
Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce

Communication On Progress

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Kıbrıs Türk Ticaret Odası
Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce

Who We Are?

The Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce (TCCOC) is a non-governmental organization providing services to the trade companies in northern Cyprus. Founded in 1958, Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce (TCCOC) is an integral organization of the Turkish Cypriot Community, representing the economic interest of about 3.000 businesses which amount to 95% of the Turkish Cypriot economy. The Chamber currently employs 17 people and provides the following main services: certification; consultancy/ research (on legal issues, business opportunities, trade issues); international projects; bridging between local, as well as international actors and the business community; European Information Centre (information and publications to the universities, NGOs, official institutions and public); Brussels Representation office (premises and support for the Turkish Cypriot NGOs). Since 2004, the Chamber has been acting as the official partner of the European Commission on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot Community in the implementation of the Green Line Regulation which regulates the trade between the two communities in Cyprus. TCCOC is a member of the World Chambers' Federation and cooperates with many Chambers around the world.

Our Mission

The Chamber's mission is to promote the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community by serving its members in the first instance, at home and abroad, through upholding the principles of private enterprise and free trade.

Our Commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility

On behalf of the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce I would like to declare our strong commitment to the values of the UN Global Compact initiative and to the corporate social responsibility. We respect the Global Compact principles and we work through their implementation in our business practice.

One of our major activities in the above area was the bi-communal Global Compact Environmental Principles Project measuring the corporate environmental responsibility of businesses in Cyprus. Additionally, our staff attended a one-month education program on corporate social responsibility, sponsored by the USAID and aiming to introduce the concept as a sustainable strategy in businesses in Cyprus.

For the next year we aim to develop our holistic social responsibility strategy with clearly set up targets and activities thus becoming a model for our members and for the business community in Cyprus.

I sincerely hope that the Global Compact Cyprus network will expand with continuously increasing number of socially responsible companies.



Janel BURCAN
Secretary General
Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce

HUMAN RIGHTS

PRINCIPLES	ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES 2008	TARGETS FOR 2009
<u>PRINCIPLE 1</u> Business should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights	TCCOC is committed to supporting the implementation of all aspects of internationally proclaimed human rights. The Chamber accepts the differences and respects the human rights of all stakeholders. TCCOC does not discriminate in any way with regards to race, religion, ethnic origin, gender, age, or others.	
<u>PRINCIPLE 2</u> Business should ensure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses		

PRINCIPLES	ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES 2008	TARGETS FOR 2009
<p><u>PRINCIPLE 3</u> Business should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining</p>	<p>TCCOC recognizes that our people are our strength and key value. We are committed to acting according to all legal requirements for providing fair, flexible and adequately remunerated employment to our staff. TCCOC supports the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour and child labour which are legally prohibited in the Turkish Cypriot community. The Chamber also supports non-discrimination of the employees.</p> <p>The recruitment system for new staff for the Chamber is fair, transparent and based on examination and interview. Working hours are aligned according to the seasonal schedule of the public sector. The remuneration is adequate with regular increase in line with “life costliness”. It includes the monthly payments to the social security and pension reserve funds. Extra payments is provided at certain holidays and for rewarding the people after very intensive work. TCCOC also provides necessary training opportunities to the related staff.</p> <p>Recently the Chamber signed a cooperation protocol with the Eastern Mediterranean University Continuous Learning Centre aiming at providing people technical training and necessary qualifications for the needs of the private sector. There is a job guarantee for all who attend the training.</p> <p>The Chamber follows the equal opportunity policy and does not discriminate against gender, race, ethnic origin, religion and other differences. Our administrative staff consists of total 17 employees of which 12 are women at different levels and positions.</p>	
<p><u>PRINCIPLE 4</u> Business should support the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour</p>		
<p><u>PRINCIPLE 5</u> Business should support the effective abolition of child labour</p>		
<p><u>PRINCIPLE 6</u> Business should support the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation</p>		

ENVIRONMENT

PRINCIPLES	ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES 2008	TARGETS FOR 2009
<u>PRINCIPLE 7</u> Business should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges	<p>TCCOC fully supports adoption of a precautionary approach to environmental challenges and promotion of greater environmental responsibility. As the representative of the Turkish Cypriot business community, the Chamber aims to guide them in their activities and build awareness for environmental responsibility.</p> <p>In 2006-2007 TCCOC became a partner in a bi-communal project on Global Compact Environment Survey developed by the UNDP program in Cyprus Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT) with the key objective to explore the level of awareness of Cypriot companies about corporate environmental responsibility and various kinds of initiatives aimed at supporting the role of business in protecting the environmental assets of Cyprus. Companies from four sectors having greatest impact on the environment in Cyprus have been surveyed. The findings have been used in the preparation of a comprehensive Report “Corporate Environmental Responsibility in Cyprus” which includes series of recommendations and was launched in April 2008.</p>	<p>TCCOC will launch the Turkish version of the Report on Corporate Social Responsibility in Cyprus and will disseminate it to the member businesses and policy and decision-makers in the Turkish Cypriot community.</p>
<u>PRINCIPLE 8</u> Business should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility		<p>The Global Compact Cyprus Network is planning to organize an initiative in 2009 on collecting batteries for recycling in public places.</p>
<u>PRINCIPLE 9</u> Business should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies	<p>The Chamber also took part in an initiative implemented by the Global Compact Cyprus Network for reducing the water consumption in Turkish Cypriot schools. As a result of awareness campaigns and changing the tap heads in the schools, they have achieved about 40% savings in water consumption.</p> <p>TCCOC also provides information and assistance to other organizations implementing environment related projects (on organic farming, water efficiently irrigation systems in agriculture, waste treatment, and other).</p>	

ANTI CORRUPTION

PRINCIPLES	ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES 2008	TARGETS FOR 2009
<u>PRINCIPLE 10</u> Business should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery	<p>TCCOC supports the elimination of all the forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery.</p> <p>As a non-profit organization, many of the services the Chamber provides to the members and public are not charged. All the work procedures are transparent and controlled by the stakeholders – management and partner institutions – and does not allow any case of corruption.</p>	



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