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**\*\*In the News\*\***

- Hearing in the European Parliament on Corporate Social Responsibility on Jan. 23rd 2007

This hearing on Corporate Social Responsibility will focus on the relation between human rights and business, both from a positive and a negative perspective, with a special attention on European activities in third countries. Multinational companies can contribute to the improvement of the local environment in which they are operating, but they can also be part of human rights violations, and most particularly so in weak governance zones.

See the program:

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/ep\\_hearing\\_on\\_csr.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/ep_hearing_on_csr.pdf)

- Global Compact Delists Additional 203 "Inactive" Companies

On 1 January 2007, the Global Compact Office has removed an additional 203 companies from its list of participants for failure to meet consecutive Communication on Progress (COP) deadlines. To ensure the quality of the

initiative, all companies participating in the Global Compact are expected to develop an annual COP which describes the ways in which they are implementing the initiative's ten principles.

Read the whole press release:

[http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsAndEvents/news\\_archives/2006\\_12\\_28.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsAndEvents/news_archives/2006_12_28.html)

See the first delisting of Oct. 2006:

[http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsAndEvents/news\\_archives/2006\\_10\\_02.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsAndEvents/news_archives/2006_10_02.html)

See the list of inactive companies:

[http://www.unglobalcompact.org/CommunicatingProgress/inactive\\_participants.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/CommunicatingProgress/inactive_participants.html)

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\*\*New Papers\*\*

-- Extraterritorial legislation as a tool to improve the accountability of transnational corporations for human rights violations

On 3 - 4 November 2006, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises (SRSG) attended a seminar of legal experts examining how extraterritorial legislation can be used to improve the accountability of transnational corporations for human rights violations. The seminar was the third in a series of four legal workshops designed to clarify legal issues relevant to the SRSG's mandate... The Seminar was divided into the following areas of discussion:

1. Extraterritorial jurisdiction under international law;
2. Specific questions raised by exercising extraterritorial jurisdiction over corporations; and
3. Sanctions and remedies, including comparisons between criminal, civil and administrative liability and discussion of victims' access to justice.

Read the summary report (PDF/192):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/extraterritorial\\_legislation\\_to\\_improve\\_accountability.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/extraterritorial_legislation_to_improve_accountability.pdf)

-- Attributing Corporate Responsibility for Human Rights under International Law. A UN-Workshop

The workshop was organized around the following broad question: in the absence of states acting to attach direct obligations for human rights to corporations, are there any potential grounds under international law for doing so? The day was divided into four sessions:

1. Framing the issue
2. Transposing state obligations
3. Exceptional cases, and
4. State responsibility.

Read the summary report (PDF/56 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/attributing\\_corporate\\_responsibility\\_for\\_human\\_rights.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/attributing_corporate_responsibility_for_human_rights.pdf)

Download the contribution from Olivier de Schutter (PDF/432 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/extraterritorial\\_jurisdiction\\_for\\_tnc.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/extraterritorial_jurisdiction_for_tnc.pdf)

-- Draft report on corporate social responsibility: a new partnership. EU Parliament.

This is the third European Parliament report and resolution drafted on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) since 1999. CSR has proved it is neither a fad nor a fashion, with both business and political leaders recognising their own responsibility to move it forward.

Read the whole report (PDF/200 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/eu\\_parliament\\_draft\\_report\\_on\\_csr.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/eu_parliament_draft_report_on_csr.pdf)

-- Business Recognition of Human Rights: Global Patterns, Regional and Sectoral Variations

The present study complements the SRSG's survey of the human rights policies and management practices of the Global Fortune 500 (FG500) companies. But it differs from that survey in three important respects. First, it is based on actual documentation of such policies and practices rather than on questionnaire responses. Second, it includes a broader cross-section of companies, including transnational and national companies domiciled in emerging markets and developing countries. Third, it provides information about the human rights standards of business entities other than firms. The two studies together comprise the most comprehensive analysis yet conducted on the subject of business and human rights.

Download the study (PDF/628 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/business\\_recognition\\_of\\_human\\_rights.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/business_recognition_of_human_rights.pdf)

-- Business proposals for effective ways of addressing dilemma situations in weak governance zones

This paper has been prepared by the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), in collaboration with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) to the OECD. It is the response to the invitation from Professor John Ruggie, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) to identify "effective ways for companies to deal with dilemma situations encountered in weak governance zones". The first part of the paper identifies the range of issues associated with weak governance zones and the reality faced by companies that operate or are contemplating operating in them. In the second part, it identifies actions that companies can take individually and in collaboration with others in order to respond effectively to dilemma situations.

Download the proposals (PDF/80 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/effective\\_ways\\_for\\_dilemmata.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/effective_ways_for_dilemmata.pdf)

-- ILO - UN Standards: Synergies or Competition? By Heidi Feldt.

The study presents two possible instruments for rules applying to

multinational corporations: the 1977 ILO Tripartite Declaration on Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (amended in 2000) and the UN Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights, which were adopted in 2003 by the subcommission of the then UN Commission on Human Rights.

Download the Study (PDF/930 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/ilo\\_un\\_standards\\_synergies\\_or\\_competition.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/ilo_un_standards_synergies_or_competition.pdf)

-- The Political Economy of Corporate Responsibility in India. An UNRISD Paper

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is on the rise all over the world, and India is no exception. The history of corporate paternalism has played an important part in shaping community expectations and CSR practices in India. Civil society, consumers and other actors have increased the pressure on companies to adhere to social and environmental standards, and this new "civil regulatory" environment has had impacts on business in India. This paper considers corporate environmental and social behaviour in India, both in the past and the present, in an attempt to better understand the actual impact of CSR.

Download the analysis (PDF/1,51 MB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/political\\_economy\\_of\\_csr\\_in\\_india.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/political_economy_of_csr_in_india.pdf)

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[www.corporate-accountability.org](http://www.corporate-accountability.org) aims to facilitate the flow of information among NGOs and social movements who believe their governments, private sector and civil society need to make greater efforts to ensure the accountability of business and industry, especially Transnational Corporations, to society. It contains information about ongoing civil society campaigns on corporate accountability and about NGOs and trade unions who are active in this field. It provides comprehensive material on codes of conduct, multi-stakeholder initiatives and intergovernmental processes.

Finally, this site makes available documents and publications on corporate accountability and links to relevant research institutes and databases.

Feedback and suggestions are highly appreciated!

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Corporate-Accountability-News mailing list

[Corporate-Accountability-News@lists.trilos.net](mailto:Corporate-Accountability-News@lists.trilos.net)

<http://lists.trilos.net/mailman/listinfo/corporate-accountability-news>