# Preparing for sustainability reporting while ensuring the action doesn't stay behind



Catherine Bals Group Sustainability Department Lead

## The Proximus Group: a company playing a key role in Belgian and global society

International company with Belgian roots and 90+ years of history

10,000+ employees (FTE's) in Belgium and many indirect jobs

Serving 2.8 million Belgian residential customers daily and over 5 billion worldwide

1.4 million Fiber Homes Passed (Q1'23) & largest mobile spectrum holder

> 30 million fraudulent communications blocked per month by Telesign

€6.0 billion revenues (2023 Group underlying revenues)

€1.7 billion EBITDA (2023 Group underlying EBITDA)

€1.3 billion investments (2023 Capex excl. spectrum and football rights)

3.800 direct suppliers

1st Belgian company with NetZero ambitions validated by SBTi

+128.000 mobiles collected, +799.000 fixed devices refurbished

#### "Boldly building a connected world that people trust so society blooms"





















~25% of revenues



Consumer connectivity & digital services

Enterprise Telco & ICT solutions

Communications platform

Digital identity & CPaaS solutions



#### Boldly building...

...a connected world...

...that people **trust**...

...so society **blooms**.

Building the best **gigabit network** for Belgium

Ensuring **cybersecurity** for our **customers** 

Going all in in the fight against global warming

Developing **digital solutions** for everyday life

Supporting Europe in achieving **sovereignty** 

Promoting digital accessibility, inclusiveness and upskilling

Connecting people and devices **worldwide** 

Embedding highest **ethics** and compliance standards

Stimulating an inspiring and inclusive work environment

#### EU Green deal wants to transform the EU into a modern, resourceefficient and competitive economy and society

#### **Objectives**

No net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050

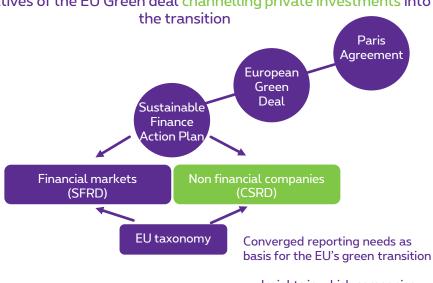
Economic growth decoupled from resource use

No person and no place left behind

Multitude of legislative initiatives



Sustainable finance package at EU level aims at supporting the delivery on the objectives of the EU Green deal channelling private investments into



- Insights in which companies are truly sustainable – no greenwashing
- Reporting gives a "licence to operate"

### The arrival of CSRD brings a new level of transparency across a company's main material ESG topics

#### CSRD: What is it?

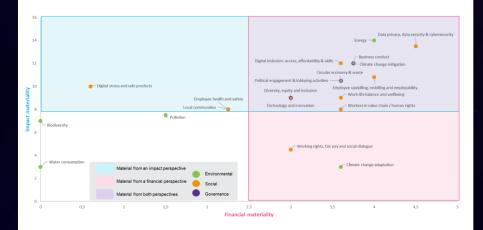
New EU Directive replacing NFRD (Non-financial Reporting Directive) aiming to:

- Allow transparent and standardized sustainability reporting
- Truly embed sustainability in company decision making

#### **Specificities:**

- External audit "limited assurance" required
- Applicable as from Full year 2024 (Annual report 2025) for first wave of companies
- Puts Sustainability at the same level as Financials:
  - Scope: Group
  - Similar exigencies to gather, disclose, audit underlying data as financial reporting

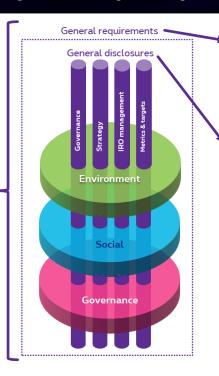
#### **Double Materiality Assessment as foundation**



### It requires to disclose how you deal with risks, opportunities & impacts & serves as good practice principles to embed ESG into business operations

