



PRESS RELEASE

STANDARD ETHICS RECOGNISES ACEA'S STRATEGY AND UPGRADES ITS LONG TERM EXPECTED RATING TO "EEE- EXCELLENT"

Corporate Rating confirmed at "EE+". The strength of the Group's sustainability path and its ability to create value over the long term are recognised

Rome, 12 October 2026 – Standard Ethics upgraded Acea's Long Term Expected Rating to EEE- (Excellent), while confirming its Corporate Standard Ethics Rating (SER) at EE+ (Very Strong).

The improvement in the Long Term Expected Rating represents recognition of the Group's ability to integrate sustainability into its industrial strategies and translate ESG commitments into tangible results that endure over time.

In the report, Standard Ethics acknowledges the progress made by Acea in implementing its Sustainability Plan and highlights the key role of investments aimed at protecting water resources, enhancing infrastructure resilience and safety, and supporting the energy transition. It also highlights stronger governance safeguards, attention to social issues across the value chain, and a focus on technological innovation and the use of artificial intelligence to support operational efficiency and operator safety.

Particular emphasis is placed on the Group's integrated approach to managing environmental, social and governance issues, as well as on its growing ability to combine industrial development, innovation and value creation for the areas it serves.

*"The improvement in the Long Term Expected Rating is particularly significant because it reflects an assessment of the credibility of our future path," said **Pierfrancesco Latini, Acea's Chief Risk Management, Sustainability & International Officer**. "It recognises the consistency with which we are pursuing a strategy that places the protection of water resources, infrastructure resilience, technological innovation and the creation of shared value at its core. In a context in which sustainability is increasingly a competitive factor, this result confirms the soundness of the choices we have made and our ability to address the challenges of the transition with a long-term vision."*

With the new EEE- (Excellent) Long Term Expected Rating, Acea strengthens its position among the leading European utilities committed to integrating sustainability into decision-making processes, governance and industrial strategy.