

# **PROXY VOTING REPORT**

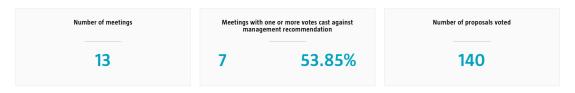
Summary Robeco | 01.07.2024 - 30.09.2024

# Content

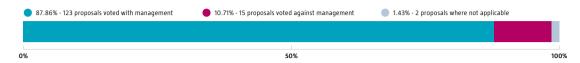
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#### **Voting Report**

# **Portfolio Statistics**



#### Voting Activities by Management Recommendation



#### Voting Activities by Vote Decision

	% Proposals voted	# Proposals voted
• For	90.71%	127
Against	9.29%	13



#### **Voting Activities by Region**

		% at least one	% proposals voted based on management recommendation			
Region	# meetings voted	vote against management	# proposals voted	With	50%	Against
Europe	5	60.00%	78	92.11%		7.89%
Asia ex-Japan	5	40.00%	23	82.61%		17.39%
North America	1	100.00%	18	77.78%		22.22%
Japan	1	0.00%	16	100.00%		0.00%
Oceania	1	100.00%	5	80.00%		20.00%

#### **Voting Activities by Sector**

		% at least one	/ at least one		% proposals voted based on management recommendation		
Sector	# meetings voted	vote against management	# proposals voted	With	50%	Against	
Consumer Discretionary	3	66.67%	68	92.54%		7.46%	
Materials	2	50.00%	25	95.83%		4.17%	
Consumer Staples	2	50.00%	19	78.95%		21.05%	
Financials	2	50.00%	6	83.33%		16.67%	
Communication Services	1	100.00%	12	75.00%		25.00%	
Real Estate	1	100.00%	7	85.71%		14.29%	
Information Technology	1	0.00%	2	100.00%		0.00%	
Energy	1	0.00%	1	100.00%		0.00%	

#### **Voting Report**

#### Voting Activities by Proposal Type

# proposals of this type

18

86

4

16

3

100.00%

0.00%

Proposal type

Audit/Financials

Board Related

Compensation

Mergers & Acquisitions

Meeting Administration

SHP: Environment

Capital Management

Changes to Company Statutes

# With 50% Against 100.00% 0.00% 91.86% 8.14% 100.00% 0.00% 66.67% 33.33% 86.67% 13.33% 100.00% 0.00%

0.00%

100.00%

## **General Highlights**

#### Say on Sustainability: is it an effective tool?

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the main forum for engagement between companies and their shareholders. For companies and their boards, it's a platform to communicate their performance, vision and strategy and build investor confidence. For shareholders, it's an opportunity to use their rights and make their voice heard by voting on key matters such as director elections, the auditor's appointment and executive remuneration.

In recent years, the nature of engagement between companies and their investors has changed and shifted in focus. An increasing part of the dialogue – both before, during, as well as after the AGM – is focused on sustainability performance and how well the company manages material environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities. Yet, most AGM agendas seem disconnected from this new reality, as they fail to include a key item – a resolution to approve the company's sustainability reporting.

#### The state of play

Investors are facing regulations that increasingly require ESG factors are integrated into investment and stewardship decisions, as well as in their reporting to clients and beneficiaries. Concurrently, other stakeholder groups such as customers, suppliers, non-governmental organizations and civil society have an increasing interest in non-financial information.

Against this backdrop, many jurisdictions have adopted mandatory requirements for companies to report sustainability information. For example, companies subject to the European Union's Corporate Reporting Sustainability Directive (CSRD) will have to soon file information according to European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS).

Despite these developments, giving shareholders a vote on the company's ESG reporting remains an exception rather than the rule. We see this in Spain, where large companies have been required to include proposals to approve their 'non-financial' reporting on the agenda of their AGMs since 2019. More recently, Swiss listed companies were for the first time required to submit their 'non-financial' reporting for shareholder approval in 2024. Looking beyond these exceptions, however, most AGM agendas include no item to approve the company's sustainability report.

