

ESG NEWS BULLETIN

October, 2025

Generali Asset Management's ESG team present a summary of macro trends and the most significant industry news worldwide.

MACRO TRENDS

- In Europe, decarbonization efforts are slowing despite long term climate commitments as EU energy firms prioritize hydrocarbons over renewables, driven by higher oil prices, energy security concerns, and low returns from renewables.
- In the US, the new Trump presidency has rolled back several climate regulations and commitments while boosting fossil fuel production. Companies remain focused on reducing the carbon intensity of their operations rather than transitioning business models, reflecting their belief in the enduring importance of oil and gas. In the efforts to scale back the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), offshore wind projects have been negatively impacted by the new administration. The IRA provides substantial incentives for investments in clean molecules, CCS, and hydrogen, outweighing the focus on renewable electrification.
- Globally, the recent trend in reciprocal tariffs could slow down the adoption of low-carbon solutions. As countries prioritize domestic industries, global cooperation on climate initiatives may weaken, making it harder to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Global supply chains allowed to reduce costs and increase accessibility for renewable energy. Innovations such as solar PV, battery storage systems, and offshore wind turbines have benefited from globalized R&D collaboration, economies of scale, and diversified manufacturing bases.

In the news this month



REGULATION

- **EU Ratings Regulation** - ESMA publishes final technical standards for EU ESG ratings regulation, easing disclosure re-quirements and introducing principles-based conflict of interest rules, pending European Commission adoption. [Responsible Investor](#)
- **Omnibus Package** - The European Parliament rejects a compromise on the Commission's Omnibus I initiative to scale back sustainability reporting and due diligence rules, prolonging regulatory uncertainty and delaying negotiations with the Council. [ESG Today](#)
- **ISO Biodiversity Standard** - ISO launches new biodiversity standard designed to help companies assess and manage their biodiversity impacts, dependencies, risks, and opportunities. [ESG Today](#)



EXTERNAL REPORTS

- **Ember** – Solar and wind outpaced demand growth in the first half of 2025 as renewables overtook coal's share in the global electricity mix. [Ember](#)
- **IEA** - IEA 2025 annual report on Renewables projects a record 4,600 GW renewable capacity surge from 2025 to 2030, driven by solar and wind, making renewables the dominant source of electricity worldwide. [IEA](#)
- **Morningstar** - \$55B outflows from sustainable funds in Q3, largely due to UK pension reallocation to custom ESG mandates. [Morningstar](#)



CORPORATE

- **Alphabet** (Interactive Media & Services | US) - Google faces a record \$236 billion consumer claim after landmark privacy ruling, signaling heightened global scrutiny of Big Tech's data practices. [Reuters](#)
- **Apple** (Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals | US) - Apple faces antitrust complaint in China over App Store monopoly and restrictive payment practices. [Forbes](#)
- **Bank of America** (Banks | US) and others
 - Bank of America and other major U.S. banks face lawsuit for allegedly supporting Jeffrey Epstein's sex trafficking ring in the U.S. [Forbes](#)
 - Bank of America to pay USD 250 million for allegedly charging customers double fees and other issues. [The Bulletin Time](#)
- **BNP Paribas** (Banks | FR) - U.S. jury rules BNP Paribas aided Sudanese regime in financing atrocities, setting precedent for corporate liability in human rights abuses. [Reuters](#)
- **Citibank** (Banks | US) - The U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has anticipated the end of its oversight of Citibank's discrimination case set to last until 2028, sparking criticism over weakened enforcement. [Reuters](#)
- **HSBC** (Banks | GB) - HSBC to take \$1.1 billion charge after Luxembourg court rules it could be liable for investor claims linked to the Madoff Ponzi scheme. [Reuters](#)
- **Johnson & Johnson** (Pharmaceuticals | US) - Johnson & Johnson faces first UK group lawsuit seeking over £1 billion in damages over claims its talc-based baby powder caused cancer, marking Britain's largest product liability case. [Reuters](#)
- **Shell** (Integrated Oil & Gas | GB) - Shell faces landmark lawsuit in Nigeria seeking \$12 billion cleanup and compensation for decades of oil contamination in the Niger Delta, challenging its planned asset divestment. [Energy News](#)
- **TotalEnergies** (Integrated Oil & Gas | FR) - TotalEnergies and Veolia form strategic partnership to accelerate energy transition and circular economy through joint projects in methane reduction, wastewater reuse, and renewable energy. [ESG Today](#)



SOVEREIGN

EU:

- The US and Qatar warn EU member states that the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive could trigger serious trade and energy supply repercussion. [ESG News](#)
- The European Commission moves to ease compliance under the EU Deforestation Regulation by exempting many small businesses and retailers in low-risk countries from due diligence requirements, while maintaining core obligations for large companies. [ESG News](#)
- The European Commission will propose by year-end a reform package to strengthen the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism by closing loopholes, extending the levy to assembled goods, and introducing export credits for EU industries. [The Economic Times](#)



UK - The UK Government will regulate ESG ratings providers under the Financial Conduct Authority starting June 2028, requiring authorization and compliance with transparency and governance standards to enhance market integrity. [ESG Today](#)



US:

- The U.S. Federal Reserve, FDIC, and OCC withdraw climate risk management principles for large banks, citing redundancy with existing standards and shifting focus away from climate-specific guidelines. [ESG News](#)
- The International Maritime Organization has delayed adoption of its Net-Zero Framework for shipping emissions after U.S. threats of retaliatory measures, postponing global decarbonization plans by one year. [ESG News](#)

THE ESG TEAM AT GENERALI ASSET MANAGEMENT

Our ESG team is comprised of 15 specialists who sit at the intersection of ESG analysis and research, and active engagement.

The team is structured around two key pillars – analytical coverage of ESG risks and opportunities from an investment point of view, and a tailor-made client service, designed to respond to investor needs and sustainability mandates.

This dual focus allows the team to integrate ESG factors at every stage of decision-making, translating thematic research, engagement inputs and quantitative filters into concrete investment actions.

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