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**Clean
Clothes
Campaign**



To:

*Mr Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President of the European Commission*

*Ms Federica Mogherini
Vice-President of the European Commission
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy*

*Ms Elżbieta Bieńkowska
Commissioner - Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs*

*Ms Věra Jourová
Commissioner - Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality*

Cc

*Ms Mercedes Garcia Perez
Head of Unit – Human Rights, European External Action Service*

Brussels, 8 June 2018

Dear Vice-President Timmermans,
Dear HRVP Mogherini,
Dear Commissioners Bieńkowska and Jourová,

We, the undersigned NGOs, are pleased to provide for your earnest consideration the following suggested elements for an EU Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct.

An EU Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct remains a long-outstanding commitment of the EU. Its development has for years been eagerly anticipated and called-for by numerous stakeholders and Member States.

We echo the call that such an Action Plan is a crucial means by which the EU can prove global leadership and operationalize its legal duty to protect and promote human rights. In the context of responsible business, this can be achieved by adopting a legislative approach to corporate human rights due diligence and a more considered and proactive application of trade and investment tools for the advancement of human rights. The EU can make bolder efforts to secure the protection and safety of the civic space and human rights defenders abroad; provide more meaningful rules to make access to judicial remedy a reality for victims of business malpractice; and continue to build on steady advancements in the realm of corporate transparency.

In addition to operationalizing the legal duty to protect and promote human rights, it should now be well-recognized that responsible business conduct is a prerequisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. We therefore sincerely welcome the opportunity for dialogue in order to help continue to advance, and give meaningful effect to, the EU's now seven-year long commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights.

We remain at your disposal to elaborate and clarify any elements of the attached paper, and we thank you for your earnest work and efforts in this direction so far.

Sincerely yours,

Neelanjana Mukhia



Head of Global Engagement Team
ActionAid

Iverna McGowan



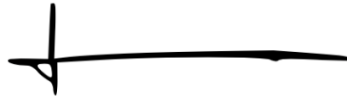
Head of European Institutions Office and Advocacy Director
Amnesty International

Klara Skrivankova,



Senior Private Sector Adviser
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Gaëlle Dusepulchre



Permanent representative to the EU
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