

Brussels, 30 January 2025

To the attention of:

- Commission President, Ursula Von der Leyen
- Stephane Sejourné, Executive Vice-President Prosperity and Industrial Strategy
- Roxana Mînzatu, Executive Vice-President Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness
- Valdis Dombrovskis, Commissioner for Economy and Productivity, Implementation and Simplification

Dear President Von der Leyen,

Dear Executive Vice-Presidents Sejourné and Mînzatu,

Dear Commissioner Dombrovskis,

The European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT) is writing this letter to urge the European Commission to remain committed to its fight against corporate impunity and for more sustainable business practices.

As a Trade Union Federation representing 2,6 million members and 121 affiliates in 40 countries, EFFAT represent workers in some of the more challenging and precarious sectors of the economy. These sectors often rely on very long and complex supply and subcontracting chains as well as franchise systems where violations of workers' rights are commonplace.

This is why we cannot accept any attempt to use the upcoming EU Omnibus Regulation to undermine the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), and the EU Taxonomy Regulation.

At a time of worsened working conditions, exacerbated climate crisis, and rising inequality, corporate accountability is more essential than ever. Any attempt to revise these three legal acts would seriously harm the recent progress made by the EU in protecting human rights, workers, and the environment. Such a rollback would be a very negative signal and would represent a clear step backwards in the EU's ambition to raise labour and environmental standards in Europe and globally. Instead of regressing, the EU must remain steadfast in fostering the high road to competitiveness, based on quality jobs and sustainable business practices.

Furthermore, the hard-won inclusion of franchises in the scope of the CSDDD, together with strong provisions on trade union involvement were groundbreaking achievements in the fight against corporate impunity. For the first time in history, franchise giants will not evade responsibility for labour abuses occurring throughout their operations and franchise networks. This will help build fair competition in several sectors and it is a potential game changer for the millions of workers employed in franchise networks, who today see their rights violated on a daily basis without any chance of being heard.

EFFAT and its member organisations call on your leadership and sense of responsibility to defend the integrity of EU corporate accountability laws and adhere to the timeline for their transposition and implementation.

The EU must strengthen its role as a global leader in sustainability and equality, remaining committed to building on these achievements. We cannot allow progress to be halted and urge the Commission to ensure that these hard-won victories are not put in danger.

We remain at your disposal for any questions you may have and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Enrico Somaglia
EFFAT General Secretary