



ASSOCIATE PARLIAMENTARY CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY GROUP



Annual Report 2009-10

Introduction



The 2000-2010 Parliamentary Session has been another successful year for the Group. Our purpose - to promote debate and understanding of corporate responsibility issues within Parliament - has been well served by a series of successful events, which have provided an opportunity for Parliamentarians and other people with an active interest in corporate responsibility to exchange views on topical issues.

Last year the Group decided to include non-Parliamentarians as Associate members for the first time and I am delighted that we now have 84 full Associate members as well as 108 Parliamentary members (41 MPs and 67 Peers). Although we lost several longstanding members at the general election in May, we are continuing to recruit members from among the new intake of Parliamentarians and corporate responsibility remains a key issue on the political agenda. We have no doubt that it will remain a critical issue for the UK as responsible organisations within the private and public sector grapple with testing economic conditions, an ageing population and the challenge of climate change.

As before this Annual Report includes a summary of the meetings we have held throughout the period as well as a record of our current membership. The Group launched a new website – www.apcrg.org.uk - during the year and I trust members find this a valuable resource.

I greatly look forward to working with the Officers and members to ensure that we hold a stimulating programme of meetings in 2010-11. We welcome suggestions about subjects to be discussed at future meetings and I hope that members will not hesitate to let us know if they have any suggestions for the Group's work over the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Greengross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Baroness Greengross, Chairman 2009-10

Meetings held 2009-10

Business treatment of vulnerable customers – October 2009

The Group's first meeting after the 2009 summer recess was held on Wednesday 21 October in the House of Commons, when members discussed how businesses respond to the needs of vulnerable customers. This marked a return to the subject of our 2007 inquiry and we were delighted that four current Associate members - all of whom gave evidence to the 2007 inquiry team – agreed to provide an update on their current policies. The guest speakers were Richard Hickson of Camelot, Mark Baird of Diageo, Kathryn Bennett of Scottish Power and Peter Kelly of Barclays. The inquiry team had made 9 recommendations for action and this meeting gave us an opportunity to see how companies are now responding to vulnerable customers and whether our recommendations for business action had been taken up or overtaken by other developments.

Alternatives to capitalism – November 2009

On 26 November members met in the House of Commons to discuss the extent to which the international financial crisis had undermined confidence in public limited companies and the case for alternatives to capitalism. Our guest speakers were David Anderson, Chairman of Mutuo, and Charlotte Cool, the Head of Public Affairs at the John Lewis Partnership. The meeting provided an opportunity to learn more about mutual organisations and their strengths in comparison to the plc model.

Responsible business practice in the food industry – December 2009

The Group held a joint meeting in the Commons with the Associate Parliamentary Food and Health Forum on 15 December to discuss responsible practice in the food industry. A background of increasing concern about obesity and diet-related diseases; food miles, packaging, food waste and the treatment of suppliers and customers meant that the meeting was well attended and members enjoyed a lively panel-led discussion. The guest speakers were: Vanessa Hattersley of ASDA Stores, Allan Edwards of Compass; Jessica Mitchell of the Food Commission; and Carole Stewart of Northern Foods.

Clubs that Count: using community programmes to reach out – January 2010

The subject of the Group's first meeting in 2010, held on 20 January, was the way in which professional sports clubs – and other businesses - use community programmes to reach out to local members of their communities, often to support the development of young people. Two representatives of professional football and rugby clubs: Grant Cornwell of the Tottenham Hotspur FC Foundation and David Larham of London Wasps RFC, were joined by Nick Smith, the Head of Sport Development at The Prince's Trust, and Eddie Afekafe a Young Ambassador from the Prince's Trust, as our guest speakers at this meeting. The meeting provided a very interesting insight into some very well established community programmes

and members were particularly impressed by the testimony of Eddie Afekafe, who described the impact which support from The Prince's Trust had had on his life.

Corporate responsibility and public procurement – March 2010

“Corporate responsibility” developed as a result of the need and desire of businesses to respond to the impact of their companies on the environment and society. Today other organisations, including those in the public and third sector, are increasingly addressing the same issues in a systematic way with well defined policies and programmes. Our meeting in the Commons over lunch on 10 March gave us the opportunity to hear about how the public sector is using procurement policies to encourage and promote responsible behaviour in its supply chains. The guest speakers were: Carolyn Housman of the City of London Corporation and Judy Greevy of HM Revenue & Customs. We are grateful to the City of London Corporation for sponsoring the light refreshments at this event.

Reconstitution meeting – May 2010

The Group's reconstitution meeting – a requirement of the Parliamentary rules for Approved Parliamentary Groups - was held on 25 May in the House of Commons. One of our former Vice-Chairs, Ian Taylor, retired at the general election; all the other Officers agreed to be re-nominated and were elected unopposed. The Officers discussed ideas for meetings in the autumn of 2009 and early 2010 and a programme was agreed. All members are encouraged to contact the Secretariat to suggest subject for future meetings.

Celebrating the pro bono work of UK law firms – June 2010

Baroness Hayman, the Lord Speaker, very kindly gave permission for us to use the River Room in the House of Lords on 16 June for a reception to celebrate the pro bono work of UK law firms. Members were welcomed by the Lord Speaker and we were very fortunate to have Dominic Grieve, the Attorney General in the newly elected coalition Government, Baroness Scotland, the Shadow Attorney General, and Kathryn Ludlow, Linklaters' Global Pro Bono Partner, as our guest speakers. We are very grateful to Linklaters for sponsoring the refreshments at this reception.

