

# TRIUM SUSTAINABLE INNOVATORS

**ANNUAL VOTING REPORT 2022** 

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#### **GENERAL FRAMEWORK**

This report sets out the voting behaviour of the Trium Sustainable Innovators Global Equity Fund and the Trium Sustainable Innovators North American Fund (together "TSI") for the year 2022. For detailed information on our voting principles and guidelines, please refer to our separate <u>Voting Policy</u>. Other related documents include our <u>Engagement Policy and 2022 Activity Report</u>, as well as our ESG and Communications Policies.

Voting is an important pillar of our approach to responsible asset management. It allows us to communicate our views and improve corporate practices over the long term. We aim to vote at all of the Annual General Meetings ("AGMs") of our holdings by making informed and independent voting decisions, applying due care, diligence, and judgement across the entire portfolio.

The Voting Policy takes a long-term approach, particularly when encouraging companies to include environmental and social issues in its business operations and strategy.

Each voting decision is analysed on a case-by-case basis and explained in our proxy voting instruction. On a periodic basis, the compliance of our voting decisions with our Voting Policy is reviewed by the Compliance Department.

# The Exercise of Voting Rights

All voting decisions are made by the investment team, which is currently composed of three members, including an ESG analyst. All voting decisions are approved by at least two team members.

All voting decisions are made on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration the specific situation of each company. As a result, we do not make rule-based decisions, however, we define guidelines in our fund-specific Voting Policy which can direct our voting decisions in most circumstances, such as board composition, auditor appointment and shareholder proposals. These guidelines are in accordance with Trium Capital LLP's broader, company-wide Voting Policy, and are reviewed by the Compliance Department on a periodic basis.

The firm uses Broadridge ProxyEdge platform, provided by the custodian (Northern Trust). The service collects all eligible ballots and enables Trium to vote online.

# **2022 Voting Perimeter**

The voting perimeter compromises Trium Sustainable Innovators Global Equity Fund and Trium Sustainable Innovators North American Equity Fund.

In 2022, the voting perimeter for the TSI funds consisted of 25-30 assets each, held in 2 UCITS funds managed by Trium Capital. Within this voting perimeter, 32 annual general meetings were held in 2022. TSI exercised its voting rights on all 32 companies which compromised 460 resolutions. This represents a participation rate of 100%.

TSI exercises voting rights in the exclusive interest of unitholders and respects the principles set out in its voting policy.



## Cases where Trium Sustainable Innovators Failed to comply with its Voting Policy

There were no cases where TSI did not exercise its voting rights.

## **Conflict of Interest**

Trium Capital LLP ("**Trium**") is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("**FCA**") and registered with the National Futures Association ("**NFA**"). As of January 2022, Trium Capital LLP has become a Registered Investment Adviser with the Securities Exchange Commission ("**SEC**"). Trium has a fiduciary duty to manage and deal in the best interests of its clients and – where applicable – the investors in the Alternative Investment Funds ("**AIFs**") in respect of which Trium acts as Alternative Investment Fund Manager. Further, the Central Bank of Ireland requires managers of Irish UCITS funds to establish a conflict of interest policy, which includes minimum criteria. Trium, therefore, has an obligation to manage and deal in the best interests of its clients.

As part of its commitment to this, Trium has established a Conflict of Interest ("**COI**") policy. The COI policy establishes Trium's actions in this area and identifies a number of potential conflicts that could arise along with measures to manage them. A copy of the policy can be made available upon request.

In compliance with its fund specific Voting Policy, TSI exercises its voting rights in the exclusive interest of unitholders.

No conflict of interest arose during the exercise of voting rights in 2022.



### **BREAKDOWN OF VOTES BY CAST**

TSI reports on both the number of shareholder meetings at which the funds were eligible to vote, as well as the number of resolutions. For both funds, the team had the opportunity to vote in 32 shareholder meetings which comprised of 460 resolutions. TSI voted for all 32 shareholder meetings, and all resolutions.

