



# Global Compact Network France

## **Annual report 2007**

French network  
January 2008

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The French network had been initially launched on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2004, under the name of *Forum des Amis du Pacte Mondial en France*. It had its third full year in 2007.

## 1. Number of participants

The number of members moved from 421 at the beginning of the year to 442 at the end of 2007 in spite of the fact that in 2007, 80 were excluded after 4 individual warnings ; 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 individual letters and e-mails each, plus a telephone call to draw their attention on the issue and to propose an individual coaching (70 enterprises in 2007 accepted an individual coaching which allowed them to remain active).

The majority of the 442 are SMEs: 73% have less than 2000 employees; 52% less than 500 employees. 6% are academics and NGO. This situation has of course immediate and important consequences in the management and animation of the network.

290 members, which had to submit in 2007 a communication on Progress (coP) either on the UNGC website or the French website ([www.pactemondial.org](http://www.pactemondial.org)) did it on time.

## 2. Collective activities

Besides helping SMEs to select, implement and write down best practices and then coPs, 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 proposed for example 4 meetings to the members of the association this year:

- a. Presentation by Jean-Marc Jancovici, climate expert and one of the designers of the Bilan Carbone® of the French Environment and Energy Management Agency. It dealt with climate change and the lack of energy resources despite the increasing needs. 50 participants– June 26<sup>th</sup> 2007
- b. Presentation by Xavier Delacroix, Executive Officer of First&42<sup>nd</sup>, expert on altermondialism and the World Social Forums. He made a presentation on the role and the impact of altermondialism today. Christian Brodhag, *Délégué interministériel au Développement Durable*, was one of the 45 participants (October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007).
- c. Presentation by Jean-Michel Sévérino, Chief Executive Officer of the French Development Agency, about Corporate Social Responsibility and public policies to finance development. - 70 participants - December 10<sup>th</sup> 2007
- d. The General Assembly: March 13<sup>th</sup> 2007

The French official association which gathers at the end of the year 290 enterprises held its annual general assembly on March 13<sup>th</sup> (130 of them attended) in the appreciated presence of Lila Karbassi from the GC Office.

The chairman of the association Bertrand Collomb drew the attention of the enterprises which are running the risk of being excluded in the first half of 2007 for non-compliance with the best practice/coP commitment. The chairman insisted that quality comes now ahead of quantity and stressed the individual coaching which is now offered twice a month.

The roundtable of the general assembly was on the subject of relationship and responsibilities of entrepreneurs towards their sub-contractors. The roundtable started with a presentation by Jean Kaspar, well known consultant in labor relations and was animated by Patricia Laurent, deputy editor of *L'Usine Nouvelle*. The members of the panel were: the chairmen of Carrefour, Lafarge and Schneider Electric, well known MNEs and of Armor Lux, a textile SME from Brittany and the Secretary General of the leading French trade union CFDT.

The very interesting conclusions on the interdependence of the different businesses with labor forces, and international development were then underlined in his closing speech by the French Minister for Labor Relations, Gérard Larcher, who attended the entire meeting.

### **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 - at least for the first time(s) - a specific assistance regarding writing of the best practices/ coP. For example, the association has, on an average, one personal dialogue (physically or by telephone) 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, many of them 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 fulfill the above duties, the French network adopted 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 or executive summaries intended to help the GC members, particularly SMEs, database by sector, size, province, principles illustrated... . Updated regularly, it provides essential information in order to keep the French Forum lively.
- The e-newsletter: in 2007, 5 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.
- 70 Personal and individual meetings to answer specific questions from members. Assistance to the working out of their best practice(s)/CoP. Two afternoons per month are dedicated to members, in the form of individual meetings, to exchange with the association on every GC issue they wish: the 10 principles, how to create and post a coP... . We call them "individual coaching".

### **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 become a 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, who elect for a period of 3 years their chairman). At working level, they or their personal representative met 5 times in 2007, 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 has joined the steering committee in 2007 with the Conference des Grandes Ecoles.

Konrad Eckenschwiller, Permanent Representative of the GC in France is *Délégué général*; he was assisted by Isabelle Guyot, dedicated full time to the GC (Géraldine Camara taking over from Isabelle at the end of the year).

## 5. Promotion of the GC in France

Konrad Eckenschwiller was invited to make several presentations of 30 minutes to two hours with then a Q&A session. They took place in many different cities of the country, which also contributes to create or maintain regional platforms:

- February 22<sup>nd</sup> : Regional platform in Lille: personal meetings with SMEs and the support of Isabelle Guyot
- March 14<sup>th</sup> : ESCM Tours (business school): exchange with students during two hours
- March 15<sup>th</sup> : AIESEC Evry: 30 students
- March 29<sup>th</sup> : "FEDERE" (*Forum Européen pour le Développement Durable et une Entreprise Responsable*): French GC presence during the fair
- May 15<sup>th</sup> : 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with the regional participants in Lille
- June 5<sup>th</sup> : Political Science Institute of Paris: exchange with students
- September 19<sup>th</sup> : Launch of a new regional platform in Nice + GC presentation, 100 entrepreneurs, 10 new members
- October 10<sup>th</sup> : Launch of a new regional platform in Marseille with an entrepreneur leader and a business school (10 participants) + personal coaching with the support of Isabelle Guyot
- November 7<sup>th</sup> : Ecole 3A Lyon: exchange with 300 students, with an SME GC participant
- November 9<sup>th</sup> : *Confédération Nationale des Administrateurs de Biens*: GC presentation to the 300 members of the organisation on the occasion of their General Assembly
- December 6<sup>th</sup> : Institut de l'entreprise: GC presentation to 20 teachers Economic and Social Sciences

Konrad Eckenschwiller represented the French network at the Annual Local Networks Forum in Monterrey from October 17-18<sup>th</sup>. He also participated in the Leaders Summit in Geneva, July 5-6<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 2007. We are very careful to keep each year our expenses within our revenues.

## 8. Activities planned for 2008

- The association will organize on April 9<sup>th</sup> 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 climate change between MNE, SME, a public company and a CSR rating agency chairmen.
- Meetings and debates with civil society: presentation of partnerships of GC members, represented by their chairman ...The first will take place early February with the chairman of the Environmental Commission of the French Parliament.
- One of our goals is to improve the ratio active members / members which means helping them to write down their best practice/ coP, especially for SMEs. The one-to-one meeting system is clearly very efficient, as a consequence this will remain an important part of the activities of the association for 2008.
- More meetings with participants in region
- First world conference of corporate universities in Paris, April 2008.