Annual Meeting of the National Contact Points for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

AUSTRIA

NATIONAL CONTACT POINT FOR THE MNE GUIDELINES

2014 REPORT TO THE OECD

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OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

AUSTRIAN NCP

REPORT TO THE OECD

2014
National Contact Points must report annually to the OECD Investment Committee on the nature and results of their activities to further the effectiveness of the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, including implementation activities in specific instances.

A Common Reporting Framework, based on the Implementation Procedures of the Guidelines, assists NCPs prepare these reports. This information is the basis for the Chair’s Annual Report to the OECD Council.

Common Reporting Framework

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Common framework for annual reporting by National Contact Points

The role of National Contact Points is to further the effectiveness of the Guidelines by undertaking promotional activities, handling enquiries and contributing to the resolution of issues that arise relating to the implementation of the Guidelines in specific instances. NCPs will operate in accordance with core criteria of visibility, accessibility, transparency and accountability.

A. Institutional arrangements

1. Governmental location of the NCP

Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFV)

2. Structure of the NCP

- Monopartite
- Interagency
- Bipartite
- Tripartite
- Quadripartite
- Independent Expert Body

The Austrian NCP is located in the Directorate-General for Trade Policy and European Integration of the BMWFW

3. Does the NCP have an advisory body?  Yes  No

4. Does the NCP have an oversight body?  No

5. Was the NCP structure modified in the reporting period?  No

6. How does this structure enable the NCP to operate effectively?

As an official unit of the BMWFW, all laws and regulations providing for the impartiality, accountability and liability of members of the Austrian civil service apply. The Steering Committee provides an adequate infrastructure for stakeholder involvement.

7. Does the NCP have an allocated budget?  Yes  No

8. Does the NCP have dedicated staff?  Yes  No

9. Are changes in the structure or resources available to the NCP contemplated in the near future?  No

10. Does the NCP report within the Government on its activities?  Yes  No
B. Information and promotion

11. Does the NCP have a dedicated website or dedicated webpages?  
   ☑ Yes  ☐ No

12. Are the 2011 Guidelines available online?  
   ☑ Yes  ☐ No

13. Are the 2011 Guidelines available in print?  
   ☑ Yes  ☐ No

14. Did you develop other products to raise awareness of the Guidelines?  
   ☑ Yes  ☐ No

15. Is your Annual Report available online?  
   ☑ Yes  ☐ No

16. Is your Annual Report available in print?  
   ☑ Yes  ☐ No

17. Does the NCP coordinate with other government activities on responsible business conduct?  
   ☑ Yes  ☐ No

18. Does the NCP, together with appropriate state entities (export credits agency, investment state-owned enterprises, overseas investment guarantee and inward investment promotion programs...), inform prospective investors about the Guidelines and their implementation?  
   ☑ Yes  ☐ No

19. If the NCP conducted surveys or collected data documenting enterprises' awareness and use of the Guidelines, such as references in corporate codes of conduct, provide details.
   In December 2012 the Austrian NCP together with respACT Austria conducted a survey, regarding the level of awareness of the OECD Guidelines within selected Austrian companies. A follow-up survey is planned for the end of 2014.

20. Does the NCP have a promotional plan on the Guidelines?  
   ☑ Yes  ☐ No

21. Did the NCP organise any event to promote the Guidelines and their implementation procedures?  
   ☐ Yes  ☑ No

22. Did the NCP participate in any event organised by stakeholders or other entities to promote the Guidelines and their implementation procedures?  
   ☑ Yes  ☐ No

23. What use has been made of embassies, notably in emerging markets and other non-adhering countries, for raising awareness and promoting the Guidelines?
   The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO) is a member of the NCP’s Steering Committee. Using its network in 2013 the Austrian NCP sent a promotion letter regarding the OECD Guidelines
to all 75 Aussenwirtschaft Austria offices abroad in 2013. These offices provide a broad range of intelligence and business development services for both Austrian companies and their international business partners.

Furthermore all Aussenwirtschaft Austria offices were informed about the launch of the OECD database on specific instances.

In 2013 the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, yet another member of the NCP’s Steering Committee, also sent the same promotion letter to the Austrian embassies and selected consulates.

