

# OECD Watch Programme

April 1st 2005, Brussels

International Multistakeholder Round Table



## Putting the OECD Guidelines for MNEs into practice

The Guidelines as an instrument  
for implementing CSR  
5 Years after their revision

Organised by SOMO, IRENE, Germanwatch, RAID and Association 4D

**SOMO**

**IRENE**

■ INTERNATIONAL  
■ RESTRUCTURING  
■ EDUCATION  
■ NETWORK  
■ EUROPE

GERMANWATCH

*RAID*

Rights & Accountability in Development



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The discussion of corporate responsibility and corporate accountability is growing and CSR-related issues are currently being actively considered in several international forums, including the UN Commission on Human Rights. Businesses are expressing increased interest in practical, cost-effective, tools. Globalisation is making supply-chain issues ever more important. Financial markets start to consider CSR issues in their policies. The EU Commission is also expected to release in the next month or so its latest communication on the subject.

On the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the revised OECD Guidelines, and as part of its EU-funded project to promote their use, OECD Watch is organising a Multi-stakeholder Round Table in Brussels. Five years on OECD Watch will evaluate the effectiveness of the instrument and different stakeholders are invited to discuss and present their experiences in using the OECD Guidelines to implement CSR policies.

The Conference will examine the practical application of the OECD Guidelines for different stakeholders, and to try to reach agreement about a common and consistent approach to the use of the OECD Guidelines as a tool for corporate accountability and CSR policies.

## MORNING PROGRAMME

- 09:30  Welcome & explanation of the aims of the Roundtable by the chair of the day  
*Paul Hohnen*
- Speeches**
- 09:35  Lustrum of the revised Guidelines – views from the OECD  
*Manfred Schekulin, Chair of the OECD Investment Committee*
- 09:55  The view of the European Commission on the OECD Guidelines  
*Giusy Chiovato-Rambaldo, Employment and Social Affairs DG*
- 10:15  The complementary character of the ILO's Tripartite Declaration and the OECD Guidelines  
*Eddy Laurijssen, Director International Labour Organisation (ILO) Brussels*
- 10:35  A civil society evaluation of the OECD Guidelines, by OECD Watch  
*Tricia Feeney, Rights and Accountability in Development (RAID)*
- 10:55  The Guidelines in practice: A case example from business  
*Vincent van Assem, Group Sustainable Development, ABN AMRO*
- 11:15  **Coffee break**
- 11:45  **Panel discussion** chaired by Chris Marsden
- Panellists
- John Evans, Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC)
  - Dirk Manske, Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC)
  - Colette Vanstraelen, National Contact Point (NCP) Belgium
  - Teresa Fogelberg, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)
  - Hannah Owusu-Koranteng, Wassa Association of Communities Affected by Mining (WACAM), Ghana
- 13.00  **Lunch**

## AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

14:30  **Working Groups**

**1** Room **Auditorium**

### OECD Guidelines and Supply Chain Responsibility

Moderator **Serena Lillywhite**  
Speakers

- Willem van der Leeuw; Deputy director Trade Policy Department, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Chair of Dutch NCP
- Alain Souppart; Directeur technique et qualité, Auchan

One of the major characteristics of the globalised economy is the enlargement and complexity of supply chain relationships. NGOs and trade unions are united in their belief that multinational enterprises should take responsibility for their supply chains. One of the strong selling points after the review of the OECD Guidelines in June 2000 was the inclusion of a specific reference to relations with suppliers and other business partners. However, problems soon arose when some National Contact Points started to reject complaints about supply chain issues, arguing that the Guidelines did not apply to trade. This intense debate about how far the responsibility of enterprises goes and about the scope of the Guidelines is going on and will be discussed in this working group.

**2** Room **P**

### CSR and Investment; how financial markets can use the Guidelines

Moderator **Pieter van der Gaag**  
Speakers

- Alice Steenland, CSR Analyst VIGEO, French corporate social responsibility rating firm
- John Howchin, Research Director GES Investment Services Sweden

Financial markets are one key player in the globalized economy. More and more they start considering not only pure financial issues but as well social and environmental aspects of corporate behaviour. The working group will discuss the use of the OECD Guidelines by financial markets: How can the OECD Guidelines be used to measure performance of companies and which tools are being used. Furthermore it will be discussed, whether the use of the OECD Guidelines can be improved or whether we do need other instruments.

**3** Room **C**

### Governments and the OECD Guidelines; NCPs and other national policies

Moderator **Paul Hohnen**  
Speakers

- Shirley van Buiren, Transparency International - Germany
- Vernon McKay, NCP Canada

This working group will discuss the use of the OECD Guidelines by governments. The objective of the session will be to identify specific recommendations for actions by governments to improve public awareness and use of the Guidelines, and to increase their application to other government policies and practices (e.g. procurement, Export Credit Agencies, and other CSR initiatives). On the issues of consistency of application and accountability, proposals such as for NCP peer review as a means of strengthening the monitoring and thus the implementation of the Guidelines will be discussed.

**4** Room **D**

### The Guidelines, Conflict Resolution and Development

Moderator **Tricia Feeney**  
Speakers

- Anna Maj Hultgård (Swedish Foreign Ministry) - report on the Weak Governance Study
- Hester le Roux, UK Commission on Africa, DFID

One important challenge for the OECD Guidelines is their implementation in conflict zones. Where there are weak or failing states and growing political and economic conflicts, crucial violations of the OECD Guidelines are likely to occur, like for instance in DR Congo. This workshop will discuss the Guidelines, conflict resolution and development. It will include a report on the outcomes of the Addis Ababa Conference from Anna-Maj Hultgard, of the Swedish Foreign Ministry. Other speakers will present the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes' findings, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report on business and human rights, and the recommendations of the Commission for Africa.

16:00  **Break**

16:15  Report back from working groups and concluding statements: challenges and opportunities for the way forward

17:30  **Closure & drinks**