



CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE



WEBINAR MINUTES

WFSGI CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Date:	Monday, November 15, 2021
Location:	Phone / Internet
Attendants:	Sara Brennan / Pentland / SBN Renzo Casavecchia / Arena / RCA Frank Henke / adidas / FHE Merel Bakker / Accell / MBR Troy Jones / Specialized / TJS Evariste Lagarde / Decathlon / ELE Romy Miltenburg / Asics / RMG Jerome Pero / FESI / JPO Stefan Seidel / Puma / SSL Laura Wittmann / New Balance / LWN
Ex Officio:	Robbert de Kock / WFSGI / RDK Marc Magnus / WFSGI / MMS
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Confidentiality:	For WFSGI Members only

⇒ Please note that the Chatham House Rules applied to this meeting: Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. <https://www.chathamhouse.org/about/chatham-house-rule>

⇒ Please note that the presentation “211115 WFSGI CR Committee Conference Call” is an integral part of the minutes.

1. WFSGI CLIMATE ACTION

1.1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The WFSGI CR Committee had drafted a proposal how the industry can commit to climate action. As agreed, the WFSGI Secretariat has presented the proposal to the WFSGI Board. The proposal had been circulated to WFSGI Board members in advance to that Board webinar.

The Board acknowledged the critical importance of this topic. Some Board members had yet to discuss this topic internally with their respective sustainability experts and came back in the meantime with a supportive answer.

However, the Corporate Responsibility Committee was asked to consider certain questions related to the proposal.

It was agreed with the WFSGI Board that the WFSGI Corporate Responsibility Committee would provide responses to the outstanding questions and come back to the Board in Q4 with a revised proposal.

1.2. DISCUSSION

The below questions from the WFSGI Board were discussed amongst participants:

1. What the proposed actions would mean for the hardware brands, particularly those in the cycling and fitness equipment categories since the proposal was that the WFSGI becomes a supporting organisation of the Fashion Charter.

Participants explain that many of the Fashion Charter signatories do also sell equipment and are not purely apparel companies. Furthermore, also organizations such as amfori are supporting members even though they have members selling a wide range of products.

Furthermore, the Fashion Charter does primarily set forth targets for companies to be reached. These goals are applicable to both, fashion companies but also other companies. With that said, the top line commitment of the Fashion Charter is applicable to all sporting goods companies.

On the implementation level, hardware companies might develop their own approaches. E.g. material selection: if currently used materials have to be substituted with an alternative material with a lower impact in order to reach a target, then this solution is specific to each material.

Last but not least some participants from bike companies explain that there might not yet been the appropriate platforms for bike companies to discuss issues like material replacement and that the WFSGI could offer as a neutral umbrella organization the forum to kick off such exchanges.

2. How the proposals could incorporate the whole supply chain and provide clear education and training for those who are not already familiar with the steps they can take.

Participants agree that once the WFSGI Board has committed, the WFSGI will assess the opportunities to host webinars with subject matter experts in order to set the scene and provide WFSGI members a better understanding of the topic.

3. Whether non-WFSGI members could also be involved in the actions taken proposed so that the initiative was seen as inclusive for the whole industry.

The WFSGI has always been open to discuss such solution where a broader participation is of interest to the industry and existing members. For example, the Responsible Sport Initiative is open for companies who just want to join this initiative without being a WFSGI member. The same accounts for the labelling database where companies can just choose that service without being a WFSGI member.

4. What the purpose of the proposed actions were. Where they to show commitment to climate action or to take as much action as possible to minimise the industry's impact on the planet?

Participants mention the actual COP 21 Climate Change Conference where the targets have once more been accentuated. The topic is gaining increasing visibility. Many WFSGI members have already today committed to targets that are also partially going beyond the Fashion Charter. Participants agree therefore, that the time is ripe that the sporting goods industry is showing some commitments as an entire sector.

The WFSGI as such has however, no tools neither legal possibility to force members to reach a certain target. Nevertheless, participants could see a possibility to establish mechanism to report on progress which is similar to the WFSGI Communication on Action reporting solution.