Adapting to climate change – July 2010

At our last meeting before the summer recess, we met on 14 July in the House of Commons, to discuss the need to adapt to unavoidable climate change, while continuing to tackle the causes of climate change. Our guest speakers were Lord Krebs, Chair of the Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change; Markus Herz, KPMG's Environment Manager; and Steven Smith, the CSR Manager of Hallmark Cards. Hallmark Cards and KPMG are two members of the Group whose firms have won 2010 Big Tick Awards for Environmental Leadership and we are delighted that they are able to join us to speak briefly about the key reasons for embedding environmental responsibility in their business, the biggest challenges they faced and the greatest benefits that they have enjoyed as a result.

Membership of the APPG on CSR

Chairman:

Baroness Greengross OBE

Vice-Chairmen:

Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen, Baroness Howe of Idlicote, John Robertson MP, Lord Sheppard of Didgemere and Jo Swinson MP.

Hon. Treasurer:

Lord Newby

Hon. Secretary:

Martin Horwood MP

MPs:

Tony Baldry, Ed Balls, Gregory Barker, Miss Anne Begg, Peter Bottomley, Vincent Cable, David Cameron, Kenneth Clarke, Michael Connarty, Rosie Cooper, Ian Davidson, Jonathon Djanogly, Jonathan Evans, Nigel Evans, Hywel Francis, Michael Gove, Stephen Hammond, Chris Huhne, Barbara Keeley, David Lammy, Mark Lazarowicz, Tim Loughton, Andy Love, Ian Lucas, Fiona Mactaggart, Jim McGovern, Michael Meacher, Alun Michael, Madeleine Moon, Michael Moore, Jessica Morden, Nicky Morgan, Jamie Reed, Barry Sheerman, Ian Stewart, Jo Swinson, Gareth R Thomas and Ed Vaizey.

Peers:

Lord Alton of Liverpool, Baroness Andrews, Lord Bhatia, Baroness Blood, Lord Brennan, Lord Brett, Lord Browne of Madingley, Baroness Buscombe, Lord Butler of Brockwell, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Lord Clement-Jones, Lord Corbett of Castle Vale, Baroness Coussins, Baroness Cumberlege, Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Lord Freeman, Lord Gavron, Baroness Goudie, Baroness Gould of Potternewton, Lord Harrison of Chester, Lord Haskel, Lord Haskins, Lord Hastings of Scarisbrick, Baroness Hayman, Baroness Hooper, Lord Howarth of Newport CBE, Lord Howell of Guildford, Lord Joffe, Lord Jones, Lord Judd, Lord Lester of Herne Hill, Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, Lord MacGregor of Pulham Market, Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall, Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer, Lord Mitchell, Lord Newton of Braintree, Baroness Noakes, Baroness Northover, Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan, Lord Paul, Lord Peston, Lord Phillips of Sudbury, Baroness Pitkeathley, Baroness Prashar, Baroness Prosser, Lord Puttnam, Baroness Richardson of Calow, Lord Sharman, Baroness Sharp of Guildford, Lord

Sheldon, Lord Simon of Highbury, Lord Stevenson of Coddenham, Lord Stone of Blackheath, Lord Taylor of Warwick, Baroness Valentine, Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe, Baroness Whitaker, Lord Williamson of Horton, Lord Wolfson and Lord Younger of Leckie.

Associate members:

Accenture, Addleshaw Goddard LLP, Allen and Overy LLP, Alliance Boots, AMEC, Apax Partners, ASDA Stores Ltd, Associated British Foods plc, AXA UK, Bank of America, BBC, Betfair Ltd, BT plc Cambridge University Press, Camelot Group plc, Capita Group plc, Capital Shopping Centres Group plc, CEMEX, Centrica plc, Channel 4 Television, City of London Corporation, Clifford Chance LLP, Coca-Cola Enterprises Limited, CSC Computer Sciences, Diageo plc, Eaga, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Eon, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Gala Coral Group, Gallaher Ltd, Halcrow Group Limited, Hallmark Cards plc, HM Revenue and Customs, Hermes Equity Ownership Services Ltd, Imperial Tobacco Group plc, Institute of Business Ethics, Jaguar Land Rover, John Laing, John Lewis Partnership, Johnson Matthey, KPMG, Laing O'Rourke, Legal & General Group plc, Liberty International plc, Linklaters LLP, Lovells LLP, Man Group plc, Manchester Airport plc, Marks and Spencer plc, McCain Foods (GB) Ltd, McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, MITIE, National Grid, Nationwide Building Society, Olswang LLP, Orange UK, Partnerships UK, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Provident Financial plc, RBS, Reed Elsevier, Rolls Royce plc, RWE npower, Samworth Brothers (Holdings) Ltd, Scottish Power plc, SEGRO plc, Serco Group plc, Severn Trent Group plc, Shell UK Ltd, Siemens plc, Sodexo Ltd, Standard Life plc, Thales Holdings UK plc, The British Land Company plc, The British Safety Council, The Midcounties Cooperative, The University of Nottingham, Transport for London, Virgin Media plc, Wates, WPP, Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation and Zurich Insurance plc.

Finance and Registration

The Group is officially registered with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and it is on the Approved List as a recognised Associate Parliamentary Group. Further information about the Group is available on our website at: www.apcrg.org.uk