

UN Global Compact
Communication on Progress
United Nations
New York, NY10017
U S A

SVENSKA HANDELSBANKEN AB'S (PUBL) COMMITMENT

Handelsbanken reaffirms its commitment and support for the UN Global Compact and the ten principles. The spirit of the principles is firmly rooted in the culture/traditions and behaviour of Handelsbanken, and during the year the Bank has taken some important steps to further strengthen its practices in accordance with its commitment. Handelsbanken has publicly stated its support for the principles in the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and in addition to being a signatory to the UN Global Compact and the UN PRI it participates in the voluntary initiatives UN Environment Programme "Banks and the Environment" and the ICC Business Charter for Sustainable Development.

Progress in 2009/2010

Most importantly, Handelsbanken has remained a reliable and stable business during the financial crisis, benefiting customers, employees, partners and society at large, a result of its long-term approach and in its role as a supporting function to the economy. While remaining risk-averse, Handelsbanken has expanded, increased customer satisfaction and strengthened its balance sheet during this period of financial turmoil.

During the year:

- Handelsbanken became a signatory to the UN Global Compact and the UN Principles for Responsible Investments (PRI).
- One person in the executive management was assigned with overall responsibility to ensure that Handelsbanken advances its position as a responsible business and acts in compliance with the commitment to the UN Global Compact.
- In its own business the Bank has significantly reduced its use of paper during the year by favouring electronic communication internally and with customers and has reduced business travel in favour of video and teleconferences. In addition, Handelsbanken continues to implement energy efficiency measures and to increase the share of energy from renewable sources.

Handelsbanken

- As an equal opportunity employer and striving for gender equality in its business, Handelsbanken was encouraged by a slight increase in the proportion of female managers, now representing 38 percent of all managers.
- An internal advisory council for responsible investments was established to oversee and further advance the implementation of Handelsbanken's Policy/Principles for responsible investments. The policy covers the areas of environment, human rights and business ethics.
- Together with other institutional investors in Sweden under the initiative called Sustainable Value Creation, Handelsbanken engaged with the 100 largest Swedish listed corporations to promote responsible business conduct and transparency.

Transparency

More information about the Bank's work is included in the Annual Report for 2009, specifically the section on Corporate Social Responsibility (p 11-13), employees (p 55-56), environment (p 57-58) and overall Corporate Governance (p 38-52).

Handelsbanken is currently reviewing its reporting practices with the aim of further increasing transparency in these areas.

Sincerely yours,



Pär Boman

President and Group Chief Executive



Björn Börjesson

Executive Vice President
