28.08.2014

CONTRIBUTE TO THE BUSINESS INPUT TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE’S DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS

Dear Members and Partners

In April 2014, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a declaration on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which stressed that the effective implementation of the Principles, both by states and business enterprises, is essential to ensure respect for human rights in the business context. The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation with 47 member states. Japan, Mexico and the US are observer members. Its Committee of Ministers is comprised of government representatives of all the members states.

The Committee followed up by establishing a drafting group charged with producing a non-binding instrument addressing gaps in the implementation of the Guiding Principles at the European level. The group, which is composed of twelve national experts, has met twice and has launched the first draft of the proposed instrument (please access the draft via the link in the side panel). It is expected to finish its work by the end of 2015.

This draft contains very critical provisions, such as on mandatory due diligence requirements and extraterritorial jurisdiction.

The IOE will participate in a first discussion with the drafting group on 24 – 26 September, and has been invited to submit advance comments by 13 September 2014.

We strongly encourage you to let us have your comments on the draft by 8 September 2014 to thorns@ioe-emp.org so that these may be taken into account in the IOE submission on behalf of the global business community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.
Best regards

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