

# Annual Report 2022



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## European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ)

**Address:** Mundo Madou, Avenue des Arts 7/8, 1210 Brussels, Belgium.

**Project Coordination:** Marta De Vescovi. Contributions by ECCJ members. Final oversight by Nele Meyer.

**Design and layout:** © Familia and Iva Petkovic

Icons by Alex Muravev, Hassan Ali and Adlama Fila from NounProject.com

This Annual Report can be downloaded on the ECCJ website.

**Brussels, March 2023**



# Foreword

As the outgoing Director, I look back over the past five eventful years, and I am very proud that ECCJ's efforts are finally paying off.

In 2022, we achieved a real breakthrough with the European Commission's proposal for an EU Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence. While the proposal is not perfect, we can clearly see our influence on many elements in the draft law. We will take this text as a starting point and work towards strengthening it in the ensuing negotiations between the EU institutions.

Last year, ECCJ also launched a public campaign with over 100 civil society and trade union groups and positioned itself as both a force for advocacy and mobilization. The team excelled once again thanks to their motivation, energy and dedication.

ECCJ's member organizations have also succeeded in pushing forward national debates on corporate accountability legislation. These milestones continue to inspire the team in Brussels.

On a more personal note, my time with ECCJ was full of adventures. ECCJ has changed, grown and adapted to meet challenges head on towards binding rules on corporate accountability. And this is only the beginning!

I would like to thank you all for your support and your trust in me and my work, and in the whole team as well. I am looking forward to witnessing further growth and successes from afar as an outsider and supporter.

Claudia Saller — Director General

# A year in review

In February, the European Commission released its proposal for a Directive on **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence** aimed at minimising business' negative impact on workers, communities, and the environment. The Commission's proposal is the first EU initiative of its kind and that in itself is ground-breaking.

The draft law would, for the first time, require EU companies with more than 500 employees and turnover of €150 million to prevent human rights and environmental abuses along their full value chains or parts thereof.

The Commission's draft law also promises a **path to justice** and compensation for exploited, traumatised and injured workers and communities. But it ignores serious legal hurdles that make lawsuits costly, lengthy, and complicated. That is why the future law must place greater attention on victims. If the law doesn't provide fair access for victims who intend to hold business accountable, then the law doesn't achieve its objective. Some of the most pressing issues in the world today, such as exploitation and environmental degradation, could continue without scrutiny.

The proposed directive includes some important elements, such as setting up new supervisory authorities in EU member states and an obligation for companies to adopt **climate transition plans** in line with the 1.5 degree target of the Paris climate agreement. However, the proposal does not foresee any specific consequences for the breach of this climate duty, which risks making it ineffective.

It seems like the Commission has heard us – but only with one ear. We could be at a real turning point in the battle to end corporate impunity, but serious gaps need to be closed.





After combing through each and every article of the proposal, ECCJ issued a **comprehensive analysis** of the text, highlighting the loopholes and the shortcomings that risk dramatically limiting the law's positive impact on human rights and the environment.

By early spring, ECCJ entered a period of reflection and movement building. We organised three big events on **environmental due diligence** and climate litigation; **due diligence in times of conflict**; and how to **strengthen the corporate accountability movement**. These events brought together **grassroots campaigners**, national and European civil society organisations, decision makers, lawyers and other experts to explore how to hold business to account and achieve the positive impact that people, planet, and climate urgently need.

ECCJ then drafted and coordinated a joint statement signed by **over 220 NGOs and trade unions from around the world** to welcome the proposal as an essential and long-awaited step toward responsible business conduct as well as to urge the European Parliament and EU Member States to strengthen the text in line with what EU citizens, workers and communities affected by corporate abuses worldwide have vocally and publicly demanded.

Another significant moment for our coalition took place in June. Trilogue negotiations between the European Commission, Parliament and Council concluded with an agreement on **new social and environmental reporting rules**. The reform clarified transparency obligations for large companies operating in the EU on their sustainability impacts, risks and opportunities and mandated the adoption of environmental, social, and governance reporting standards.

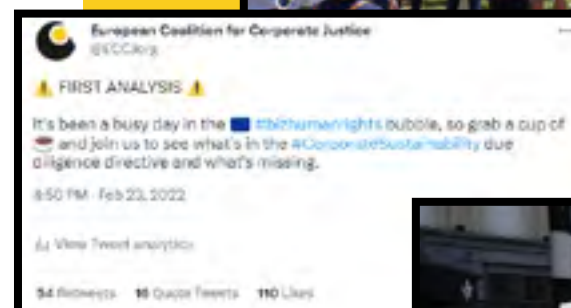
Over the summer, **ECCJ joined the citizens' initiative 'Good Clothes, Fair Pay'** for legislation on living wages in the global fashion industry, and later in September, launched the **Justice is Everybody's Business campaign** with two public actions centered around large 'scales of justice'.

Just days later, **ECCJ urged the Commission** to improve its proposal for a European **ban on products made with forced labour**. Worryingly, the proposal failed to include provisions to facilitate, compel or otherwise provide for the remediation of victims of forced labour in global value chains. In addition, the onus will be on under-resourced EU authorities to investigate and provide determinative evidence that goods have been made with forced labour, rather than companies being expected to prove that they haven't been.

