MANIFESTO

Commitments to credible and effective CSR

For decades, financial, social and environmental crises have placed sustainable development and social responsibility at the heart of the challenges facing businesses and, more broadly, all organisations. Their active contribution is crucial to achieving ambitious goals in terms of environmental protection, social wellbeing and sustainable economic growth.

Responsibility Europe brings together trusted third-party organisations that share European values and the conviction that CSR is a key challenge for businesses and other organisations in terms of competitiveness, sustainability, innovation and resilience. Our aim is to support societal change and to promote sound CSR initiatives based on robust frameworks with proven benefits and genuinely independent assessments. It has become essential to provide greater visibility and a more assertive positioning for companies and organisations with CSR accreditation that go beyond self-assessment, rating, reporting or sector-specific assessments (such as carbon footprint assessments) to demonstrate their overall impact.

Responsibility Europe brings together leading CSR labels that are both rigorous and pragmatic, demonstrating genuine added value and contributing to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This network of CSR labels thus aims to encourage the social commitment of businesses and other organisations, forming a community of stakeholders driving the transformation of the economy and society whilst respecting the environment and upholding good governance. Now more than ever, citizens, consumers, employees and investors expect actions that match words. **Responsibility Europe thus acts as a bridge between CSR labels and certifications that share the same ethos and strong values**:

1. **A framework** linking the **regulatory requirements specific to each country with the wide range of issues** covered by the international standard **ISO 26000**.

2. **High standards** are required to provide full assurance regarding **the level of maturity and performance** that characterise the comprehensive approach to CSR and its contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

3. **A transparent evaluation methodology** to measure the relevance of actions and their outcomes, based on a robust and indisputable rating system, following the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle, and going beyond the legal minimum requirements or the mere implementation of a management system, but driving genuine continuous improvement.

4. **A quality control process carried out on-site by an independent** third-party organisation, recognised for its impartiality, expertise and ethical standards.

5. **Taking into account societal expectations as well as the interests of internal and external stakeholders**, in order to gather objective and relevant information for assessing the performance and impact of the CSR approach.

6. **Sincere and credible communication**. Being awarded a CSR certification by a certifying body that is a member of Responsibility Europe sends a clear message both internally and externally: that of an organisation committed to a process of change and continuous improvement, and one that takes responsibility for the consequences of its decisions.

Responsibility Europe, the association of businesses and organisations that are transforming and innovating to demonstrate their commitment to a more responsible and sustainable world.