Forum EU-LAC
Forum European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and multi-sectoral alliances:
Contributions to competitiveness, innovation and sustainable development

- 28 and 29 October 2009, Buenos Aires, Argentina -
Palacio San Martín
Arenales 761, Buenos Aires

Preliminary Programme

(as of 31st August 2009)

Convened by
Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Argentina
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

Organized by
Development Policy Forum, InWEnt - Capacity Building International, Germany

In cooperation with
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina (LAC Presidency)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain (Presidency of the Council of the European Union, 1 January to 30 June 2010, host of the 2010 EU-LAC Summit)
Federal Foreign Office, Germany
European Commission

Collaborating organizations
Centro de Formación para la Integración Regional [Training Centre for Regional Integration] (CEFIR), Uruguay
Argentine-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce
Fundación Carolina, Spain
Instituto Ethos, Brazil
Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF)/ Inter-American Development Bank, Washington D.C.
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and multi-sectoral alliances: Contributions to competitiveness, innovation and sustainable development

The EU-LAC process which began in Rio de Janeiro in 1999 promotes cooperation between the EU member states and the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean in the realms of politics, economics, science and culture. The EU-LAC nations’ heads of state and government hold biennial summits where they draft and adopt strategic guidelines for the different areas in which they cooperate.

The EU-LAC Forum to be held in Buenos Aires on 28th and 29th October will debate the potential of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with regard to competitiveness, social cohesion and sustainable development and integrate it into the political consultation process between the two regions.

In so doing, the Forum will take forward the process begun at the 2008 Lima Summit, where CSR was mentioned for the first time in the Summit Declaration. The Buenos Aires Forum will make recommendations to the 2010 summit in Spain on how CSR can be further strengthened in the bi-regional agenda.

The global financial and economic crisis has lent fresh impetus to the search for new economic models where companies’ long-term interests such as competitiveness are compatible with the requirements of sustainable economic development and social cohesion. It has been demonstrated that companies which focus on sustainability, invest in their workforce and recognise their responsibility towards their local communities are often particularly innovative and competitive. The concept of CSR provides a framework for addressing these issues.

However, there is no single definition of CSR – the term is used to describe a range of actions, from isolated philanthropic deeds right up to complex, integrated concepts such as the new draft ISO 26000. This not only makes it harder for businesses, consumers and political decision-makers to know what their approach should be, but also makes it difficult to attain a common understanding of exactly what we are seeking to promote by strengthening CSR and what the roles of the different actors are. The impact of CSR will always be limited as long as it remains an isolated element of corporate strategies. What is really needed is to achieve cooperation on this issue between businesses, governments, consumers and the trade unions. But how can we work towards this common understanding, and what roles and tasks will the different stakeholders have?

The opportunity for representatives of the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean to exchange experiences will afford everyone involved an excellent chance to learn from each other. Europe, where there is already a strong tradition of social cohesion, emphasises the environmental dimension of CSR, while Latin America focuses more on social cohesion. How can these two dimensions be combined in a common CSR strategy that helps to promote the competitiveness of both regions through mutual cooperation?

The EU-LAC Forum will provide a unique opportunity for an intensive mutual exchange of experiences between high-level decision-makers and experts from the realms of politics, the economy and civil society from 60 countries across the two regions. Among others the Forum gathers government and business representatives, parliamentarians, trade unions as well as experts from national, regional and international institutions. The fact that the topic of the Forum is integrated into the EU-LAC process means that it will remain on the common agenda, since the recommendations from the Buenos Aires meeting have the potential to set long-term processes in motion.
Tuesday, 27 October 2009

Optional
Dinner for early arrivals
Reception by Argentinean government official

Wednesday, 28 October 2009

1:00 p.m. Accreditation, Lunch - Buffet

2:00 p.m. Welcome Ceremony
Jorge Taiana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina

Inauguration Session
Carlos Tomada, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Argentina
Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven, Director General, Latin America, Asia and Europe, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
Arne Rodin, Ambassador, Swedish Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina

2:45 p.m. Plenary Session I Responsibility and Competitiveness

Keynote
Günther Horzetzky, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS), Germany

Input
Viktor Klima, President, Volkswagen South America, Argentina
Oded Grajew, Originator of the World Social Forum, Movimento Nossa São Paulo, Brazil (tbc)
Bernardo Klksberg, Principal Asesor UNDP-ALAC, Director, MDG Fund UNDP Spain, Adviser, CEFIR (tbc)
Arturo Acevedo, President and CEO, Acindar Grupo Arcelor Mittal, Argentina

4:00 p.m. Coffee Break

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Working Table Session

Working Table I Responsibility and competitiveness: How could we improve the applicability of responsible management?

Main questions:

What are the specific characteristics of the conditions in both regions (EU and LAC) ensuring that CSR supports competitiveness and fair working conditions?

What types of incentives or facilitation do companies implementing CSR require from the business environment (market, governments, society) in order to achieve sustainable competitiveness and guarantee fair working conditions?

Can the level of responsible management depend on competitive pressure?

What are the key issues that need to be included in the political dialogue between the two regions in order to promote the sustainable competitiveness of companies of different sizes and in different industries?

Antonio Vives, Moderator (tbc)

Roland Vaxelaire, Quality and Environmental Director, Carrefour, France (tbc)
Rui Goerc, Head, Regional Steering Comittee for Sustainability in South America, BASF, Argentina (tbc)
Dwight, Justice, Policy Advisor, International Trade Union Confederation, Belgium
Silvana Peñaherrera, Director, Dirección de Competitividad de la Industria, Ministerio de Industrias, Ecuador (tbc)
Bernardo Kosacoff, Director, Office in Buenos Aires, UN Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL/ECLAC), Argentina (tbc)
N.N., Instituto Ethos, Brazil (tbd)
Working Table II

Debate on the applicability of integral systems and standards of responsible management

Main questions:

Is it possible to implement common standards for CSR in countries and regions with different social and economic circumstances?

