Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) represents a dynamic area which cuts across a multitude of disciplines, and has increasingly attracted the interest of business schools, behavioral departments, legal scholars, NGOs and - of course – multinational enterprises. Rather than disputing the goodness or badness of CSR, this paper combines the notion of CSR as a parallel regime of private governance with the widely known theory of legal transplant, in order to underline the role of Codes of Conduct as proxies of unilateral legal dissemination and homogenization. By using as example the self-regulations produced by four European extractive MNEs (Eni S.pA., Total S.A., Repsol YPF and British Petroleum), the article analyses the mechanisms and spaces of circulation, along with the content of the Codes and the role that they play in disseminating European Union law beyond its formal boundaries. Exposed to the legal and political relevance of MNEs, the reader is confronted with a global framework characterized by increased regime complexity, the continuous redefinition of internal and external boundaries, inescapable paradoxes, deep inconsistencies, and an unexpressed potential. In this light, the recognition of the existing weaknesses and problematics represents a fundamental step toward the production of innovative and alternative scenarios.