-to-day operations and clearly communicating their key performance indicators.

Benelux companies identify regulatory measures as the main driver related to climate change. However, only a minority of companies are addressing these risks by taking a proactive approach to influence policymakers.

### Standing out from the crowd

Companies with the most comprehensive responses to CDP qualify for the Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index (CDLI), which acknowledges outstanding quality and transparency about emissions, management, strategies and climate change related activities. The minimum score threshold to enter the 2012 Benelux CDLI was 79 out of 100 points. Philips leads the CDLI with a score of 98, followed by Koninklijke KPN N.V. with a score of 94.

Koninklijke KPN N.V. was the only company in Benelux to achieve a performance score high enough to enter the Carbon Performance Leadership Index (CPLI), which acknowledges leading companies for their performance on climate issues.

*“We are delighted to see that Benelux companies are taking initiatives to move towards a more sustainable business model. Encouraging steps have been taken. However, more courageous action is required, in order to meet the emissions reduction target set by the European Commission for 2020 and our planets needs. We must improve participation rates and climate performance (target setting) of companies in the region”,* says Steven Tebbe, Managing Director CDP Europe.

*“Almost 50% of the Benelux companies have implemented emission reduction activities with an outcome of a decrease in scope 1 and 2 emissions. The question is to what extent emission reduction is tied to economic growth. How will companies meet their carbon reduction targets once the economy recovers? There is still a long way to go”,* says Hans Schoolderman, PwC Partner Sustainability Services.

**Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index (CDLI)**

Company Name	Sector	Disclosure score	Performance band
Philips Electronics	Consumer Discretionary	98	A -
Koninklijke KPN NV	Telecommunication Services	94	A
ING Group	Financials	93	B
Logica	Information Technology	93	B
Royal BAM Group	Industrials	93	B
GDF Suez	Utilities	92	C
Air France - KLM	Industrials	91	B
Royal Dutch Shell	Energy	89	B
Heineken	Consumer Staples	88	B
Reed Elsevier	Consumer Discretionary	88	B
Arcelor Mittal	Materials	85	C
Akzo Nobel	Materials	83	C
Delhaize Group	Consumer Staples	83	D
Solvay	Materials	81	B
Anheuser Busch InBev	Consumer Staples	79	B
Belgacom	Telecommunications Services	79	B
Unibail-Rodamco	Financials	79	B

**Note to Editors****About CDP**

The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) is an international, not-for-profit organisation providing the only global system for companies and cities to measure, disclose, manage and share vital environmental information. CDP harnesses the power of market forces, including 655 institutional investors with assets of US\$78 trillion, to collect information from companies on their greenhouse gas emissions and assessment of climate change and water risk and opportunity. CDP now holds the largest collection globally of primary climate change and water data and puts these insights at the heart of strategic business, investment and policy decisions. Please visit [www.cdproject.net](http://www.cdproject.net) to find out more.

**About PwC**

PwC firms provide industry-focused assurance, tax and advisory services to enhance value for their clients. More than 161,000 people in 154 countries in firms across the PwC network share their thinking, experience and solutions to develop fresh perspectives and practical advice. PwC's sustainability and climate change is a global network of 700 people. PwC are a leading adviser on sustainability, climate change and green growth working with clients in the public, private and not for profit sectors internationally, helping them to embed sustainability in their strategies and throughout their organisations. For more information, visit <http://www.pwc.nl/nl/sustainability>.

**About ING**

ING is a global financial institution of Dutch origin, offering banking, investments, life insurance and retirement services to meet the needs of a broad customer base. Going forward, we will concentrate on our position as an international retail, direct and commercial bank, while creating an optimal base for an independent future for our insurance and investment management operations.

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