



Interest Group on International Business and Human Rights

Invitation to the IG B&HR Meeting 2016

We cordially invite you to the IG B&HR Meeting prior to the ESIL Annual Conference 2016:

When: Wednesday, 7th September 2016

Time: 14:30-17:00

Where: Riga Graduate School of Law, Room W-31,
Strēlniekuiela 4 A, Riga.

The Coordinating Committee of the Interest Group on Business and Human Rights invites its members to join a discussion on the role of the business sector in the funding to development. The questions addressed will be:

- 1) What are the challenges and opportunities offered by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to strengthen the role of the international instruments and standards on business and human rights?
- 2) What are the obligations of the private sector?
- 3) Which mechanisms are available to ensure the implementation of these obligations?

Non-State Actors, Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals: An Opportunity for International Law in Times of Crisis?

International negotiations regarding the funding to development and the Agenda Post-2015 have put in sharp focus divergent opinions in two points: which responsibilities should be heard by poor countries to realize the sustainable development goals and which commitments must be taken by rich countries in the context of the cooperation to sustainable development? There is nevertheless a large consensus on the role of the private sector: all stakeholders agree that non-state actors play an essential role for the economy. Even in developed countries, the private sector represents more than 90% of job creation and allows to collectivities to fund – through taxes – public services and social institutions. The 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development agree that the private sector must be associated to States and international organizations to fund economic, environmental and social projects to achieve the objectives of the Agenda Post-2015 while respecting international agreements and standards on human rights.

Contact:

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Dennis West, PhD Candidate, University of Basel, dennis.west@bluewin.ch



DRAFT PROGRAMME

Welcome address

Mara Tignino – Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of the Platform for International Water Law/Geneva Water Hub, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva; Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Interest Group on “International Business and Human Rights”.

Opening Speech

Laurence Boisson de Chazournes – Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva; Former President of the European Society of International Law.

Chair: Marta Bordignon – Lecturer of Contemporary Politics of Europe, Temple University (Rome Campus); Assistant Researcher, Faculty of Law, University of Seville; Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Interest Group on “International Business and Human Rights”.

Speakers

- **Chiara Macchi** – Postdoctoral Researcher in International Human Rights Law, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies.
- **Roberto Rando** – Senior Complaints Officer, European Investment Bank.
- **Kirsteen Shields** – Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Dundee; Co-Chair of the Interest Group on “Human Rights” of the American Society of International Law.

3.45-4.15pm
Questions & Answers

Conclusions

Owen McIntyre – Professor, Faculty of Law, University College Cork, Ireland.

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Business meeting of the Interest Group

From 17:00 to 18:00

Latvian Constitutional Court, Riga

PROPOSED AGENDA

- Next events of the Interest Group.
- Cooperation with the Interest Group on “Human Rights” of the American Society of International Law.
- Exchange of information on the activities of the members of the Interest Group (website, regular emails etc.).
- Other issues.

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