#### 12 standards

2 general 10 topic specific



#### Generic mandatory requirements and guideline

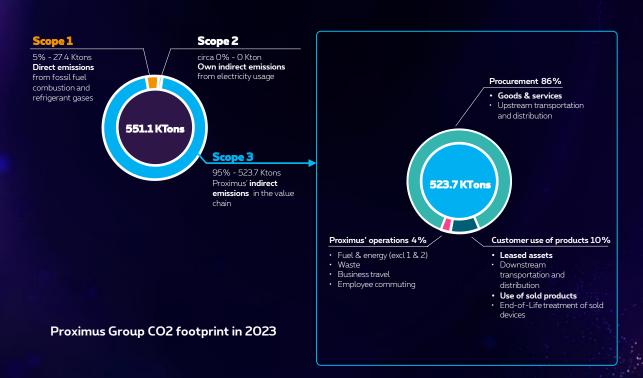
1. Includes double materiality (impact & financial)

#### For each material domain:

- Describe the topic in a company's context, its scope & material Impacts, Risks and Opportunities as outputs of the Double Materiality
- 2. Explain the **Governance** established (management & board oversight, incentives, due diligence, internal controls, integration into enterprise risk management)
- 3. Explain how Impacts, Risks & Opportunities are considered in Strategy & LT roadmaps and might influence business models
- 4. Explain which **Policies**, **Processes**, **ST action plans & dedicated resources** are put in place to manage them and how we ensure their actual impact
- 5. Disclose quantitative & time-bound targets and the metrics (KPI's) to prove we are progressing towards ambitions
- 6. [in 2025: add financial estimates of those Impacts, Risks and Opportunities]

BUT you do not need to be perfect, you only need to be transparent!

## In our fight against climate change we have set an SBTi approved Net Zero target for 2040 and want to be truly circular by 2030





### While setting out a transition plan on Scope 1 & 2 is more controllable by focusing on renewables & energy efficiency



Keep electricity consumption under control

**Efficiencies on fixed networks and buildings** to
compensate for expected 35%
year over year data growth



Move away from fossil fuel in our operations

€17 Mio for fossil free **heating in buildings**Electrification of management fleet
(**only EV orders** and green mobility plan)
Proof of concept for electrical technical fleet
Challenge of alternative for heavy duty vehicles



Maintain a strong green electricity sourcing strategy

Maximized **self-production**(solar panels) **PPA** sign-offs
(preferably with additionality)

Member of the **RE100** initiative

## The challenge remains in our Scope 3 where control over the supply chain, business model transformation and circularity are key

#### Scope 3 - Status and Targets



#### Scope 3 - Reduction Leverages and Risks

#### 1 - Business Planning



Transformation cycles coming to an end

Temporary increase expected to naturally come to an end:

- Fiber rollout & Mobile consolidation
- IT transformation
- Building outphasing

• Engage and drive change

Harness supplier/Product

for top suppliers

specific data

• Suppliers with SBTs



Carbon intensive new business initiatives

Examples:

- 6G rollout
- New business

#### 2 - Sustainable Value Chain & circularity



Supplier Engagement



Disruptive Business Models

Circularity by Design:

- Refuse
- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle



Inability to Meet Transformation Pace

Potential hurdles:

- · Competitivity protection
- Supply chain disruption
- ...

## Building a transition plan brings along a number of complex challenges linked to market maturity, business integration and data management

Supply chain

Circularity

Reporting

**Decarbonisation pace** of your suppliers and **getting to leverage** 

Business transformation alongside customer behaviour

Creating a robust data management

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Awareness & skillset creation
- Aligning business planning & forecasting CO2
- Complex data management
- Financing transition plan
- Process adaptations & resource intensity
- Embedding it into corporate & operational governance

#### **OPPRTUNITIES**

- Employee engagement
- Integration of ESG in FIN function
- Use technology (AI/GenAI) for good
- Competitive advantage
- Access to sustainable investors

proXimus

Thank you