BIAC contribution to the OECD Annual Report on the MNE Guidelines

Business, as represented by Business at OECD (BIAC), has long recognized the importance of responsible business conduct in a globalized world. BIAC considers responsible business conduct, as promoted by the MNE Guidelines, to be an essential part of an open investment climate and in the best interest of business.

To that end, BIAC is working closely with its member organizations and multinational enterprises in order to raise the visibility of the MNE Guidelines by participating in events and raising awareness in regular online communications. In 2017, BIAC updated its brochure on the MNE Guidelines, which was issued to ensure that companies are aware of this key instrument and its concrete implications for business. The updated brochure was distributed to our wider membership, which includes the major national business and employers’ organizations from OECD member countries and a number of non-member countries as well as over 40 international sector organizations.

On 28 June 2017, BIAC organized a high-level business seminar on the OECD MNE Guidelines and the National Contact Point procedure. The meeting brought together close to 50 RBC business experts from major multinational companies around the world. The seminar included a joint session with TUAC, OECD Watch and the OECD’s Deputy Secretary General as well as a business only session where companies shared their specific experience with the NCP system. The meeting was organized in the light of the increasing importance of the NCP system and to provide a platform for business leaders to share their experience regarding the functioning of the NCP procedure in practice.

BIAC also highlighted the importance of the MNE Guidelines in other international discussions, including in the context of the B20, where BIAC was an active member of the B20 employment and education task force as well as the B20 working group on anti-corruption and responsible business conduct. The importance of the MNE Guidelines was duly underlined in the final B20 reports.

BIAC maintained a strong presence at the annual OECD Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct in June 2017. BIAC also remained an active partner in the proactive agenda project to ensure that the concrete experience of different sectors, including finance, textiles, as well as food and agriculture, is duly reflected. BIAC members also participated in the Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains.

Throughout the year, BIAC actively contributed to the discussions on the draft OECD general due diligence guidance underlining that the final outcome must be of practical use to business, recognizing both business opportunities and challenges in this context. BIAC participated in consultations with the Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct, NCPs and RBC policy makers.

Our member organizations were also actively involved in the peer reviews of their respective NCPs.