In which way do existing CSR certification schemes provide relevant information for citizens and consumers to base their behaviour on?

Which mechanisms could help to improve the credibility of certification schemes?

Camilo López Burian, Moderator

N.N., Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS), Germany (tbd)

Jorge Cajazeira, Chairman, Social Responsibility (Working Group ISO 26000), ISO; Executive Officer, Strategic Affairs, Suzano Pulp and Paper, Brazil

N.N., Business Representative, LAC (tbd)

Teresa Fogelberg, Deputy Chief Executive, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), Amsterdam (tbc)

Ricarda McFalls, Head, Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva

Fernando Parada, Gerente de Operaciones, Vincular, Chile

Working Table III

How should a CSR concept involving all sectors be implemented?

Main questions:

Which approaches exist in order to promote CSR? Is there a single approach that ranges above all others?

Should different approaches be taken in different environments (LAC and EU)? Is there a single approach that might work for trade between the two regions?

How can CSR be used to achieve greater social cohesion, i.e. inclusion, fair working conditions and cooperation right across society in pursuit of the common good?

Mercedes Korin, Moderator

Juan José Barrera Cerezal, Director CSR, Ministry of Labour and Immigration, Spain (tbc)

Tony Henshaw, Corporate Vice President of Sustainability Office, Cemex, Mexico (tbc)

Karl Rudolf Gassen, CEO, Lanxess, Argentina

N.N., Central Única dos Trabalhadores (CUT), Brazil (tbd)

Anna Butterworth, Member of the General Council, Which?, United Kingdom (tbc)

Bengt Strömstedt, Environmental Director and SR Procurement Coordinator, Swedish Defence Materiel Administration, Observer, ISO 26000, Sweden (tbc)
Thursday, 29 October 2009

9:00 a.m. Presentation of Results
Presentation and discussion of the results of the working tables I,II,III on a panel with one representative from each group

Plenary Session II Forms of multi-sectoral cooperation
Antonio Vives, Moderator (tbc)

Input
Emilio Gilolmo, Head of Public Affairs and International Relations, Telefonica International and President of Telefonica Chile, Chile
Günter Rudolf Knieß, Ambassador, German Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina
Enrique Iglesias, Secretario General, Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB), Madrid (tbc)
N.N., Representative Government, LAC (tbd)
N.N., Representative Business, EU (tbd)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Break

11:00 a.m. Working Table Session
Working Table IV Multi-sectoral alliances that promote training, research and development of sustainable technologies with the objective of social inclusion and development

Main questions:

How can the experience of different sectors contribute to promoting innovation processes?

To what extent do multi-sectoral alliances create added value?

How can different sectors cooperate to promote training and research and development into sustainable technologies with a view to fostering inclusion and development? And what are the areas where each sector can maximise its contribution to the goals of development and social cohesion?

Antonio Vives, Moderator (tbc)

Javier Gali, Director, Human Resources, Grupo Peñaflor, Argentina
Marta Novick, Under-Secretary of Technical Programming and Labor Studies, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Argentina
N.N., Business Representative, EU enterprise in LAC (tbd)
N.N., NGO Representative, LAC (tbd)

Anna Peters, Project Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility, Bertelsmann Foundation, Germany
Working Table V
Challenges presented by policies of encouraging CSR implementation in SMEs

Main questions:

What role does market leverage or size of an enterprise play for its responsibility?

What are the challenges faced by SMEs with regard to the implementation of CSR, and what examples exist of successful incentives and policies to support its implementation?

How could and should CSR be implemented in the supply chain?

Mercedes Korin, Moderator

N.N., SEBRAE, Brazil (tbd)
N.N., Business Representative, EU (tbd)
Jorge Villalobos, Vice-President, Forum Empresa, Chile
Roberta Tibiriça de Sant’Anna, Coordinator, Project CSR Mercosur, InWEnt
Sao Paulo, Brazil
Estrella Peinado-Vara, Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Washington D.C.
German Granda, Member of the Board, CSR Europe, Belgium

Working Table VI
The actors and their roles: what part does each sector play in a policy of CSR promotion?

Main questions:

What role should be given to businesses, civil society, workforce and the State in any policy geared towards promoting CSR?

How should the various players coordinate their efforts to jointly develop a policy for promoting CSR?

Could multi-sectoral platforms within the EU-LAC process improve the coordination of political efforts to promote CSR? What characteristics should they have?

Camilo López Burian, Moderator:

Nidya Neer, Adviser to the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Argentina
N.N., Business Representative, LAC (tbd)
Pablo Topet, Asesor sindical (OIT, OECD, MERCOSUR), Argentina (tbc)
Günther Horzetzky, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Germany (BMAS), Germany
N.N., Member of European Parliament, Brussels (tbd)

12:30 p.m. Presentation of Results
Presentation and discussion of the results of the working tables IV, V, VI on a panel with one representative from each group

1:00 p.m. Lunch buffet

2:00 p.m. Closing Ceremony
Closing ceremony including recommendations of the conference to the 2010 EU-LAC Summit

Carlos Tomada, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Argentina
Celestino Corbacho Chaves, Minister of Labour and Immigration, Spain (tbc)
Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven, Director General, Latin America, Asia and Europe, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

Friday, 30 October 2009

Optional
Visits to companies which have a high standard of CSR (i.e. Lanxess, VW)
For any further information regarding the programme, please feel free to contact Mr Holger Wehner.

holger.wehner_consultant@inwent.org
Fon: +49 (0)30 43996-340
Fax: +49 (0)30 43996-250

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