

### **Climate Transition Mismatch**

for Corporates and Trade Associations

Questions for investors and lenders to ask management of companies

### **Recommended Questions**

# Q.1 Question: Is your company actively auditing and assessing the alignment of your trade associations' climate policies with your corporate climate goals?

**Background:** The misalignment of trade associations with the corporate's stated climate goals, as highlighted in a series of articles we reviewed, is a major concern. Planet Tracker believes that companies should scrutinise their association memberships and take decisive actions to address misalignments. Where there is a misalignment, investors should require an explanation (p.2).

**Target:** Ensure management statements are aligned with membership of trade associations.

## Q.2 Question: When a misalignment is identified, what steps are you taking to correct it, and what criteria or guidelines guide do you follow to disassociate if needed?

**Background:** Planet Tracker recognises that corporate executives could argue that they are members of an association in order to change its climate goal policies from within. However, we insist that a timeframe should be given to enact this desired change, otherwise, this rationale would lead to the perpetual membership of a misaligned association (p.3).

**Target:** Have a clear action plan for where misalignment is identified.

### Q.3 Question: How are you proactively leading on climate policy advocacy?

**Background:** As an example, Unilever, along with Mars, Nestlé, and Shell, demonstrated leadership by challenging their trade associations to confirm their positions on a 1.5-degree future or leaving associations misaligned with their climate objectives. The formation of the Sustainable Food Policy Alliance by Mars, Nestlé, and Unilever, and Shell's departure from the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers Association, demonstrate companies attempting to reshape the climate narrative of trade associations (p.5).

**Target:** Leaders on climate transition must try and influence others to do likewise.

#### **Report Key Takeaways**

- climate Transition policy misalignment between corporates and their member associations should require mediation steps such as conducting audits, developing strategies, speaking out, and leaving if necessary.
- Only a small percentage of S&P100 companies publicly assess and address the misalignment of their trade associations with climate goals.
- Investors and regulators should call out greenwashing, by scrutinising and pushing corporates to correct conflicting messages for better transparency and alignment with the Paris Agreement.

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