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THE AFRICAN FORUM IN BRUSSELS



Round Table on Transparency, Anti-corruption Measures and Business Ethics

Expert Working Group Meeting

14-15 July 2011, Wittenberg, Germany

During the last decade, many public and private initiatives have been taken in order to eliminate illegal, socially and ecologically harmful business practices. Many voluntary initiatives have been put forward such as the Kimberly Process or the EITI. More recently, the US Congress adopted the Dodd-Frank amendments art 1502-1504, which introduces an innovative and compulsory system to increase transparency in the extractive industry activities. In addition, many governments have adopted legislation inspired by the OECD anti-bribery work, like the UK Bribery Act. The European Commission is currently preparing legislation in this same direction, though more focussed on anti-corruption.

This Round Table aims to bring together experts in order to introduce the business ethics dimension in these debates and to strengthen a comprehensive European approach and to exchange views how to combat most effectively illegal business practices in developing countries, in particular in Africa.

Its practical outcome should be to *provide concrete inputs* to the ongoing work of the Platform on Democratic Government and Human Rights of the EU-AU Joint Strategy, which is preparing a document on possible inputs for future EU legislation, and to the work started in the European Parliament.

Each session will be introduced by an invited expert, who will provide participants with an abstract in advance. This will be followed by a discussion round. At the end of each session, operational conclusions will be drawn, which will be included in the final recommendations.

Draft Agenda

Thursday 14th of July

18:00-20:00 Arrival of Participants & Check-in Hotel

*Best Western Stadtpalais Wittenberg
Collegienstrasse 56/57, Wittenberg*

20:30-22:30 Dinner offered by Mazungumzo and Wittenberg Centre

Meeting at the Lobby of the Best Western Hotel

Friday 15th July

08.30-09:00 Welcome: The Objectives of the Round Table

*By Professor Arnis Vilks & Stefan Schepers
Wittenberg Centre for Global Ethics & Mazungumzo*

09:15-10:15 Session 1: The role of business ethics in companies and in markets

*By Dr Ibrahim Bangura
Wittenberg Centre for Global Ethics*



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10.15-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-11:45 Session 2: Evaluation of current public voluntary and legislative initiatives

*Initiatives at Member States/ EU level: By Eduardo Mulas, Hon. Secretary Mazungumzo
Evaluation and contextualisation: By Giulio Carini, Global Witness*

11:45-12:45 Session 3: Public and Private Criteria to be applied

*By Peter L. Menzel,
Theodor-Heuss-Akademie, Friedrich Naumann Foundation*

13:15-14:30 Lunch

14:30-15:45 General Debate: Transparency, Anti-corruption and Ethical criteria in future EU legislation

*Moderated by Dr Stefan Schepers,
Chairman Mazungumzo – The African Forum in Brussels*

15:45-16:30 Conclusions and recommendations

Practical information:

- *Working language:* English
- *Number of participants:* Maximum of 15 experts
- *Participation expenses:* Participation is on invitation only and free of charge. The Wittenberg Centre and Mazungumzo will offer one night hotel and all meals (dinner on the 14th and lunch on the 15th).
- *Deadline for registration:* 11th July 2011
- *Venue of Round Table:* Wittenberg Center for Global Ethics
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REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Form Attached