#### **Topics:**

 Corporate accountability and Corporate Social Responsibility of multinational enterprises

• Legal aid for employees discriminated against by multinational corporations

• Holding corporations accountable by using consumer rights

# GARDE

Global Alliance for Responsibility,

Democracy, and Equity

# GARDE tries to achieve corporate accountability primarily through strategic litigation.

In addition to legal measures, we also make use of CSR guidelines (OECD Guidelines, ILO standards, UN norms.

We provide direct assistance to communities affected by the irresponsible behaviour of firms while at the same time trying to open up a society-wide debate on the issues.

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Nemak Aluminium Works in Havraň near the city of Most (case)

## GARDE – Global Alliance for Responsibility, Democracy, and Equity

We are representing the Rajter farming family against the NEMAK company, which is constructing a factory for the production of aluminium automobile components directly next to the Rajter's land with the support of investment incentives. So far the Environmental Law Service has won seven lawsuits against the company. The Ústí region and City of Most have offered to purchased Mr Rajter's property for approximately EUR 9 million on the condition that he and the GARDE programme bring to a halt all legal action against NEMAK.



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#### Toyota Peugeot Citroën (TPCA) (case)

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The Environmental Law Service has developed a proposal of specific measures which would ameliorate, at least in part, the insensitive interventions by investors into the landscape near Kolín contribute towards resolving complications with traffic flow in the region, and correct the investors' illegal steps. Even though neither company has officially adopted our proposals, they have gradually accepted most of them and are upholding them. Last year they began to cooperate with the Environmental Law Service more broadly in the area of CSR.



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'BIO' yogurt from Danone (case)

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Since 1999, the Environmental Law Service has been taking Danone, a. s., to court over their use of the 'BIO' label on their yogurt (a product today called 'ACTIVIA'). We accused Danone of dishonest practises for abusing loopholes in Czech legislation and using the 'BIO' label on its yogurt even though it was not a product of the organic farming industry. This was, in fact, a lead case in which a Czech consumer organisation used the term 'dishonest practise' for the very first time. In the end, Danone publicly expressed its regret over having acted in an illegal manner in accordance with a judgment passed by the High Court.



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#### LG Philips Displays (case)

Other cases: Hyundai Investment case, Myllykoski case, Bauhaus case, CCB Finance case, GE Money Multiservis case and Czech Airlines case. GARDE – Global Alliance for Responsibility, Democracy, and Equity

One of the most closely followed investments in the Czech Republic at the start of the new millenium was the construction of an LG.Philips Displays factory for television monitors in the town of Hranice. Construction of the factory took place very quickly. Prior to the start of production there was no evaluation performed of the risk of any serious accidents occuring there, and the integrated permit required prior to the start of production was issued in violation of the law. The factory only began to meet some of its legal obligations after it was indirectly forced to do so by the activities of the GARDE programme. LG.Philips did not even meet the conditions of the contract on the basis of which investment incentives were provided to it. In the year 2006 it declared bankruptcy and the factory will be sold.



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