In terms of the number of shareholder meetings, we break down our voting behaviour into the following categories:

- > Proportion of shareholder meetings where we voted in favour of all of resolutions submitted: 6%
- Proportion of shareholder meetings where we opposed management recommendation on at least one resolution: 94%
- Proportion of shareholder meetings where we opposed all of the resolutions submitted: 0%
- ▶ Proportion of resolutions where we voted against management recommendations: 23%

As set out in our **Voting Policy**, we divest from companies where our voting decisions reach one of the following outcomes:

- We support less than 50% of all relevant directors; or
- We support less than 40% of all relevant directors and also vote against executive compensation

For the purpose of the thresholds above, we consider a 'Relevant Director' to be any candidate proposed by Management for nomination, and any current Director not standing for re-election, but excluding special shareholder representatives, employee representatives and current executives of the company.

In 2022, none of these thresholds were met, and as a result, voting in its own right did not lead to any divestment.

## **Breakdown of votes by Theme**

We categorise shareholder resolutions into four themes:

- Non-ESG/Admin: Resolutions revolving around company operations and strategy, such as issue shares, bylaw amendments, structure and workings of general meetings, articles of incorporation, share capital amendments.
- **Environmental:** For example, resolutions pertaining to greater transparency and accountability of environmental sustainability; disclosure, climate transition plans, commitment to lowering climate intensity.
- **Social:** Resolutions concerning relationships with employees, suppliers and other key stakeholders, and covering topics such as employee stock plans, human rights, labour rights, takedown requests, anticompetitive practices, and public benefit corporation.
- **Governance:** Resolutions pertaining to the appointment of Directors to the Board, auditor ratifications, executive compensation, and general shareholder rights.



## **Details by ESG Theme**

#### **Environmental**

Out of 5 environmentally-related resolutions proposed, TSI voted in favour of 4 shareholder proposals requesting a report on how the Company's lobbying activities aligned with the Paris Agreement, a report on water management risks, the establishment of a Sustainability Board Committee, and for the Board to incorporate climate change metrics into executive compensation (against management's recommendation). On environmental matters, TSI voted against management recommendations on 1 out of the 5 resolutions (20%), on a proposal which requested the Company to publish a report on physical risks of climate change as we know that the company already follows the TCFD and has conducted its climate risk assessment in line with recommendations.

#### Social

Out of 23 socially related resolutions proposed, TSI voted in favour of 8 resolutions (all proposed by shareholders and against management recommendation) which included a request to report on median and adjusted pay gaps across race and gender, a report on risks from worker misclassification by company vendors, a racial equity audit, a human rights assessment of data centre siting, misinformation and disinformation, political contributions congruency report, "ghost guns" and antimicrobial resistance report.

The remaining 15 resolutions which we rejected were shareholder proposals opposed by management, and which regarded reports on 'Risk of State' policies restricting reproductive health care, a civil rights and non-discrimination audit and report, lobbying report, charitable donation disclosure, termination pay, military and militarised policing agencies, board diversity, cost of disinformation, algorithm disclosures, government takedown requests, and a policy to pause sourcing of cotton from China.

On social matters, TSI voted against management on 8 out of 23 resolutions (35%).

## Governance

There were 350 governance-related proposals put forward. On governance matters, TSI voted against management on 81 out of 350 resolutions (23%). The governance-related resolutions are further broken down into 4 sub-categories, namely:

# Board of Directors

Board composition incl. Director nominations (261 resolutions, 35 of which we voted against management recommendation). We vote for each nomination based on their contribution to the overall board composition in terms of knowledge and skills and diversity. We favour a diversified Board with respect to gender, age, tenure, sector expertise and independence. We consider that Directors with inside knowledge or a long tenure can provide value to the board, and we generally promote continuity with small changes rather than a drastic change in the board composition.

## Auditor Appointment

Auditor ratification (31 resolutions, 20 of which we voted against management recommendation). We typically vote against the proposed auditor if they have not changed for more than 10 years.

