

8 February 2024

Mr. Simon Coveney TD
Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Kildare Street, Dublin 2
D02 TD30

Re: Support for the Trilogue Outcome on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDD) Directive

Dear Minister Coveney,

As you are aware, the Europe Union is about to deliver on a longstanding and much awaited initiative on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDD) Directive. The Council will deliberate and vote on this legislative proposal this Friday 9 February, under the current Belgian Council.

We in Congress along with the unanimous support of the European Trade Union Confederation, express our strong support for the CSDD Directive and urge you to adopt the trilogue outcome.

We believe that the CSDD Directive is crucial for all citizens, businesses and states in the European Union for the following reasons:

- The CSDD Directive provides 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.
- 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
- 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 **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 not only a moral and ethical imperative but also 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.

On Friday 9 February, each Member State in Council has the choice: to live up to its responsibility toward the citizens and the clear mandate they received from them, provide a clear commitment to future generations and the planet and to maintain their trust and confidence - or to lose it all!

In a nutshell, any posture of a blockade, abstention or vote against the EU CSDD Directive is unthinkable.

Congress urges you to live up to your responsibility and give a positive and empowering perspective toward citizens, business and society as a whole, in adopting the CSDD Directive proposal.

We are open to discussing this further and providing any additional information you might require.

Thank you for considering our views on this critical matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen Reidy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Owen Reidy
General Secretary