

Intervention by Marieke van der Werf at meeting on private sector, May 9, 2006

In The Netherlands CSR is an important issue. Many companies not only set ambitious goals concerning good housekeeping and sustainable entrepreneurship, but they also adopt projects which benefits for the community, both domestically and in foreign and developing countries. The Dutch government stimulates and rewards these initiatives in many ways.

What we notice in The Netherlands however, is that companies are sometimes in search for good projects by which they can contribute to the wellbeing of local communities, the country or even the world.

Now Mrs. Fisher gave a clear direction for these projects, namely by looking at the supply chain. This supply chain guides DuPont in setting up projects that eventually create business opportunities.

But companies in other branches and other situations might be looking for setting up goodwill practices and projects in developing countries. Not only for the sake of saving the world but also to create a better image. It must be possible to create a better match between international demands and projects offering companies.

So, in addition to the suggestion made by Austria, namely: facilitating a clearance house for information, to inform the business community on upcoming regulatory changes affecting the trade, we suggest to also provide information on project ideas with business opportunities in developing countries.