

## Uwe Kerkow

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**Von:** <corporate-accountability-news@lists.trilos.net>  
**An:** "corporate accountability mailinglist" <corporate-accountability-news@corporate-accountability.org>  
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Corporate Accountabilty-newsletter & website seeks co-publishers or co-funders!

Dear subscriber,  
due to the loss of funding WEED may soon be forced to suspend the circulation of this newsletter and the regular work on our website [www.corporate-accountability.org](http://www.corporate-accountability.org). However, we remain firmly committed to the political agenda of binding regulation of transnational corporations and the strengthening of civil society and networking on this issue. Therefore we would very much welcome any ideas or offers from our subscribers, from like-minded organisations or individuals who may step in as co-publishers and/or co-funders to keep our operation afloat! Please don't hesitate to get in touch with [Peter.Fuchs@weed-online.org](mailto:Peter.Fuchs@weed-online.org) with whatever idea you may have!  
Thank You!

Greetings from,  
Peter Fuchs (WEED) [Peter.Fuchs@weed-online.org](mailto:Peter.Fuchs@weed-online.org)  
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**\*\*In the News\*\***

-- Joint NGO Letter in response to the interim report of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights and Business

While this letter responds to a few significant areas of concern in the interim report, we have attempted to constructively suggest beneficial ways forward as the Special Representative enters the second year of his mandate. Over 100 organizations and individuals have endorsed this letter.

Read the letter (PDF; 64 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/joint\\_ngo\\_letter\\_to\\_ruggie\\_may\\_2006.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/joint_ngo_letter_to_ruggie_may_2006.pdf)

-- Complaint against Shell in Brazil and in the Philippines

Victims of Shell filed complaints regarding the behaviour of the oil concern in the Philippines and Brazil on Monday, May 15th, one day before Shell's Annual General Meeting. Coletivo Alternativa Verde and the Labor Union of Petroleum By-Products Workers in the State of São

Paulo (Brazil), the United Front to Oust Oil Depots and the Fenceline Community for Human Safety and Environmental Protection (Philippines), Friends of the Earth the Netherlands, and Friends of the Earth International submitted the complaints to the Dutch National Contact

Point (NCP) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in The Hague. The complaints reveal that Shell has violated national legislation, damaged the environment and human health, and manipulated people and governments.

Read the whole press release. By OECD Watch (PDF; 20 KB)

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/oecdwatch\\_pressrelease\\_shellcomplaint\\_060516.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/oecdwatch_pressrelease_shellcomplaint_060516.pdf)

Download the complaint (PDF; 300 KB)

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/oecdwatch\\_shellcomplaint\\_060516.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/oecdwatch_shellcomplaint_060516.pdf)

-- Questionnaire for Member States on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

Resolution 2005/69 of the Human Rights Commission, establishing the mandate of the Secretary-General's Special Representative on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises call upon him, inter alia, (i) to elaborate on the role of States in effectively regulating and adjudicating the role of transnational corporations and other business enterprises with regard to human rights, including through international cooperation; and (ii) to compile a compendium of best practices of States. This questionnaire is intended to invite Governments to provide the SRSG with the background information required to respond fully to these provisions of the mandate.

Read the questionnaire (MS-Word; 40 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/ruggie\\_questionnaire.doc](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/ruggie_questionnaire.doc)

-- Principles for Responsible Investment launched

On April 27th 2006 UN Secretary General launched the Principles for Responsible Investment. They were developed by an international group of institutional investors reflecting the increasing relevance of environmental, social and corporate governance issues to investment practices.

In signing the Principles, the investors publicly commit to adopt and implement them, where consistent with their fiduciary responsibilities. We also commit to evaluate the effectiveness and improve the content of the Principles over time. We believe this will improve our ability to meet commitments to beneficiaries as well as better align our investment activities with the broader interests of society.

