



Българо-швейцарска търговска камара

Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement:

From: March 2018 To: March 2020

PART I. STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN, BSCC MANAGING BOARD

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that the Bulgarian – Swiss Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact Principles. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Boni Bonev
Chairman, Managing Board
Bulgarian – Swiss Chamber of Commerce

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

The Bulgarian – Swiss Chamber of Commerce is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental business organization with over 115 members - Bulgarian, Swiss and international companies, organizations and physical entities.

The Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce was established in 2004.

The mission of the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce:

- BSCC strives to develop the economic relations between Bulgaria and Swiss Confederation on a win-win basis by improving the level of skills and knowledge in Bulgaria using Swiss experience and know-how and increasing Bulgarian and Swiss companies' competitiveness on the international markets.
- BSCC promotes Swiss values in business relationships such as precision, quality, innovation and integrity.
- BSCC maintains socially responsible business conduct and believes that in such a way the chamber contributes to a better society as a whole.

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Members of the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce are leading Swiss companies with stable positions on the global market operating also in Bulgaria, small and medium-sized Swiss-owned companies, trade representations, service providers.

The day-to-day activity of the Chamber is based on good contacts with public institutions, organisations and companies from both countries. The Chamber organizes regular meetings and events for its members.

At its events and meetings with Bulgarian and Swiss officials, member and non-member companies and organizations, the BSCC management promotes on a regular base the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact 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 and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

As of the beginning of 2012 the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce provides information and services to business and investor community in cooperation with the Swiss Embassy in Sofia.

Some of the main services include:

- Partner search
- Contacts with institutions and organisations
- Market information
- Visits to fairs, exhibitions, companies
- Company research
- Legal and financial advice
- Support for entering market
- Advocacy
- Support in the Investment Certification in Bulgaria
- Evaluation of the Export Capacity
- Other administrative services

The main task of the BSCC is to stimulate the economic relations and facilitate the communication between companies from Bulgaria and Switzerland and to present Bulgaria as a reliable destination for building business partnerships (production, assembly, service, joint projects, etc.).

The Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce has focused on three UN Global Compact areas that are most aligned with its work – Labor, Environment, Anti-Corruption.

Activities in the period March 2018 – March 2020

- (1) The Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce has been recognized as an important partner in the introduction and implementation of the dual vocational education and training (DVET) in Bulgaria, based on the Swiss model. The Chamber participated in the project “Swiss Support for the Introduction of the Dual-Track Principals in the Bulgarian Vocational Education System” (DOMINO project) for the period 2015 – 2019. BSCC' involvement was focused on the work with all stakeholders participating in dual VET, including state institutions, schools, employers'



organizations, trade unions, NGOs, parents and other bilateral chambers, in particular. This has been applied through the moderation of the DVET Forum and the National Coordination Group.

- (2) Since 2019 BSCC has been officially mandated by the Ministry of Education and Science to support the work of the Consultative Council on Vocational Education and Training (VET) to the Minister of Education and Science and the Resource Working Group.



4th Session of the CC on VET, 25.06.2019



Working meeting on DVET with Chamber of Commerce and Industry Stara Zagora, 13.06.2019

- (3) At local level, the Chamber works towards facilitating the process of establishing local partnerships between VET schools and companies for implementing DVET by developing models for organizational structure of the partnerships. At central level, the Chamber cooperates with the VET Directorate of MES in its role as a Secretariat for the establishment and moderation of the Consultative Council on VET to the Minister of Education and Science and the Resource Working Group (RWG).

- (4) BSCC' support of Roma minority integration and other socially oriented and charity-like projects are unseparable part of BSCC' life.

- (5) BSCC continued its cooperation with the Municipality of Lausanne on the Restart Project donating more than 6700 quality recycled computers to NGOs, orphanages, municipalities, schools and hospitals throughout Bulgaria.



Roma pupils with their new donated desktops at school, 21.02.2019



- (6) BSCC organizes joint events and supports joint initiatives with other bilateral chambers of commerce in Bulgaria and in the Balkan region where the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact are shared and promoted.

Joint event with Swiss-Serbian Chamber
← of Commerce, Belgrade, 12.04.2019



- (7) BSCC collaborates with different anti-corruption organizations and state institutions e.g, Transparency International Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Anti-Corruption Commission.

BSCC event with the BG Anti-Corruption Commission, 28.03.2019 →



- (8) BSCC cooperates with UNICEF in the Core Working Group (CWG) of UNICEF and business with the objective to consult on the process of formation of the Advisory Council on Business and Children.

CWG of UNICEF and Business, Bulgarian Industrial Association ←

- (9) With BSCC support Swiss investors opened new production facilities or expanded the existing ones, thus creating hundreds of new working places including in the less developed regions of the country.

Sofia, 18 March 2020