THE OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

The guidelines for Multinational Enterprises are recommendations jointly addressed by the OECD governments to multinational enterprises operating in their territories. They represent the collective expectations of these governments concerning the behaviour and activities of multinational enterprises. Observance of the Guidelines is voluntary and not legally enforceable. Their objective is to provide guidance to multinational enterprises by setting standards addressed to these enterprises. In particular, they should help to ensure that their operations are in harmony with the national policies of the countries where they operate and to strengthen the basis of mutual confidence between enterprises and governments.

The OECD’s Committee on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises periodically, or if a Member country so requests, exchanges views on matters related to the Guidelines. The Committee is responsible for reviewing application of the Guidelines and for providing clarifications as required. (*) The "social partners" are regularly consulted through the Business Advisory Committee to OECD and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to OECD and are invited to express their views on matters related to the Guidelines.

The Committee cannot reach conclusions on the conduct of individual enterprises.