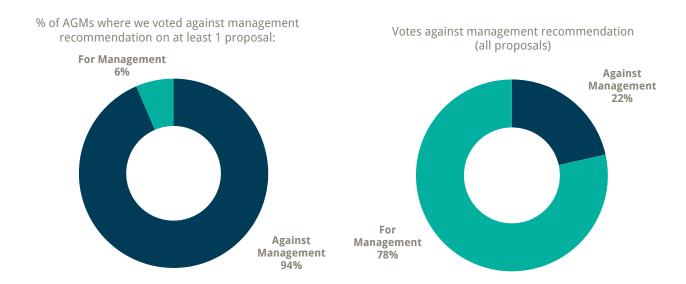


# Executive Compensation (Say-on-Pay)

Executive compensation (45 resolutions, 23 of which we voted against management recommendation). We typically perform analysis of the structure of executive compensation in light of the long-term objectives of the company. We pay particular attention as to whether executive compensation takes into account ESG metrics.

# Shareholder Rights

Shareholder rights (12 resolutions, on 3 of which we voted against management recommendation). This includes resolutions on various topics, such as proxy access and preferential subscription rights.





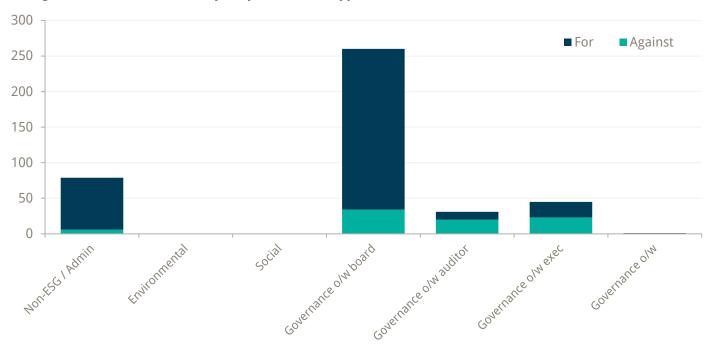
### **VOTING STATISTICS**

The 32 shareholder meetings at which TSI voted in 2022 comprised 460 resolutions in total, which break down as follows:

- ▶ TSI voted in favour of 352 resolutions, or 77%
- ▶ TSI voted against 108 resolutions, or 23%
- TSI abstained on 0 resolutions

Of the 460 resolutions submitted to the vote, 416 were proposed by Management or the Board of Directors. TSI voted against 83 of these resolutions (i.e., 20% resolutions), and abstained on 0 resolutions.

# **Management Resolution Votes By Proposal Theme Type**



# **Shareholder Resolutions**

TSI takes a case-by-case approach to shareholder proposals pertaining to Environmental, Social and Governance matters. In each proposal, TSI performs an in-depth analysis ensuring that:

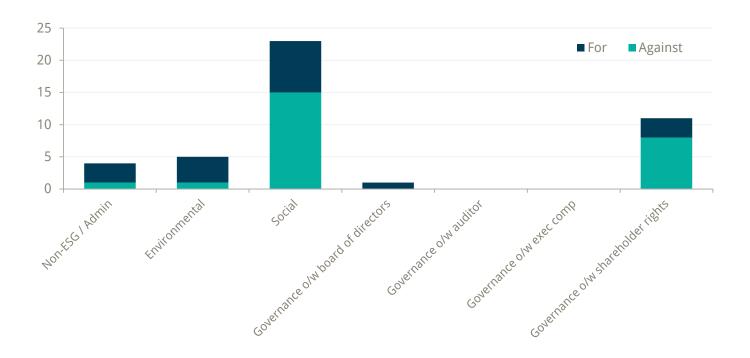
- The proposal is reasonable and the company has the ability to act on it;
- The issue is material for the company's risk profile;
- The proposal is in line with industry best practices;
- > The company already has plans to tackle the issue and these are satisfactory in our view

Similar proposals have been presented in the past, how they were voted on and how the company has reacted to these votes;

As a general rule, TSI supports resolutions that promote transparency and responsible practices in a company.



# **Shareholder Resolutions Votes by Proposal Theme Type**



Of the 44 resolutions proposed by shareholders, TSI voted on all and supported 19 resolutions: 43%.

Of the 13 Annual General Meetings where shareholder resolutions were present, TSI casted at least one vote against in 10: 77% of Annual General Meetings voted.

