

**DIRECTORATE FOR FINANCIAL AND ENTERPRISE AFFAIRS  
INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

**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**

*The document is available in PDF format only.*

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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 (BMWFW)

#### 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?  Yes  No

5. Was the NCP structure modified in the reporting period?  Yes  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?

Yes  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:**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>ILO?</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| <b>UN Global Compact and its local networks?</b>                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| <b>UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights?</b>                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| <b>National Institution for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights?</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| <b>Global Reporting Initiative?</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| <b>ISO26000?</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| <b>Other</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 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**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>From other NCPs?</b>                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| <b>From the business community?</b>                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| <b>From labour organisations?</b>                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| <b>From non-governmental organisations?</b>        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| <b>From governments of non-adhering countries?</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| <b>Other</b>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 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?**

<b>Title</b>	Human rights and environmental issues in Laos
<b>Leading NCP</b>	Austria
<b>Supporting NCP</b>	
<b>Description</b>	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.

<b>Theme/s</b>	IV. Human Rights		
<b>Date specific instance received</b>	9 Apr 2014		
<b>Host country/ies</b>	Austria, Laos		
<b>Source</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade Union <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NGO <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Other interested parties		
<b>Industry sector</b>	Construction		
<b>Status</b>	In progress		
<b>Summary</b>	The initial assessment of whether the issues raised merit further examination has been started.		
<b>Initial assessment</b>	<b>Assistance to parties</b>	<b>Conclusion of the procedures</b>	
From date: 9 Apr 2014	From date:	From date:	
To date:	To date:	To date:	

**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

<b>Contact</b>	Austrian National Contact Point Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy
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