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DIRECTORATE FOR FINANCIAL, FISCAL AND ENTERPRISE AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AND MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

Working Party on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE  
OECD GUIDELINES HELD ON 17-21 APRIL 2000

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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY  
ON THE GUIDELINES HELD ON 17-21 APRIL 2000**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Working Party on the Guidelines (WPG) met on 17-19a.m April and continued its meeting on 20 and 21 April. It adopted the Agenda as set out in DAFFE/IME/WPG/A(2000)2.

**2. Approval of the Summary record of the February Meeting**

The Working Party approved without amendments the Summary Record of its meeting held on 21-23 February 2000 [DAFFE/IME/WPG/M(2000)1].

**3. Reports on Guidelines Related Work Elsewhere**

The Chair reported on the informal meeting held in Amsterdam in March with business, labour and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). He also reported on a telephone conference organised by the BIAC.

The Chair also reported on the consultations with BIAC, TUAC and NGOs held on 14 April 2000 [an aide-mémoire was subsequently issued as DAFFE/IME(2000)13]. He noted the aide-mémoire concerning the February consultations [DAFFE/IME(2000)11].

The Chair drew attention to the written contributions submitted by BIAC, TUAC and NGOs [DAFFE/IME/WPG/RD(2000)16], and to the public comments received on the web by business, NGOs and individuals [DAFFE/IME/WPG/RD(2000)10].

The Secretariat reported on the meetings held in other OECD Committees, including in the Working Group on Bribery, the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee, the Environment Policy Committee and the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy.

**4. Integrated Text and Commentary**

The Working Party:

- Held an exchange of views on the draft integrated text and commentary [DAFFE/IME/WPG(99)18/REV5];
- Noted the views and comments made by Delegations, including written comments by Australia (Employment and Industrial Relations), Austria (Concepts and Principles, Employment and Industrial Relations, and Consumer Interests), and Sweden (Environment, Combating Bribery, and Taxation), as well as the comments of the ILO representative [these written contributions were subsequently issued as DAFFE/IME/WPG/RD(2000)20];
- Invited the Secretariat to prepare a revised draft text and commentary for consideration by the Working Party in May, taking into account the results of the discussions and the summing up by the Chair [subsequently issued as DAFFE/IME/WPG(99)18/REV6].

## 5. Implementation Procedures of the Guidelines

The Working Party:

- Held an exchange of views on the basis of the Secretariat note on a draft Council Decision and Procedural Annex [DAFFE/IME/WPG(2000)5];
- Noted the views and comments made by Delegations, including written comments by Austria (Procedural Annex), Canada (Decision and Procedural Annex), France (Procedural Annex), Germany (Procedural Annex), Japan (Procedural Annex), and Mexico (Decision and Procedural Annex) [these written contributions were subsequently issued as DAFPE/IME/WPG/RD(2000)20];
- Invited the Secretariat to prepare a revised draft Council Decision, Procedural Annex and commentary for consideration by the Working Party in May, taking into account the results of the discussions and the summing up by the Chair [DAFFE/IME/WPG/RD(2000)17 reflects the WPG discussions; the revised draft was subsequently issued as DAFPE/IME/WPG(2000)5/REV1].

## 6. Preparing for the June meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level

In view of the discussions held on the draft Report to Ministers [DAFFE/IME(2000)8] in the Committee on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises on 19 April, the Chair proposed that no further debate take place in the Working Party at this stage.

The Chair suggested returning to the issue in May when the Working Party could consider the documentation to be presented at the June Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level.

## 7. Future Work and Other Business

### *(a) Communications / Document Dissemination*

It was agreed that the revised text and commentary, as well as the revised paper on implementation procedures would be communicated to BIAC, TUAC and NGOs.

However, in view of the short lapse of time between the April and May meeting, the Working Party agreed that it would not be useful at this stage to solicit further public comments. The material available on the OECD website would thus remained unchanged.

### *(b) Meetings through June*

The Working Party noted the prospective schedule of events through until the June Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level, based on an updated Secretariat note [DAFFE/INV/IME/RD(2000)2/REV2]. The Working Party agreed to meet next on 15p.m.-16 May 2000.

**(c) *Participation of Experts***

As for the April meeting, the Working Party agreed to invite the CSD, ILO, UNCTAD, UNEP and WTO to send experts to the Working Party meeting in May.

**(d) *Consultations***

The Working Party:

- Was informed by the Chair that, in view of the short lapse of time between the April and May meeting and of the advanced stage of the Review, it would not be practicable to hold further informal consultations with business, labour and NGOs in the Netherlands;
- Agreed to hold further consultations on the Guidelines with BIAC, TUAC and NGOs on the morning of 15 May.

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