

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Danida
Asiatisk Plads 2
DK-1448 Copenhagen K

27 June 2020

Consultation concerning: Support to IDH, Sustainable Trade Initiative

General comments

The Danish Chamber of Commerce supports the purpose of IDH, which is to make international trade a driver for environmental, social and economic sustainable development. It is also important to The Danish Chamber of Commerce that DANIDA and the Danish government specifically supports sustainable imports, so that Denmark will keep its leading position in the global, sustainable transition.

Imports and global supply chains are a key to achieving a sustainable transition

In 2015, almost 50 million tonnes of CO₂ were emitted in Denmark, but our consumption gave rise to just over 70 million tonnes of CO₂ (Axcel future, Jan, 2020). For many Danish companies - large and small, and especially Danish retailers and service providers – significant climate impacts happen in their global value chains. Due to the general complexity, a lack of knowledge and/or bargaining power on global markets, the Danish Chamber of Commerce finds that guidance, tools, facilitated partnerships and co-financed support in different respects are needed for companies to effectively take action. The Danish Chamber of Commerce points to the Danish Alliance for Responsible Soy as a good example of the action needed: <https://www.dieh.dk/projekter/dansk-alliance-for-ansvarlig-soja/>

Build a bridge between IDH and Danish companies to ensure closer collaboration

From the perspective of the Danish Chamber of Commerce IDH has historically not been able to tie close strategic ties to our key commercial members, and IDH has so far not succeeded in building the necessary bridge to Danish companies to strengthen their capacity in the field. There is thus an unmet potential for Danish companies in the area of sustainable imports. The Danish Chamber of Commerce points to the Danish Ethical Trading Initiative (DIEH) as a Danish hub for organizing businesses and other stakeholders regarding especially sustainability in global supply chains.

Specific comments

Earmark part of the envisaged grant of DKK 15 million to IDH specifically to the Danish Ethical Trading Initiative (DIEH) to ensure home taking of knowledge and a closer collaboration with Danish companies

The Danish Chamber of Commerce suggests that a small part of the envisaged grant of DKK 15 million to IDH is earmarked for DIEH to strengthen the capacity of Danish companies in sustainable trade and to ensure the inclusion of the Danish companies in IDH activities. This would also accommodate the risk described in Annex 5 concerning the potential loss of, network and experience connected with the observed risk of loss of key personnel and/or excessive staff turnover.

Best regards,



Malene Thiele
Head of CSR