BIAC Activities on Raising Awareness of the OECD MNE Guidelines

The following list provides selected examples of BIAC’s recent activities to raise awareness of the updated OECD MNE Guidelines. Please note that this list is non-exhaustive and does not take stock of all activities by BIAC and its member organisations.

BIAC

- The second BIAC survey on member companies’ experiences in NCP specific instance procedures, including recommendations for notifying parties, was presented to the OECD on 25 June 2013 and distributed to BIAC members.
- BIAC was actively involved in commenting on the draft of the OECD brochure on “The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises - Responsible Business Conduct Matters”. The brochure was subsequently widely distributed to BIAC members.
- The Chair of the BIAC Investment Committee made an introduction on “The 2011 OECD MNE Guidelines: what business needs to know” at the workshop on responsible business conduct organised by the Brazilian Secretaria de Direitos Humanos on 28 January 2013, and had separate meetings with the Brazilian NCP.
- The BIAC/BDA/VNO-NCW brochure “The 2011 OECD Guidelines for MNEs: an introduction for business” was translated by the Brazilian NCP into Portuguese and is now available in four languages on the BIAC website.
BIAC Member Organisations

BDA, Germany

- "CSR Germany" (www.csrgermany.de), the CSR Internet portal of Germany’s four leading business organisations, published information on the OECD MNE Guidelines.
- On 22 November 2012, the German Employers’ Associations (BDA) and the OECD Berlin Centre organised an international conference on the OECD Guidelines in Berlin titled "The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises - A Benchmark for Responsible Business Conduct in a Global Economy", in which representatives from German business, the German NCP, the OECD, the IOE and BIAC, Trade Unions and NGOs as well as guests from emerging economies discussed the OECD Guidelines. 3 Panels were held on "The OECD Guidelines in Business Practice", "Mediation Process of the National Contact Points - Experiences and Expectations" and "The OECD Guidelines as a Basis for Global Governance".
- BDA and the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW) published and disseminated the joint brochure on “The 2011 OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises – An introduction for business”. BDA informed its members of recent developments on the OECD Guidelines via circulars and in workshops.

DI, Denmark

- The Confederation of Danish Industry (DI) updated the free online Global Compact Self Assessment tool in April 2013 in order to align the tool with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD MNE Guidelines. The Global Compact Self Assessment Tool is a free online tool where companies can test their performance on all ten UN Global Compact principles and assess how well these issues are managed. The tool provides indicators to track and demonstrate progress, which are based on international standards and best practices and designed for use by all company sizes and sectors in all countries.

Keidanren, Japan

- At its General Assembly on 13 July 2012, BIAC Japan of Keidanren highlighted the updated OECD MNE Guidelines and discussed the function of the OECD as a forum for rule-making.
• On 30 July 2012, BIAC Japan of Keidanren hosted a meeting on the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, in which an official of the Japanese government presented its activities in this area to Keidanren members. A legal expert of the OECD explained the guidance.

• In September 2012, BIAC Japan of Keidanren issued its bulletin, including the reports on the above-mentioned meetings and distributed it to its members.

**MAI, Israel**

• MAI's Business Forum on Corporate Responsibility, Business Ethics and Anticorruption has continued its periodical meetings featuring leading guest speakers from all sectors. The Forum provides a platform for consultation and distribution of materials among business representatives, with considerable focus on the OECD MNE Guidelines. In the fall 2013, the Forum will assemble for its 10th meeting since its foundation.

• In February 2013, MAI co-hosted with the Israeli CSR at the Ministry of Economy a seminar that highlighted the importance of adopting a comprehensive policy on minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas, featuring the OECD's latest publication on this matter.

**MEDEF, France**

• MEDEF has actively participated in the activities of the French tripartite NCP as statuary member. It participated in the proceeding of 3 specific instances (monthly meetings). MEDEF intervened at the first annual information meeting of the French NCP to French stakeholders (more than 100 participants). It was successively auditionned by the French Committee for Human Rights and by the French Economic and Social Concil. MEDEF is currently fully involved in the French investigations on the Rana Plaza accident as requested by the French Trade Minister (2 days a month).

• MEDEF continued its promotional activities concerning the Guidelines to its members (sectoral federations, territorial organisations) through several informal workshops. In January 2013, it organised and hosted a conference on the Guideline where more than 100 representatives of sectoral federations and SMEs had a direct interaction with the French NCP Secretariat. MEDEF wrote and disseminated an e-brochure explaining the functioning of the French NCP and the specific instances.
• MEDEF informed its members of the developments regarding the OECD Guidelines and the Investment Committee via circulars.

**SP, Czech Republic**

• The Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic is contributing to discussions of the Czech NCP, which is taking the lead for the organisation of a conference to exchange best practices, the development of a new website, and the preparation of a booklet on the MNE Guidelines.

**VNO-NCW, The Netherlands**

• VNO-NCW actively participated in a process initiated by the Dutch Social Economic Council to develop concrete guidance on due diligence for companies.
• VNO-NCW took part in regular stakeholder meetings with the Dutch NCP.
• VNO-NCW was a member of the steering group on the development of an internet tool for SMEs to assess risks in their international supply chains.

**BIAC observer organisations**

**ANDI, Colombia**

1. At the Annual Assembly held in 2012, ANDI formalised the adoption of the OECD principles for companies. Members declared among others to: Promote Corporate Social Responsibility programs, and the application of the OECD guidelines in their companies. Participate in national and international forums that discuss and promote the OECD Guidelines in order to endorse this vision among Colombian entrepreneurs. Follow up the different discussions on the OECD Guidelines around the globe. Adopt the conclusions and recommendations arising from BIAC and the Colombian NCP. Sponsor, as members of the Global Compact and the Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean in Support of United Nations Global Compact, gatherings and meeting about the Guidelines and the
Global Compact Principles. Participate in national and international scenarios with the objective to disseminate responsible actions being taken by the affiliated companies.

2. 7th Corporate Social Responsibility Forum 2012: The Corporate Social Responsibility forum organised annually by ANDI included an intervention of the Colombian NCP and the presentation of the Director of the Centre of the OECD for Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico). The main references used for this panel were the MNE Guidelines and principles of the UN Global Compact.

3. OECD intervention in the Human Rights and Global Compact roundtable organised by ANDI in May 2013: The roundtable presented the challenges and opportunities for MNEs regarding the application of human rights. The Colombian NCP representatives presented the OECD MNE Guidelines.

4. OECD intervention in the fifth National Committee for Corporate Social Responsibility Issues, Barranquilla, Colombia, June 18, 2013: The event addressed as main subject the OECD Guidelines, which were analysed particularly in relation to the Human Rights Chapter.

Member companies

- BIAC member companies actively participated in meetings organised at the national level, such as those mentioned above, as well as OECD workshops and conferences. They have been actively involved in projects related to the MNE Guidelines, such as the projects on stakeholder engagement in the extractive industry and on due diligence in the financial sector, including through participation in meetings, surveys and interviews. Individual companies are also in contact with their respective NCP. For example, Credit Suisse had a meeting with the Swiss NCP for a mutual update on issues of interest, including developments concerning the OECD MNE Guidelines and the new advisory council for the Swiss NCP and the work of the Thun Group of Banks.