



Round Table

Reconciling EU policies in the field of *Trade, Business and Human Rights*

Hosted by Richard Howitt, MEP,

European Parliament Rapporteur on Corporate Social Responsibility

In cooperation with FIDH, ECCJ and FOEE

13 July 2011, European Parliament, Room A5G2

Programme

Welcome words (9.30 am- 9.45 am)

Richard Howitt, MEP, European Parliament Rapporteur on Corporate Social Responsibility

9.45 – 10 am

General Introduction: EU's global agenda: the need for more consistency and coherence

Kristiina Kouros, Vice-President FIDH

Mariarosa Cutillo, ECCJ Board Member

FIRST SESSION (10 am – 13 am)

Business and Human rights : giving meaning to the obligation of the EU to protect human rights

Chair : Richard Howitt, MEP, European Parliament Rapporteur on Corporate Social Responsibility

This session will look at the role the EU can play to ensure that European Business corporations do not harm human rights in their direct or indirect operations abroad. The framework and the Guiding Principles proposed by the SRSG on Business and Human Rights to be adopted by the HR Council in June are useful to identify steps that could be taken both by States and business corporations. This session will focus on concrete proposals to the EU to discharge its obligation to protect human rights.





Interventions (10 am – 11.am)

1- The duty of the EU and Member States to Protect: regulate business and provide remedies. An insight into the UN framework 'Respect, Protect and Remedy and Guiding Principles'.

Sheldon Leader, Essex Business and Human Rights Project

2. Reflections on the legal framework of EU companies operating outside the EU

Author of the Edinburgh Study (TBC)

3- Concrete steps the EU can take in terms of mandatory reporting, access to justice and due diligence

Filip Gregor, ECCJ Board Member

11.00 – 11.30. Coffee break

11.30 am – 1 pm

Decision Makers Round Table / Respondents

Moderation: ECCJ

- Richard Howitt, MEP, European Parliament Rapporteur on Corporate Social Responsibility

- JURI (TBC)

- INTA (TBC)

- Tom Dodd, DG Internal Market

- Representatives from DG Justice, DG internal market, DG enterprise, EEAS

- Business representative (TBC)

- Friends of the Earth representative (Paul De Clerck)

1 pm – 2 pm: lunch break

SECOND SESSION (2 pm-5pm)

Trade and investment agreements and Human Rights

Chair: Tokia Saifi, Member of the European Parliament, INTA, rapporteure « trade and Human Rights » (TBC)

This session will look at the links between trade and human rights at the EU level. It will highlight the different models of trade agreements (in the framework of an association agreement at the regional level, bilateral free trade agreements etc.) and the scope and implementation mechanisms of the human rights clauses. Concrete proposals for a better implementation of human rights objectives in the EU will be put forward including HRIAs.





Interventions (2pm to 3.30 pm)

Introduction to Trade and Human Rights

OHCHR (TBC)

1- Human Rights in EU agreements with third countries and application to trade

Lorand Bartels, Cambridge University

2- New Trends in EU trade and investment policies

Maria Cecilia Olivet, TNI (TBC)

3- Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIA): a tool to reconcile trade agreements and Human rights ?

Armin Paash, Misereor

Andrew Odete, Kenya Human Rights Commission

4- Triggering General System of Preferences + mechanisms in case of ILO fundamental rights violations

Jeff Vogt, ITUC

Decision makers round-table/ respondents (3.30 – 5 pm)

Moderation : FIDH

Representative from DG Trade

MEPs, Member of:

PSE, DROI + INTA

PPE, INTA

ALDE, DROI, VP INTA

Greens, VO INTA

Gue, INTA

PSE, VP INTA

PPE, VP DROI + INTA, EP annual report on HR

VP ALDE, INTA

Greens, DROI

Representatives of member states

