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**TD/TC/WP/RD(99)1**



Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**OLIS : 22-Mar-1999**  
**Dist. : 23-Mar-1999**

PARIS

**TRADE DIRECTORATE  
TRADE COMMITTEE**

**Or. Eng.**

**TD/TC/WP/RD(99)1  
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**Working Party of the Trade Committee**

**CODES OF CORPORATE CONDUCT**

**26 March 1999**

*This room document reports to Delegations on the status of work on preparing an updated version of the inventory of codes of corporate conduct contained in document [TD/TC/WP(98)74].*

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**Or. Eng.**

1. At the meeting on 26 January, the Working Party agreed that the Secretariat would proceed with collecting information on additional codes for inclusion in the factual inventory, in particular, for countries not yet covered by the inventory [TD/TC/WP(98)74]. Delegates were encouraged to provide the Secretariat with relevant additional information on codes in support of this work.
2. This note informs Member countries of the progress of this activity.
3. Since the last Working Party, the Secretariat has contacted delegations and stakeholders and received additional information on certain codes and code activities.
4. To date, the Secretariat has collected an additional 39 policy statements issued by companies and other entities in the OECD countries. Information is still not available for the following countries: **Hungary, Iceland, Poland and Portugal**. In addition, the information obtained from **Belgium, Denmark, Finland and Norway** is very limited.
5. Each text is currently being analysed to determine whether or not it qualifies as a code of corporate conduct. As in the previous document, codes of corporate governance or company credos *per se* are not regarded as “codes of corporate conduct” in this project, and thus they are not included in the inventory. The texts that are determined to qualify will be further analysed and added to the inventory, which in the original version contained 182 codes.
6. The Secretariat expects to obtain some more codes, in particular from sources in the OECD countries that are not well represented in the samples. It aims at presenting at the April Working Party an updated inventory that will contain analysis of the codes newly obtained.
7. Following its communications with stakeholders in the process of collecting information on codes, the Secretariat has received many inquiries from individuals and organisations about whether they will be able to access the inventory. In fact, the inventory has aroused considerable interest inside and outside OECD, and much information contained has come from outside sources. Delegates may thus wish to consider whether some limited dissemination of the inventory could be envisaged in the near term, before possible consideration of declassification at the appropriate stage in the project.