



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

---

*Committee on Employment and Social Affairs*

---

**2012/2098(INI)**

25.10.2012

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Legal Affairs

on Corporate Social Responsibility: accountable, transparent and responsible  
business behaviour and sustainable growth  
(2012/2098(INI))

Rapporteur (\*): Richard Howitt

(\* ) Procedure with associated committees – Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Commends the Commission's intention to conduct Eurobarometer surveys on trust in business; advocates that corporate social responsibility (CSR) can fully contribute to restoring lost confidence, as this is absolutely necessary for economic recovery;
2. Stresses that co- and self-regulation cannot be a substitute for appropriate regulation in any of the areas covered by CSR, but believes that it could underpin existing private and voluntary CSR initiatives by establishing minimum principles to ensure consistency, materiality, multi-stakeholder input and transparency;
3. Welcomes the Commission's intention to launch a 'Community of Practice' on CSR; considers that this must be complementary to a code of good practice for co- and self-regulation, allowing all stakeholders to engage in a collective learning process in order to improve the efficiency and accountability of multi-stakeholder CSR actions;
4. Fully supports the Commission's intention to bring forward a legislative proposal on 'non-financial disclosure' by business; warns that use of the term 'non-financial' should not disguise the very real financial consequences for business of social, environmental and human rights impacts; calls for an ambitious proposal which places the EU at the heart of the many current international initiatives on mandatory corporate sustainability reporting and which is fully in line with the objective of making Integrated Reporting, as currently developed by the IIRC, the global norm by the end of the decade;
5. Condemns corporate corruption and tax evasion; calls on the Commission to place new emphasis on these issues in the CSR debate under the heading 'good governance';
6. Stresses that the link between good corporate responsibility and good corporate governance can only be achieved if CSR is a mainstream part of the company affecting its day-to-day financial strategy; believes that the Commission should explore opportunities to ensure that CSR strategy is agreed at board level.