



## News Release

London, Tuesday 27 May 2008

### **Leaders and laggards – FTSE100 snapshot shows mixed performance on corporate social responsibility**

#### **- Responsible investment drives improvements in corporate social responsibility**

Global responsible investment specialists EIRIS today released research charting the progress FTSE100 companies have made on key environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues over the last five years.

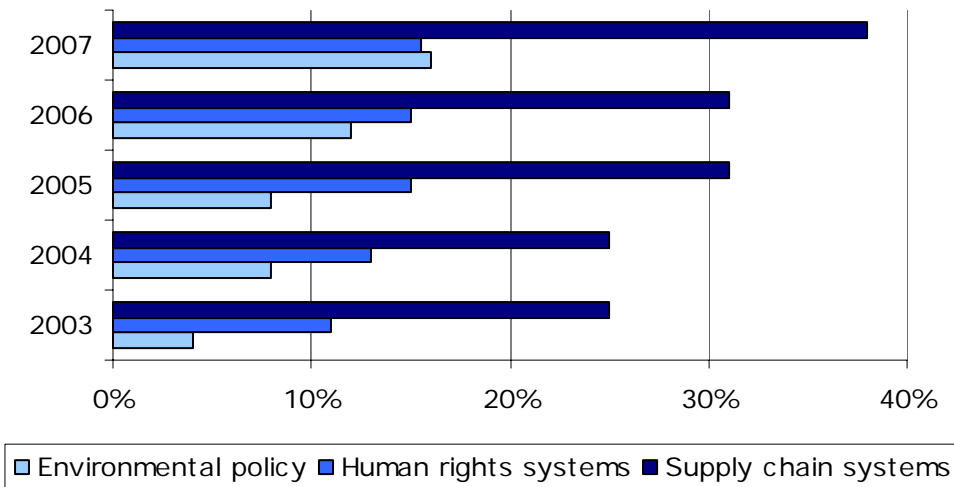
Launched to mark the UK's first ever National Ethical Investment Week, *FTSE100 snapshot: Trends in ESG performance* highlights the key role responsible investors can play in encouraging some of the world's biggest companies to improve their corporate social responsibility practices.

Key findings include:

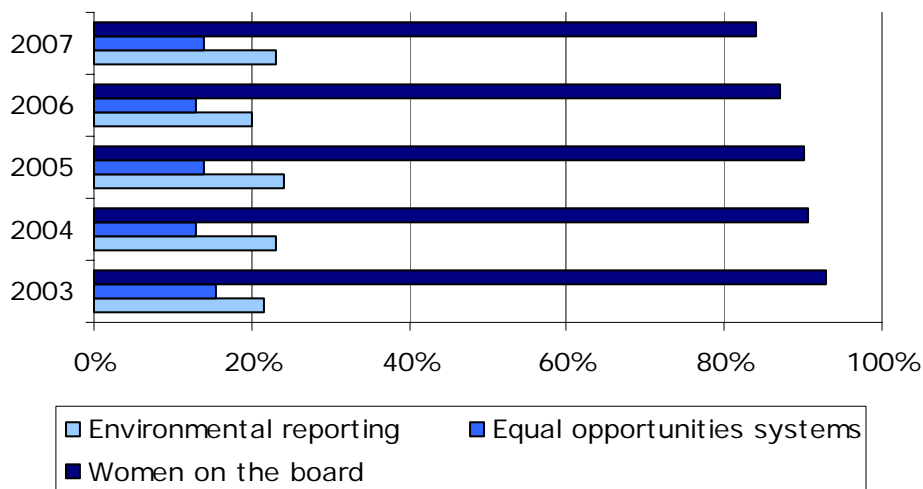
- FTSE100 companies are making good progress on environmental, social and governance issues, however a minority of companies continue to demonstrate poor performance
- The biggest improvements have been seen in environmental policy development, as well as human rights and supply chain management

- Progress has been slower in areas such as environmental disclosure, equal opportunities and board diversity
- Responsible investment, has and will continue to be, a key driver for corporate improvements in key areas such as climate change, globalisation, poverty, human rights and the environment

**Three areas of greatest improvement**  
(Percentage companies assessed as 'advanced')



**Three areas of least improvement**  
(Percentage companies assessed as 'limited')



Stephanie Maier, Head of Research at EIRIS said: “Our analysis shows encouraging signs of improved corporate responsibility practices amongst the UK’s biggest companies. ESG issues offer both challenges and opportunities for companies. Through active engagement, responsible investors can play a key role in encouraging businesses to adopt more responsible practices, and are well placed to benefit from best practice”.

Other findings include:

- Other drivers for improved performance include continued shareholder and stakeholder pressure, increased regulation and a recognition that proactive management of ESG issues can lead to competitive advantage
- Improvements in management response to CSR issues is set to continue
- Investors will continue to view ESG factors as business critical risk issues which have the potential to affect shareholder value

Click [here](#) to download a copy of the research

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**Note to editors:**

- 1 Established in 1983, EIRIS is a leading provider of global research into corporate environmental, social and governance performance. EIRIS supplies investors with the independent research they need to make informed and responsible investment decisions. EIRIS does not promote any one particular view on ethical or socially responsible issues.
- 2 EIRIS is a leading global analyst of corporate social, environmental and ethical performance with the following overseas research partners: Centre for Australian Ethical Research (CAER), Fundacion Ecologia y Desarrollo (Ecodes) of Spain, Imug – Institut fur Markt-Umwelt-Gesellschaft of Germany and EthiFinance of France.

- 3 'National Ethical Investment Week' will take place in 2008, organised by the UK Social Investment Forum (UKSIF). It will run from 18-24 May 2008 (Sunday to Saturday) and will encourage everyone to consider green and ethical options for their investments. National Ethical Investment Week will build on the soaring demand for green and ethical investments that has seen nearly six times as much going into ethical funds recently compared with a year ago.