26 January 2015

FURTHER IOE COMMENTS ON COUNCIL OF EUROPE INITIATIVE FOR A NON-BINDING INSTRUMENT ON BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS

Dear Members, Colleagues and Partner Companies,

Previous IOE communications have kept you apprised of developments with regard to the initiative of the Council of Europe (CoE) to draft a non-binding instrument on business and human rights.

Today, we would like to let you know that the next meeting of the CoE Drafting Group will take place in Strasbourg from 25-27 February and that an IOE representative will continue to be actively engaged in the work of the Group. Further proposed IOE observations on the draft instrument are set out for your comment in the first document which is accessible via the link in the side panel. (A second link is provided to the draft CoE instrument (pages 10ff of the meeting report).

The work of the IOE in this area requires the support of IOE members and partners, particularly those from the countries/regions represented in the working group.

We therefore strongly encourage discussion of the issues at stake (especially that of extraterritorial jurisdiction) with government representatives in advance of the meeting. Geographies represented in the working group are: Albania, Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, Canada, European Union, Japan, Mexico, and USA.

We would like to thank you for engaging in this process, both with the IOE Secretariat, and with your governments as appropriate. Please send any comments you may have by 13 February 2015 to thorns@ioe-emp.org.

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

Yours sincerely,

Matthias Thorns
Senior Adviser