



KESKO INVESTOR NEWS 12.12.2022 AT 14.00

# **Kesko tops international Dow Jones sustainability assessment – best European performer in its industry for the first time, third best globally**

**Kesko has been included in the esteemed Dow Jones Sustainability Indices the DJSI World and the DJSI Europe, as the best company in its industry in Europe. In the global DJSI World, Kesko ranked third highest in its industry. Companies were assessed for the indices on their climate efforts, sustainable selections, transparent supply chains, and occupational health and safety, among other criteria.**

“The expectations investors and other stakeholders have towards companies are growing all the time, and to be successful in tight competition, companies must excel in all areas of sustainability. The fact that Kesko ranks as the top company in its industry in sustainability in Europe and No. 3 globally is proof that our sustainability strategy adopted in spring 2022 and related measures are guiding our sustainability work in the right direction,” says **Riikka Joukio**, Kesko’s Executive Vice President of Sustainability and Public Affairs.

More than 3,500 listed companies worldwide were invited to take part in the assessment process for the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices this year. The top companies in each industry worldwide were selected for index inclusion in the DJSI World based on the assessment results, while the DJSI Europe includes top companies in sustainability in Europe.

For the first time, Kesko ranked No. 1 in its industry (Food & Staples Retailing) in the DJSI Europe. Other sector companies included in the index were Metro and Ahold. Finnish companies included in the DJSI World alongside Kesko this year were Neste, UPM-Kymmene, Valmet and Wärtsilä.

This year, there was a bigger focus in the Dow Jones sustainability assessment on elements such as corporate emission targets, management of climate risks, and principles on occupational health and safety. Kesko’s environmental efforts overall were deemed the best in the industry. Kesko received the full 100 points on, for example, operational eco-efficiency, environmental reporting, management of water-related risks, and climate risk analysis within the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) framework.

## **Development of sustainability efforts continues on many fronts**

Sustainability is at the core of K Group’s strategy. K Group is targeting carbon neutrality by 2025, with zero emissions from its own operations and transports by 2030. Emission reduction targets extend to the whole value chain: two-thirds of Kesko’s direct suppliers must set science-based emissions reduction targets by 2025.

“Our sustainability efforts continue on many fronts. We are currently working on a roadmap for healthy nutrition, with the objective of making healthier choices as easy as possible in our grocery stores. We are also improving sustainability competencies among our people: upcoming efforts will include an online course for all employees on how to promote diversity, inclusion and equity,” says Joukio.

**Further information:**

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<http://www.spglobal.com/esg/csa/djsi-csa-annual-review>

***Kesko and K-retailers together form K Group, whose retail sales total over €15 billion. K Group is the third biggest retail operator in Northern Europe and it employs some 45,000 people. Kesko operates in the grocery trade, building and technical trade, and car trade. Its divisions and chains act in close cooperation with retailer entrepreneurs and other partners. Kesko's net sales total over €11 billion and it employs approximately 17,000 people. Kesko has around 1,800 stores engaged in chain operations in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Kesko's shares are listed on Nasdaq Helsinki. The company's domicile and main premises are located in Helsinki. [www.kesko.fi](http://www.kesko.fi)***