

## 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



INITIATIVE  
LIEFERKETTEN  
GESETZ.DE



CORPORATE  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
LAB



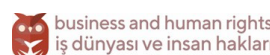
People  
Change  
the World **Diakonia**



TAULA  
PER  
MÈXIC



Corporate  
Justice  
Coalition



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

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

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

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