HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DUE DILIGENCE
FROM A WORKERS AND TRADE UNION PERSPECTIVE

SARAH BRUCKNER | SEPT 12, 2023
The Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour is the statutory representative body which represents the interests of approximately 3.8 million employees and consumers in Austria.

It represents its members on all social, educational, economic and consumer policy-related issues at the national level and in Brussels at the European level.

Close collaboration with Austrian Federal Trade Union (ÖGB)

Websites:
https://www.arbeiterkammer.at/ (in German)
https://www.akeuropa.eu/ (in German and in English)
European companies going abroad…

**Outsourcing** to reduce labor and production costs (subsidies or suppliers) to countries where laws are less strict or enforcement is deficient

**Exploitative working conditions** and environmental damage along value chains

European companies directly cause or contribute to human rights abuses and environmental damage by unfair purchasing practices, unfair payment practices, unfair delivery conditions....

The Austrian Chamber of Labour and the Austrian Trade Union have been demanding **binding rules** for corporations at the national level, EU level and UN level for a long time.

We want workers´ rights to be respected in Austria and worldwide.
The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) is a confederation of national trade unions. It represents 200 million workers in 168 countries.

The ITUC Global Rights Index depicts the world’s worst countries for workers by rating 149 countries on a scale from 1 to 5+ on the degree of respect for workers’ rights.

The 2023 edition of the Global Rights Index shows that the global cost-of-living crisis has been met with a crackdown on the rights of working people in every region of the world.

https://www.globalrightsindex.org/en/2023
Violation of
- Right to strike
- Right to collective bargaining
- Right to establish a trade union
- Registration of trade union
- Restriction of access to justice
- Arbitrary arrest and detention of trade union members
- Denial or constraint of freedom of speech and assembly
- Exposure to physical violence
The Chamber of Labour welcomes the CSDDD proposal. We recommend improvements regarding the following issues, however:

- Scope (companies covered by the Directive)
- Definition of value chain
- Access to justice for victims of corporate abuse (including reverse burden of proof)
- Stakeholder engagement (trade unions and others)
- Due diligence obligation on climate change
- Strict rules on social audits and certifications

Support the campaign for an effective CSDDD!
Check out the website
https://justice-business.org/
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION
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