Dear Mr Federal Chancellor,

On Friday, the debate of the Permanent Representatives of the EU Member States on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) was postponed to this Wednesday, 14 February. The signing parties which are the European Trade Union Confederation, with its 93 national trade union organisations and 10 European trade union federations urge you to use this time window to revise the German position and support the European supply chain law.

Companies are cornerstones of our society, which is why it is essential that they do not harm human rights and the environment in their activities, but respect them. With its national Supply Chain Act, Germany has initially taken on a pioneering role in the fight for respect for human rights in Europe and worldwide. However, the announced abstention on the European directive would turn Germany from a pioneer into a laggard. Such a stance would violate Germany's international human rights obligations and would be at odds with the interests of workers in Europe and worldwide.

German companies that fall within the scope of the German Supply Chain Act have expressly called for the adoption of the directive, the provisions of which they consider to be appropriate and feasible. Recent studies on the implementation of the German Supply Chain Act have confirmed that legally binding regulations are key for the urgent change in business conduct. A EU-wide regulation would finally put an end to competitive advantages to the detriment of people and the environment and prevent fragmentation of the EU internal market due to divergent national regulations.
We therefore urge you to ensure that Germany agrees to the trilogue agreement on the CSDDD in the Council of the European Union.

We are at your disposal for further discussions.

Yours sincerely,

Esther Lynch
General Secretary
European Trade Union Confederation

Nele Meyer
Director
European Coalition for Corporate Justice

With the support of:

1. Share Action
2. European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights
3. Transport & Environment
4. Gemeinwohl Ökonomie
5. Solidaridad
6. Cidse
7. Global Witness
8. ClientEarth
9. Oxfam
10. ActionAid
11. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
12. FIAN Deutschland e.V.
13. Fair Trade Advocacy Office
14. Clean Clothes Campaign
15. FIDH – International Federation for Human Rights
16. Frank Bold
17. Anti-Slavery International
18. EU-LAT Network