



Dear ECCR members, partners and friends

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Tar sands: *Daily Telegraph* quotes ECCR members; critics challenge BP safety record; European Parliament debate; Friends of the Earth Europe and Greenpeace reports

Following the BP AGM vote on the tar sands shareholder resolution (read [FairPensions report](#)), and ahead of Royal Dutch Shell's AGM on 18 May, a recent *Daily Telegraph* article on the issue quotes ECCR members supporting the resolutions. [Read more](#).

[US environmental rights advocates](#) and [US and UK investors](#) have questioned BP's safety record in light of the US oil rig disaster.

Eurosif (European Social Investment Forum) and Friends of the Earth co-hosted a public debate, Tar Sands - Undermining EU Climate Ambitions, at the European Parliament on 5 May, the day of an EU-Canada summit. The event addressed environmental and societal issues surrounding tar sands exploitation, including health impacts on Canadian First Nations communities and the EU climate agenda. Coinciding with the debate, Friends of the Earth Europe published a new report, [Tar Sands: Fuelling the climate crisis, undermining EU energy security and damaging development objectives](#).

A new [Greenpeace investigation](#) reveals that tar sands oil is used in Europe.

ECCR engagement with Shell on the Niger Delta to continue at AGM

ECCR plans to attend Royal Dutch Shell's AGM in London on 18 May to ask about the effectiveness of the company's grievance mechanisms for local communities in the Niger Delta. We hope that a representative of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, who contributed a case study to ECCR's recent report [Shell in the Niger Delta](#), will be with us to put a question to the Shell board. Contact: [Miles Litvinoff](#) (tel. 020 8965 9682).

According to a recent article in [The Independent](#) quoting ECCR project partner Stakeholder Democracy Network, oil multinationals and the Nigerian government are a long way from bringing an end to the destructive and wasteful practice of gas flaring.

New steps in ECCR dialogue with supermarkets on Israeli settlement goods

ECCR and several corporate members have written a second time to supermarket chains ASDA, Sainsbury, Tesco and Waitrose about their stocking of Israeli settlement goods from the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the new UK government labelling guidelines. We are following up their replies. Contact: [Suzanne Ismail](#) (tel. 020 7663 1055).

FTSE100 company reports reveal inadequacy of Companies Act - CORE

The 2006 Companies Act has failed to make environmental and social reporting more effective, according to a report from the Corporate Responsibility (CORE) Coalition. AstraZeneca, Friends Provident, Hammerson, HSBC and Thomson Reuters are deemed especially poor performers in terms of levels of non-financial information reported. Fiona Gooch of ECCR corporate member Traidcraft commented: 'Traidcraft has benefited substantially from the insights gained as a result of preparing comprehensive social reports ... we advocate strongly that companies produce accounts of their social, economic and environmental impacts.' [Read more](#).

Better Banking Campaign urges party leaders to reform sector

ECCR was among many Better Banking Campaign supporting organisations to send a joint letter to political party leaders on the eve of the general election. The letter has called on the parties to commit

to requiring banks to publicly disclose where they lend and provide services (how much and to whom), including in respect of small businesses; providing incentives and obligations for banks to serve social responsibilities along the lines of the US Community Reinvestment Act; capping the amount that can be legally charged for credit; and reinvesting 1% of banks' profits for public benefit. [Read more](#).

Better Banking has also launched a new initiative called [Move Your Money](#) for people who aren't happy about the way banks are behaving and want to see them offer fairer services.

Influential alternative thinker on society and economics James Robertson cites both the Better Banking Campaign and ECCR in his [latest newsletter](#).

New report on human rights and policing in the Corrib gas dispute

West of Ireland community group Pobal Chill Chomáin has welcomed a recent independent report by human rights NGO Frontline, [Breakdown in Trust: A Report on the Corrib Gas Dispute](#). The group says the report confirms its concerns about how the Irish State and the Shell/Statoil consortium are forcing their project on the Rossport, County Mayo, community. The report recommends that peaceful opponents to the current project be recognised as human rights defenders and afforded protection under United Nations agreements. Pobal Chill Chomáin says it remains committed to finding a solution acceptable to all concerned. For more information contact info@pobalchillchomain.com.

Protecting migrant workers in company supply chains

Following a roundtable organised by the Institute for Human Rights and Business, Ethical Trading Initiative and International Business Leaders Forum, largely focused on the apparel industry and UK supermarket chains, company guidelines re migrant workers are now being [shared online](#). An [executive summary and full meeting report](#) are available.

ECCR's 2009 report, [Vulnerable Migrant Workers: The Responsibility of Business - an overview and comparative analysis of food production, manufacture and retail companies](#) has been downloaded close to 2,500 times since first published.

New John Ruggie report identifies widespread 'lose-lose-lose' situations in the oil sector

The latest report from UN Special Representative for business and human rights John Ruggie finds that 'A study of 190 projects operated by the international oil majors indicates that the time for new projects to come on stream has nearly doubled in the past decade', largely as a result of 'situations in which companies harm human rights' and in connection with 'community challenges and resistance to company operations ... on environmental and human rights grounds'. Ruggie comments: 'This is a lose-lose-lose situation: human rights are adversely impacted, serious corporate value erosion occurs and disclosure requirements and directors' duties may be breached. Clearly, better internal control systems and oversight are necessary' (p. 15). [Read more](#).

