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PER LA SOSTENIBILITÀ

# **Confindustria for Sustainability**

## **Charter of Environmental Sustainability Principles**

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Companies are called to operate in an increasingly globalised market. As they grow, they are faced with the internationalisation of the economy, which they strongly support.

In their path towards development and economic growth, companies pursue a strategy for generating wealth, while ensuring the combination of competitiveness, environmental sustainability and social responsibility, as crucial criteria for success and core elements of a genuine enterprise culture.

Companies are aware that the protection of the natural and social environment is a primary community interest. Therefore, their aim is to achieve development goals while improving their environmental performance.

Environmental sustainability is one of the pillars of development. It should be pursued through a synergy between the industrial system, the institutions and the social partners, with the aim to promote a shared pro-active and responsible commitment, which will drive a virtuous cycle of “mutual emulation”.

In this effort, companies hope to be increasingly supported by a smooth and consistent regulatory framework which will be clear and enforceable both at national and international level, to respond quickly and effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities. For this purpose, promoting rewarding instruments for voluntary initiatives is useful.

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In line with the above principles, Confindustria has decided to adopt a Charter of Environmental Sustainability Principles. The Charter is meant as a signpost to direct member companies and has taken stock of their differences in size and in the activities they conduct. The Charter sets out shared principles and indicates the actions needed for a uniform and gradual progress towards greater environmental sustainability by outlining realistic and achievable goals for Italian companies.

Therefore, member companies and organizations that voluntarily adhere to the Charter commit themselves to integrate these principles and commitments in their activity and their growth paths.

## **10 "Principles" for 10 "Commitments"**

### **1. "Achievement of short, medium and long term environmental sustainability objectives"**

Set environmental protection as an integral part of company activity and growth path.

### **2. "Adoption of a precautionary approach"**

Assess the impact of activities, products and services to manage the environmental aspects according to a preventive approach and promote the use of best available technologies.

### **3. "Efficient use of natural resources"**

Promote the efficient use of natural resources, with particular attention to the rational management of water and energy resources.

### **4. "Control and Reduction of environmental impacts"**

Control and, where possible, reduce emissions into air, water and soil; achieve further reductions of waste production and more efficient waste management by privileging recovery and reuse against disposal; take steps to limit the effects of industrial activities on climate change; promote the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems.

### **5. "The central role of innovative technologies"**

Invest in research, development and innovation to develop processes, products and services which have increasingly reduced environmental impacts.

### **6. "Responsible product management "**

Promote responsible management of products or services throughout the entire life cycle to improve performance and reduce environmental impact, including information to customers on product "end-life" management.

### **7. "Responsible management of the supply chain"**

Promote the preservation of the environment in the management of the supply chain by involving suppliers, customers and stakeholders as primary actors in their own sustainability policy.

### **8. "Awareness and training"**

Promote activities of information, awareness and training to involve the company and its organisation in implementing their own environmental policy.

### **9. "Transparency in relations with stakeholders"**

Foster relationships with stakeholders based on transparency to promote a shared approach in environmental policies.

### **10. "Consistency with international activities"**

Act consistently with the principles endorsed in this Charter in all the Countries where the company carries out its activities.