

Cooperation



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From the start, the Agreement has focused on joint initiatives, collective projects, and sharing knowledge and experience. Cooperation is essential for attracting worldwide attention to human rights, working conditions, animal welfare, and the environment. Supporters also make a contribution here.

Support from the financial sector

In July 2018, a large group of investment companies signed a [statement](#) expressing support for the Agreement, the German Partnership, and the Sustainable Apparel Coalition. In the statement, they underline the importance of complying with the OECD guidelines and harmonising national initiatives, with the aim of creating a level playing field for companies that are working to achieve sustainability.

Reporting based on list of production sites

An important joint instrument for dealing with risks is the list of production sites, which now includes 4268 locations. If trade unions, civil-society organisations (NGOs) or other parties become aware of problems at a particular production site, they can alert the companies concerned to the problems through the Secretariat. This happened a few times in 2018. [See here](#) an overview of these cases in 2018. In addition, companies sometimes call on stakeholders for help if they notice problems. The Secretariat also regularly contacts signatories in response to media reports.

Living wage and social dialogue

Cooperation requires collective projects in which participants share knowledge and experience, for example regarding the central issues of a living wage and social dialogue. Progress on these issues has a positive effect on all the other issues that play a role in the chain. In 2018, a collective project was started on the subject of the living wage, social dialogue and sustainable purchasing practices. Read more about that project [here](#). Where possible, international cooperation is sought. Training courses have been prepared, which companies are obliged to attend in 2019. The government, NGOs, trade unions, supporters, and international organisations have been involved in the preparations.

Overview of workshops, training and outreach events 2018



	Merken	Partijen Steunbetuigers	Totaal
Outreach	30	186	216
• Dutch Parliament at HEMA	7	28	35
• German-Dutch Cooperation	15	77	92
• Promoting Due Diligence in EU	8	81	89
Webinar	137	13	150
• Assessment framework	53	-	53
• Child labour risks	12	6	18
• Insight in production locations, materials & due diligence	44	4	48
• Sustainable cotton	28	3	31
Workshop	362	250	612
• Addressing animal welfare	12	3	15
• AGT participant day: living wage/wet processing/supply chain mapping	61	33	94
• Due diligence & top management	19	10	29
• Due diligence exchange pilot for small and medium enterprises	3	2	5
• Due diligence into practice	48	51	99
• Improving Purchasing Practices	48	14	62
• Introduction to Due Diligence	14	4	18
• Labour rights in Myanmar	17	28	45
• Labour rights in the South Indian garment and textile industry	14	18	32
• Living wage	14	9	23
• Round Table Bangladesh	5	9	14
• Sustainable Materials Workshop	34	27	61
• Sustainable Sourcing Seminar	23	22	45
• Training insight in supply chain	46	15	61
• Workshop Prioritizing Risks	4	5	9
Grandtotal	529	449	978

Child labour

The collective project ‘Combating child labour in garment supply chains’, supported by the Fund against Child Labour, has as its aim the prevention of child labour. Read more about the project [here](#). In this context, a number of companies and civil-society organisations had an orientation week in South India and Central Bangladesh in September 2018, to consider together how we can improve the situation in the workplace at factories and spinning mills. The project works together with local NGOs. Among other things, they organise training programmes in spinning mills and factories.

Other activities

Freedom of association and collective bargaining are fundamental human rights. However, in many countries, these rights cannot be taken for granted. For this reason, the trade unions have drawn up a [questionnaire](#) that companies can use to discuss these subjects with the management of a factory. A report has been published on the subject of [animal welfare](#). Training sessions and meetings on various topics within the Agreement have also been organised.

