

THE IOE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Introduction

The European Union (EU) seeks to strengthen the capacity of employers' organisations, a priority set out in its communications "[A Stronger Role of the Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries](#)" (2014) and "[The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations](#)" (2012).

With a focus on employment creation; implementing measures to improve the business and investment climate; supporting the formalisation of enterprises; promoting responsible business practices; strengthening the voice of the private sector in the global sustainability agenda; scaling up responsible and effective social dialogue and improving OSH frameworks, it is clear that these priorities have much in common with the [IOE's mission](#) and organisational objectives as set out in its Statutes.

The EU finds value in engaging with the IOE due to its representativeness as the global voice of business and has agreed to support the Organisation in building the capacity of its members over the next three years (2016-2019).

This will be done under the framework of a partnership agreement with the European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) titled: "Strengthening the capacity of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) as a global representative employers' organisation and of national member organisations, particularly in least developed countries (LDCs)".

The IOE will channel EU support to existing key focus areas as outlined in the IOE's work plan, particularly:

- Labour migration
- Sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- Business and human rights (BHR)
- Corporate social responsibility (CSR)
- Social dialogue
- Occupational safety and health (OSH)

This action will have a positive impact on IOE members globally, as the institutional capacity of the organisation itself will be strengthened. Activities under the partnership will begin in Africa, Latin America and the Caucasus, with a special focus on LDCs.



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What does this partnership mean for the IOE?

This collaboration will aim to achieve greater coherence, consistency and impact of IOE actions, as well improve its representational capacities, information flow and advocacy work. Furthermore, it will improve dialogue with the European Union on development issues, strengthen cooperation with other civil society organisations (CSOs), thereby contributing to the implementation of SDG 17 to “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development”.

It will also contribute to the implementation of EU policy, for example, the partnership will incorporate the priorities of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 and IOE’s priorities on gender by ensuring that at least 30 per cent of participants in project activities are women.

How will IOE members be kept apprised of developments?

IOE members will receive news and other communications on developments. Please also visit our dedicated webpage at <http://www.ioe-emp.org/other-international-organizations/european-commission/> for further information on events, reports, outcome documents and more.

More information

Find out more about the work of the European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) [here](#).

Any questions?

Please contact Ms Anetha Awuku, Project Manager, at awuku@ioe-emp.org

The IOE is the largest network of the private sector in the world.
With more than 150 members, it is the global voice of business for
labour and social policy matters at the international level.



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