

Mr. Angel Gurría
Secretary-General
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris, France

10 March 2011

Dear Mr. Gurría,

In light of the upcoming meeting of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, we are writing to express our concern at the UK's continued delay in meeting its obligations under the OECD Anti-Bribery convention through implementation of the UK Bribery Act.

We are a group of leading British NGOs who witness the devastating effects of corruption on poor communities every day. Our experience has taught us that corruption continues to be one of the greatest obstacles to development, poverty alleviation and good governance. It is also our experience that supply-side bribery by companies is a significant part of the problem.

We therefore welcome the OECD's continued leadership in combating private-sector fuelled corruption worldwide. We were also very pleased last year when the UK Bribery Act was passed with cross-party support, making it part of a growing fabric of global anti-corruption legislation.

We have had several assurances from the Secretary of State for Justice that the Act will be implemented soon, but are concerned as the UK Government has delayed the implementation of the Act beyond the April deadline, without announcing a new timeline. This is in spite of constructive recommendations provided in the December 2010 OECD Anti-Bribery Working Group and the recent comments put forward by Professor Mark Pieth.

We believe it has now become essential that the OECD makes an official pronouncement on the continued delay of implementation of the Act and any potential action the OECD may take as a result.

Additionally, we would like to suggest that the OECD asks the UK government to:

1. Officially and promptly commit to an implementation timeline, with commencement of implementation no later than June 2011;
2. Provide adequate resources and clear mechanisms for the effective enforcement of the Act;
3. Ensure that the non-statutory Guidance to companies published by the Government does not in any way undermine the letter and spirit of the Bribery Act, as passed by the last Parliament in April 2010.
4. Ensure the OECD anti-bribery convention is extended to all the UK's overseas territories.

Finally, we would be grateful for any information or suggestions that the working group could share with UK civil society to increase our effectiveness in holding our government to account on this crucial issue.

We would like to thank you in advance for your interest and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Fredrik Galtung, Chief Executive



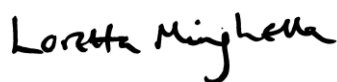
Chandrashekhar Krishnan, Executive Director



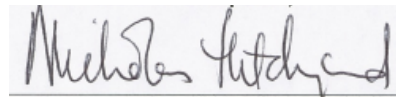
Chris Bain, Director



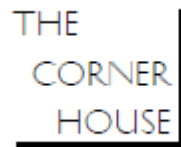
Matthew Frost, Director



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cc.

Professor Mark Pieth, Chair, OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions
Nicola Bonucci, Director of Legal Affairs, OECD