SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

We have shaped our ESG offering to be accessible to clients across all disciplines. ESG is high on the agenda for governments, regulators, consumers and employees. Managing ESG risks and opportunities is central to boards creating long-term stakeholder value and commercial differentiators. A strategically implemented ESG program can be an essential driver of financial performance and business resilience.

Our expertise is much broader than just policy and regulatory analysis and compliance support. We also help clients with the design of effective governance structures, contractual clauses, investigations and litigation around ESG-related issues, which informs how we approach compliance-related issues.

We are fortunate to have a large number of specialist ESG practitioners who collectively cover a broad range of work from clients looking for support in the regulatory, corporate, finance, litigation, investigatory and contentious areas of their business as a result of the ever-evolving ESG landscape in which commercial organisations operate.

Our experienced legal, regulatory and policy experts actively advise clients on managing the risks and capturing the opportunities emanating from sustainability and ESG-related legislation. They regularly assist clients across many industries with their global and EU projects, providing an essential coordinated approach.

Our Public Policy Offering

Our Public Policy team is opening opportunities with existing and new clients looking to remain ahead of legislation and compliance across the jurisdictions where they do business. Our Brussels team is at the centre of EU legislation, which is the frontrunner in ESG-related laws. The team provides regulatory and legal advice across new corporate reporting requirements regarding global supply chains, emission limits, social justice requirements, products and packaging requirements, and the evolving EU Green Deal legislation.

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Our Core Focus Areas

ESG issues are becoming increasingly fundamental for businesses to consider, with approaches varying widely across regions and jurisdictions. This can make it difficult for companies to stay up to date with legal obligations in the countries in which they operate, regardless of sector or industry. While not exhaustive, the below focus areas are where we principally support our clients.

ESG Reporting and EU Taxonomy	Risk, Compliance and Dispute Management
Corporate Governance, Policies and Procedures	Green claims, Greenwashing and Associated Regulations
Transformation to Net Zero	Social Responsibility, Including Labour and Employment
Circular Products and Packaging	Global Investigations and Financial Crime
Supply Chain Management and Compliance	Pensions and Responsible Investment
Sustainable Investment and Financial Services	Data Privacy and Responsible Al

Blog

Keep up to date with ESG law and policy on our Sustainability in Business blog

ESG Reporting and EUTaxonomy

We provide organisations with clarity in satisfying ESG reporting obligations and applicability across all jurisdictions. We specialise in understanding what is in scope for different companies and look at incoming legislation that will need future consideration for businesses to remain compliant.

Corporate Governance, Policies and Procedures

We provide governance reviews and strategic guidance to assist companies in creating policies that deliver against regulatory frameworks while providing sustainable value to stakeholders. We help navigate the rapidly changing terrain of ESG-related regulations to demonstrate accountability and transparency in relations with investors and shareholders.

Transformation to Net Zero

We advise clients as they incorporate ESG into business strategies to reduce carbon emissions, implement governance in supply chains and safeguard compliance throughout their value chains. We map out an effective route to net zero that both satisfies public and private pressures and ensures continuing success for clients.

Risk, Compliance and Dispute Management

We work with organisations to map out potential legal ESG risks, in both the short term and the long term. We provide appropriate risk mitigation plans to future-proof businesses against potential litigation risks and provide monitoring against future regulatory developments.

Green Claims, Greenwashing and Associated Regulations

We counsel clients on the legal ramifications of green claims, charting the best path forward to enable them to showcase their sustainability efforts confidently and authentically without fear of greenwashing or greenhushing.

Social Responsibility, Including Labour and Employment

We advise clients on human rights, modern slavery and global people strategies to create and maintain diversity, equity and inclusion that goes beyond compliance to ingrain these in organisational culture across the jurisdictions in which they operate. We assist companies to comprehensively assess their products and packaging across the full life cycle to remain compliant with regulatory responsibilities, as well as factors that must be considered depending on the jurisdiction that the product is being marketed in.

Supply Chain Management and Compliance

We have a global and cross-practice ESG group that provides diligent assessments and sustainable, proportionate solutions to our clients to address risks and opportunities specific to supply chains, including supplier monitoring and governance programs.

Sustainable Investment and Financial Services

We leverage our global experience to provide guidance around ESG fund classifications and the different regulatory elements that small, medium and large funds need to consider in relation to the impact of their investment decisions while supporting on ESG disclosures.

Global Investigations and Financial Crime

We offer formidable and highly organised resources to effectively represent clients faced with potential investigations and any parallel civil and criminal prosecution. We have a deep understanding of the national and international standards, protocols and policy agendas to mitigate against modern slavery, antibribery and corruption practices, and to ensure suppliers do not engage in practices that may result in any financial crimes.

Pensions and Responsible Investment

We counsel pension trustees and pensions groups on risk management, governance, reporting and disclosures in relation to applicable ESG regulations imposed on pensions schemes. We also provide ESG breach advisory support if companies are subjected to activism against them.

Data Privacy and Responsible AI

We deliver roadmaps to safeguard organisations' data privacy through the implementation of comprehensive policies and practices that align with privacy and data protection compliance regulations. We are very familiar with responsible AI and work with clients to draft policies governing all aspects of AI development, deployment and use. We also support organisations that have been subjected to breaches or ransomware attacks.