

# CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS FOR SPECIAL ISSUE

From Academics and Reflective Practitioners

POLITEIA, *Centre for research in politics and ethics*, announces the Eight Annual Forum on Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility in a Global Economy - Milan, 12 - 13 December 2011:

## Business and Human Rights: in Search of Accountability

The Seventh Politeia Forum on “The Corporation as a Political Actor: A New Role of Business in a Global Society” (May 2011) has analyzed how the process of globalization have seen non-state actors - such as transnational corporations and NGOs - play an increasingly important role. In fact, corporations - as well as civil society groups - have started to participate in the formulation and implementation of regulation in policy areas. These areas include the protection of human rights, the implementation of social standards, the preservation of the environment, the struggle against corruption and the production of global public goods. On the global level, therefore, non-state actors play an active role in what has been called “governance without government”. The result is that some multinational corporations promote positive social change and assume direct political responsibilities traditionally belonged to government, as it is shown by their widespread participation in the UN Global Compact.

The Eighth edition of the Forum develops the theme of the new role of business in a global society analyzing in particular the impact of business activities on human rights. In this respect, it should be noted that, while traditionally governments have had the responsibility of international human rights standards, over the last decade the issue of business’ impact on human rights has become part of the United Nations agenda: the UN has been defining the scope of business’ human rights responsibilities and indicating ways for corporate actors to be accountable for the impact of their activities on human rights. This process has brought to a better definition of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments and business, with regard to protection and respect for human rights. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises has elaborated the *Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework on human rights and business*.

Aim of this edition of the Politeia Forum is to contribute to the international debate on the roles and legal and ethical responsibilities in a globalized world of non-state actors with regard to the protection and respect of human rights, thus celebrating the 63rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Particular attention will be devoted to the *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* endorsed in June 2011 by the UN Human Rights Council for implementing the UN *Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework* and which constitute the first global standard for preventing and addressing the risk of adverse impacts on human rights related to business activity. The Principles fulfil the need of practical guidance much felt by transnational corporations who are pressured to uphold human rights in Countries where the rule of law is weak and abuses are commonplace.

### Politeia

Politeia is a non profit organization based in Milan and founded in 1983 with the purpose of promoting theoretical discussion in Italy on the relationship between ethics and public choices. Since 1985 Politeia publishes *Notizie di Politeia*, a bilingual (Italian and English) quarterly journal. The journal hosts in special issues the Politeia Annual Forums proceedings.

The proceedings of the previous editions of the Forum, edited by Emilio D’Orazio, are published respectively under the title “Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility in a Global Economy” (vol. 74, 2004), “New Perspectives on the Stakeholder View of the Firm and Global Corporate Citizenship” (vol. 82, 2006), “Corporate Integrity, Ethical Leadership, Global Business Standards. The Scope and Limits of CSR” (vol. 85/86, 2007), “Restoring Responsibility: the Accountable Corporation”(vol.89, 2008), “Corporate and Stakeholder Responsibility. Theory and Practice” (vol.93, 2009), “Corporate and Stakeholder Responsibility for Sustainability” (vol. 98, 2010) and “The Corporation as a Political Actor: a New Role of Business in a Global Society” (vol. 103, 2011).

## **The Politeia Forum on Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility in a Global Economy**

The Forum is organized by the Research Centre Politeia in partnership with the University of Milan – Department of Social and Political Studies – and the University of Padua – CIGA Centre for Environmental Law Decisions and Corporate Ethical Certification – and it is supported by a Promoting Committee of several well-known Italian companies and organizations. Aim of Politeia is to organize a Forum in which managers of national and international companies and experts in business ethics and corporate social responsibility from the most prestigious national and international research centres will have the opportunity to discuss the emerging ethical issues in the global economic system. By this way, it aims to contribute to increasing awareness and knowledge among companies about the ethics and social responsibilities of economic organizations, and to contribute to filling the gap between ‘practitioners’ and ‘experts’.

### **Thematic Framework**

The Forum focuses on three main topics:

- I. Ethics and Economic Success
- II. Ethical Values in Global Business
- III. CSR and International Law

**Speakers** include: Denis G. Arnold (University of North Carolina), Florian Wettstein (University of St. Gallen), Elisa Giuliani (University of Pisa), Michael Santoro (Rutgers Business School), Elena Pariotti (University of Padua), Andrea Shemberg (Ruggie Team), Peter Muchlinshi (University of London), Nicola Jagers (Tilburg University), Angelica Bonfanti (University of Milan), Antonio Giacomucci (ABB), Nora Gotzmann (Danish Institute for HR), Wolfgang Kraus (OMV), Domenica Di Donato (Eni), Gabriele Galante (IMF), Ilaria Lenzi (Barilla), Flavia Mirabelli (Bombardier Italia), Sabina Ratti (ENI), Alessia Sabbatino (Global Compact Italy), Damiano Carrara (UbiBanca), Giacomo C. Befe (Telecom Italia), Riccardo Facchini (Amnesty International), Gaia Ghirardi (UniCredit Group), Francesca Magliulo (Edison), Lorenzo Solimene (Lucina Mercadante (INAIL)).

## **CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS FOR SPECIAL ISSUE OF *NOTIZIE DI POLITEIA***

Politeia invites full papers and abstracts on any of the above three main topics to be published in a special issue of *Notizie di Politeia*. Papers discussing other relevant issues on business ethics and corporate social responsibility will be also considered for publication.

Academic rigour as well as relevance to business, civil society actors and policy makers as stakeholders in knowledge creation are important criteria for selection. Submitted papers should be ready for blind peer review.

All papers should be submitted in full by **April 30**, and will receive notification of acceptance by **May 31 2012**.

Papers should be of maximum length of 40,000 characters (including space), written in Word or RTF format and should be submitted by email to [politeia@fildir.unimi.it](mailto:politeia@fildir.unimi.it)

For further information and program details see [www.politeia-centrostudi.org](http://www.politeia-centrostudi.org) or contact Emilio D’Orazio, editor of *Notizie di Politeia*, at the above email address.