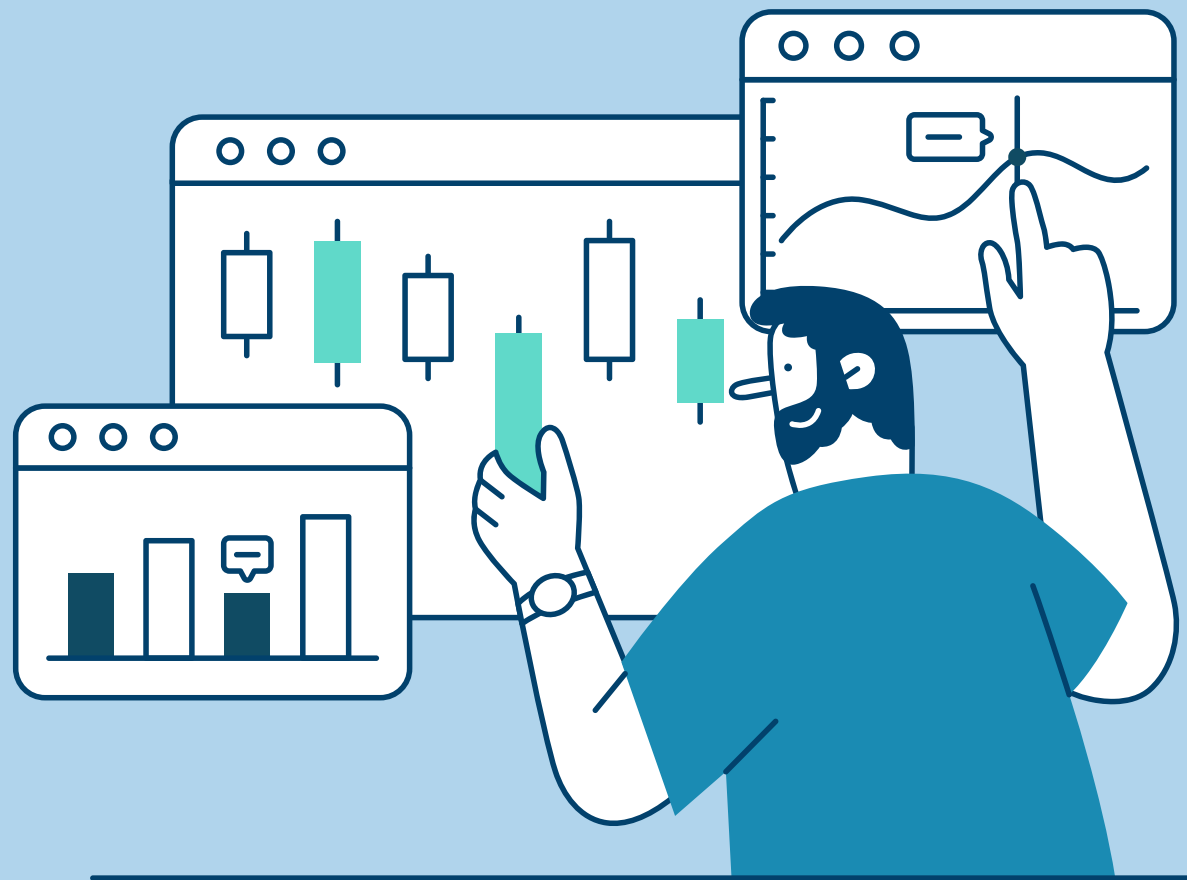


Understanding Your **Rights** and **Role** as a European Shareholder

Annual General Meetings as the
Backbone of Shareholder Democracy

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Your shares represent more than just financial assets; they represent your co-ownership of a listed company.