24. Does the NCP have a direct relationship with OECD partner organisations and/or other leading responsible business conduct instruments:

- ILO? [☑ Yes  ☐ No]
- UN Global Compact and its local networks? [☑ Yes  ☐ No]
- UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights? [☐ Yes  ☐ No]
- National Institution for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights? [☐ Yes  ☐ No]
- Global Reporting Initiative? [☑ Yes  ☐ No]
- ISO26000? [☑ Yes  ☐ No]
- Other [☑ Yes  ☐ No]

The Austrian NCP regularly works together with e.g. respACT Austria, which is the official focal point of the UN Global Compact in Austria and also promotes ISO 26000 and GRI.

25. Does the NCP or another government agency promote the OECD Risk Awareness Tool for Multinational Enterprises in Weak Governance Zones? [☐ Yes  ☐ No]

26. Does the NCP or another government agency promote the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High Risk Areas? [☐ Yes  ☐ No]

27. Were enquiries received on the Guidelines and their implementation procedures:

- From other NCPs? [☑ Yes  ☐ No]
- From the business community? [☑ Yes  ☐ No]
- From labour organisations? [☑ Yes  ☐ No]
- From non-governmental organisations? [☐ Yes  ☐ No]
- From governments of non-adhering countries? [☑ Yes  ☐ No]
- Other [☐ Yes  ☐ No]
Enquiries about pending Austrian specific instances, the Guidelines itself and the complaint mechanism were received from other Austrian federal ministries, several companies, NGOs and individuals. Furthermore enquiries were received from Austrian companies in terms of the Guidelines and conflict minerals.

C. Proactive agenda

In accordance with the Investment Committee’s proactive agenda, NCPs should maintain regular contact, including meetings, with social partners and other stakeholders in order to: a) consider new developments and emerging practices concerning responsible business conduct; b) support the positive contributions enterprises can make to identify and respond to risks of adverse impacts associated with particular products, regions, sectors or industries.

28. Did the NCP identify new emerging challenges for enterprises, or engage in any related activities?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

D. Co-operation and peer learning

In addition to contributing to the Committee’s work to enhance the effectiveness of the Guidelines, NCPs will engage in joint peer learning activities. In particular, they are encouraged to engage in horizontal, thematic peer reviews and voluntary NCP peer evaluations. Such peer learning can be carried out through meetings at the OECD or through direct co-operation between NCPs.

29. Did the NCP engage in direct co-operation with other NCPs?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

30. Is the NCP interested in volunteering for a peer evaluation?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

31. Is the NCP interested in being part of the team conducting a voluntary peer evaluation?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

E. Specific instances

32. Did the NCP develop procedures for handling specific instances?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

33. How many new specific instances did the NCP receive in the reporting period?

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Human rights and environmental issues in Laos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leading NCP</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting NCP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The Austrian National Contact Point has received a complaint in connection with the Xayaburi dam project and has, in accordance with the Procedural Guidance, started the initial assessment of whether the issues raised merit further examination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theme/s</td>
<td>IV. Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date specific instance received</td>
<td>9 Apr 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host country/ies</td>
<td>Austria, Laos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry sector</td>
<td>Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>The initial assessment of whether the issues raised merit further examination has been started.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Initial assessment</th>
<th>Assistance to parties</th>
<th>Conclusion of the procedures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From date: 9 Apr 2014</td>
<td>From date:</td>
<td>From date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To date:</td>
<td>To date:</td>
<td>To date:</td>
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</tbody>
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34. Do you have any updates on specific instances that were reported and not concluded in the previous reporting period?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

F. Useful experiences and future work

34. Provide any other information on the nature and results of NCP activities during this implementation cycle of the updated Guidelines, including on any useful experiences and/or difficulties encountered in carrying out the duties of the NCP.

The Austrian NCP is strongly convinced that close cooperation between the NCPs and peer learnings in regards to promotion activities and workshops are very useful and strengthen the general coherence among NCPs.

35. Based on your recent activities, what issues might deserve particular attention during the 2014-2015 implementation cycle of the OECD Guidelines?

In the view of the Austrian NCP the following issues do deserve more attention: supporting peer learning and peer evaluations; facilitating capacity-building for NCPs; supporting NCP performance and strengthening the role of NCPs in specific instances.
## NCP CONTACT INFORMATION

| Contact          | Austrian National Contact Point  
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy</td>
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</table>
| Address          | Stubenring 1  
|                  | 1011 Vienna |
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