

Joint statement on omnibus

Omnibus proposal will create costly confusion and lower protection for people and the planet

January 14 2025, Brussels

On 8 November 2024, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced she would introduce a proposal to amend three key pillars of the European Green Deal through an Omnibus law: the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), and the Taxonomy Regulation.

As members of civil society, human rights and environmental defenders, trade unions and climate activists, we call on the European Commission to actively protect these EU corporate accountability laws, reaffirm the official timeline for their transposition and implementation, and be fully transparent about the Omnibus process.

The European Union must show leadership in the protection of human rights, environment and climate, and prevent further setbacks to corporate accountability. **The ongoing backlash against the EU's sustainability framework comes at a time when business accountability is critically needed.** Whilst some of the world's biggest companies distributed [record dividends in 2023](#), their investments fall far short of what is needed to transition to sustainable and resilient business models. Around the world, European companies, through their complex supply chains, continue to impact on a range of human rights and fundamental freedoms including labour rights, freedom from forced labour and the right to a clean, healthy and safe environment.

Yet despite clear calls from [Climate Commissioner Hoekstra](#) and [Executive Vice-President Ribera](#) to protect the legacy of the European Green Deal – and a commitment from [Justice Commissioner McGrath](#) “to ensure a timely and effective implementation” of the CSDDD during his confirmation hearing – President Ursula von der Leyen runs the risk of undermining key protections by forcing a re-opening of the files with the Omnibus law. **This is generating tremendous uncertainty for countries that have already started their transposition process, and it will reward companies who failed to prepare to comply with these legislations.**

A race to the bottom in value chain standards will risk increasing pressure on European manufacturing. It will also lead to more exploitation of people and environmental harm across countries. Businesses should be held accountable for their responsibility to respect human rights across their operations and supply chains.

Several countries outside the EU have already introduced or are in the process of introducing mandatory human rights due diligence laws, or have more specific legislation related to modern slavery or child labor issues. These include: The United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway, Australia, South Korea, Mexico, Brazil, Japan and Canada.

The European Union is founded on the values of democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Those principles are enshrined in the Treaty on EU and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. **The EU should not undo the progress that has already been achieved with the European Green Deal, but encourage a race to the top and protect human rights, the environment and climate;** all while providing stakeholders with a level playing field through clear expectations, legal certainty and timely and comprehensive guidelines on implementation.

Let us not forget [the assessment made by the previous Commission under Ursula von der Leyen's presidency](#): the EU's competitiveness lies in its ability to provide a stable regulatory environment under the European Green Deal, focused on sustainability and the green transition - all of which are increasingly demanded by global consumers.

We therefore urge European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to:

- Uphold EU corporate accountability legislation including the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), and the Taxonomy Regulation.
- Adhere to the current timeline for the transposition and implementation of these essential laws, and provide timely and clear guidelines for compliance.
- As a matter of urgency, clarify the Commission's intentions and be fully transparent about the rationale, scope, timeline, legislative process, impact assessment as well as the consultation period related to the proposed omnibus.

Signatories:



OECD Watch

partage.lu

madre brava



SKC
Schöne Kleren Campagne
Clean Clothes Campaign



act:ionaid



Protecting People and Planet



*Sherpa



Ansvarlig Fremtid

RECLAIM Finance

VREDESACTIE

T&E



CLIMATES



act:ionaid pour des peuples solidaires



PowerShift

Les Amis de la Terre France



FORUM FAIRER HANDEL



SOLSOC



WÖK Werkstatt Ökonomie



FEMNET

WE EFFECT



CNCD 11.11.11



CUT Chile Central Unitaria de Trabajadores



WATER WITNESS



Solidaridad

W R C WORKER RIGHTS CONSORTIUM



Trocaire TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD

actalliance eu



UHRP UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT ئۇيغۇر كىشىلىك ھوقۇق قۇرۇلۇشى

INITIATIVE
LIEFERKETTEN
GESETZ.DE



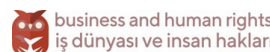
CORPORATE
ACCOUNTABILITY
LAB



Diakonia



TAULA
PER
MÈXIC



Signatory organisations (in alphabetical order)

1. 11.11.11
2. Acción Ecologica
3. Accountability Counsel
4. achACT
5. ACT Alliance EU
6. ActionAid France
7. ActionAid Guatemala
8. ActionAid International
9. ACV Puls
10. ACV-CSC Belgian Confederation of Christian Trade Unions
11. Alianza de Organizaciones por los Derechos Humanos del Ecuador
12. Alliance for sustainable regional development (SRD4BG)
13. Amnesty International
14. AnsvarligFremtid, Denmark
15. Anti-Slavery International
16. Anukatham Unorgansied workers union
17. Arisa
18. Associació internacional d'Enginyeria Sense Fronteres
19. Asociación por la Paz y los Derechos Humanos Taula per Mèxic
20. Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de España
21. Association of Ethical Shareholders Germany
22. Avocats Sans Frontières
23. BankTrack
24. BLOOM
25. Both ENDS
26. Broederlijk Delen
27. Bulgarian Foundation for Business and Human Rights
28. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
29. Business and Human Rights Association
30. Campagna Abiti Puliti
31. Campagna Impresa 2030
32. Campaña Ropa Limpia - Setem
33. Caritas Europa
34. Centre for the Politics of Emancipation
35. Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos “Segundo Montes Mozo S.J.” (CSMM)
36. CGSLB – ACLVB (Liberal Trade Union - Belgium)
37. CIDSE
38. Clean Clothes Campaign
39. ClientEarth
40. Climate Action Network Europe
41. CliMates
42. CNCD - 11.11.11
43. Collectif Ethique sur l'Etiquette
44. Commerce Equitable France
45. Compassion in World Farming
46. Conectando Derechos
47. CorA-Netzwerk für Unternehmensverantwortung
48. Corporate Accountability Lab

49. Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)
50. Corporate Justice Coalition
51. Deutsche Umwelthilfe (Environmental Action Germany)
52. Diakonia
53. DKA Austria
54. ECONOMY FOR THE COMMON GOOD
55. Eetti (Pro Ethical Trade Finland)
56. Ekumenická akademie (Ecumenical Academy)
57. Entraide & Fraternité
58. Entrepueblos/Entrepobles/Entrepobos/Herriarte
59. Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)
60. EU LAT Network
61. European Coalition for Corporate Justice
62. European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
63. European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
64. FAIR
65. Fair Finance International
66. Fair Trade Advocacy Office
67. Fairtrade International
68. FEBEA - European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers
69. FEMNET e.V.
70. FGTB-ABVV
71. FIAN Belgium
72. FIDH - International Federation for Human Rights
73. Finnwatch
74. Focus Association for Sustainable Development
75. Fondation Partage Luxembourg
76. Forum Fairer Handel
77. FOUR PAWS International
78. Frank Bold
79. Friends of the Earth Europe
80. Friends of the Earth Ireland
81. Fundación Libera Contra la Trata de Personas y la Esclavitud en Todas sus Formas
82. Fundacja Kupuj Odpowiedzialnie
83. GLOBAL 2000 - Friends of the Earth Austria
84. Global Justice Group
85. Global Witness
86. Human Rights Watch
87. Informationsstelle Peru
88. Initiative Lieferkettengesetz
89. Initiative pour un devoir de vigilance Luxembourg
90. INKOTA-netzwerk
91. Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
92. Institute for Health and Environment
93. Instituto de Estudios Ecologistas del Tercer Mundo
94. International Corporate Accountability Roundtable
95. Investor Alliance for Human Rights
96. Irish Coalition for Business and Human Rights
97. Jamaa Resource Initiatives
98. La Coordinadora de ONGD (Spain)
99. La Strada International

100. Les Amis de la Terre - Belgique asbl
101. Les Amis de la Terre France
102. Madre Brava
103. Maquila Solidarity Network
104. Max Havelaar France / Fairtrade
105. Mighty Earth
106. Milieudefensie - Friends of the Earth Netherlands
107. Mouvement écologique (Luxembourg)
108. Movimento Consumatori APS
109. NaZemi
110. NeSoVe
111. No Business With Genocide
112. Notre Affaire à Tous
113. Novi sindikat, Croatia
114. OECD Watch
115. Open Gate-La Strada
116. Orion Grid for Leadership and Authority
117. Oxfam
118. Oyu Tolgoi Watch
119. Peace Brigades International
120. PIC - Legal Center for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment
121. PICUM
122. Plataforma Chilena de la Sociedad Civil en Derechos Humanos y Empresas
123. Plataforma por Empresas Responsables
124. Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business
125. PowerShift
126. Rainforest Alliance
127. Reclaim Finance
128. Red europea de Comités Oscar Romero (SICSAL_Euroopa)
129. Reds
130. Resource Matters
131. Responsible Sourcing Network
132. Rivers without Boundaries Mongolia
133. Romero Initiative (CIR)
134. Schone Kleren Campagne (Clean Clothes Campaign Netherlands)
135. Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund
136. Secretaría Medio Ambiente Y Transición Justa CUT Chile
137. ShareAction
138. Sherpa
139. Social Awareness and Voluntary Education
140. SOLIDAR
141. Solidaridad
142. SOLIFONDS, Switzerland
143. Solsoc
144. SOMO
145. SÜDWIND e.V., Germany
146. Südwind, Austria
147. Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
148. Swedwatch
149. The Circle

150. The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)
151. The Human Trafficking Legal Center
152. Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland SASK
153. Transport & Environment
154. Trócaire
155. Turkmen.news
156. Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability
157. Umanotera
158. UNI Global Union
159. UTGLAWU,Uganda
160. Uyghur Human Rights Project
161. Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project
162. Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation
163. Vredesactie
164. Water Witness International
165. We Effect
166. Werkstatt Ökonomie
167. WeWorld
168. Worker Rights Consortium
169. World Benchmarking Alliance
170. WWF EU
171. WSM
172. ZERO