Dear Sir,

We hereby confirm receipt of your email.

Kind regards,

Cabinet Thierry Breton

From: FreseniusWatch <xxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:24 AM
To: CAB BRETON CONTACT <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxxxxx.xx>
Subject: European trade union federations and ETUC on Sustainable Corporate Governance

Dear Mr. Breton,

We very much welcomed the exchange with your cabinet on the 30th September. We, a group of European trade union federations – EFFAT, EPSU, UNI Europa, IndustriALL Europe – as well as ETUC, had the chance to present the trade unions’ concerns regarding the announced initiatives in Sustainable Corporate Governance and mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence.

Following on from this conversation, we would like to outline our main demands once again. Unions collectively call for a European directive to establish mandatory, comprehensive, and effective human rights. Companies such as the German health care corporation, Fresenius and the American fast food giant McDonald’s demonstrate daily the urgent need for meaningful requirements and standards. A few examples therefore are Fresenius’ practices on corruption, union busting and violations of workers’ rights as well as McDonald’s systematic violation of human rights, health, safety, and environmental standards.

We are collectively calling for:

- A binding EU law including strong enforcement. In case of violations effective remedies should be available for victims, including clients, communities, workers, trade unions and other interested third parties. The directive should establish proportionate, effective and dissuasive sanctions for any violations by companies of their obligations including the exclusion from public procurement and public funding.

- The inclusion of trade unions at the national and international level in every step of the due diligence process. The directive shall fully recognize the role of workers, trade union and workers' representatives as central actors in companies. Social partners should be involved in the initiative.

- The recognition of the importance of the fundamental rights to freedom of association, collective bargaining and collective action, including strike action.

- The inclusion of fair taxations principles. The directive shall prevent the implementation of global supply chains based on tax avoidance, aggressive tax planning.

- The inclusion of subsidiaries and a broad definition of franchises. The scope of due diligence should not be limited to the parent company's subsidiaries and subcontractors but should also apply to franchise networks.
The points mentioned above demonstrate that Europe cannot wait any longer to establish necessary measures to ensure human, trade, Union and workers’ rights and further delaying the initiative is unacceptable.

Of course, we are always at your disposal for further exchange or questions.

Best regards,

……………………………………

the Fresenius Global Union Alliance

Identification number in the EU transparency register: 378757041189-09