



National Contact Point

OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

Summary NCP workplan 2017

Argentina Australia Austria Belgium Brazil Canada Chile Colombia Czech Republic Denmark Egypt Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Iceland Ireland Israel Italy Japan

The NCP will continue to work steadily on its remit in 2017. It has selected ‘Due Diligence’ as the leitmotif of its 2017 Work Plan in order to encourage multinational enterprises to focus on due diligence (RBC risk management) and the importance of the OECD Guidelines. The NCP’s 2017 Work Plan will build largely on efforts launched in 2016.

Specific instances

Dealing with **specific instances** is and will remain a core task that consumes a great deal of time. Three notifications/ specific instances were at various stages of completion at the end of 2016. Another goal for 2017 is to raise the business community’s awareness of the NCP’s role as a vehicle for **informal dialogue**. The NCP will also review its own working methods in 2017 in the light of its experience with specific instances in recent years.

Core task specific instances in 2017:

- dealing with specific instances
- raising the business community’s awareness of the NCP as an instrument for informal dialogue
- updating the NCP’s working methods

Promotion of the OECD Guidelines

The NCP’s other core task, **raising awareness of the OECD Guidelines**, is still topical and necessary. The NCP will raise awareness in the broadest sense by giving media presentations and interviews, participating in consultative bodies such as the

International Corporate Social Responsibility (ICSR) Committee of the Social and Economic Council (SER), providing input for training courses, organising its own training courses and promoting the Guidelines among other organisations that are in close contact with the business community. On request, the NCP will also provide advice on applying the OECD Guidelines during the preparation of the (sectoral) RBC agreements in the Netherlands.

The NCP has chosen due diligence (or RBC risk management) as its central theme for 2017. It will raise this theme or make a connection with due diligence and underline its importance in all its external communications and activities.

On the occasion of the publication at the end of October of a study by the Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development (VBDO) regarding awareness of and compliance with the OECD Guidelines, the NCP sent a letter to all multinational enterprises covered by the study that had not adopted the Guidelines in their company annual reports. The NCP will concentrate on these enterprises in 2017 and try to reach them in a variety of ways in order to inform and assist them and persuade them if possible to comply to the Guidelines.

The NCP organises two thematic meetings every year to bring together enterprises, NGOs and other organisations with an interest in RBC and the OECD Guidelines and have them share their knowledge and discuss the dilemmas and challenges of putting the Guidelines into practice. One of the 2017 meetings will consider the relationship between the Guidelines, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and due diligence. This is a very topical issue that regularly features in the preparation of the sectoral RBC agreements. The SDGs may not be RBC Guidelines, but the Goals can be reached when paying serious attention to the OECD guidelines. This cannot be stressed too often. Themes under consideration for the second meeting are effective stakeholder dialogue, responsible investment and the relationship between RBC policy and profitability.

The NCP aims to respond proactively in 2017 to media reports relating to the OECD Guidelines by contacting the enterprises concerned, informing them about the Guidelines and perhaps offering assistance or support.

The NCP's Dutch and English websites and social media are important communication channels to provide information on the Guidelines and the NCP's work. To further sharpen the focus of its information and communication activities, the NCP is developing a strategic communication plan that reflects its specific role, the available capacity and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' RBC communication strategy. The plan will be completed in the second quarter of 2017. It will give direction to the NCP's external communication and information activities and help it to set priorities.

Core task raising awareness of the OECD Guidelines in 2017:

- proactive response to media reports that touch upon the OECD Guidelines (contact with the enterprises concerned)
- focus on reaching enterprises in the VBDO study and persuading them to commit to the OECD Guidelines
- two thematic meetings on topical issues
- update of the Dutch and English websites
- completion of strategic communication plan

Other activities:

A major task that will demand a significant investment of the NCP's time in 2017 is a **cross-company study** of the oil and gas industry. The Dutch Cabinet asked the NCP to establish whether the way the oil and gas industry does business, complies with the OECD Guidelines. The study is meant to be completed before the summer.

International activities in 2017: The NCP will actively facilitate the work of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct (WPRBC) and will attend the NCP meetings in Paris. The NCP plays an important and active role in implementing the Action Plan to Strengthen NCPs (2016-2018) as part of the Proactive Agenda. In 2017 the NCP will take part in up to two OECD peer reviews. It will attend peer learning meetings or capacity building meetings for NCPs, depending on the issue at hand and the relevance of its own input. It will also help other NCPs deal with specific instances and regularly answer queries from other NCPs.

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