#### The case for change

Today, it is commonplace for shareholders to have a separate vote on a company's remuneration approach via the 'Say on Pay' proposal. This has been a helpful tool to promote accountability for remuneration policies and practices. Some companies have even moved to include 'Say on Climate' proposals on their agendas in recent years to gauge investor views on their climate strategy. This has served to increase transparency and strengthen accountability with respect to companies' climate transition plans.

So, if that's the case – why then do we need a vote on the sustainability report?

For one, companies and boards bear responsibility to shareholders for their sustainability performance in the same way as they do for their financial performance. A 'Say on Sustainability' vote would have the same effect as a 'Say on Pay' proposal — it would promote more accountability and greater transparency.

In the absence of a 'Say on Sustainability' proposal, shareholders are left with the option of signaling dissatisfaction with the sustainability strategy and performance by voting against the (re)election of directors or other agenda items deemed appropriate given the nature of the concern. This is the approach that we follow at Robeco to signal concerns on our priority sustainable investing topics – climate, biodiversity and human rights. But the 'appropriate' agenda item may differ according to each investor's policies, which often makes vote outcomes more difficult to interpret for companies.

Having a 'Say on Sustainability' proposal would ensure that investors are able to convey their views on the company's sustainability strategy to the board and management through a clear For or Against vote. It would bring more clarity to the oftentimes heated debates that engulf AGMs – something not only shareholders but also companies need.

## **Appendix**

#### Reading guide

This report provides insights into how voting rights have been exercised over the relevant reporting period for the portfolio(s) in scope. The portfolio statistics show for how many shareholder meetings we made use of our voting rights and how many agenda items we voted at those meetings.

The section on voting activities by management recommendation provides details on how many agenda items we supported or opposed in line with management voting recommendations. In the remaining sections of the portfolio statistics further insights are provided on regions, sectors and the most common shareholder meeting agenda items (proposal types).

The section on 'General Highlights' describes the most relevant trends in corporate governance and other AGM relevant developments over the given reporting period. Trends and developments relevant to specific markets are described under 'Market Highlights'. Finally, the section 'Company Highlights' provides insight into specific shareholder meetings. These include the most relevant meetings due to either the degree of difficulty of assessment, novelty of issue, degree of stakeholder attention, or illustration of the implementation of our policy.

#### Proxy voting guidelines and approach

Robeco encourages good governance and sustainable corporate practices, which contribute to long-term shareholder value creation. Proxy voting is part of Robeco's Active Ownership approach. Robeco has adopted written procedures reasonably designed to ensure that we vote proxies in the best interests of our clients. The Robeco policy on corporate governance relies on the internationally accepted International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN) Global Governance Principles. The proxy voting policy is the standard policy for all Robeco investment funds. For discretionary mandates Robeco may implement a client's own proxy voting policy.

As a shareholder, Robeco is co-owner of many companies and has a right to vote on shareholder meetings for those companies. We use our voting rights with the aim to influence companies' corporate governance and other relevant investment related decisions in the best interest of our clients. In line with our commitments to clients, our aim is to support our investment thesis, promote better governance practices and encourage companies to adopt solid sustainability practices on material topics.

The Robeco voting policy consists of principles, guidance and example scenarios to assist in determining our voting instructions. Broadly, Robeco votes against management recommendations in case of poor corporate governance practices, when proposals are not in the best interests of long-term shareholders and on any other proposal that is out of line with our policy principles. As these Voting Guidelines form part of our Stewardship Approach and Guidelines, they are publicly available on our website at <a href="https://www.robeco.com/files/docm/docu-stewardship-approach-and-guidelines.pdf">https://www.robeco.com/files/docm/docu-stewardship-approach-and-guidelines.pdf</a>.

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