Ahead of COP27, ECCJ joined a **broad coalition** in calling on State Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to put human rights at the centre of the climate response.

In the month of November ECCJ drove attention to the technology sector's most egregious human rights harms.

ECCJ last public statement of the year criticised **EU governments** for intending to weaken the upcoming EU law on corporate sustainability by leaving the inclusion of the financial sector at the discretion of each member state and shielding companies producing pesticides, weapons or surveillance tech from scrutiny for the harms their products and services create.



European Commission announces new tool banning forced labour goods  
September 14, 2022  
News: Due diligence, European, Access to justice



# 2022 public outreach in numbers



**86 k**

individuals joined the Justice is Everybody's Business campaign



**151**

Number of times ECCJ was featured in media - an increase of 70%



**220 +**

Number of civil society groups engaged worldwide



**52 k**

Visits to corporatejustice.org



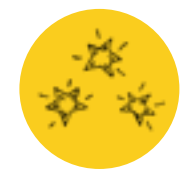
**28**

News articles published on our website



**9**

Policy briefings and reports published



**20%**

Increase in followers on Twitter



**126%**

Increase in newsletter subscribers



**80 %**

Increase in followers on LinkedIn

# Impact in media





# Achievements around Europe

## Forum Citoyen pour la RSE/Sherpa France

After many years of investigations, Sherpa took legal action against the [company Perenco S.A.](#) over pollution associated with the group's oil activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This is the first case seeking to hold a French company liable in order to repair the environmental damages occurring abroad.



## Germanwatch Germany

In December 2022, the alliance handed over to chancellor Olaf Scholz a [petition](#) collecting more than 90.000 signatures. The signatories demanded the German government to promote an effective EU due diligence law.



## Swiss Coalition for Corporate Justice Switzerland

In response to the EU Commission's due diligence proposal, the Swiss coalition re-launched a political discussion to promote a similar law for Swiss multinationals. To give strength to this demand, it launched a petition that collected [217,509](#) signatures.

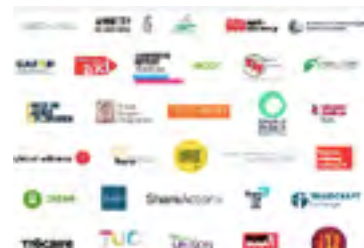
## MVO Platform/SOMO Netherlands

Dutch civil society and public has always shown great support for stricter obligation for enterprises to conduct business with respect for human rights, the environment. The movement eventually led six political parties to agree on [submitting a corporate accountability bill](#).



## Corporate Justice Coalition UK

The coalition asked citizens to [sign a petition](#) calling on the UK parliament to support a Business, Human Rights and Environment Act. More than 100,000 people have already called for a new law. The campaign is still ongoing.



## Irish Coalition for Business and Human Rights Ireland

The Irish coalition and its members launched the campaign "[Make it Your Business, Ireland!](#)" to call upon the Irish Government to introduce corporate accountability legislation and stop corporate abuse of human rights and the environment.

## Friends of the Earth Europe

Friends of the Earth Europe has for a long time been warning policy-makers and citizens that the EU's deal on the [Energy Charter Treaty \(ECT\)](#) risked keeping Europe locked into climate wrecking fossil fuels for years to come. In November, the European Parliament approved a resolution calling on the EU and all member states to proceed with a [coordinated withdrawal from the ECT](#).



## International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) International

At the end of 2021, FIDH launched the [#SeeYouInCourt campaign](#) with the objective of exposing companies that violate human rights by poisoning the planet. Legal actions against different multinational companies will continue to expand with new cases from all continents.



## Frank Bold Czech Republic

As knowledge is strength, Frank Bold launched an accessible podcast called '[Frankly Speaking](#)' where to learn about the latest political, legal, and business developments in the field of business and human rights.



## Mani Tese Italy

Within the framework of the Italian campaign "[Impresa 2030 - Diamoci una regolata](#)", Equo Garantito in collaboration with Mani Tese, published a [report on the CSDDD](#).



## CNCD-11.11.11 Belgium

CNCD and its member NGOs launched the national campaign "[Human Rights have no price](#)" that mobilize and sensitize citizens through events, actions, film debates and much more.



## NeSoVe Austria

Among the many stunts and activities led in Austria, NeSoVe raised awareness of the 10th anniversary of the Ali Enterprises fire in front of a KIK shop in Vienna. On the occasion of the Human Rights Day, they held an action in front of the Ministry of Economic Affairs protesting against Austria abstaining from supporting a string due diligence law.



## Corporate Europe Observatory Europe

Last year, the [Corporate Europe Observatory turned 25](#). From climate justice to food and agriculture, from public services to health policy, the research and campaign group worked hard to expose and challenge the privileged access and influence enjoyed by corporations in EU policy making.



## Finnwatch Finland

Finnwatch's 2022 [report on the clothing industry](#) illustrated serious problems in the supervision of organic cotton certifications. The report documented that the cotton sustainability certifications in place are still not able to guarantee that materials are not produced or processed by forced labor, nor how much BCI-certified cotton will end up in the final product.

## Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business Poland

Art as tool to raise awareness was embraced by the Polish NGO which organised an exhibition attended by over 3,000 people across two days and shared [cards and infographics](#) that explained the strong link between business and human rights.



## Initiative pour un devoir de vigilance Luxembourg

According to a survey conducted, 86% of the resident population believes that the regulatory framework in Luxembourg should make the financial sector accountable in order to prevent the financing of companies whose activities are linked to human rights violations and to environmental damage. L'Initiative pour un devoir de vigilance launched a successful campaign called "[Eis Finanzplaz 4](#)".

## Swedwatch Sweden

In 2022, Swedwatch and seven other NGOs filed a [complaint against Aker BP](#) and its owner Aker ASA for failing to comply with the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises.





# Team

ECCJ brings together committed lawyers, policy specialists, communicators, and organisers with varied profiles and international experience.

ECCJ functions thanks to the commitment of its members and their working groups, whom we warmly thank. Our work also depends on the support of external creatives like copywriters, videographers, programmers, and graphic designers.

We are particularly grateful to our talented and committed trainees Dorothy Puga and Andriana Loredan for their involvement.



**Claudia Saller**  
Director



**Christopher Patz**  
Policy Officer



**Alejandro García Esteban**  
Policy Officer



**Sylvia Obregon Quiroz**  
Policy Officer



**Iva Petkovic**  
Communications Officer



**Jan-Lars Lagas**  
Finance and Operations Manager



**Marion Lupin**  
Policy Officer



**Anya VerKamp**  
Campaign Coordinator

# Board



**Anina Dalbert**  
Public Eye



**Cornelia Heydenreich**  
CorA-Netz



**Mark Dearn**  
Corporate Justice Coalition



**Lucie Chatelain**  
Sherpa



**Paul de Clerck**  
Friends of the Earth Europe



**Filip Gregor**  
Frank Bold



**Gisela ten Kate**  
MVO Platform



**Maddalena Neglia**  
FIDH

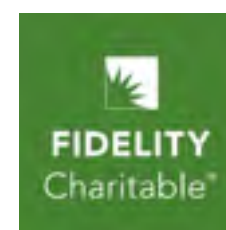
# Finances

	Actuals 2021	Actuals 2022
STAFF FTE	5.9	6.5
<b>Category</b>		
Human Resources	445,930	466,145
Office and Administration	79,482	92,375
Organisational development	4,147	9,730
Governance	414	162
Research, Expertise, Editing	-	2,404
Advocacy	1,450	6,282
Awareness and Comms	60,911	5,029
Coalition-Building	46	23,052
International Collaboration	-	-
JIEB Campaign	-	43,358
Miscellaneous	4,008	1,489
<b>TOTAL IN-HOUSE</b>	<b>596,386</b>	<b>650,026</b>
Y2Y increase/decrease (-)		+ 9.0%
BHRinlaw Regranting		5,000
Laudes Regrant 2021	255,596	223,309
<b>TOTAL SUB-GRANTING</b>	<b>255,596</b>	<b>228,309</b>
		-10.7%
<b>TOTAL ECCJ BUDGET</b>	<b>851,982</b>	<b>878,335</b>
Y2Y increase/decrease (-)		+ 3.1%
Reserve Allocation	+ 32,976	+ 80,000
ECCJ Reserves at end of y	106,879	186,879
Y2Y Increase / Decrease (-)		+ 74.9%

# Funders

ECCJ warmly thanks the people and foundations that make these successes possible, including:

SIGRID RAUSING TRUST





# About ECCJ

The European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ) is a coalition of over 480 civil society organisations in Europe advocating for laws that guarantee corporate accountability and transparency, and ensure justice for people affected by corporate malpractice.

We are the only European coalition bringing together civil society, trade unions, consumer organisations and academics. We draw on their expertise and experience and provide a united voice.

We work with decision-makers in developing robust European and national policies and laws, while also building a strong corporate accountability movement.

## Mission

We are changing the rules to make business accountable.

Our work is motivated by the express need to transform the European Union – home to a large number of corporations – into a global leader in corporate accountability.

Although the majority of our activities take place within EU borders, the ultimate beneficiaries are communities and workers affected by corporate abuse, both inside and outside the EU.

## Vision

We are guided by a vision of a sustainable world in which corporations' drive for profit is balanced by the interest of society at large and respects human, social and environmental rights.

The change we want to see is robust corporate liability that holds business accountable; improved access to justice and remedies for victims of corporate abuse; and greater corporate transparency based on meaningful supply chain reporting that complements financial information with impacts on people and the planet.



## Contact us



**European Coalition for Corporate Justice**  
Avenue des Arts 7/8  
1210 Brussels  
Belgium

Contacts: [corporatejustice.org/contact-us/](https://corporatejustice.org/contact-us/)

## Connect with us

Visit our website to find out more about us:

[corporatejustice.org](https://corporatejustice.org)

Follow our social media to stay informed about our latest activities and resources:

Twitter: @ECCJorg

LinkedIn: European Coalition for Corporate Justice