<http://www.unpri.org>

View the Principles:

<http://www.unpri.org/principles>

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\*\*New Papers\*\*

-- Toxic Lobby: How the chemicals industry is trying to kill REACH. By Greenpeace

A high level of protection for consumers and the environment was the aim in 1998 when the Council of Environment Ministers recognised the urgent need for common legislation regulating the over 100,000 chemicals registered in Europe. The intention was to gather and make public more information about chemical substances and to protect consumers and the environment from the most hazardous ones.

REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals), the proposed reform of the EU chemicals policy, has won support from a broad alliance of health, environmental, labour, women's and consumer organisations, as well as from a growing number of retailers and manufacturers (small and medium-sized enterprises and multinationals) who buy and use chemicals in their products. However, it has also triggered vocal resistance by the powerful European chemicals industry.

This reform has become one of the most intensely lobbied pieces of legislation in EU history. This investigative report from Greenpeace shows how vested interests sought to first delay, attack and then undermine the aims and the substance of the reform at every stage of the decision-making process

Download the analysis (PDF; 724 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/toxic\\_lobby\\_on\\_reach.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/toxic_lobby_on_reach.pdf)

-- Taxing issues. Responsible business and tax. By SustainAbility and Tax Research LLP

Tax is the latest issue to emerge as part of a more thorough review of the economic impacts that companies have. It has become the subject of greater attention with a variety of stakeholder groups actively reviewing the

approach that companies take to their tax policies and planning. This interest is in turn reflected in, and driven by, the media coverage of the issue, which has increased significantly in the last few years. With the growing involvement of governments, the media, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and even religious groups, the issue is being transformed from a narrow technical discussion for specialists to one which is directly relevant to corporate responsibility (CR).

Download the analysis (PDF; 724 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/taxing\\_issues.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/taxing_issues.pdf)

-- Adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights. Report of the Special Rapporteur, Okechukwu Ibeanu

This report focuses on the human rights impact of the widespread exposure of individuals and communities to toxic chemicals in everyday household goods and food. A number of recent studies are cited showing that man-made toxic chemicals are present in the blood of populations around the globe at levels which in some cases are far above the recommended limits. Of particular concern is the risk to unborn and younger children from contamination via the mother. The danger of long-term exposure to a combination of chemicals at low doses has not been thoroughly investigated.

Download the report (PDF; 107 KB)

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/dumping\\_of\\_toxic\\_and\\_dangerous\\_products.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/dumping_of_toxic_and_dangerous_products.pdf)

-- UN Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations. By the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation

"Shaping globalization" has become a pivotal challenge in both national and international politics. Transnational corporations are fundamental forces in the dynamic advance of globalization, and laments are heard far and wide about the collapsing political influence of national governments. A quest is therefore under way to apply international rules to multinational business and to reconcile the dynamics of the global economy to the norms and obligations of international law.

Download the paper (PDF; 364 KB)

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/un\\_norms\\_fes\\_occpap22.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/un_norms_fes_occpap22.pdf)

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 \*\*New Links\*\*

-- Global Union Research Network (GURN)

The Global Union Research Network (GURN) was established in January 2004 as a follow up to the millennium debate of the Global Unions Group. The aim of the research network is to give union organizations better access to research carried out within trade unions and allied institutions, while enabling them to exchange information on matters of joint concern and to develop the capacity to make analyses and take part in debates and policy

formulation.

Visit GURNs website:

<http://www.gurn.info/>

-- International Institute for Labour Studies (IILS)

The International Institute for Labour Studies (IILS) was established by the International Labour Organization in 1960 as a centre for advanced studies in the social and labour field to further a better understanding of labour issues through education and research. It uses research networks, social policy forums, educational activities and publications to open up new perspectives for social policy; develop systematic exchanges between the ILO's

constituents and the external academic communities and practitioners; and familiarize future social policy-makers with the processes of tripartite consultations and policy formulation.

Visit the website of the IILS:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inst/index.htm>

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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>