

# Sustainability@Commerzbank

Corporate Responsibility Newsletter

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## Human rights position revised

Commerzbank has revised and updated its position with regard to human rights issues. The position sets out the basis for responsible action on the part of the Bank with regard to key stakeholder groups, in particular employees, suppliers and customers.

Although the responsibility for protecting and asserting human rights rests primarily with the states, it was already declared in the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that all organs of society shall strive to ensure that these rights are observed. Consequently, financial institutions are expected to assume responsibility for the protection of human rights. Commerzbank embraces this responsibility.

Commerzbank became a signatory of the Global Compact of the United Nations in 2006, and is thus committed to meeting not only the environmental and anti-corruption principles of the Global Compact, but also those related to human rights and labour standards. These principles along with other internationally accepted human rights standards form the basis for the Commerzbank human rights position.

With regard to its employees, the Bank has regulated essential human rights issues in its [Code of Conduct](#), which defines a mandatory framework for placing integrity at the centre of our actions.

Whenever possible, the Bank also seeks to respect and promote human rights when selecting service providers and suppliers. The adherence to social standards by our suppliers is an integral part of Commerzbank's [Purchasing and Procurement Guidelines](#).

In addition, Commerzbank naturally takes human rights aspects into account in its business dealings with customers

and takes care that they do not violate human rights. The Bank's Compliance department monitors compliance with all national and international laws and guidelines on the part of the Bank and its business partners. Furthermore, the Reputational Risk Management department intensively researches, analyses, and assesses transactions and business relationships in which human rights play a significant role. This may lead to the rejection of the relevant transaction or even the termination of a relationship.

The [Human Rights Position](#) is continually reviewed and revised. The current position and information on [other positions and directives of Commerzbank](#) can be found on our website.

### Further information:

- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- [United Nations Global Compact](#)
- [Positions and Directives by Commerzbank](#)

### Imprint

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## In a nutshell: Sustainability initiatives at Commerzbank

### Aktionstage Nachhaltigkeit – Commerzbank's programme

This year's German "Aktionstage Nachhaltigkeit" and the European Sustainability Week will take place from 30 May to 3 June. During that time, Commerzbank invites the public to attend its Sustainability Week activities with presentations and special events in the lobby of the Frankfurt headquarters. On each of the five days, special activities will highlight the various aspects of sustainability, from fundamental aspects of natural science and insights from climate research to the "cradle to cradle" concept. The highly respected speakers are known for their interesting and entertaining talks. All of the presentations are open to the general public and free of charge.

► [More](#)

### Earth Hour 2016: lights out – environmental awareness on



Once again, Commerzbank took part in the world-wide Earth Hour campaign of the WWF. On 19 March the Bank switched off the lights

in the Commerzbank towers and on the grounds surrounding the Bank's trading centre for an hour starting at 8:30 pm. In Berlin the representative office at Pariser Platz near the Brandenburg Gate was also plunged into darkness. This symbolic act is intended as motivation to live and act in greater harmony with the environment. This year the world's biggest environmental campaign is celebrating its 10th anniversary, and thousands of cities around the world joined in. Commerzbank participated for the sixth time.

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### Environmental performance indicators released for 2016

Commerzbank has had its sustainability performance verified externally since 2009. To calculate the key indicators for 2015, the conversion factors for district heating and road traffic were adjusted. These adjustments are to be welcomed in principle, as they enable us to obtain a more realistic sense of the emissions figures and a representative carbon footprint. As a result of these changes, the carbon footprint increased by 4.4% in 2015. Without them, emissions would have decreased about 5%. Overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for Commerzbank AG in Germany (121,083 t) were offset for the first time in 2015 with certificates from climate protection projects. Commerzbank's operations have been complete climate-neutral since the beginning of 2015. The key environmental figures are available in our [fact sheet](#).

► [More](#)

### Lots of sunshine – more solar energy in 2015

The CFB fund Solar-Deutschlandportfolio I to V, issued by the Commerz Real Fonds Beteiligungsgesellschaft, with investments in solar parks in Germany's sunniest regions, exceeded forecasts with their renewable energy output in 2015. The parks are located in the states of Bavaria, Brandenburg, Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt. The extra output varied from 3 to 12 percent depending on the location. In total, the excess power generated by the parks amounted to about 23,400,000 kWh. This represents the annual consumption of approximately 5,400 four-person households – a very pleasing development for the environment and for investors in the solar energy fund. With peak output of 385 megawatts for the facilities financed by Commerz Real, the Commerzbank subsidiary is among the largest asset management companies in the solar power sector. This output would be enough to meet the electric power needs of about 105,000 four-person households.

► [More](#) (German only)

### Commerzbank Foundation promotes dialogue between science and society

The Commerzbank Foundation is supporting the Junge Akademie – the world's first academy specifically dedicated to promoting the next generation of outstanding scholars – in hosting an international film competition under the heading "Be a better being", on the drive for personal improvement. The competition is addressed to filmmakers, researchers and society at large. The project is intended to provoke thought and inspire a dialogue within society. From the entries, 12 films will be selected for presentation at the prestigious inter-film festival of short films in Berlin in November 2016.

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### Sidebar: Hero for Animals

Because a breeding pair of peregrine falcons was nesting on the Commerzbank Tower in Frankfurt, the Bank has blocked access to the roof for the nesting period. In recognition of this commitment to animal welfare, Commerzbank has now been certified as a "Hero for Animals" by the animal rights group PETA. The falcon pair is now nesting atop the Commerzbank headquarters, 259 meters above the ground, for the 10th year in a row. The peregrine falcon is among Germany's most protected species. There is no word on whether the pigeons, beloved by the falcons as prey and food, are as pleased as PETA. They are otherwise not a threatened species, however.