



CSR AND BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS

24 November 2015

[FINAL TEXT OF NON-BINDING TREATY ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADOPTED BY COUNCIL OF EUROPE DRAFTING GROUP](#)

Dear Members, Partners and Colleagues,

As you are aware from previous IOE communications, the Council of Europe (CoE) has been engaged in drafting a non-binding treaty to address perceived gaps in the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Council of Europe was set up to promote democracy and to protect human rights and the rule of law in Europe. It is not the European Union, but an international organisation of 47 countries with its headquarters in Strasbourg, France.

Ensuring the perspective of business has been taken into account, the IOE has been represented at every meeting of the drafting group, including the sixth and final meeting on 2 – 4 November 2015 when the draft Recommendation on business and human rights was adopted. (Please see the link in the side panel for the report of the meeting, including the Recommendation at pp 7ff.)

The new instrument is expected to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers at its next meeting in Spring 2016. The implementation of the Standard will be examined by the Committee of Ministers three years after its adoption.

The Standard is very much focused on the third pillar of the UN Guiding Principles (access to remedy), and especially on promoting extraterritorial jurisdiction. However, it does not go beyond the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, nor does it pave the way for new mandatory obligations on reporting and due diligence.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any comments or questions.

Yours sincerely,

Matthias Thorns
Senior Adviser

6TH MEETING OF COE DRAFTING GROUP OUTCOME DOCUMENT

[* *Report & Recommendation*](#)

IOE CONTACT

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