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Press release : ORSE's reaction to the new international sustainability reporting standard Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

While GRI was engaged in a consultation process of its new guidelines, ORSE has organised in the first semester of 2006 a large consultation of its members (corporations, trade-union confederations, MEDEF, investors and NGOs) on the different reporting themes such as social, human rights and civil society indicators.

From this consultation, ORSE has formulated:

- improvement proposals on some indicators, mainly in its social and societal dimension.
- and some recommendations such as setting up a social dialogue both at local and international levels.

ORSE proposed the creation of a new indicator : «initiatives of international social dialogue».

This indicator should valorise corporate policies and actions in this area (signature with trade-union federations of an International Framework Agreement, or creation of social dialogue instances at a European or global level...).

GRI :

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), was created in the US in 1997. This initiative aimed at developing, with the help of stakeholders and experts (companies, NGOs, trade-unions, international organisations such as UNEP), a worldwide sustainability reporting referential.

This initiative helps corporations in preparing their sustainability reports and facilitates benchmarking within the same sector.

When GRI revised its guidelines for the first time in 2002, ORSE was part of the debate, and promoted other relevant social indicators to be used by European countries.

GRI will issue its final version publicly in October 2006 .

For more information about this position :

François FATOUX - 01 56 79 35 00 - contact@orse.org

ORSE (Observatoire sur la Responsabilité Sociétale des Entreprises) is a multi-stakeholders study centre promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Socially Responsible Investment (SRI). As a non profit-organisation based on membership, it aims to :

- create and animate a network of actors that operate in the field of CSR
- propose tools to help decision making and good business practice in the light of CSR
- facilitate information exchange between its members and with others
- identify best CSR practice abroad
- initiate common reflexion between corporate representatives, experts, researchers, trade unionists, NGO representatives, etc..
- raise awareness on social responsibility amongst all stakeholders (economic, social and institutional)
- facilitate partnership constitution with various actors and networks in France, in Europe and elsewhere...

ORSE is the only French organisation bringing together so many diverse stakeholders (including companies, Trade Unions, NGOs, Scholars...), all committed to Corporate Responsibility Development.

Internet : www.orse.org

Contact : François Fatoux, General Manager
Observatoire sur la Responsabilité Sociétale des Entreprises
7 impasse Léger – 75017 Paris

Tél : 01 56 79 35 00 Fax : 01 56 79 35 03

E-mail : fatoux@orse.org