

Corporate sustainability and due diligence in the Netherlands

Dr Anne Guisset (HIVA – KU Leuven)
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National background



Responsible and Sustainable International Business Conduct Act Proposal

March 2021

2024 – Schoof
government

Vote and approval
postponed until
further notice



Source: Politico



Sectoral approach: the International Responsible Business

Conduct (IRBC) covenants



IRBC covenants

Multi-stakeholders business
agreements between :

trade unions

employer organisations

reference businesses

Dutch ministries

NGOs

*Social and economic council to
manage the process*

2013

13 sectors identified

IRBC covenants
concluded in:

*banking, textile, gold,
stone cutting, forestry,
metals, food products,
insurance, pension
funds, floriculture,
renewable energy*



Source: IMVO-covenanten

Agreement ends with final report

On 22 September, 2022, the signatories and other stakeholders to the IRBC agreement for the Floricultural Sector reflected on three years of collaboration. The activities, recommendations and perspectives on a sustainable development of the sector are summarized in a final report.



From left to right Jeroen Oudheusden (Executive Officer, Floriculture Sustainability Initiative (FSI)), Marcel Zandvliet (Vice-Chair FSI, Dutch Flower Group), Ted van der Put (Chair IRBC Floriculture Agreement, IDH), Steven Smit (IRBC Floriculture Steering Committee member, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



Organisational approach in large cooperatives





Insights from the case studies

- Little promotion of the cooperative identity/values in the development of sustainability practices
- Sensitive information
- Proactivity in the development of corporate sustainability and due diligence strategies
- Lots of promotion and visibility of environmental aspects
- Works council role to be clarified



Thank you

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PARTNERS:

