

Management Committee Meeting

Berne Union office

London, UK

Wednesday, 29 January 2020

04. Berne Union Strategy – Sustainability

For discussion

1. Introduction/current state

Members of the Berne Union have different mandates for environmental and social governance. This being said, many members include environmental and social governance, or sustainability, in their underwriting processes. For some OECD ECAs this is at least partially based on agreements in the OECD.

Also, various private members of the Berne Union are following guidelines of Corporate Social responsibility – including i.e. such fields as nature conservation, education support etc.

The Berne Union is the ideal forum for the exchange of information and practices. This exchange already takes place to some extent, but not in a structured way.

Therefore, this note will look at possible scenarios of how the Berne Union could structure this exchange internally and with other stakeholders. Considering the above, it is important to emphasise that this subject is not a matter of strategy *per se* but rather operational.

2. Objective

The Management Committee should discuss whether the emphasis should be on external or internal activities or both, and what level of pro-activity Berne Union is mandated to regarding matters of sustainability.

[Although few members have advocated for the Berne Union to provide guidance for best practice, it has not been included in this proposal, as there has not been sufficient support for this route.]

3. Suggested activities following discussions in the Management Committee

3.1. Internal activities

The aim of internal activities is to foster exchange of information amongst them and encourage them to be more active when it comes to supporting sustainable and environmentally friendly transactions.

Suggested types of activities:

Activity	BU Secretariat	
	Administrative burden / exp	Level of involvement
Setting the metrics and targets by sharing current policies of our members		
Dedicated section at the Berne Union web page		
Regular session of discussion among BU members on 'Green products and practices' at the Berne Union annual meetings		
Specialist meeting dedicated to sustainability		
Invite external speakers/experts on the sustainability and climate matters to present at the BU organised events		

High Moderate Low

3.2. External activities

The aim of the external activities is to highlight activities undertaken by the export credit and investment insurance industry in general. Primarily that includes engagement with other industry associations and institutions dedicated to sustainability.

Suggested types of activities:

Activity	BU Secretariat	
	Administrative burden / exp	Level of involvement
Participation in organisations and forums whose aim is to promote sustainable policies		
Cooperation with other institutions (such as ICC) for sharing information and practices		
Regular discussions on the matters of sustainability at the Capacity Sharing Marketplace		
Learning from other associations ¹ that are already active in promoting sustainable transactions and taking their best practice		
Invite external speakers/experts on the sustainability and climate matters to present at the BU organised events		

High Moderate Low

¹ Various associations have already been very active in promoting and setting the goals for its members when it comes to sustainability. As one of the examples is European association of development banks (EDFI) – which already is promoting green transactions and sustainability. EDFI is promoting Responsible financing and makes significant contributions towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. Even though the mandates and the goals of the membership are different then ones of Berne Union.