

ECCO'S FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

ECCO was founded with the aim of **providing support to politics, institutions, the economy, society and the media in the complex task of implementing the green transition** in the time and volume dictated by science. ECCO offers an independent space to advance the public interest with disentangled from private interests. Reporting on our activity for 2023 is an opportunity to look back over what drove us to establish ECCO in 2021.

With the Paris Agreement and the launching of the European Green Deal, **decarbonisation has become a determining factor of many aspects of contemporary life**. The subject of climate is now tied to important processes concerning international relations, financial reforms, industrial and social innovation, the transformation of consumption and the ability to adapt and foster resilience in order to respond to increasing climate impacts at the global level.

The climate crisis therefore demands **responses not only to specific climate goals, but also to social, economic and international challenges as a whole**.

In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic, the outbreak of new conflicts, the gas-market crisis and the drastic fall in clean energy costs, the resurgence of inflation and high levels of debt, a deterioration in geopolitical relations and doubts over trade rules, as well as the emergence of new social and political forces, have created the context in which the climate transition has taken shape and is called on to play its role. This is in addition to ongoing demographic trends and a global increase in consumption, the increase of mobility, the progressive loss of western leadership and the emergence of internal inequalities, in the midst of geopolitical stalemate. **The challenge of decarbonisation is anything but simple.**

It is a difficult and complex process, but one that is also necessary, already under way and unstoppable.

The difficulties surrounding the transition are exacerbated by **continuing and prevailing interests related to the use of fossil fuels** and the relationship between these and the world of politics, institutions, the media, finance and society.

Faced with the evidence, the dramatic nature and the acceleration of climate change, the establishment has had to abandon its "climate denial" tactic. Instead, it has shifted towards declaring **"the impossibility of the transition", proposing technological fantasies far removed from scientific and commercial evidence, and blaming external geopolitical drivers**. This is achieved by leaning on a number of real difficulties faced by people, companies, institutions and the world of politics in managing change. The **challenges faced by science and facts** are now amplified by the influence that artificial intelligence is having on society.

However, **social studies show how people's awareness of the urgency of climate change is extremely high**, as are expectations for concrete and effective political solutions that are able to accompany people through transition.

ECCO, alongside many forces in society, is contributing to climate action by developing political strategies and policy proposals, opportunities for dialogue and collaboration, narratives and climate diplomacy. This is to demonstrate how change is both possible and necessary to make a contribution to the overall challenges faced by society.

Three years since ECCO was founded, we believe we have managed to **build the foundations for an independent laboratory of thought and action based in Italy that works in the public interest** and is capable of shaping from this perspective European, Mediterranean and global policy. This is how ECCO participates in the unstoppable process of global transformation that will determine the lives of everyone living in this century. **This role has received recognition from international philanthropy, from which the cornerstone of ECCO's support comes from. Our funders recognise the weight of Italy in Europe and globally through its industry, its diplomatic role and its capacity for political and cultural innovation. The growth of resources, people and relations since 2021 – and their impact – reflects this acknowledgment** and is summarised in this 2023 Impact Report.

Until next year,

Matteo Leonardi
President and Co-Founder of ECCO



Luca Bergamaschi
Vice-president and Co-Founder of ECCO

