

**ABIS Colloquium 2018 – Sustainability as a business opportunity**  
**9 November 2018**

**ROUNDTABLES OVERVIEW**

**1.1. RATIONALE**

With global environmental and societal challenges becoming more and more material to companies' long-term strategies and success and increasingly relevant to their customers, talents and external stakeholders, the business case for sustainability is no longer the question: the issue we are facing is not *whether* to take responsibilities for the future, but *how*. As the interface between the business and academic communities, ABIS aims to provide a space for the two to share business cases and challenges, cross-fertilize knowledge and ideas and to develop concrete innovations to realize the benefits of sustainable development.

**1.2 OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of each roundtable are to:

- Allow companies to share view/challenges on taking advantage of sustainability opportunities
- Share and discuss the related scientific research and evidence
- Offer a forum for interaction between experts
- Spur solution-seeking and co-create potential solutions
- Define the most relevant/urgent research questions to elaborate on after the conference

**1.3 FORMAT**

The event features 9 business-led roundtables organized in 3 tracks – *Circular Economy, Digitalization and Sustainable finance* – with 3 rounds of discussions each. Participants will be able to select which track they want to attend. The idea is to create a core group of experts addressing track themes from 3 perspectives. Each roundtable session will follow a “Introduction – case – dilemma – question – discussion – conclusion” structure. It will be facilitated by ABIS staff and opened by corporate representative who will provide “Context – case – dilemma – question” around a sustainable business opportunity. The facilitator will then open the floor for critical, constructive discussion and practice/research-based ideas and inputs. The conversation will follow Chatham House rules. An academic rapporteur will be nominated to capture the key insights and takeaways. The facilitator will conclude summarizing potential business opportunities and directions for future research and project development.

**1.4 AUDIENCE**

Although the roundtables are open to all participants, ABIS will seek to invite and strongly encourage the presence of senior figures and progressive and critical thinkers from business, academia, and other stakeholder communities in the fields of circular economy, digitalization, sustainable finance, strategy, innovation and responsible business. ABIS will also encourage diversity and transdisciplinary approach. A registration process will be in place to finalize the list of participants for each track ahead of the event.

**1.5 ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

The synthesis of insights, experiences and arguments from the sessions will underpin the development of **innovative education and/or research projects** coordinated by ABIS that will create business and societal value and advance sustainable developments.