5. Whether the sporting goods industry should join the Fashion Charter and risk being seen as a subsidiary of the fashion industry or whether the sporting goods industry should have its own charter. It was noted that many of the WFSGI members who had already signed up to the Fashion Charter would likely be reluctant to sign up to new or additional climate actions in a completely new charter. However, it was further noted that this concern might be mitigated if the sporting goods industry commitments mirrored those in the Fashion Charter but was re-packaged for the industry.

Participants see no value in reinventing the wheel. Many members have already committed to the Fashion Charter and therefore this solution might be the most appropriate one. Whether such companies would be willing to support an initiative "repacking" the principles, remains very unlikely. Also, it has to be recognized, that the WFSGI as the owner of such a Charter would also be held responsible in a much more direct way as it is the case when it would just be a supporting organization to the Fashion Charter.

6. How the commitments might potentially be used against the industry if they in future proved impossible to meet.

Pledges and commitments as given by international industry alliances and coalitions like the UN Fashion Charter or the FASHION PACT are based on scientific facts.

They serve as ambitious North Stars or call for action for companies to continue or accelerate their efforts in mitigating their impacts, individually or through joint action.

Signing-up for the pledges demonstrates leadership and proactive tackling of the issue.

There is a higher risk for the industry of being perceived as laggard in case the rejects or ignore these commitments.

7. Whether the same effect could be achieved by WFSGI issuing a statement on behalf of the members that stated the industry would make every effort to minimise the impact on the planet by 2050.

Please refer to explanation provided under point 5.

Conclusion 1.

Participants agree that the above explanation should be provided to the WFSGI Board in order for the latter to approve the WFSGI becoming a supporting organization of the Fashion Charter.

Action Plan 1.

#	Deadline	Topic	Who
1	ASAP	Share above explanation with WFSGI Board.	WFSGI

2. VIRTUAL SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AUDITS

2.1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Due to the pandemic the WFSGI is still confronted with situations where in person audits are not possible to be carried out. Especially with our work for the FIFA Quality Program this is of high importance. Some audit service providers suggested and moved to virtual audits and pure documentation review instead of factory visits.

2.2. DISCUSSION

Participants explain that they do still face situations where in certain areas no audits with physical presence in the factory are possible. Thus, remote audits, desktop reviews, etc. are solutions that are applied, and they are considered a better option than no actions at all. Nevertheless, participants outline that these alternative solutions are not ideal for first initial audits of factories.

Conclusion 2.

The WFSGI Secretariat takes note that the situation is still challenging depending on local lock downs and will proceed looking into alternatives where necessary.

3. FOAM RECYCLING

3.1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The WFSGI has been requested to put up for discussion the reduction of the CO2 impact on foams (PU, PE, TPE, PVC, Rubber...) in sporting goods as well as the end of life of the aforementioned foams. Such products are for example yoga, fitness or camping mats, protective equipment, swimming devices (boards but also lifejackets), etc.

3.2. DISCUSSION

Participants agree that synthetic materials are a real challenge to be replaced by materials which are easier to recycle.

It is also stated that the research to find such alternatives is being considered as a competitive advantage.

Participants explain that none of them is currently operating a program to collect of used foam products at the point of sale or with external partners.

Participants also agree that there are products purely made of foam that might be easier to recycle. But most products where foam is used, it accounts just for one part of several materials used.

Conclusion 3.

Is there is no such solution yet applied by the participants and since certain foam product groups might be more eligible to be recycled, it is suggested to reach out to the broader WFSGI member base.

Action Plan 3.

#	Deadline	Topic	Who
1	In next WFSGI CR HU	Publish request to provide feedback on existing solutions and request members to register interest.	WFSGI

4. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

4.1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The WFSGI Board and some members have reached out to the WFSGI secretariat to address Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) to better understand if there is a need to discuss this at global level. Some members lack the platform to exchange on industry level about these subjects and would welcome if the WFSGI would offer an opportunity to do so.

4.2. DISCUSSION

The WFSGI suggested to host a first initial conference call to discuss openly if there is interest to exchange on the topic of D&I. This conference call would be open for all WFSGI companies' staff members who are interested to exchange. The WFSGI Secretariat considers the CR Committee members as first contact point to learn further who would be the right colleagues to be reached out and invite for this call.

Action Plan 4.

#	Deadline	Topic	Who
1	0.12.2021	Provide name and contact details of person in charge of D&I and/or HR by sending an email to mmagnus@wfsgi.org	All