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Dow Jones sustainability assessment: Kesko ranked the best company in Europe in its industry – five Finnish companies in total included in the sustainability indices

Kesko has been included in the Dow Jones sustainability indices the DJSI World and the DJSI Europe. In the DJSI Europe index, Kesko ranked as the best company in its industry (Consumer Staples Distribution & Retail) for the third consecutive year. In the global DJSI World index, Kesko ranked fourth highest in its industry. In the DJSI World, Finnish companies included were Kesko, Neste, UPM-Kymmene and Valmet. In the DJSI Europe, Kesko, Neste, UPM-Kymmene, Valmet and Wärtsilä were included.

"Kesko's long-term success is based on our determined work to promote sustainability in our three divisions, namely grocery trade, building and technical trade, and car trade. For us, sustainability is a competitive advantage, and we have set sustainability goals extending all the way to year 2050. In our sustainability work, we increasingly focus on the entire value chain. Growing sustainability regulation and stakeholder expectations also necessitate constant development from us when it comes to sustainability," says **Lasse Luukkainen**, Executive Vice President for Legal and Sustainability at Kesko.

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. More than 13,000 listed companies worldwide were invited to take part in the assessment process for the Dow Jones Sustainability indices this year.

Kesko the highest-scoring European company in its industry for the third consecutive year

For the third consecutive year, Kesko ranked as the best company in its industry (Consumer Staples Distribution & Retail) in the DJSI Europe index. Other grocery trade companies included in the index were Carrefour and Metro.

In the global DJSI World index, Kesko ranked the fourth highest and the best European company in its industry.

Companies were assessed for the indices on various criteria for environmental, social and economic responsibility and good governance. Kesko received good scores for e.g. the following topics: climate strategy, packaging, health and nutrition, and tax strategy.

Kesko updated its sustainability strategy in October. The focus areas for the sustainability strategy are climate and nature, value chain, people, and good

governance. Kesko has set short-term emission targets for its own operations, aiming for a 50% reduction in emissions by the end of 2034 from the 2024 baseline. In addition, Kesko has committed to setting net-zero targets for its entire value chain, extending to 2050.

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Kesko and K-retailers together form K Group, whose retail sales total around €16 billion. K Group is the leading trading sector operator in Northern Europe and it employs approximately 45,000 people. Kesko operates in 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 around €12 billion and Kesko employs approximately 18,000 people. Kesko's chain operations include approximately 1,800 stores in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Kesko's shares are listed on Nasdaq Helsinki. The company's domicile and main premises are in Helsinki. www.kesko.fi