



Българо-швейцарска търговска камара

Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce

## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement:

From: March 2020 To: March 2022

### **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 107 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.

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- 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.

Members of the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber 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, Human Rights, Anti-Corruption.



### Activities in the period March 2020 – March 2022

- 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. In the period 2020 – 2022 the BSCC Secretariat continued to support the work of the Consultative Council on VET to the Minister of Education and Science and the Recourse Working Group on VET with a special mandate by the Ministry of Education and Science.
- BSCC’ support of Roma minority integration and other socially oriented and charity-like projects are unseparable part of BSCC’ life. Partnership with “Amalipe” Centre for inter-ethnic dialogue and tolerance continued. The Chamber supported the national campaign of the organization "Old technology for a new beginning", which aimed to provide children from poor families with equipment with which they can continue their education from home. The Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce encouraged its members and partners to become part of this cause and to participate in the campaign.
- During its Charity Christmas Party in December 2021 the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce raised funds in support of the project “Equine-assisted therapy to promote physical and mental health for young adults with disabilities” of the CEDAR Foundation.
- In 2020 BSCC continued its cooperation with the Municipality of Lausanne on the Restart Project donating more than 6707 quality recycled computers to NGOs, orphanages, municipalities, schools and hospitals throughout Bulgaria.



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- BSCC organizes joint online and live events and supports joint initiatives with other Swiss partner organizations and 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.

- BSCC collaborates with different anti-corruption organizations and state institutions e.g, Transparency International Bulgaria. In 2020, the Chamber participated in a working group of Transparency International Bulgaria, related to the adaptation and adoption of the Directive of the European Parliament and the Council for the protection of whistleblowers, in accordance with Bulgarian legislation. In January 2021 BSCC joined Transparency International call for public access to beneficial ownership information. In February 2022 BSCC become an official member of the Business Integrity Club of the Transparency International Bulgaria Association. The Business Integrity Club is an informal structure that is an environment for focused work on topics such as policies for integrity, fairness and transparency. The mission of its participants is to unite their efforts to create an environment for the development of honest business in Bulgaria.



- Since 2020, BSCC is part of the Advisory Council on Business and Children of UNICEF Bulgaria.
- 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, 14 March 2022