



EFICO - PRESS RELEASE

EFICO n.v./s.a. officially announces having been accepted on March 3, 2003 to participate to the United Nations Global Compact .

EFICO n.v./s.a. is committed to aspire to implement the Global Compact principles and to use the Compact as a basis for advancing responsible corporate citizenship - in partnership with other social actors - to help realize the Secretary-General's vision: a more sustainable and inclusive global economy.

The Global Compact is a voluntary corporate citizenship initiative with two complementary objectives:

- Making the Global Compact and its principles part of business strategy and operations.
- Facilitating cooperation among key stakeholders and promoting partnerships in UN goals.

The Global Compact's principles enjoy universal consensus being derived from:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The International Labour organization's Declaration on fundamental principles and Rights at Work.
- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

The practical implementation of the Global Compact at EFICO n.v./s.a. starts with this communication, also addressed towards our business partners - clients and suppliers - , encouraging them to join the UN Secretary-General's initiative.

In the very near future EFICO n.v. /s.a. will communicate, mainly through its website, the different initiatives which it already developed to practically implement the Global Compact in its corporate strategy and/or company dealings.

EFICO n.v./s.a. is also committed to have its major suppliers audited by recognized independent social auditors to measure their corporate commitment against the United Nations Global Compact principles.

The nine principles of the UN Global Compact related to Human Rights, Labour Rights and the Environment are :

1. Businesses are asked to support and respect the protection of international human rights within their sphere of influence.

2. Businesses should make sure their own corporations are not complicit in human rights abuses.
3. Businesses are asked to uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.
4. The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.
5. The effective abolition of child labour.
6. The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
7. Businesses are asked to support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.
8. To undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.
9. To encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

EFICO is a household name in the coffee business. Located in Antwerp (Belgium) where it is trading coffee since 1926, it belongs to the European top-ten businesses in the green coffee sector. EFICO can depend on a worldwide network of reliable suppliers.

EFICO as a basis of its philosophy, strives to create stable and long-lasting relationships with clients and suppliers based on reciprocal trust and systematic attention to quality and the respect of the given word.

For further information, please visit www.unglobalcompact.org and www.efico.com.

Antwerp, March 17, 2003

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