



THE GLOBAL
COMPACT

Forum des Amis du Pacte Mondial en France

Annual report 2006

French network
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The French network had been initially launched on January 27th 2004, under the name of *Forum des Amis du Pacte Mondial en France*. It had its second full year in 2006.

1. Number of participants

The French network is proud to report that the number of members moved from 413 at the beginning of the year to 421 at the end of 2006 in spite of the fact that early 2006, 38 were excluded; the reason being their non-compliance with the commitment to submit the requested yearly best practice/ CoP; the network had sent them in the preceding months 4 letters each, plus a telephone call to draw their attention on the issue.

The majority of the 421 are SMEs: 71% have less than 2000 employees; 55% less than 500 employees. 2% are academics and NGO. This situation has of course immediate and important consequences in the management and animation of the network.

207 members, which had to submit in 2006 a Communication on Progress (CoP) either on the UNGC website or the French website (www.pactemondial.org) did it on time.

2. Collective activities

One of the main tasks of the network is to be a platform for dialogue on issues related to the 10 principles and responsible corporate citizenship. The French network organized several meetings at national level and at regional level:

- Presentation by the chairman of Schneider Electric and the *Ministre délégué à l'égalité et la promotion des chances*, regarding human resources diversity in companies and the promotion of young people training thanks to the Charte de l'Apprentissage: 60 participants - April 6th 2006.
- Presentation by the Managing Director of *Electricité de France (EDF)* and a trade union representative to present the Corporate Social agreement signed at the international level in the *Groupe EDF*. 50 participants - September 20th 2006.
- The first Assemblée Générale of the French GC association took place in Paris on May 17. 118 persons attended the meeting of which 96 entrepreneurs, with a large majority of SMEs, 22 guests including from the Administration and 4 journalists.

A roundtable on environment was the core of the debate with chairmen/CEOs (incl. *Lafarge*, *Total* and one SME), *WWF Intl*, and a high representative of the French Administration.

The main conclusions of the roundtable are:

Everyone is behind schedule regarding the environmental protection: public authorities, companies, civil society. Every entity has to take its responsibility. As far as the entrepreneurs are concerned, the SMEs have a role to play with their close stakeholders. Larger companies have to help the SMEs in their projects to protect the environment.

MNEs chairs confirmed their will and actions to move into the right directions but drew the attention that French and European enterprises cannot act alone, which means in some cases increase their costs and lose on competitiveness, if other countries in the world do not follow suite.

The French Minister for ecology and sustainable development closed the meeting in delivering a speech on partnerships between the public and the private sector.

3. Specific projects facilitated or convened by the network

With around 400 active participants, the French GC members belong to quite different categories. Most of the GC members are SMEs, which are located in different French provinces

and are active in very different sectors. Most of them need a specific assistance regarding writing of the best practices/ CoP. For example, the association has, on an average, one personal dialogue every working day of the year with an SME to explain the GC principles and contribute to the writing and implementation of the yearly best practice/CoP. As far as MNEs are concerned, though they have their own team dedicated to the CSR issues, they wish to exchange about the writing of their CoP and how to be more proactive in the promotion of the GC with their different stakeholders.

To fulfil the above duties, the French network adapted the following:

- The website: French-written, it provides GC information, which are relevant to the French members, and news from the Forum: agenda, summary of the different meetings, translations made to help the GC members, particularly SMEs... . Updated regularly, it provides essential information in order to make the French Forum lively.
- The e-newsletter : in 2006, 3 e-newsletters have been sent to all GC members by e-mail. They include the Forum's news, practical information, translations, guides to implement the GC and information about or from the GC Office in New York. The e-newsletter is linked to the Forum's website. All documents can be found on the website.
- Personal meetings to answer specific questions from members. Assistance to the working out of their best practice(s)/CoP. One afternoon per month is dedicated to members, in the form of individual meetings, to exchange with the Association on every GC issue they wish. The high demand will probably lead to a second afternoon per month in 2007.

4. Structure of collective governance

The French network became a legal association in May 2005 with its own statutes and regulations in accordance with the integrity measures of the GC. A member of the association has to be first a GC member to integrate the French association. In the future, each French GC member should be member of the French association. The more members in the association, the more efficient it will be.

The association is led by a steering committee, composed of 15 chairmen (7 MNEs, 7 SMEs, 1 public agency). At working level, they or their personal representative met 5 times in 2006, with an agenda and preparatory documents sent in advance in order to allow a serious decision making process and to prepare propositions from the steering committee. The steering committee is open to non-entrepreneurs, and a high level representation of academics will join the steering committee early 2007.

Konrad Eckenschwiller, Permanent Representative of the GC in France is *Délégué général*; He is assisted by Isabelle Guyot, dedicated full time to the GC.

5. Activities undertaken in support of CoPs made by companies

The experience of 2005 showed that efficiency in the subject did not fit with meetings with many participants. Therefore, we did not hold such meetings any more and turned to individual exchanges, as mentioned above. It proved much more efficient, both in terms of quality of the dialogue and in quantity since the demand is steadily growing which means time consuming for the network. The steering committee approves that priority is given to such practical actions over paper work.

6. Promotion of the GC in France

6.1 Chairman Bertrand Collomb

Chairman of the French network, Bertrand Collomb, Chairman of *Lafarge*, made a presentation of GC and its implementation in his company to 70 former students of the French high level engineering school *Ecole des Mines* on February 9th 2006.

6.2 GC Presentation by the Permanent Representative of the GC in France

Konrad Eckenschwiller was invited to make several presentations of 30 minutes to one hour with then a Q&A session:

- "FEDERE" (*Forum Européen pour le Développement Durable et une Entreprise Responsable*; 400 participants, some of them were GC members – March 31st 2006.
- International meeting of the legal departments of *Thalès*; 60 participants - June 9th. The subject was the consequences of the globalisation on national legal cultures, in particular the growing importance of the soft-law.
- Annual meeting of the *Conférence des Grandes Ecoles* (entity which gathers 150 high level business and engineering schools). Presentation of the GC to the 150 deans and the possible collaboration with GC members. Since this meeting, the *Conférence des Grandes Ecoles* is a GC member.
- Half day meeting in cooperation with UNDP and *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD) to present business cases from companies which cooperate with UNDP in their core- business (access to essential services) and his their sphere of activity (Health, Social and Environnement) to reach the Millenium Development Goals. November 17th – 30 participants.
- Cooperation with UNDP for a publication gathering 50 worldwide business cases of companies which implement the MDGs.

Konrad Eckenschwiller represented the Forum at the Vienna European Networks meeting from June 21-22nd and participated to the Accra Global Compact summit from November 22-24.

Isabelle Guyot represented the French network at the Barcelona annual Networks meeting from September 26-27th.

7. Financial statement

The subscriptions (20€ per year) from the French GC members and voluntary contributions covered quite exactly the costs of the association and its activities in 2006.

8. Activities planned for 2007

- The association will organize on March 13th the annual meeting of its members. The not yet members of the association, GC participants, will be invited. The planned format includes a podium discussion on working conditions between MNE and SME chairmen and a Trade Union leader; as well as a presentation by the French Ministry for Employment and Labour.
- Meeting with NGOs: presentation of partnerships of GC members, represented by their chairman and a top-executive of an NGO.
- Search for and launch of new regional platforms.
- No need to say that in terms of time, the number one activity will remain the assistance to SMEs to write down their best practice/ CoP, a second one for those which already performed, and the first one for all the others which joined in 2006.

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