

»WE DEMAND TANGIBLE ACTION FROM SUPERMARKETS, NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION TO IMPROVE LABOR CONDITIONS IN COUNTRIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAINS!«

Sandra Dusch,
Christliche Initiative Romero e.V.

CALLING
FOR CHANGE!



KEY ACTIVITIES (2015 – 2017)

- Business Forum at the EXPO in Milan
- Food Vision Photo Contest and Exhibition in all European member states
- European Speaker's Tours with guests visiting from the Global South
- European Day of Action on November 27th, 2015
- Research studies
- If you are interested in workshops, roundtables, talks or lectures get in touch with us!

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- **Design:**
YOOL - Werbeagentur für Nachhaltigkeit,
www.yool.de



This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Christliche Initiative Romero e.V. and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.



40% PRIVATE LABEL IN EU SUPERMARKET SHELVES

A key strategy of European retailers is private label production. Rather than buying and selling independent brands, supermarkets increasingly source and sell their own products. The share of private label purchase in EU supermarkets has risen to 40%, the world's highest.

Due to these numbers, the role of supermarkets is changing. Whereas they used to be mere traders of goods, today a supermarket produces, promotes and sells its very own products. As a consequence, supermarkets need to acknowledge their responsibility for Human Rights violations and the environmental impact of their private label supply chains.



CALLING FOR CHANGE: RESPECT HUMAN AND LABOUR RIGHTS ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAINS!

Supermarkets need to acknowledge their responsibility for the working conditions along the supply chains as identified and articulated in the UN Guiding Principles on Business on Human Rights (2011). Supermarkets need to recognize these conventions by adopting them in their Codes of Conduct and guarantee their implementation in the whole of the supply chains. Both the European Union and national governments need to ratify these conventions and implement them in their legislation.

CALLING FOR CHANGE: PAY LIVING WAGES!

Workers and their families need to be able to live in dignity from what they earn by producing our foods and supplies. In many countries the minimum wage requirements do not suffice to cover the basic needs of workers. This is why supermarkets need to guarantee that living wages are paid to all workers that contribute to the supply chains of their products.

CALLING FOR CHANGE: STOP THE ABUSE OF BUYER POWER!

Joint procurement of European retailer chains has led to a massive concentration of buyer power. Today, suppliers often depend on only a few costumers, who can easily dictate the terms of trade, often with devastating results for the producers. Such terms often include unilateral price cuttings, changes of trading agreements being retrospectively applied, modification of orders on short notice and many more. These Unfair Trading Practices need to be stopped, both in the everyday practice of supermarkets and through binding EU legislation.

CALLING FOR CHANGE: REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF SUPPLY CHAINS!

Supermarkets need to take proactive and continuous efforts to decrease the environmental impact of all store brand products in all stages of a product's life cycle through the implementation of Environmental Management Schemas according to recognized standards like the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

CALLING FOR CHANGE: STOP WASTING RESOURCES!

Supermarkets all too often encourage modern over-consumption patterns. Special packaging, long distance and refrigerated transport, off-season fruit and vegetable production all cause a loss of biodiversity, huge energy demands and extra emissions. Cosmetic requirements create piles of food waste (f.e. bananas with a not-so-perfect-curve).

WHO WE ARE