## **Motion Submitted**

In 2022, TSI did not submit any motions. We however attended the Annual General Meeting in June 2022 of Booking Holdings as we had submitted a motion in 2021. The motion requested the Board of Directors to incorporate climate change performance elements into the executive remuneration arrangements of the CEO and at least one other senior executive. The motion was the last step of an active engagement with the company whose outcome we consider unsatisfactory. The motion did not pass (but had ~19% of votes in favour), and subsequently, we divested from the company.

Please find more information on the motion submitted in the <u>TSI Engagement Report 2022</u>. For more information on our processes please check the <u>Engagement section</u> of the TSI Website.



# **EXTRA-FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES**

## **Board Gender Diversity**

We demonstrate our alignment with our extra financial objective to promote gender diversity at the Board level through our voting behaviour. Out of the 261 votes we conducted in 2022 related to Board of Director election or reelections, 88 proposals set forward by management were female Directors (34%). TSI voted in favour of a female Director proposal in 86 occasions (98% of the total female Directors proposed). This compares to an average approval rate for male Directors of 54%. In the two cases where we did not support a female Director candidate, this was mainly due to entrenchment, age, and/or lack of independence to stand up against executives due to close relationships.

## **Climate Intensity**

During 2022, we engaged with our portfolio companies and voted in favour of resolutions supporting our objective to improve GHG emissions.

In terms of our engagement efforts, in 2022 there were 32 corporate engagements where environmental matters were discussed directly with companies, out of 61 engagements. In terms of our active engagement, we launched 8 active engagement efforts, of which 4 were environmentally focused or linked. For more information, please refer to the "Case Studies of Individual Active Engagement" section, and the "Thematic Active Engagement" section of the **Engagement Report 2022**.

In terms of our voting behaviour, we voted in favour of resolutions that promote environmental initiatives, such as resolutions focused on climate action plans. In 2022, out of 5 environmentally related resolutions proposed, TSI voted in favour of 4 (80%) proposals requesting greater transparency and accountability of corporate sustainability.

# **Summary of 2022 Voting Statistics by Quarter**

Summary Statistics	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Total 2022
Total number of meetings where it was possible to vote	3	26	1	2	32
Number of meetings in which TSI voted	3	26	1	2	32
Number of meetings in which TSI voted (as a %)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of management resolutions in which TSI voted	51	336	6	23	416
Number of management resolutions in which TSI voted against	5	72	2	4	83
Number of management resolutions in which TSI voted against (as a %)	10%	21%	33%	17%	20%
Number of shareholder resolutions in which TSI voted	0	43	1	0	44
Number of shareholder resolutions in which TSI voted against	0	24	1	0	25
Number of shareholder resolutions in which TSI voted against (as a %)	-	56%	100%	-	57%



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**FX Risk:** investments in the Fund may be subject to fluctuations in FX.

**Derivatives & leverage risk:** derivatives can change in value rapidly and may cause losses to any investment fund

**Credit Risk:** the Fund is exposed to the risk that the issuer of any debt securities invested in meeting its obligations.

Counterparty/Custodial Risk: a counterparty with whom a Fund contracts or a custodian holding a Fund's holding assets may fail to meet its obligations or become bankrupt, which may expose that Fund to a financial loss.

**Liquidity Risk:** is the risk that there are insufficient buyers or sellers of a given investment to allow an investment fund to readily trade which may impact the Fund's performance or (in extreme circumstances) an investor's ability to redeem.

**Operational Risk:** human error, system and/or process failures, inadequate procedures or controls can cause losses to any investment fund

The costs associated with Trium Sustainable Innovators Global Equity fund, and Trium Sustainable Innovators North American Equity Fund, include on-going charges of 0.6%. Where any performance is referenced, please note that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns. Where simulated or scenario-based performance is referenced, please note that the scenarios presented are an estimate of future performance based on evidence from the past on how the value of this investment varies, and/or current market conditions and are not an exact indicator. What you will receive will vary depending on how the market performs and how long you keep the investment/product. In the United Kingdom, this material is a financial promotion and is issued by Trium Capital LLP, which is authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Conduct Authority.