

**Ethibel selects four new Belgian businesses with strong sustainable entrepreneurship records: BarcoNet, Recticel, Van de Velde and Ubizen are added to the socially responsible investment register.**  
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**Ethibel's investment register: a basis for good-quality "sustainable" investments.**

As far as Ethibel is concerned, ethical investments are synonymous with investing in companies who take their social responsibilities seriously. A good quality "ethical" investment is therefore a "sustainable" investment, an investment in companies that consistently strive to promote sustainable entrepreneurship in all areas of their operations. The Ethibel quality label for sustainable investment funds offers a guarantee that these funds are invested solely in businesses whose sustainable entrepreneurship has been carefully screened by Ethibel in the light of various policy areas (internal, external, environmental, economic, for example). Only companies that manage to achieve a good score in all these areas, in comparison with their sector partners, may be included in the investment register.

The outcome is an investment universe of 200 or so companies from all industrial sectors and the world's main industrial regions (Europe, North America, Pacific). The investment register is constantly changing. Ethibel continues to look for companies showing a strong sustainability track record. This also applies to so-called "difficult" sectors and regions. In its effort to achieve a balanced distribution, Ethibel has primarily sought in recent years to focus on the search for companies in the Pacific region. However, the search for local companies continues to be a key theme.

**BarcoNet, Recticel, Van de Velde and Ubizen**

On the basis of a detailed investigation (with the focus being on active communication with stakeholders, the company's "social shareholders") and subsequent to a positive advice from the independent experts in the Register Committee, Ethibel's Board of Directors decided to add a further four Belgian companies to the register to bring the number of Belgian businesses featured there to a total of 17. The [company databank](#) on this website offers you an overview of all Belgian companies and an abstract of the detailed investigation reports. These short profiles give an idea of the strengths of these companies in all areas of sustainable entrepreneurship. From these on line documents we quote:

Specialising in broadband networks and broadcasting equipment, *BarcoNet* invests heavily in training and education. The strong social policy is significant for its open and objective evaluation of employee performance. BarcoNet boasts highly transparent operational procedures and applies stringent quality controls.

*Recticel*, Europe's largest producer of polyurethane foam, mattresses and slatted bed bases, has a well formalised and structured social policy, and scores very well for its internal and external systems of communication. The company is well reputed for its efforts to innovate in the context of a time-honoured industry. Recticel is aware of the environmental impact of its main product, polyurethane, but has done its utmost to limit the environmental impact by seeking alternative manufacturing procedures and developing recycling techniques.

A specialist in e-security activities *Ubizen* promotes an open-minded, democratic business culture. The staff turnover is low. The business pays great heed to internal auditing procedures and its economic policy reflects a long-term approach rather than relying on short-term money-spinning projects.

The textile manufacturer *Van de Velde*, is a Belgian market leader in luxury ladies' underwear and seeks to maintain jobs in the home country as much as possible. However, it insists that plant and subcontractors in low-wage countries should observe a strong social policy. At the Belgian sites, an open-minded business culture is deployed to provide incentives for co-operation amongst employees at different levels.

From now on these four companies will be featured in the investment portfolios of funds carrying the Ethibel label for sustainable investment funds and being carefully monitored by Ethibel.