



CONSULTATION ON AN UPDATE OF THE OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

Agenda

**8 December 2009
14:30 -18:00**

**OECD Conference Centre
Paris, France
Room 1**

CONSULTATION ON AN UPDATE OF THE OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

Overview

The purpose of this Consultation is to seek the views of consultation partners to assist in the development of terms of reference as a prelude to a decision on an update of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises are recommendations by 42 OECD and non-OECD governments covering all major areas of business ethics, including corporate steps to obey the law, observe internationally-recognized standards and respond to other societal expectations.

Since the last review of the Guidelines in June 2000, the landscape for international investment and multinational enterprises has continued to change rapidly. Non-OECD countries are attracting a larger share of world investment and multinational enterprises from non-adhering countries have grown in importance. The financial and economic crisis and the loss of confidence in open markets, the need to address climate change, and reaffirmed international commitments to development goals have prompted renewed calls from governments and social partners for high standards of responsible business conduct.

At their 2009 Annual Meeting, National Contact Points (NCPs) responsible for the implementation of the Guidelines recommended that adhering countries review the experience gained with this instrument with a view to defining terms of reference for a possible update of the instrument. At the June 2009 OECD Council Meeting at Ministerial level, ministers from OECD and non-member countries welcomed “further consultation on the updating of the OECD Guidelines to increase their relevance and clarify private sector responsibilities”.

The Consultation will be organised around three broad themes. Most of the time will be allocated to an open discussion of the perspectives of business, labour, NGOs, non-adhering countries and international organisations.

AGENDA

Opening Remarks	
14:30 - 14:45	<p>Richard Boucher, OECD Deputy Secretary-General Chair: Manfred Schekulin, OECD Investment Committee Chair and Austrian NCP</p>
Substantive Provisions	
14:45 - 16:00	<p>Introduction: Vernon MacKay, Chair of the Working Party of the OECD Investment Committee and Ricardo Guerra de Araujo, Brazil</p>
	<p>Issues for discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply chains /due diligence (including financial services) • Human rights • Employment and Industrial Relations • Disclosure • Environment • Taxation <p>Open discussion</p>
Procedural Provisions	
16:00 - 17:00	<p>Introduction: Julian Farrel, Chairman, UK NCP Steering Board and Herman Mulder, Dutch NCP</p>
	<p>Issues for discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectations of NCP processes • Functional equivalence and respect of individual circumstances • Parallel proceedings • Multi-jurisdiction instances/Forum shopping • Promotion • Resources <p>Open discussion</p>
Institutional Issues	
17:00 - 17:45	<p>Introduction: Marcelo Garcia Silva, Chilean NCP and Patrick Colmer, Australian NCP</p>
	<p>Issues for discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship between the Guidelines and the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises • Participation of non-adhering countries in the updating process <p>Open discussion</p>
17:45 – 18:00	<p>Round-up and Next Steps by the Chair of the Consultation</p>