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Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce  
Communication On Progress  
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## Who We Are?

The Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce (KTTO) is a nongovernmental organization providing services to the trade companies in northern Cyprus. Founded in 1958, Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce (KTTO) 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. KTTO 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 bicommunal 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

**Principle 1:** Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.

- ◆ KTTO is committed to support the implement all aspects of internationally proclaimed human rights.
- ◆ The Chamber accepts the different identities and respects the human rights of all stakeholders. KTTO does not discriminate in any way with regards to race, religion, ethnic origin, gender, age, or others.
- ◆ KTTO is always paying attention to be part of events that support and promote Human Rights. For instance, a group of ten people from KTTO attended a dinner which was organized for the benefit of Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation.
- ◆ European Information Centre of KTTO provides information about the EU Grant programs. It also explains and highlights the importance of the human rights, natural conservation and gender equality when business projects are prepared.

**Principle 2:** Businesses should make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

## LABOUR STANDARDS

**Principle 3:** Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

- ◆ KTTO recognizes that our people are our strength and key value. KTTO is committed to act according to all legal requirements to provide fair, flexible and adequately remunerated employment to its staff. KTTO supports the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour as well as child labour which are legally prohibited in the Turkish Cypriot Community. The Chamber also supports non-discrimination of the employees.
- ◆ KTTO gives chance to their employees to improve themselves. So far , in 2009 Chamber have sent four employees to different training programs abroad. In addition to this, Chamber employees attended to the media, communication and improving capacity training programme.
- ◆ The Chamber has been continuing to provide internship opportunities to university students and young voluntary professionals during the whole year. Moreover special certificates are given at the end of internship program.

**Principle 4:** Businesses should the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.

- ◆ 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 payment is provided at certain holidays and for rewarding the people after very intensive work. KTTO also provides necessary training opportunities to the related staff. Recently, the Chamber signed a cooperation protocol with the Eastern Mediterranean University - Continuous Learning Centre aiming to provide vocational training to its members and enhance their skills to increase the efficiency of the private sector in general. Job guarantee is given by KTTO for all who attends the trainings.

**Principle 5:** Businesses should the effective abolition of child labour

**Principle 6:** Businesses should the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

- ◆ The Chamber follows the equal opportunity policy and does not discriminate against gender, race, ethnic origin, religion and other differences such as physical disability. Our administrative staff consists of total 17 employees of which 12 are women at different levels and positions.

## ENVIRONMENT

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### Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges

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- ◆ KTTO 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 its members to build awareness and promote environmental responsibility.
- ◆ KTTO premises had been renovated for a better habitable environment. In addition, Chamber have placed central heating system which reduces the use of electricity. Water system was also modernized and the whole system was renovated to use water more efficiently.
- ◆ The Chamber sends all newspapers and magazines to recycling and promotes 'paperless office' concept within its premises.

### Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility

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- ◆ In 2006-2007, KTTO 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 were used in the preparation of a comprehensive Report "Corporate Environmental Responsibility in Cyprus" which includes series of recommendations and was launched in April 2008.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The Global Compact Cyprus Network organized an initiative in 2009 on collecting batteries for recycling in public places in the KTTO. Chamber executive committee members and directors also attended.

### Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

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- ◆ KTTO 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).
- ◆ European Information Centre of KTTO provides information about the EU Grant programs explains and highlights the importance of environment and offer them to buy new machines with respect to the environment which are consuming less energy i.e. environmentally friendly when business projects are prepared.

## ANTI-CORRUPTION

**Principle 10:** Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

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- ◆ KTTO supports the elimination of all the forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery.
- ◆ As a non-profit organization, many of the services that the Chamber provides to the members and public are not charged. All of the work procedures are transparent and controlled by the stakeholders – management and partner institutions – and does not allow any case of corruption.
- ◆ Intellectual Property Rights seminar is organized by the Chamber.
- ◆ KTTO has been advocating country's economy under the system of registration and publishes press releases.
- ◆ The Chamber's accounts and budgets are regularly checked and monitored by the chartered accountants.
- ◆ In order to maximize the public system's efficiency the Chamber has been lobbying aggressively.



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