

Global Compact Nordic Network

Annual report 2005

Network objectives and priorities

- In 2005, the Nordic Network has continued its efforts to improve the Nordic Network's status as a learning platform for member companies and a valuable forum for exchanging experiences. Its objective is to be considered an active and trusted contributor to the GC goals and in the process to involve stakeholders (NGOs, government, international institutions, others) in constructive dialogue.
- Recruitment of new members is vital. A priority is to increase the number of Nordic companies having signed the Global Compact and to attract them as network members.

Organization

- The Network appointed its Focal Point in spring 2005, for the period 2005-2007 (Mr. Vidar Lindefjeld at the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO))
- The Network has no steering committee or decision making body. The network communicates via e-mail in addition to 2 annual meetings, organised on a rotating basis in the Nordic countries. National working groups are established to prepare these meetings. Special working groups may be appointed on a case by case basis.

Participation

- The membership comprises about 45 companies from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, most of which are multinationals. In addition, the Confederation of Danish Industry and the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise are members (they, too, have signed up to the GC). Most sectors are represented: Oil & gas, chemical & mechanical industry, pharmaceutical companies, bank & insurance, pulp & paper industry, offshore industry, food production, building & construction, telecom, iron & steel.
- No other stakeholders are admitted at present. This means that civil society organisations, trade unions, public authorities etc. are not members. However, representatives from all these groups are invited to our meetings to contribute to specific discussions on the ten principles.

Activities

- So far, the Nordic Network has not established its own website. Basically, it plays its role as promoter of the GC through the activities of its members in the countries where they operate. So far, the Network has considered this the best way to fulfil their Global Compact "obligations" and to implement the ten principles on the ground. The Network does not participate in partnerships so far – but of course, our members do on an individual basis in a large number of countries all over the world.
- However, the Network, notably the Focal Point, participates in national meetings and seminars and to some extent engages in international activities organised by the Office, stakeholders and other networks. The Focal point, together with a representative from the Office, participated at a UNDP-conference in

Kazakhstan in November 2005. Occasionally, the Network has been approached by other networks to exchange experiences.

- **The Focal Point is the link between New York and member companies, and takes care of all communication with NY on behalf of members. It communicates with members on a regular basis and keeps them updated on all NY initiatives.**
- **Activities foreseen for 2006:**
 - **2 network meetings: Helsinki, Finland, 22-23 May 2006 and Stockholm November 2006**
 - **A “Nordic Network Summit” is planned for 31 August, focusing on the potential of the Global Compact in a 2020 perspective. The UN Secretary General has been invited, among others**
 - **Presenting the GC and its potential at a UNDP seminar in Oslo on development and partnerships; 25 April**
 - **Participation in GC Networks meeting, Barcelona 25/26 September**

Progress

- **The Nordic Network has made considerable progress in 2005 with regard to improving its internal structures. The appointment of a Focal Point, the introduction of a membership fee (EUR 500 annually) and a more formalised dialogue internally as well as with New York has vitalised the Network. The new structure may facilitate contacts and cooperation with other networks, capacity permitting.**