As a shareholder, you have the right to:

- ✓ Stay informed
- ✓ Vote at Annual General Meetings (AGMs)
- ✓ Have your broker or bank facilitate AGM access
- ✓ Voice your opinions and ask questions

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Under SRD II, you have the right to:

- ✔ Participate in **AGMs**, either **on-site or electronically** (rules may vary across EU Member States)
- ✔ Use **proxy voting** to have a say if you are unable to attend (independent shareholders' organisations allow you to pool your voting power).
- ✔ Request your Asset Manager to **vote according to your preferences (stewardship)** if you are a fundholder

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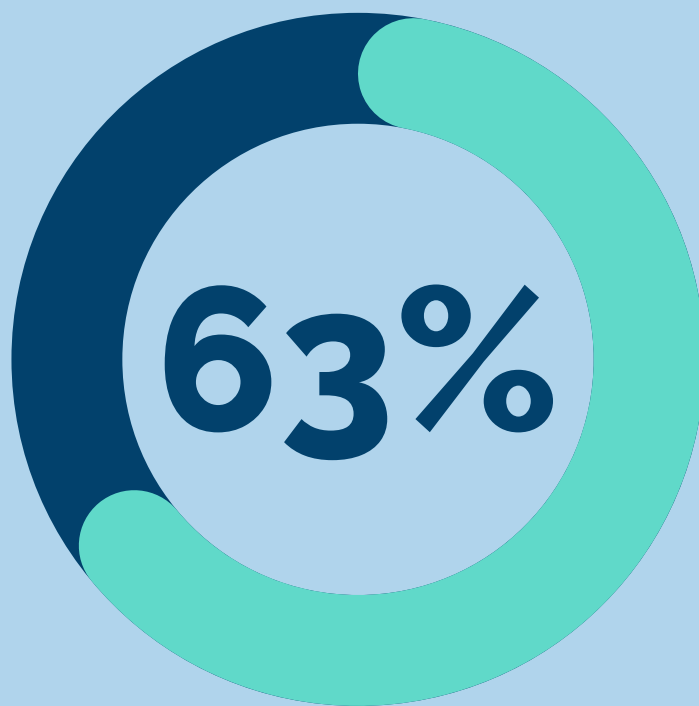
Yet, in 2022:

48%

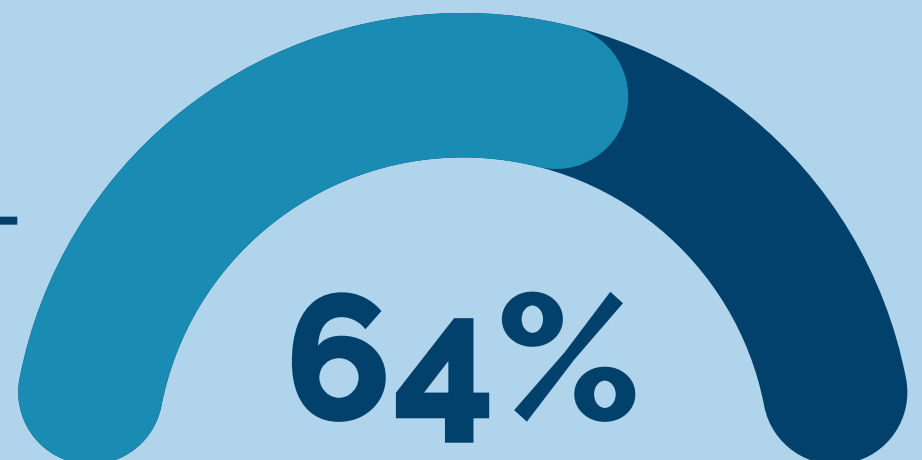
of shareholders were unable to vote cross-border due to inadequate processes.

found the voting process challenging due to complex post-trade corporate information and inadequate financial intermediaries.

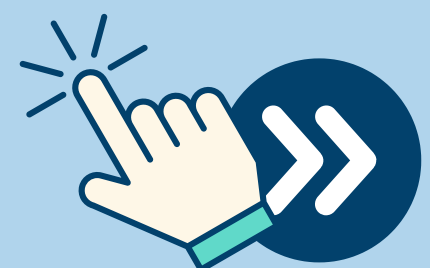
had to obtain AGM information independently.



of shareholders had to pay high fees for the right to vote at AGMs.



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Shareholders of EU companies deserve more!

- ✓ Reduced **costs**, increased **transparency**, and enhanced **stewardship** duties.
- ✓ Direct **communication** between companies and shareholders.
- ✓ Simplified and harmonised **documentation** and **deadlines**.
- ✓ Streamlined **digitalisation of the voting process** and ensure equal treatment for all shareholders.

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