

Commissioner Antonio TAJANI

Vice-President & Commissioner for Industry & Entrepreneurship
European Commission

Our Ref: B1482

Brussels, 24 September 2013

Dear Commissioner Tajani,

EU IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In the light of the recent launch of the UK National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights, we are writing as members of the Coordination committee of the Multistakeholder on CSR to urge you to speed up and strengthen implementation of these Principles at EU level.

We believe there is an urgent need for the EU Commission to ensure that the UN Guiding Principles are properly implemented at both the EU and Member States level, as it committed to do in the Communication *A renewed EU Strategy 2011-2014 for Corporate Social Responsibility*. In particular, we would like to recall the Commission's commitment to "publish by the end of 2012 a report on EU priorities in the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles, and thereafter to issue periodic progress reports". The Commission should come swiftly forward with this report and a concrete timetable, to offer guidance and coordination for the effective implementation of the UN Guiding Principles at EU and Member State levels.

As part of prioritising the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles, we recommend that the EU and Member States carry out a comprehensive review of the normative and regulatory framework for the effective protection of human rights in the context of business activity. This review would identify and propose reforms, where needed, in areas of policy and law such as commercial, corporate, administrative, criminal and civil, both at EU and Member State level. On the basis of this exercise the Commission should present a road-map for implementation in areas which fall within EU competence, giving priority to the states' duty to protect human rights against abuse by business (pillar 1 of the UNGPs) and access to effective remedy including judicial remedy (pillar 3 of the UNGPs). For areas falling within EU Member States' competence, the Commission should offer guidance to and coordination between Member States.

Effective regulatory measures put in place by the EU and its Member States can take various forms. We believe that one important measure is to require businesses to undertake human rights due diligence throughout their global operations to mitigate human rights risks and prevent adverse human rights impacts. As a first step the currently debated disclosure of non-financial information should entail reporting requirements on due diligence processes conducted and the findings hereof.

We believe that the EU and its Member States must play a leading role in ensuring that the UN Guiding Principles on Business on Human Rights are properly implemented among states and businesses worldwide. But effective regulatory measures have to be put in place in order to make this a reality. We hope to secure your support in this.

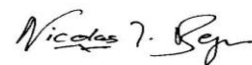
Yours sincerely,



Jerome Chaplier
Coordinator
European Coalition for Corporate Justice



Magda Stoczkiewicz
Director
Friends of the Earth Europe



Dr. Nicolas J. Beger
Director
Amnesty International
European Institutions Office