Anglo American challenged at AGM, reports London Mining Network

Anglo American was challenged at its 22 April AGM in London on a range of issues including a legacy of sickness among former miners in South Africa, removals of communities by subsidiary Anglo Platinum in South Africa and part-owned Cerrejon Coal in Colombia, a defamation case against the lawyer representing residents in communities affected by Anglo Platinum, exploration activities in the Philippines, proposals for a massive copper-gold mine in Alaska, executive pay and corporate governance. [Read more](#).

ICCR member leads calls for action on human trafficking linked to World Cup

Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS), a member of ECCR's US partner organisation the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), is leading a call to action for hotel chains in South Africa to combat a rise in human trafficking and child sex tourism in association with FIFA World Cup events in June-July. The presence of millions of tourists and spectators attending World Cup events is expected to greatly magnify the problem in the region. CBIS has initiated a letter to CEOs and owners of hotel chains in South Africa, co-signed by more than 300 responsible shareholders, including other ICCR members. [Read more](#). CBIS has also set up an [action website](#) for travellers to the World Cup.

ICCR featured recently in a major *Time* magazine article: [Nuns vs bankers: the shareholder proxy wars](#).

Responsible and sustainable investment

FairPensions makes proposals for institutional investors stewardship code

ECCR corporate member FairPensions has made a submission to the Financial Reporting Council's Consultation on a Stewardship Code for Institutional Investors, putting forward a range of ideas for how pension funds and fund managers should actively monitor companies in their portfolios on behalf of pension fund members. [Read more](#).

Faith institutions and impact investment – new resources and research from 3iG

The International Interfaith Investment Group 3iG has published *Faith Institutions and Impact Investment: An Introduction, Analysis of the Microfinance Sector, Faith Institutions and Impact Investing* and *7 Steps Implementation Guideline to Faith Consistent Investing*. See [3iG resources](#). ECCR was among those who contributed to research for the first of these publications. 3iG would welcome feedback. Contact: [Katinka C. van Cranenburgh](#).

ECCR's [Investment and Engaging with Companies: A Guide for Faith Communities](#) is available free for download.

Events

A Quaker approach to investments and the right use of money, 17 May, London

The international finance system has failed in a basic function: to obtain money from investors and channel it to organisations that provide goods and services for the benefit of society at large. Rather than rely on the free market, what is needed is a financial system based on an ecological economic model. What could be a coordinated international approach for Quaker investments? A discussion with Quaker United Nations Office Geneva Committee member Robert Howell. 1.30 pm, Monday 17 May, Quaker Centre, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. Registration free but essential at www.quaker.org.uk/gpswday. Inquiries: quakercentre@quaker.org.uk (tel. 020 7663 1030).

ECCR London and South East Group launch meeting, 19 May, London

'Rethinking ethical investment in turbulent times' - launch meeting of the ECCR London and South East Group with a discussion led by Robert Howell of the Council for Socially Responsible Investment, New Zealand, one of five Quaker authors of *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy* (2009). ECCR members and non-members equally welcome. Venue: Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH. Wednesday 19 May, 5.30 - 7.00 p.m. For more information and to

book, please contact [Helen Boothroyd](#) (tel. 07503 931172). [Map and transport information](#). We are grateful to corporate member the Society of Jesus Trust for providing the meeting venue.

By cloud or fire: spiritual journeys to climate safety, Operation Noah, 22 May, London

Six months after the disappointment of Copenhagen and on the eve of Pentecost join us at Friends Meeting House on Saturday 22 May for a day of reflection, inspiration and discussion. A chance for veteran supporters and new friends to chart a way through the political and spiritual wilderness. [Read more](#).

London Mining Network supporters' meeting, 27 May, London

Showing of the film *Cowboys in India* about Vedanta's operations in Orissa, and discussion with the film-maker, Simon Chambers. Also: planning for Vedanta AGM. The meeting, on Thursday 27 May, 7.30 to 9.30 pm, to be held near Finsbury Park tube station, is open to all, but it is essential to register with LMN Co-ordinator [Richard Solly](#) (tel. 07929 023214).

Personal ethics and social responsibility in a time of change, ISR AGM/lecture, 16 June, Bristol

Rev. Jon Doble and the ISR Team (ECCR corporate member Churches' Council for Industry & Social Responsibility) invite you to the ISR AGM and the Desmond Brown Lecture. Chair: Dr John Savage, GWE Business West; speakers: Simon Barrow, Ekklesia, and Sally Muggeridge, Industry and Parliament Trust - presentations followed by discussion and questions. ISR works to promote positive values and corporate and social responsibility and sees the balancing of personal choice and collective responsibility being worked on in businesses, public sector decision making and individuals' choices. Wednesday 16 June, 6.30 pm, Leigh Court, Abbots Leigh, Bristol BS8 3RA. Space is limited. RSVP [Vena Prater](#) (tel. 0117 9557430), 162 Pennywell Road, Bristol BS5 0TX, www.ccisr.org.uk, by 1 June.

