

## IBM AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The CSR Commission has got to know the recent discussion occurred during the last IBM European Works Council meeting between the European workers representatives and a representative of the Corporate Community Relations (Celia Moore). Our national committee had already got in contact with her, but she did not answer to our questions (see the documentation at the site: [www.lomb.cgil.it/rsuibm/csr](http://www.lomb.cgil.it/rsuibm/csr)).

IBM officially expressed the following statements:

1. **IBM does not sign any international agreement** (e.g. Global Compact of UN) and voluntarily **does not intend to accept any CSR standard proposed by international bodies** (e.g. International Labour Organization, Ethical Trading Initiative, Fair Labour Association).
2. **IBM is not interested in undertaking a roadmap for ethical and social certification** (e.g. ISO 26000, SA 8000, AA 1000, GR initiative).
3. **IBM acknowledges that there are "problems" as far as the working conditions are concerned in some of the companies it undertakes on contract** (as emphasized by the catholic organization CAFOD, which has analyzed the working conditions in the electronic sector in some of the countries where IBM has moved its production), but at the same time it **does not show any politics for an ethical/social independent monitoring of the production environments** and a clear plan to solve the controversial points.

The CSR Commission completely disagrees with IBM statements issued during the EWC meeting and officially asks that the Corporation management takes a stand. These statements appear to be very heavy for the world wide public opinion, for the independent certification bodies, and for the European institutes. Besides, these statements appear to be in complete contrast with the path undertaken by many other corporations, which are modifying their strategies in order to meet the needs of transparency, ethics and human rights respect in every part of the world where production is moved.

IBM strategy is to go on its way, creating its own rules through the Global Leadership Network (which does not have any reference to international standards), without involving any stakeholder (that is, first of all, employees and their union representatives) in the discussion about CSR and the Corporate Governance. IBM does not accept the definition of "Corporate Social Responsibility" issued by the European Commission and by the UN, but even, at the same time, it uses it in an incorrect way, defining "Corporate Responsibility" all its initiatives in this field. This approach twists and distorts the basic spirit of the Corporate Social Responsibility.

**The CSR Commission will go on with its monitoring activities of the Corporate behaviour, will offer its competence to both IBM EWC and the European MetalWorkers' Federation, and will study together with the Italian Unions (Cgil, Cisl and Uil) public actions to be undertaken against IBM.**

**The CSR Commission invites again IBM to open officially a multistakeholder discussion to analyze and solve as soon as possible all open questions concerning its conduct code, its guidelines and its behaviour, as already many times signalled and requested in the past.**

**It appears more and more urgent and necessary that a common strategy for the Corporate Social Responsibility is defined and that a roadmap is started for leading to an agreement (IFA) that specifies how to apply and monitor ILO fundamental rules in IBM, in the subsidiaries, and in the suppliers.**