

Progress report – March 2014

In the month of March stakeholders continued to develop the work related to The Supply Chain Initiative. Work is on-going in several areas:

- 74 companies registered to The Supply Chain Initiative; taking into account the subsidiaries of international groups, 541 operating companies are signed up¹; their names can be found here: <http://www.supplychaininitiative.eu/registry>;
- The split-up of registrations is as follows: 39 manufacturing, 16 retail, 16 wholesale and 3 farming companies; there are 33 SMEs; every EU Member State is covered. In addition 62 companies have sent letters of intent;
- The website www.supplychaininitiative.eu is regularly updated; a webpage dedicated for SMEs was created; it puts together all necessary and tailored information for SMEs;
- Companies continue purchasing the e-learning tool.
- The self-assessment tools are being promoted by the members;
- Relations with national platforms and compatibility with national schemes are being assessed and further developed; the stakeholders are encouraging and monitoring the set-up of national dialogue platforms; a mapping of national schemes is regularly updated (see Annex)
- A mapping of arbitration and mediation points in EU Member States is now available on the website; it is made available by the Governance Group to companies in order to help them comply with their process obligations;
- The development of the annual survey is on-going: the questions of the survey have been translated into 22 EU languages and are now reviewed by the membership; the Governance Group set up a working group to start working on the upcoming annual report;

¹ Explanation of the difference of figures between the online registry and the monthly reporting.

Due to their internal structure, a small number of international companies have chosen to register in every market where they operate and this total number appears on the online registry. Yet, for consistency reasons, this monthly reporting counts entities that are part of the same group of companies as one and adds up each separate national registration in the figure of operating companies.

- The preparation of the mid-term review has been launched;
- The Governance Group has been informed that the Commission will monitor the impact of the Principles of Good Practice and took the initiative to organise a Working Group gathering representatives from all the signatory organisations to the Principles, including Copa-Cogeca and Clitravi; the objective is to discuss and possibly offer an input to the Commission's terms of reference;
- As part of awareness-raising, the stakeholders are regularly liaising with the media, in particular to inform them upon request; the Governance Group members are actively promoting the Initiative through public speaking engagements.
- Progress check against initial roadmap: on target;

During this time the signatory organisations have maintained the dialogue with Copa-Cogeca which has been invited as an observer to the Governance Group meetings.
