



Българо-швейцарска търговска камара

Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement:

From: March 2016 To: March 2018

PART I. STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE SECRETARIAT

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that the Bulgarian – Swiss Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact Principles. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Vassil Radoynovski
Head of the Secretariat
Bulgarian – Swiss Chamber of Commerce

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

The Bulgarian – Swiss Chamber of Commerce is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental business organization with over 130 members - Bulgarian, Swiss and international companies, organizations and physical entities.

The Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce was established in 2004.

The mission of the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce:

- BSCC strives to develop the economic relations between Bulgaria and Swiss Confederation on a win-win basis by improving the level of skills and knowledge in Bulgaria using Swiss experience and know-how and increasing Swiss companies' competitiveness on the international markets.

- BSCC promotes Swiss values in business relationships such as precision, quality, innovation and integrity.

- BSCC maintains socially responsible business conduct and believes that in such a way the chamber contributes to a better society as a whole.



Members of the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber Commerce are leading Swiss companies with stable positions on the global market operating also in Bulgaria, small and medium-sized Swiss-owned companies, trade representations, service providers.

The day-to-day activity of the Chamber is based on good contacts with public institutions, organisations and companies from both countries. The Chamber organizes regular meetings and events for its members.

At its events and meetings with Bulgarian and Swiss officials, member and non-member companies and organizations the BSCC management promotes on a regular base the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

As of the beginning of 2012 the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce provides information and services to business and investor community in cooperation with the Swiss Embassy in Sofia.

Some of the main services include:

- Partner search
- Contacts with institutions and organisations
- Market information
- Visits to fairs, exhibitions, companies
- Company research
- Legal and financial advice
- Support for entering market
- Advocacy
- Support in the Investment Certification in Bulgaria
- Evaluation of the Export Capacity
- Other administrative services

The main task of the BSCC is to stimulate the economic relations and facilitate the communication between companies from Bulgaria and Switzerland and to present Bulgaria as a reliable destination for building business partnerships (production, assembly, service, joint projects, etc.).

The Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce has focused on three U.N. Global Compact areas that are most aligned with its work – Labor, Environment, Anti-Corruption.

Activities in the period March 2016 – March 2018

- (1) BSCC initiated the signing of a joint letter together with the 9 most important bilateral chambers in the country, representing more than 80% of the total foreign investment, aiming to support the completion of the long awaited judicial reform in Bulgaria focused on anti-corruption.



- (2) BSCC coordinated successfully the Swiss-supported project for the introduction of dual-track principles in the Bulgarian vocational education system.
- (3) BSCC' support of Roma minority integration and other socially oriented and charity-like projects are unseparable part of BSCC' life.
- (4) BSCC continued its cooperation with the Municipality of Lausanne on the Restart Project donating more 5200 quality recycled computers to NGOs, orphanages, municipalities, schools and hospitals throughout Bulgaria.
- (5) BSCC initiated the project "Business Partnerships for Better Society" financed by the Swiss Contribution Program aiming to improve the quality of the labor conditions of the Bulgarian enterprises and to forge links with high quality Swiss companies.
- (6) With BSCC support Swiss investors opened new production facilities or expanded the existing ones thus creating hundreds of new working places including in the less developed regions of the country.

Sofia, 21 March 2018