

CSR Europe – Enterprise 2020 collaborative project

Supporting European business implement the UN framework and guiding principles on business and human rights

CSR Europe Intervention at the introductory exchange with stakeholders - 1st session of the UN WG transnational corporations

[CSR Europe](#) is Europe's leading business network on corporate social responsibility (CSR). The organisation was founded in 1995 by senior European business leaders in response to an appeal by the European Commission President Jacques Delors. It has since grown to become an inspiring network of business people working at the very forefront of CSR across Europe and globally. Today, CSR Europe reaches out to approximately 4000 companies across Europe.

Through our strategic initiative, [Enterprise 2020](#), we have launched a collaborative project between business and stakeholders to support implementation of the UN framework and guiding principles on business and human rights. The project aims to:

- Create understanding of implications to business of key international and EU frameworks on business and human rights
- Share good practices, challenges, opportunities, lessons learned across business; and based on this, create tools/methodology to support implementation of the UN framework and guiding principles e.g. training/capacity building, grievance mechanisms/access to remedy, etc.
- Foster dialogue between business and stakeholders on human rights

CSR Europe welcomes the opportunity to contribute to and complement the work of the UN Working Group on business and human rights; as well as contributing to and complementing the European Commission's work on business and human rights sector specific and SME guidance.

CSR Europe – Enterprise 2020 Collaborative Project: Sustainable Supply Chains, Business & Human Rights

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Project leaders: HP, ArcelorMittal, Titan, Volkswagen, Hitachi

Challenge

Key EU and international frameworks have prioritized human rights and responsible supply chains for businesses. These topics are equally relevant to business beyond a policy perspective, both from a risk and opportunity perspective - reducing operational risks and costs, enhancing productivity and improving working conditions, which can improve quality, among others. Both CSR topics share synergies and impact most multinational companies. Yet, learning, exchange and collaboration among companies on these topics remain limited.

Objectives

To optimize the scope of this project, a two-workstream approach will be followed.

- 1. Sustainable Supply Chain:**
 - **Promote best practice exchange, raise awareness and identify solutions to key hot topics** on sustainable supply chain issues

- **Work with sector organizations** to support sector-specific CSR issues in supply chain practices
- 2. Business and Human Rights:**
- Create **understanding of business implications of key international and EU frameworks**
 - Support companies in **implementing the UN Guiding Principles**
 - **Foster dialogue** between **business and stakeholders** to raise understanding on the business approach to human rights

Main activities

- **Webinar series** on critical supply chain hot topics in an international context
- **Collaboration with sectors** on implementing sector-specific CSR issues in the supply chain
- **BHR workshops** addressing the implications of BHR frameworks on business and identifying practical tools based on good practices to implement human rights in operations
- Business input into **EC consultations on BHR**

Deliverables

- **Best practice** sharing and **UN Global Compact and CSR Europe global sustainable supply chain portal**
- **Issue briefs** based on sustainable supply chain webinars and international and EU frameworks on BHR
- **BHR Manual** that support the implementation of key human rights aspects for business through best practice examples and practical tools

For more information, please contact **Susan Njoroge** (sn@csreurope.org)