

Meeting BPIFrance – 18 December 2020

Bpifrance extends a positive welcome to the EU Taxonomy as a new tool to underpin sustainable finance and the ecological and energy transition of the EU and EU businesses. Bpifrance intends to use the Taxonomy to roll out its climate plan that seeks to make both Bpifrance's activities and the French economy greener. Bpifrance will be affected by the Taxonomy in three respects: - As a large undertaking subject to the NFRD (non-financial reporting directive); - As a financial market participant; - As an implementing partner of European financing, and the InvestEU programme in particular.

A vast number of the Taxonomy's implementation arrangements are not yet defined and are due to be clarified by the European Commission over the course of 2021. In this regard, economic stakeholders are working against a backdrop of great uncertainty. The following points also warrant special attention:

- A gradual and realistic application of the Taxonomy is desirable. In fact, the Taxonomy's implementation timetable stipulates reporting by economic stakeholders in respect of the fiscal year 2021, which is incompatible with the publication date of the delegated acts (June 2021) and with final adoption of the Taxonomy criteria (December 2021). A regulation that came into force from 2023 with the first reporting concerning financial 2022 would be consistent with the Commission's work while still setting an ambitious target. It is worth noting that it is by no means a given that financial institutions will be able to secure in-house "taxonomy" skills in the short term, given the significant transformation (in training and information systems) that is demanded. Widespread use of external assessors and consultants to evaluate firms' positions is likely in the short term.