

The Europe 2020 Strategy emphasises the role of corporate responsibility (CR) as leverage to increase trust in business and promote inclusive and sustainable growth. In the “Renewed Strategy for CSR” from 2011, the European Commission aims at increasing the impact of its CR policy. In this regard, the Commission outlined the multi-stakeholder approach and self- and co-regulation as factors that can increase CR impact, particularly at the sector level.

As forms of self- and co-regulation, sector-specific initiatives can foster win-win solutions for both companies and society: they can adequately solve sector-specific challenges to the companies’ operating environment while addressing societal concerns.

What are the benefits and the impacts of sector-specific initiatives and what is the role of public authorities? What are success factors for good performance of such initiatives? Are self- and co-regulation through sector-specific initiatives legitimate, effective and efficient alternatives to the public approach?

In order to present its work on the issue and launch a debate with all relevant stakeholder groups, the Bertelsmann Stiftung is organising the conference

**“Fostering Corporate Responsibility through Self- and Co-regulation:
The Case of Sector-specific Initiatives”
April 23rd 2013, 11.30-17.00
Representation of North Rhine-Westphalia
Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Brussels**

11.30 - 12.30 **REGISTRATION AND LUNCHEON**

12.30 - 13.30 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Welcome statement

Rainer Steffens

Head of the Representation of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union

Introduction: Tackling societal problems through public-private collaboration

Birgit Riess

Director “Business in Society”, Bertelsmann Stiftung

Key note: Features and trends of sector-specific CR in Europe

Prof. Dr. Thomas Beschorner

Director, Institute for Business Ethics St. Gallen

Moderator

Dr. Detlef Fechtner

EU Correspondent, Börsen-Zeitung

13.30 - 15.00 **PANEL I: BENEFITS AND IMPACTS OF SECTOR-SPECIFIC CR INITIATIVES**

Angie Farrag

Associate Director, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR)

Jean Claude Lahaut

Secretary General, Cefic/Responsible Care

Bernedine Bos

Head Project Department, MVO Nederland

Jan Noterdaeme

Senior Advisor on External Relations, CSR Europe

Pietro Bertazzi

Senior Manager Policy and Governmental Relations, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

15.00 - 15.30 **COFFEE BREAK**

15.30 - 17.00 **PANEL II: ALTERNATIVES TO THE PUBLIC APPROACH? SUCCESS FACTORS FOR SECTOR-SPECIFIC CR INITIATIVES**

Robert Madelin

Director General DG Connect, European Commission

Carl Dolan

Senior EU Policy Officer, Transparency International

Patrick Itschert

Deputy General Director, European Trade Union Confederation

Maxime Cerutti

Director Social Affairs, BusinessEurope

Michel Doucin

Ambassador of Bioethics and CSR, France

17.00 - 18.30 **WINE AND CHEESE**