

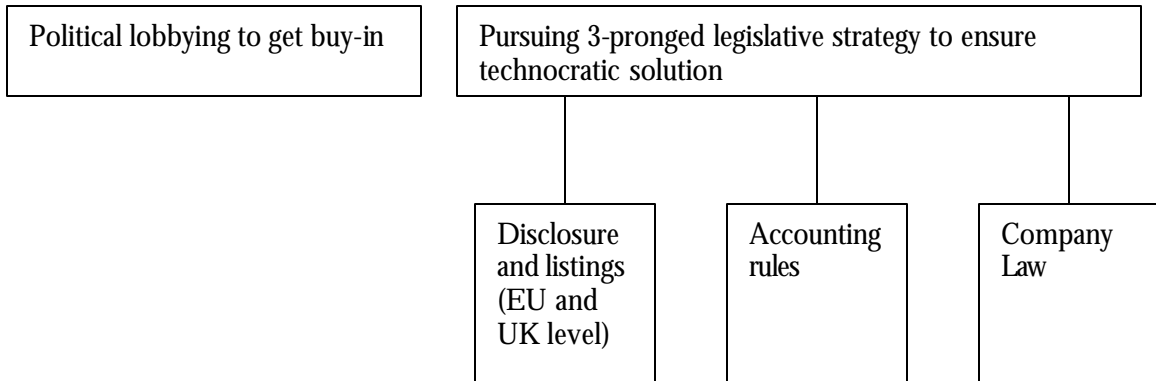
# PUBLISH WHAT YOU PAY

## OCTOBER 2002 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first newsletter for member NGOs of the Publish What You Pay coalition! We hope to publish a newsletter at regular monthly intervals from now onwards to ensure all members of the coalition are kept up-to-date with our activities. Any contributions to the publication or comments on the format or content are welcome, and should be sent to Chlöe Challender at [C.Challender@scfuk.org.uk](mailto:C.Challender@scfuk.org.uk).

### Co-ordination meeting

A co-ordination meeting of the EU member organisations most active in the campaign so far (Save the Children, Global Witness, Cafod, Open Society Institute, Oxfam, Pax Christi Netherlands, TI (UK), CIDSE) was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September in London. It was a very productive meeting at which we agreed our **ongoing strategy**:



This strategy is aimed at promoting mandatory disclosure which will ensure participation of all companies. The UK Government Initiative has pledged it will keep the mandatory approach as an option, although initially the focus will be on a voluntary code. In this way, it is hoped broad international political support will be easier to attract. (See beneath for update on UK Government Initiative.)

Following successful recent engagement with various European institutions and companies, it was also agreed at the meeting that a Brussels-based coalition should be established (similar to the ones in the UK and Netherlands) to push the PWYP agenda at the EU level. Accordingly, a meeting with Brussels-based NGOs has been arranged on 5 November. This will follow the next co-ordination meeting, which will be held on 4 November in Brussels.

### Progress on the UK government initiative

Tony Blair's initiative was announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September. It seeks to bring governments, companies and NGOs 'to the table' to create an international framework on transparency of payments. A UK working group has been established (government departments, companies including AngloAmerican, Rio Tinto and Shell and NGOs). Gordon Brown (Chancellor) and Clare Short (Secretary of State for International Development) have both made statements supporting the need for the public disclosure of revenue payments.

It is now hoped to build on this success by generating similar momentum in other countries. Initial focus will include G8 countries such as France and Germany, although South and Central America have also been identified as areas where involvement is weak. See <http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page5996.asp> for Tony Blair's statement at WSSD (2 Sept)

### **Voices of support**

September and October have witnessed many public endorsements of PWYP and its aims. Our appeal signatories now number over 70; new additions include Burma Campaign (UK), Campaign Against Arms Trade (UK), The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) and Pax Christi Flandres.

On 20 September, the Head of UNDP, Mark Malloch Brown publicly welcomed the PWYP Initiative during a speech at Blenheim Place, UK. The World Bank is another international institution to have voiced its support, stating "We would all come a long way if all...natural resource companies would make their transfer of royalties, fee payments, and other revenues to host governments fully transparent" (Peter Woicke, Executive Vice President of the International Finance Corporation). (See <http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/IFCExt/pressroom/IFCPressRoom.nsf/SearchView/9> for statement.)

### **Publish What You Pay Debate**

Transparency International (UK) is holding a meeting, open to members and other interested parties, on 7 November. The meeting will look at the issue of revenue transparency from several perspectives: representatives from companies, investment houses, NGOs and governments will speak on the subject. The meeting is free of charge but prospective attendees must register in advance.

Anyone interesting in attending should contact Jan Lanigan ([ti.uk@crowagents.co.uk](mailto:ti.uk@crowagents.co.uk)) for further details.

### **Activity Brief for Member NGOs**

A list of practical ways PWYP member NGOs can make active contributions to the campaign is currently being drawn up. This would be a list of ideas rather than a request for involvement and we hope those members who do feel they can offer practical support to PWYP will find it a helpful guide. The document will be circulated shortly.

### **Recent UK press articles relevant to PWYP**

UK backs Soros on disclosure campaign, *Upstream* 3 October 2002

<http://www.upstream.tm/news/>

IMF: Angola's 'missing millions', *BBC Newswire* 18 October 2002

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/2338669.stm>

Rikki Stancich's analysis of WSSD in this month's *Ethical Corporation* journal, available at:

<http://www.ethicalcorp.com/NewsTemplate.asp?IDNum=398>

Gavin Hinks' article, also a review of WSSD, *AccountancyAge*, available at:

<http://www.accountancyage.com/Analysis/1130712>

### **Forthcoming events**

<b>Late October</b>	UK Government Working Group, Meeting 2
<b>5 November</b>	Meeting with Brussels-based NGOs
<b>7 November</b>	TI Debate on PWYP, Clifford Chance LLP, London EC1
<b>Mid-November</b>	Policy paper (incorporating legal research) to be launched in Brussels.
<b>21-22 November</b>	Participation in EU Presidency Conference, Denmark
<b>Nov/Dec</b>	Finalisation/launch of PWYP policy paper in Brussels
<b>Early 2003</b>	International meeting (London) to develop framework on disclosure

