

Policy for sustainability in the Handelsbanken group

adopted by the Central Board on 24 March 2021

Information class: Open

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the focus for Handelsbanken's work in the area of sustainability. It concerns Handelsbanken's relationship with customers, its conduct as an employer and an institution in society, and its relationship with its owners and investors.

2. Background

Handelsbanken's view is that responsible actions are essential to long-term value creation. Long-term business relationships, low risk-taking and cost-awareness are cornerstones of Handelsbanken's business culture. They form the basis of successful banking operations being run in a responsible, sustainable manner.

Handelsbanken's success is dependent on the confidence of customers, employees, owners, public authorities and other stakeholders that the Group is acting in a responsible manner. This confidence is based on ethical conduct and taking responsibility for financial, social and environmental development that is sustainable in the long term. In order for this confidence to be maintained, there must be transparency in the Group's sustainability activities, and Handelsbanken must work to ensure that there is active dialogue and communication with stakeholders concerning this work.

3. Governance and scope

This policy applies throughout the Handelsbanken Group, its operations and employees, and encompasses all activities in relation to customers, suppliers and other business partners. This policy is reviewed annually, or when required.

Where necessary, it is the responsibility of the Group Chief Executive to draw up guidelines and instructions relating to specific areas and sectors, and to ensure that there is the relevant organisational structure, delegation and instructions so that this policy can be applied in practice.

4. Focus

Handelsbanken aims to integrate financial, social and environmental sustainability into all its operations, which means that the Group is to run financially sound, sustainable operations and to encourage and contribute to sustainable development. This applies to day-to-day operations as well as, for example, to credit and investment decisions, business development, advisory services and purchase decisions. In this way, risks and costs can be reduced, while new business opportunities can be identified, employees motivated, and confidence in Handelsbanken maintained.

Handelsbanken must safeguard human rights and employees' rights, and not be complicit in breaches of these. Gender equality, diversity and an inclusive corporate culture should be a fundamental part of Handelsbanken's values.

Handelsbanken must endeavour to minimise negative impact on the environment and climate, and to increase positive impact.

Nor shall Handelsbanken accept corruption, money laundering or terrorist financing, and conflicts of interest must be managed.

Handelsbanken's actions regarding taxes must be responsible, correct and transparent. Handelsbanken reports and pays tax based on national regulations in the countries where its operations are run, and works to ensure that there is an open dialogue with the tax authorities in these countries. Handelsbanken must not participate in transactions or provide products that may be called into question in the light of prevailing tax legislation.

International initiatives and guidelines with the common aim of encouraging and facilitating sustainable development and corporate sustainability must be at the heart of Handelsbanken's sustainability efforts.

Handelsbanken is not allied to any political parties. The Bank does not provide any financial support to any political party, nor does it make any other type of political donation.

5. Sustainability risks

In its operations, Handelsbanken must identify and manage sustainability risks in accordance with the focus established above and in line with the Bank's generally low risk tolerance. Each business operation bears the responsibility for identifying the relevant sustainability risks and managing these within the framework of established risk management processes.

6. Follow-up and reporting

Handelsbanken must measure, report and follow up the sustainability efforts. These reports are to be published annually in Handelsbanken's sustainability report, and regularly on the Handelsbanken website.