ECCR West Midlands Group meeting, 22 June, Birmingham

ECCR West Midlands would welcome new members interested in finding out more about ECCR's work and taking part in local activity for change. The next meeting is on Tuesday 22 June at 2.00 p.m. at Friends of the Earth, 54-57 Allison Street, Birmingham B5 5TH. Please contact [Barbara Hayes](#) for further details (tel. 01527 875908).

Climate change and the City: scepticism or solutions? JustShare debate, 13 July, London

Dr Benny Peiser, Director of the Global Warming Policy Foundation, and Professor Michael Mainelli, Chair of Z/Yen, will explore whether we should dismiss climate change as an urban myth or take it seriously and harness the resources of the City to combat it. Tuesday 13 July, 1.05 pm. at All Hallows by the Tower Church, Byward Street, EC3R 5BJ. Further details from [Rachel Lindley](#) (tel. 07732 014181).

Shifting paradigms: theology and economics in the 21st century, 13-16 July 2010, Hertfordshire

Politicians and economists have called for a 'paradigm shift' in response to the credit crunch. The unprecedented circumstances of the global recession provide a unique opportunity for dialogue between theology, ethics and economics. This Modern Churchpeoples' Union conference is a contribution to that discussion. Speakers include Stephen Green, HSBC; Guy Treweek, St Peter, Hammersmith; Philip Goodchild, University of Nottingham; Catherine Cowley, Heythrop Institute; Peter Oppenheimer, Oxford Centre of Hebrew and Jewish Studies; Tarek El Diwany, Islamic Finance;

Malcolm Brown, Church of England; Michael Northcott, University of Edinburgh and Traidcraft; Valpy Fitzgerald, Oxford University; John Atherton, William Temple Foundation. Chair: Canon Edmund Newell. Tuesday 13 to Friday 16 July 2010, High Leigh Conference Centre, Herts. [Further details and booking](#).

ECCR and members' announcements

A welcome to new members

We are delighted to welcome donor-partner [Trócaire](#) (Ireland) as a new corporate member this month.

Recognition for ECCR corporate members

Triodos Bank has won the Sustainable Development category of the Queen's Award for Enterprise for its triple bottom line approach to finance. [Read more](#). Meanwhile Co-operative Financial Services is among shortlisted institutions for the [FT Sustainable Bank of the Year Award 2010](#), to be announced on 3 June.

[List of ECCR corporate members](#).

Mining in post-genocide Guatemala: new at www.eccr.org.uk/MembersNewsandViews

In [The business of mining, post genocide](#) Board member Mark Cumming reports on a recent visit to Guatemala for Trócaire.

Members and partners can use [Members' news and views](#) to share information and ideas related to ECCR's mission. Please send contributions, including responses to previous postings by others, to [Helen Boothroyd](#), indicating whether you wish your email address to be included.

Job vacancy: Ecumenical Partnership Initiatives, workplace ministry

An exciting opportunity to contribute to Mission and Development. Post of Director. Salary: Senior Executive Officer. Have you the vision and energy to help the board achieve its vision of growth and development? The role demands excellent communication and people management skills, proven business development skills, an ability to network, manage budgets and to lead a team as well as initiate new models of working. Further details and application pack from Alison Crookes, Administrator (workplace.ministry@stalbans.anglican.org, tel. 01727 818144), Workplace Ministry JOBS, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 1HE;. Queries to Alison Crookes as above or Alan Harpham (Chairman of the Board) (alan@harpham.com, tel. 01234 823222). Closing date: 25 May, 12 noon.

Warm congratulations to Binia Nightingale

Finance and Administration Officer Binia Scherrer became Binia Nightingale on her recent marriage to Sean Nightingale

Helen Boothroyd – new telephone number

Church and Membership Relations Officer Helen Boothroyd has a new phone number. In future please use 07503 931172.

Membership renewals

Members will shortly receive invitations to renew for 2010/11. We very much hope members will continue supporting ECCR and being involved in our work. Prompt responses will help us avoid the cost of sending reminders. Thank you.

ECCR speakers available

ECCR can provide speakers for regional or local church meetings and events and for colleges and schools. Please contact [Helen Boothroyd](#) (tel. 07503 931172).

ECCR's work needs your support – [donate online](#)

ECCR needs to increase its income if it is to maintain or grow its work on economic justice, human rights, environmental sustainability, and corporate and investor responsibility. We are grateful to all those who have given donations and grants in recent months. Every donation will help ECCR continue to make a difference. [Donate here](#).

For forthcoming ECCR local group meetings, please see under Events above.

With all good wishes.

The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility

Working for economic justice, human rights and environmental sustainability

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ECCR is a company limited by guarantee in England & Wales (No. 2764183) and a Body in Association with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

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ECCR's e-newsletter reaches more than 550 people in the UK, Ireland and internationally each month. It is circulated midway through every month except August. Members and partners are welcome to submit brief news items for inclusion in future issues.

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