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EDITORIAL EJAFB
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE IMPACT ON THE MARKET VALUE OF COMPANIES

PhD Professor Veronica GROSU

In the modern business world, there is always something new to learn about how public firms manage their resources and interact with their shareholders. There was a time when corporate governance was nothing more than a dated checklist of compliance requirements. In this stage, corporate governance is a dynamic approach that plays a key role in creating market value because of its capacity to boost credibility and, consequently, investors—all while also garnering attention. Nowadays, it functions more like a dynamic strategic instrument that might give the right competitive edge; as a result, transparency and accountability can be expected everywhere. The big question is no longer whether corporative governance principles need to be applied, but how can these concepts be harmonically included into an overall decision-taking process?

Therefore, investor confidence today can be won through transparency of practices, a board composition made of both independent and competent board members, a sound financial reporting, and last but not least, openness of communication. Investors should be treated as partners, not founders. If the information provided is timely and impartial towards stakeholders, the market will respond very well, while the cost of capital will decrease. This will make the shareholders feel secure, and in the same breadth, the management gets enough elbow room to make strategic decisions without any fear of conflict or suspicion with regard to integrity of business. In other words, good governance may substantially affect stock market performance while acting like a bridge between investors' interests and objectives of sustainable growth.

Besides the classical dimensions of corporate governance, today, technology advancement is one of the important ways through which modern businesses reshape stakeholder relationships and improve their internal processes. This enables digital platforms to streamline shareholders' participation in voting or communication. Artificial intelligence has helped in clearly spotting irregularities in real time before they escalate, and digital transformation does this with accuracy and speed. Blockchain technologies further add to that by increasing these possibilities and providing a decentralized and transparent ledger that can track transactions and can certify the veracity of information. In addition, an increasing amount of funds and investment managers treat sustainability as a key factor in shareholder value. We thus believe that this constitutes an emerging trend wherein investors look beyond immediate profitability to other issues such as environmental, social, and governance issues. The shortcut for this, of course, is ESG. The following vision integrates ethical values into the business valuation equation and opens up a vision for long-term change in capital markets landscapes. The manners in which decisions get made will change dramatically. Investment funds and managers treat sustainability and responsibility as not just a "tick mark" in various reports, but key benchmark indicators, which perhaps might increase the value of the company, especially in these times when consumers and authorities alike are asking for it.

The literature suggests that future changes will extend beyond digitization tools or revised performance criteria. Instead, these transformations are expected to impact organizational culture and significantly influence decision-making processes. Management teams will have to bring in diverse skills, especially technological expertise, so that they can get ahead, by withstanding the waves of innovation and anticipating risks. On the other hand, retail investors, who are a growing number and much more active due to the ease of accessing capital markets thank to technology, will expect to have a say in matters that were once reserved for only large institutional shareholders. The democratization of participation in corporate life is becoming increasingly evident. These transformations are reshaping the balance of power while also heightening demands for transparency and ethical conduct. This is a new reality where governance isn't a shield—it's a spark. Companies that treat it as a growth strategy, blending ethics with innovation, will thrive. Businesses that understand that strong governance is no longer just a shield against scandal, but an engine for growth and performance, will have a competitive advantage. Those that hesitate and stuck in the past? They'll struggle to attract talent, capital, and customer loyalty, being penalized by investors and falling behind in an increasingly complex market.

In short up, corporate governance is evolving right before our eyes from a traditional set of legally bound guidelines to a strategic strategy that connects technology innovation and ethical principles with financial performance. Furthermore, societal expectations will rise in tandem with the integration of global markets, perhaps requiring a reinterpretation of stakeholder accountability. This would entail a change in focus from discussing the value of corporate governance to discussing how it might be a strategic advantage in this modern world.

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