



Virtual Policymakers Roundtable on
**Regulatory Developments concerning
Due Diligence for Responsible Business Conduct**

14 June 2021
11.30 – 17:00 CET

[Please register here](#)

•AGENDA•

OPENING	11:30 – 12:30	Setting the scene Updates on regulatory developments
SESSION 1	12:45– 14:45	Deep-dive SMEs and Responsible Business Conduct: the Role of Due Diligence
SESSION 2	15:00 – 17:00	Deep-dive Due diligence and environment

** Interpretation in French and Spanish will be available.*

OPENING	11:30 – 12:30	Setting the scene Updates on regulatory developments
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Currently several governments are introducing or implementing legislation calling on companies to undertake social and environmental due diligence aligned with OECD guidance. This session will provide an overview of key developments and updates on regulatory developments with respect to due diligence for responsible business conduct (RBC). It will also provide an opportunity for participating policymakers to share experiences and raise questions related to the development or implementation of due diligence policies in their own jurisdictions.

WELCOME REMARKS

- **Christine Kaufmann**, Chair, OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct
- **Dante Pesce**, Member, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

PRESENTATION OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT EUROPEAN UNION LEVEL

- **Lucrezia Busa**, Member of Cabinet of Commissioner Reynders, European Commission

TOUR DE TABLE WITH PARTICIPANTS

- Moderated by **Tyler Gillard**, Head of Due Diligence, Responsible Business Conduct Centre, OECD

SESSION 1	12:45 – 14:45	Deep-dive SMEs and Responsible Business Conduct: the role of due diligence
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Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are vital to delivering sustainable and inclusive economic growth. In view of the discussions around development of environmental and social due diligence legislation, and to ensure coherence of policy objectives and instrumentation with the wider SME policy perspective, this deep-dive session will explore how RBC can be fostered amongst SMEs and the extent to which SMEs should be subject to the same due diligence expectations as larger companies.

This session is organised in cooperation with the Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship and the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities.

MODERATOR

- **Barbara Bijelic**, Legal Expert, Responsible Business Conduct Centre, OECD

DISCUSSION:

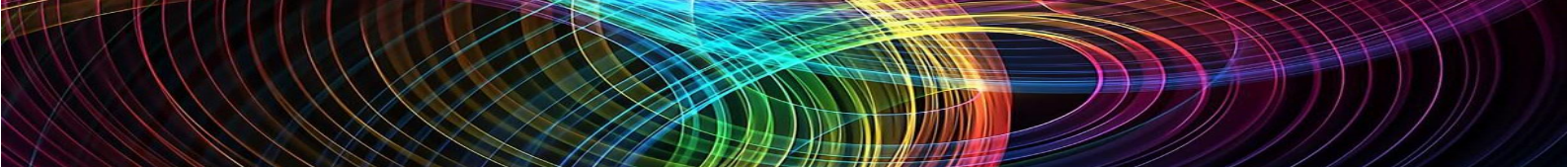
What is the role of SMES in global economic challenges and opportunities for RBC?

Scene setting:

- **Stephan Raes**, Policy Analyst on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions & Cities, OECD

Initial interventions:

- **Chris Moran**, Director General, Trade Portfolio Strategy and Coordination, Global Affairs Canada



What are benefits, risks, and alternatives with respect to an exclusionary approach to regulation and ways to build proportionality in law?

Initial interventions:

- **Michela Lafranconi**, SME unit, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission
- **Frances Finney PSM**, Assistant Secretary of the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Branch, Australian Border Force
- **Erwin Annys**, Head of Unit Support and Enforcement, European Chemical Agency (ECHA)

How government can support RBC and effective due diligence amongst SMEs through SME internationalisation policies and complementary measures?

Initial interventions:

- **Michael Elkin**, Chief Technical Adviser SCORE Programme, SME Unit, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- **Florian van Altena**, Economic Policy Officer, International Entrepreneurship Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
- **Edgardo Rodriguez**, Head of the Human Rights directorate within the Ministry of Justice, Peru
- **Hannes Mac Nulty**, Senior Green Industry Advisor, Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP)

SESSION 2

15:00 – 17:00

Deep-dive Due diligence and environment

This deep dive session will explore different dimensions of environmental supply chain due diligence in the context of ongoing regulatory initiatives in this field. Policymakers will be invited to share relevant experiences and examples based on existing policy, regulation and initiatives to promote environmental due diligence for RBC, including across supply chains, and with regard to respect to specific challenges (e.g. climate change and deforestation) or sectors (e.g. agriculture or financial sector). They will also be invited to identify and discuss outstanding issues to be resolved in the context of including an environmental due diligence obligation into law.

MODERATOR

- **Stephanie Venuti**, Environment Lead, Responsible Business Conduct Centre, OECD

DISCUSSION:

Whether and how environmental impacts should be defined in the context of mandatory due diligence rules based on OECD Guidance?

Initial interventions:

- **Jorge Rodríguez Romero**, Deputy Head of Unit, Multilateral Environmental Cooperation, European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment
- **Sophie Jones**, Team Leader of Sustainable Commodities, International Nature, Climate and Development Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom
- **Raphael Jachnik**, Policy Analyst, Environment Directorate, OECD

What are the implications for compliance and enforcement with respect to OECD recommendations on due diligence for environmental impacts, and intersection with current domestic and international environmental regulatory frameworks?

Initial interventions:

- **Naomi Sugo**, Deputy Director, Environment and Economy Division, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
- **Maylis Souque**, Secretary-General of the French National Contact Point and Senior Advisor on Corporate Social Responsibility / Responsible Business Conduct, Directorate General of the Treasury, Ministry of Economy and Finance, France
- **Susanne Gasde**, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility Unit, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany and **Annette Schmidt-Räntsch**, Environment and Economy, Sustainable Corporate Governance, Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

What mutually reinforcing principles and practices exists across international human rights and environmental due diligence and law?

Initial interventions:

- **Agripina Jenkins Rojas**, Advisor, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica (tbc)
- **Lene Wendland**, Chief, Business and Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights