

## **In memory of Erik Belfrage**

### **– a friend of free trade and a pioneer of sustainability**

It is with great sadness that we, the International Chamber of Commerce - ICC Sweden, advise our members and friends of the passing of our board member Erik Belfrage, who died from complications related to Covid-19.

During Erik's time with ICC, ICC Sweden has taken an influencing and important role within the organisation and the world of free trade. It wouldn't have been possible without Erik's wide and unprecedented network of people within politics, society and business and his passion for free trade being the strongest driving force for peace.

Erik's engagement in the ICC stretched over more than thirty years and has left his signum throughout the whole organisation. Already at the end of the 1980s, Erik acted as adviser to the then chair, Peter Wallenberg.

As a true sustainability pioneer, Erik was chair of ICC Sweden's Committee for Business in Society (later to be called Corporate Responsibility & Anti-corruption) from its inauguration in 1999 until 2015. Likewise, he held the role of chairman for the global commission on Business in Society/CR & Anti-corruption between 2005–2015, leading ICC's work within the areas of compliance and sustainability.

Erik's faith in the important role that businesses hold in developing solutions to environmental and climate challenges was strong and several important guidelines were developed during his leadership in order to help companies act responsibly and against corruption. Between the years of 1998 and 2001, Erik also held the chairmanship in the ICC Commercial Crime Services group – the crime-fighting part of the ICC.

More recently, Erik held the positions of chair for the European group of ICC National Committees (2013–2019) and vice-chair for the Finance Committee.

To visit the ICC Headquarters in Paris together with Erik always took its time – there was not an office where he didn't know the person and where he quickly got into a conversation regarding one or another task that needed to be done and how he could help with this.

A hundred years ago, ICC was founded under the parole "if goods don't cross borders, soldiers will". Making international business more accessible and promoting an open world trade system, Erik, during his whole career, worked for peace and prosperity as a true *merchant for peace*.

We are grateful for Erik's contributions to the ICC and will deeply miss this friend of free trade.

Our thoughts are with Erik's wife Anna and his family.