

Brussels, 14/02/2024

Support for the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDD) Directive

To the Permanent Representation of the EU Member States

We are writing to you on behalf of the ETF and ITF representing million transport workers across Europe.

The European Union must deliver on a longstanding and much awaited initiative on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDD) Directive.

The Council will deliberate again on Wednesday 14 February and vote on this legislative proposal, under the current Belgian Council Presidency.

We, ETF and ITF, moving with the unanimous support of the European Trade Union Confederation, express our strong support for the CSDD Directive. We urge you to make the difference for Europe and give a positive and empowering perspective toward citizens, business and society as a whole, in adopting the CSDD Directive proposal.

Modern supply chains are composed of multiple operators in different transport modes, often spread across various countries. Additionally, outsourcing and subcontracting of transport services is a common practice. In such complex relationships, with the companies 'on top', e.g. big retailers, always trying to cut costs, it is easy to turn a blind eye to the working conditions further down the chain. This is why ETF and ITF demand mandatory due diligence that will force companies to ensure that their supply chains are free of exploitation and abuse. The CSDD will be a critical tool to ensure corporate accountability for human rights harms.

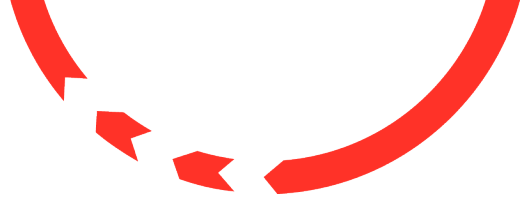
Why is CSDD Directive crucial for all citizens, businesses and states in the European Union?
The CSDD Directive is key for at least the following reasons:

Recent studies on the implementation of the German Supply Chain Act have confirmed that **legally binding regulations are key** for the urgent change in business conduct:

<https://www.boeckler.de/de/pressemitteilungen-2675-eu-lieferkettengesetz-deutsche-unternehmen-wurden-von-einheitlicher-regelung-profitieren-56992.htm>

An EU-wide regulation will **provide for a fair competition base** for responsible and sustainable businesses operating in Europe and in the word, in the full respect of, and transparency for, the people they employ, the suppliers and subcontractors they rely on and the consumers to whom they sell their products and services. It will prevent the fragmentation of the EU internal market due to divergent national regulations.

The CSDD Directive **is powerful**, to show that Member States are serious about signalling that those human rights are not tradeable, workers are not a commodity because economic and social cohesion and peace in Europe will depend on how serious Member States are about delivering on



sustainability. The unprecedented mobilisations of citizens in Europe for a European directive on CSDD is a clear signal that people and their demands should be put at the centre of political decisions.

The CSDD Directive **is forceful**, because the future of our economy is to be based on a sustainable business community, including small and medium enterprises and the supply chains. It is the key to improving the economy, productivity and providing sustainable growth, to improving and securing the quality of products and services, and will help fight against social and environmental dumping, letter box companies and human rights abuses along the supply chains, what sustainable business call for: <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/eu-csddd-company-statement/>

The CSDD Directive is **future proof**, as sustainable businesses require a fair competition base, for which compliance with human rights and environmental measures become an intrinsic element of good and business models, a clear investment in people, workers and/or consumers that are at risk because of the impacts of business operations.

What it is at stake with the vote in Council and EU parliament for the initiative is a strategic economic decision. By advocating for responsible business practices, Member States will **bring trust back to the economic actors, with a clear signal that the workforce matters wherever the production takes place, creating more attraction for investors and stronger consumer trust.**

Best regards,

Livia Spera,
ETF General Secretary

Stephen Cotton
ITF General Secretary