

Invitation to an online seminar:

HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE (HRDD) AND RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT IN THE EU

The European Worker Participation Competence Centre (EWPPC) and the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) in cooperation with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) invite you to this workshop.

13 January 2021, 9:30-13:00

Background

Human rights due diligence (HRDD) and responsible business conduct have come to the forefront of the EU legislative agenda. Policymakers and the public at large are becoming increasingly aware that the current voluntary approach of business to human rights and responsible business conduct is not sufficient to guarantee a high level of respect for basic rights in supply chains and other areas impacted by business behaviour. A number of initiatives have been undertaken at the national level mandating due diligence in large companies and the European Parliament and EU Council have called for a legislative proposal in this area. The European Commission commissioned two major studies relating to this topic and started a public consultation, and is expected to issue a proposal in the first half of 2021.

This seminar will discuss the need for a mandatory approach to HRDD and responsible business conduct in the EU. The first session will discuss what HRDD is and what the ETUC's demands are in this area. The second session will focus on the crucial issue of how to define company liability in this legislation. The seminar will take place online and will include sufficient time for participants to pose questions and discuss with experts.

Working languages

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in **English, German, French, Spanish and Italian**.

Registration

Please fill in the online registration form under the following link [Click Here To Register](#) by **7 January 2021 at the latest**. You will receive a link to the meeting shortly before the 13th of January.

Additional Information

Should you need any additional information please do not hesitate to contact the ETUI Secretariat (crihoux@etui.org).

Yours sincerely,

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Research Department, ETUI

Aline Hoffmann
Coordinator of the European Workers'
Participation Competence Centre, ETUI

Seminar

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FINAL AGENDA

9.30-11.00 **Session 1: Why would a mandatory HRDD framework make the difference?**

Welcome and introduction Aline Hoffmann (ETUI) and Isabelle Schömann (ETUC)

What is HRDD? What are some examples of mandatory HRDD?

- Francis West (Shift)

What are the ETUC's demands for legislation on HRDD?

- Stefan Clauwaert (ETUC)

Moderation: Sigurt Vitols (ETUI)

11-11:30 Break

11:30-13:00 **Session 2: Why and how to address the issue of company liability in EU legislation on HRDD?**

Lessons from the EU Timber Regulation

- Tony Berggren (Swedish Union of Forestry, Wood and Graphical Workers)

French "duty of vigilance" law and lessons to be learnt on liability

- Christophe Clerc (Sciences Po Paris)

Company/HR aspects of liability

- Paige Morrow (ARTICLE 19)

Labour law aspects of company liability

- Aristeia Koukiadaki (Manchester U.) (tbc)

Moderation: Isabelle Schömann (ETUC)

13:00 **End of seminar**