Brussels, 21 January 2025

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Subject: Faith-based organisations' concerns on the Omnibus proposal

Dear Ms. von der Leyen,

For many years, civil society, along with faith-based and religious organisations, has pushed for mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence (mHREDD) legislation in the European Union, ensuring that those harmed by corporate misconduct can seek justice. In 2023, over 200 faith leaders endorsed this initiative for corporate accountability. Similarly, in 2020, more than 230 Catholic Bishops collaborated with civil society groups and citizens to call for mHREDD legislation. Therefore, the adoption of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive in July 2024 represents a significant victory for those worldwide who protect both Planet Earth and human dignity against the adverse effects of profit-driven corporate practices.

Following your announcement on November 8, 2024, regarding a proposal to amend three key pillars of the European Green Deal through an Omnibus law—the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), and the Taxonomy Regulation—the signatories of this letter recognise significant risks to the already adopted files. **We urge you to safeguard these EU corporate accountability laws, confirm their transposition and implementation timeline and ensure complete transparency in the Omnibus process.** As the CSOs' statement highlights, the proposal would be inconsistent with the values the EU has committed to uphold, namely democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

This proposal induces considerable uncertainty for States that have already commenced their transposition process. Moreover, many companies are already preparing for compliance with these regulations, and are demanding clarity and guidance from the Commission, in order to establish a level playing field and avoid chaos. Most importantly, the CSDDD is a key instrument for protecting the fundamental rights of individuals and communities affected by business operations, preventing corporate human rights and environmental abuses, and defending our common home. Therefore, its implementation should not be delayed.

The European Union should not reverse the advances that have already been made with respect to the European Green Deal. We respectfully urge you, Ms. Von der Leyen, to guarantee equitable conditions for the protection of human rights, the environment, and climate through unambiguous expectations, legal certainty, and prompt, thorough implementation guidelines.

Best regards,

Signatories:

Floris Faber	EU Representative & Head of Office	ACT Alliance EU
Eva Ekelund	Deputy Director	ACT Church of Sweden
Lieve Herijgers	Director	Broederlijk Delen
Maria Nyman	Secretary General	Caritas Europa
Jonas Schneider Sigrid Kickingereder	Chairman Director	Catholic Children's Movement (Katholische Jungschar) and DKA Austria
Jean-François Dubost	Director of Advocacy	CCFD-Terre Solidaire
Rosamond Bennett	Chief Executive Officer	Christian Aid Ireland
Josianne Gauthier	Secretary General	CIDSE
Maria Moser	Director	Diakonie Österreich
Tomi Järvinen	Executive Director	Finn Church Aid (FCA)
Andrea Stocchiero	Director Advocacy	FOCSIV Italy
Mary Tere Guzmán	Executive Director	Fundación Alboan
Markus Schlagnitweit	Director	Katholische Sozialakademie Österreichs - ksoe
Cecilia Pilar Gracia	National President	Manos Unidas
Bernd Bornhorst	Managing Director, International Cooperation	Misereor (German Catholic Bishops' Organisation for Development Cooperation)
Martha Inés Romero	Secretary General	Pax Christi International
Caoimhe de Barra	Chief Executive Officer	Trócaire