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

--ALTER-EU conference on 'Ending corporate privileges and lobbying  
secrecy in the EU - Challenges & strategies for future campaigning'

You are kindly invited to register for the October 2007 ALTER-EU  
conference on 'Ending corporate privileges and lobbying secrecy in the  
EU - Challenges & strategies for future campaigning' by FRIDAY 7th  
SEPTEMBER.

The conference will be held on the 9th & 10th October 2007, in Brussels,  
in conjunction with the ALTER-EU Assembly.

The conference aims to bring together representatives of a large number  
of ALTER-EU signatory groups and other campaigners, trade unionists,  
academics, independent researchers/writers, MEPs/MPs who share ALTER-EU  
concerns and objectives to discuss and strategise about the challenges  
ahead: what are the problems caused by ever-growing levels of corporate  
influence over decision-making in Europe? What should the next steps be  
in ALTER-EU campaigning in order to effectively tackle these challenges  
in a post-ETI context?

<mailto:kim@corporateeurope.org> <mailto:kim@corporateeurope.org>  
<mailto:kim@corporateeurope.org>

Ask [kim@corporateeurope.org](mailto:kim@corporateeurope.org) for details and the registration form.

-- 'Worst EU Lobbying' Awards 2007 - Call for Nominations

Entering their third edition, the 'Worst EU Lobbying' Awards 2007 are  
now open for nominations.

This year there are two categories. The 'Worst EU Lobbying' Award for  
the lobbyist, company or lobby group that in 2007 has employed the most  
deceptive, misleading, or otherwise problematic lobbying tactics in  
their attempts to influence EU decision-making. And the special 'Worst  
EU Greenwash' Award for the company whose advertising, PR and lobbying  
lingo is most at odds with the real environmental impacts of their core  
business activities.

Nominations can be submitted until Sept. 15th.

From the nominations, two shortlists of five nominees will be selected,  
followed by an on-line vote from 15 October to 24 November. The award  
winners in both categories will be presented during a festive awards  
ceremony in Brussels on 4 December 2007..

For more information and the nomination form, check out  
<http://www.worstlobby.eu>

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**\*\*New Papers\*\***

-- Overview of Corporate Governance Issues for Co-operatives. A  
discussion paper by the Co-operative College

The corporate governance agenda has been broadened by the recognition of  
the reach of corporate models. However until now little attention has  
been paid to the governance needs of these forms of business despite

their considerable presence in many developing countries. The co-operative sector as a whole remains poorly understood and its specific governance challenges remain as yet largely unexplored. This aim of this paper is to begin to remedy this absence. Taking as a starting point the distinct nature of co-operatives, relevant trends and issues within corporate governance are explored within the framework of the co-operative sector.

Download the discussion paper (PDF/196 KB)

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/corporate\\_governance\\_for\\_co\\_operatives.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/corporate_governance_for_co_operatives.pdf)

-- Business and Human Right: The Evolving International Agenda. By John Ruggie

The state-based system of global governance has struggled for more than a generation to adjust to the expanding reach and growing influence of transnational corporations, the most visible embodiment of globalization. This paper reviews two recent chapters in this endeavour, focused specifically on human rights:

- the "Draft Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights"
- and the author's subsequent UN mandate as Special Representative of the Secretary-General "on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises."

The paper analyzes key conceptual flaws of the draft Norms, noting the pitfalls of imposing on corporations, directly under international law, the same range of human rights duties that states have; it presents an empirical mapping of current international standards and practice regarding business and human rights and it proposes a strategy for building on existing momentum in order to reduce human rights protection gaps in relations to corporation activities.

Download the paper (PDF/ 1,53 MB) :

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/business\\_and\\_hr\\_international\\_agenda\\_john\\_r](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/business_and_hr_international_agenda_john_r)

-- Business engagement in humanitarian relief: key trends and policy implications. A HPG Background Paper

This paper was commissioned by the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG). It is part of a broader HPG study into the role of the private sector in support of humanitarian action. This paper contributes by exploring systematically the new roles companies are playing in humanitarian action. It assesses the forms such engagement is taking, and explores the underlying motivations for it.

Download the analysis (PDF/ 292 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/business\\_in\\_humanitarian\\_relief.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/business_in_humanitarian_relief.pdf)

-- New Modes of Governance in the Shadow of Hierarchy: Self-Regulation by Industry in Europe. An EUI working paper

In technically complex areas, political actors increasingly rely on private actors to shape public policy. This is due to the greater expertise of the private actors, mostly industry. This article theorizes and empirically investigates the conditions under which self-regulation by industry (governance) emerges in environmental policy at the European level and asks how effective it is. Is 'a shadow of hierarchy' (governmental intervention) needed to ensure the emergence and effectiveness of voluntary agreements?

Download the working paper (PDF/152 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/eui\\_working\\_paper\\_2007\\_20.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/eui_working_paper_2007_20.pdf)

-- 'Out of work and into school'. Proposed Action Plan to Combat Child labour

In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights it is stated that 'every organ of society' should contribute to ensuring that human rights are observed and implemented. This of course includes the business community. The Action Plan consists of 15 recommendations for companies. Those wishing to comment on this draft document are invited to send their input to Gerard Oonk, of the India Committee of the Netherlands, at: [g.oonk@indianet.nl](mailto:g.oonk@indianet.nl) Suggestions and comments received will be used to improve or expand this document, the final version of which will serve as the CSR policy document for the 'Stop Child labor - School is the best place to work' campaign.

Download the recommendations (PDF/240 KB):

[http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/out\\_of\\_work\\_and\\_into\\_school\\_action\\_plan.pdf](http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/out_of_work_and_into_school_action_plan.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>