

## About the IPPAG Cooperative:

The IPPAG Cooperative is made up of over 25 market leading promotional item wholesalers and distributors spread across the world: [www.ippag.net/members](http://www.ippag.net/members).

Mission: The Cooperative facilitates its member's common desire to share and grow together within the promotional items industry: gaining in expertise, excellency and efficiency through shared projects, resources and initiatives.

The IPPAG Cooperative is based in Switzerland, and is run by a general manager, and an elected Board: the current Chairman is Mr Thibaut Fontaine of mcs Kick@Rush in Belgium and the other Board members are the managers of our Czech Republic, UAE and UK member companies.

With its 25+ members, the companies forming the IPPAG Cooperative have over 1,700 employees around the world, with in-depth experience in a wide range of industries and a combined annual turnover of more than €225 million.

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IPPAG was set up in 1965 by sourcing pioneers, collaborating for mutual benefit and has evolved by consolidating its buying power and controlling and managing its supply chain through a series of global initiatives.

The organisation has now developed further with the establishment of a global joint venture initiative, 'IPPAG Global Promotions', dedicated to full service global solutions, running regional and global client programs, with a central management team headquartered in the UKS: [www.ippag-global-promotions.com](http://www.ippag-global-promotions.com)

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## Responsible Sourcing platform:

As well as the numerous suppliers documented in IPPAG's shared sourcing database, IPPAG has also created a system of 'Partner Suppliers' that is unique in the promotions business. There are 50+ plus suppliers in this network, covering all product ranges. All of these suppliers have a long-standing relationship with IPPAG and have been carefully selected to represent the best in terms of reliability, service, prices and quality. The Partner suppliers all work along the guidelines of IPPAG's Code of Conduct, and have all been assessed using our 'Social Fingerprint' CSR tools. In addition, IPPAG and its members all collaborate to share information on audited suppliers and factories: giving you access to unique market value and know how.

## IPPAG Cooperative,

Registered address: Dornacherstrasse 8, 4053 Basel, Switzerland  
Postal address: Postfach 524, 4010 Basel, Switzerland  
Email: [info@ippag.net](mailto:info@ippag.net) / [www.ippag.net](http://www.ippag.net)

**Renewed commitment and  
engagement to the United Nations Global Compact Initiative:**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express the IPPAG Cooperative's continued support for the United Nations Global Compact and renew our organisation's on-going commitment to the initiative and its principles.

The IPPAG Cooperative is committed to behave in a socially and ethically exemplary way and we believe that we are responsible for all the people who take part in the production and support of our products and services worldwide.

The IPPAG Cooperative and its members are committed to a high level of Corporate Citizenship, through our Code of Conduct, our partnership with the United Nations Global Compact Initiative and our Social Auditing Program.

Please find below our Communication on Engagement, which demonstrates our intent to continue with our efforts to support the principles of the Global Compact.

Kind Regards,  
Thibaut Fontaine  
Chairman



## **Engagements: actions and outcomes**

### **- Attracting new participants to the UN Global Compact through their outreach efforts and awareness raising**

**Actions:** The IPPAG Cooperative and its commercial entity IPPAG Global Promotions limited is continuously expanding its network of member and service partner companies. All identification, assessment and then integration of new companies is managed on the basis of their capacity to adopt and adhere to the United Nations Guiding Principles and follow the United Nations Global Compact initiative. Internal information and training is provided to make these new companies fully aware of the program and its implications, in parallel to their adoption of our Responsible Sourcing platform, assessment and auditing methodology and Preferred supplier network.

**Outcomes:** The IPPAG Cooperative has integrated four new members since 2015: in South Korea, Sweden, Guatemala and Brazil. All companies have therefore also signed IPPAG's Code of Conduct and UNGC commitment policy and have received training as detailed above.

### **- Organizing learning and dialogue events, workshops and training for their members on the UN Global Compact and specific topics relevant to corporate sustainability**

**Actions:** Our 3 x yearly group meetings always include a specific session dedicated to our Responsible Sourcing Program and internal CSR program: directed at Company managers but also and essentially at all company purchasing and sourcing staff. We have a strong network, facilitated by various IT sharing platforms, for all IPPAG purchasing staff: as they act as our 'frontline' being directly concerned by these issues in their day to day tasks. IPPAG helps them to source responsibly, and to integrate the UNGC principles into their processes: by providing guidance and joint framework / processes.

On a smaller scale: regional groups of purchasing / sourcing staff are also in close communication and hold regular joint webinars.

**Outcome:** strong support system and high levels of exchanges for otherwise 'isolated' purchasing staff. IPPAG act to facilitate and relay expertise, information and best practices.

**- Providing their expertise and / or the voice of their members to Global Compact working groups and special initiatives.**

Actions: IPPAG acts internally as detailed above: but also externally by involving our network of Preferred Partner suppliers in our Responsible Sourcing platform, CSR platform and UNGC initiatives. Partner suppliers have all signed our Code of Conduct and UNGC commitment policy. Their auditing status is fully assessed, monitored and assisted: as we work hand in hand with these suppliers to help them understand and improve their corporate sustainability, social and environmental commitments.

Workshop events are held for these suppliers twice yearly during our group meetings: they are invited to not only come and show their products, meet our purchasing staff but also hear our latest updates on the IPPAG Responsible Sourcing platform + CSR platform and commitment to the UNGC principles.

Outcomes: 42 of our Partners suppliers now have 'CSR Validated status' (1<sup>st</sup> level) and a further 83 have 'CSR audited status'

**- Engaging their members in collective action efforts on Global Compact-related issues**

Actions: our member companies and Partner suppliers are invited to annually review their CSR / UNGC related performance and a group overview is edited.

Outcomes: better awareness particularly in 'middle' or 'high' risk countries: as our initiatives and actions are led from Europe and thus defined by European standards / expectations: which considerably raises the level of understanding and commitment from our member companies in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Central and South America.