



EUROPEAN WOMEN SHAREHOLDERS  
DEMAND GENDER EQUALITY

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## ATMOSPHERE DURING THE AGM OF UNILEVER

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By Marianne Eisma and Magda Skordaki

Unilever is very confident and proud of itself in relation to this issue. Since calling out gender as a key priority in 2009, Unilever have seen significant progress. It is Unilever's ambition for 50% of the managers to be women. By the end of 2013, 42% were female and 58% male [Sustainable Living report]. It explicitly stated that it comes as no surprise that it is listed within the 50 top companies concerning gender diversity and that even external consultants admit that they have not seen such a rapid raise in women percentage in a company before, within the last five years. Unilever is a member of Catalyst and in January 2013 Unilever was named as a winner of the 2013 Catalyst award for Unilever's initiatives that expand opportunities for women and business. [Sustainability Living report]. Unilever highlighted during the AGM the recognition they received. Unilever supports Women's International Network (WIN) that engages and supports women in enhancing their knowledge and developing as authentic leaders. Unilever was the lead sponsor of the Win 2012 conference.

Mr. Paul Polman Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Diversity Committee congratulated us on our questions. He explicitly stated that the Unilever Boards will look at the written questions, which we sent in advance and make sure that they are all answered.

Overall, Unilever Boards were honest with the issue and expressed their willingness to increase the percentages in women in managerial positions within Unilever.

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