

# 4 QUESTIONS FOR MARCO HELBIG

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IC Immobilien Gruppe





As the new head of ESG you – together with your ESG Competence Team – will be ensuring that both the range of services and the corporate culture of IC Immobilien Gruppe will be even more sustainable. What are your objectives?



Together with the entire team at IC Immobilien Gruppe I intend to ensure greater environmental and social sustainability on two levels. On the one hand, we will perform ESG-compliant services for our clients and investors so as to ensure the sustainable operation of individual properties and portfolios, thus improving the carbon footprint among other things. On the other hand, within our own group of companies we intend to set an example and place the focus of our day-to-day work on value-oriented activities that conserve resources.



What are your criteria for assessing whether a property-related service is ESG-compliant?



Some of the potential for optimisation is immediately obvious, for example the procurement of “green” electricity or the use of energy-efficient devices and lighting concepts, a sustainable waste management system, the management of water consumption or the use of sustainable consumables and detergents in the properties we manage. One key area for “fine-tuning” that initially seems less obvious is the strategic selection of ESG-compliant service providers, whom we subject to a comprehensive assessment.

Individual sustainability aspects such as emissions are increasingly subject to stricter and more explicit regulation, for example in the EU Taxonomy Regulation. Naturally we integrate these criteria into our services and the reporting for our clients, investors and business partners. For us ESG-compliance also means adopting an even more holistic approach. It is a question of continually gathering property-related data and knowledge so that today’s individual measures can become tomorrow’s best practice recommendations. It is here that we are gradually seeing the greatest potential for improvement.





What motivates you personally when it comes to sustainability – quite apart from your day-to-day work?



As a father the topic is of great significance beyond the confines of my professional activities. Firstly because it is important to me that I can later say to my children that I did not neglect this issue, and secondly because I wish to teach my children the necessity for sensitivity when it comes to acting sustainably. In addition, I am not afraid to question and optimise my own self-efficacy, and to constantly increase my own awareness. What is currently of major interest to me is the debate on the relationship between the rule of constant economic growth – which we all know and which we have set ourselves – and sustainability. How can environmental consumption be uncoupled from economic growth? Is growth only sustainable if resource productivity grows more quickly than GDP? The necessity to establish recycling economies that are more comprehensive and more far-reaching is, at the very least, an indication that this is the case.





Which public personality has impressed you most with respect to sustainability – and why?



I would not like to highlight any one particular individual. At present, and also in the past, there has been an incredible number of famous and less famous people who have dedicated themselves to the topic of sustainability in the business world and in the environmental sector. It is my belief that we should participate in the discussion which these persons have initiated and consistently question our own position. It is much better to keep the focus on the actual objective of a sustainable economy in all sectors and pay heed to the latest findings from research and the world of science.

