

# Fair Trade and Fair Supply Chains

We support our clients acknowledging their business responsibility in their efforts to build, maintain and monitor fair trade practices in their supply chains and to implement systems for supply chain due diligence

## The issue

Numerous companies have engaged for decades - on a voluntary basis – to ensure observance of fair-trade standards, human rights due diligence and environment protection, taking responsibility for their supply chains, guided by international frameworks such as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (“UNGPs”) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (“UN SDGs”).

Recently, legislators worldwide are more and more calling for action and implementing mandatory due diligence legislation – starting in sectors where violations have been particularly blatant, such as:

- in the timber industry, the EU Timber Regulation (EU) 995/2010,
- in the extractive industry, the US 2010 Dodd-Frank Act and the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation (EU) 2017/8821, and
- in the agricultural and food industry, the EU Unfair Trade Practices in the Agricultural and Food Supply Chain (“UTP”) Directive 2019/633.

The future will be shaped by more cross-sectoral regulation such as:

- the UK 2015 modern slavery act,
- the French 2017 law on the duty of vigilance,
- the German supply chain due diligence act and
- the EU legislative initiative on corporate sustainability due diligence.

## What we do

We have a leading practice advising clients on strategies to build, maintain and monitor fair trade practices in their supply chains and implement systems for supply chain due diligence.

The future brings new opportunities for human rights due diligence and strengthening environmental protection. Multinational companies can have an immense impact and important positive effects on human and labour rights, drive development and create jobs.

We advise on:

- developing strategies for transparency regarding suppliers and working together with them to ensure compliance with fair trade practices, human and labour rights and environmental protection;
- meeting specific regulations as well as reporting requirements and systems that need to be put in place for documentation;
- communication with regulators, consumer protection organisations and competition associations demonstrating compliance with fair trade practices, human and labour rights and environmental protection;
- complying with new laws and regulations requiring increased transparency, disclosure and documentation on supply chain due diligence;
- sustainability and social impact principles and best practices.

In addition, we take our own impact very seriously and support the UN SDGs. Our CEO created the role of Global Managing Partner for Diversity & Inclusion and Responsible Business.

## Our impact

We partner with our clients to support them in their efforts to ensure fairness in their supply chains. Examples include:

- Advising a global food manufacturer on their strategy for implementation of upcoming EU corporate sustainability due diligence requirements.
- Advising an international food retailer on compliance with the EU UTP Directive.
- Advising an international manufacturer of luxury products on compliance with supply chain due diligence regulations and standards in several countries.
- Advising a number of international companies on development of strategies to implement requirements of applicable and upcoming supply chain due diligence regulations.
- a three year global partnership with leading social enterprise Barefoot College supporting them to scale their impact around the world. Key partnership achievement included educating 2250 schoolchildren in 16 countries about Barefoot and the SDGs

## Useful links

- [Business Integrity Group](#)
- [Business Integrity and Sustainable Development](#)
- [Business integrity for consumer companies](#)

## Relevant contacts



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