



Sustainability@Commerzbank | Issue 21 | December 2019

# Responsible Banking

Corporate Responsibility Newsletter

**Dear Sir or Madam,**

Commerzbank's business model is based on social acceptance. Our stakeholders expect us to handle critical issues responsibly. We take this responsibility seriously, and have done so for many years already. Commerzbank formulated a restrictive arms directive at an early stage, issued a ban on speculative trade in food and ruled out legal but socially no longer accepted tax transactions. We pay close attention to the impact of our business activities on the environment and society and have defined binding regulations for this. And we do not want to leave it at that: Our strategy "Commerzbank 5.0: Digital, personal and responsible" published in September 2019, will further strengthen the Bank's corporate responsibility in the business model.

In order to underpin the promise of responsible banking expressed in the new strategy, Commerzbank became a Founding Signatory of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB). The six principles support the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement and the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals. Banks are committed to using their products, services, and relationships with customers and other stakeholders for a fundamental change in our economies and ways of life. Changes that are necessary to achieve prosperity for present and future generations. According to Martin Zielke, CEO of Commerzbank, the PRB are an important step towards sustainable development: "Sustainable action and protecting our climate are decisive factors in our futures. Irrespective of our own position, we all need to ask ourselves what consequences our decisions have on others – both now and in the future. Doing nothing is not an option. The new Principles for Responsible Banking provide clear guidance with which we are able to advance sustainability in cooperation with our clients and stakeholders. As a bank we can support the transformation of the real economy towards sustainability and this is exactly what the PRB demand." [▶ more](#)

## Sustainability information in share votes for institutional investors

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Since November 2019, Commerzbank publishes sustainability ratings in its share votes, which are delivered in partnership with the data analysis company Arabesque S-Ray. This means that institutional investors who obtain their equity research from Commerzbank receive quantitative sustainability scores from Arabesque S-Ray in addition to the fundamental equity ratings prepared by the Bank. Arabesque S-Ray evaluates how companies are compliant with the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and delivers a score on financially material environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. This information is published in addition to Commerzbank's fundamental votes. ► [more](#)

## Green Mortgage: Interest rate discount promotes energy-efficient real estate

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To make investments in energy efficiency even more profitable, Commerzbank offers discounted financing conditions for the construction or purchase of low-energy properties. The "Green Mortgage" grants an interest discount for buildings used by own or by third parties whose final energy consumption is less than 75 kWh per square meter of usable area. The prerequisite is a valid energy certificate that confirms the energy requirement. ► [more](#)

## Commerzbank signs Green Investment Principles for Belt and Road

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At a press conference in Shanghai in November, Commerzbank announced its signing of the Green Investment Principles (GIP) for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The GIP aims to incorporate low-carbon and sustainable development into projects in BRI countries, which represent approximately 40% of the World's total land area and 55% of total CO2 emissions. ► [more](#)

## Leading the way in climate protection

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In the Commerzbank 5.0 strategy program, the Bank has announced that it will pursue sustainability issues more vigorously. One aspect of this is the climate impact of the Bank's own operations, i.e. the operational ecology. Therefore the Board of Managing Directors has passed a mobility package which will reduce the Bank's emissions by further 900 tons of CO2 per year in the future. Measures include a mobility grant for public transport, stronger incentives for low-emission driving through the changes in the bank car policy, a more restrictive handling of short-haul flights and further energy efficiency measures for the Bank's buildings. ► [more](#)

## Half a million square meters of forest planted

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For a year now, the campaign "Paperless happy!" has been running. It aims at supporting resource-saving banking and growing more forests in Germany: For every new electronic mailbox, Commerzbank, in cooperation with the non-profit Bergwald project e.V., is foraging one square meter of forest in Germany - so far more than half a million. Due to its great success, we extend the campaign until the end of 2019. ► [more](#)

## German Reading Prize 2019

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The "Deutscher Lesepreis" (German Reading Prize) is a joint initiative of Stiftung Lesen and the Commerzbank Foundation under the patronage of Prof. Monika Grütters, German Minister of State for Culture and Media. This year's award, which is worth a total of 25,000 €, was awarded to 16 people and institutions working for reading promotion at a festival in Berlin. Monika Grütters praised the innovative projects for promoting reading and their contribution to reading literacy as the key to knowledge, education and democratic participation. The special prize of the Commerzbank Foundation for prominent engagement went to Nazan Eckes this year. Since 2010, the presenter has been a reading ambassador of the Stiftung Lesen and is primarily committed to more reading time in families. ► **more**

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### Imprint

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