

2nd International Conference on "Standards & Guidelines" - September 11, 2017, OECD Conference Center



Paris, France June 16, 2017 –

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

For the second consecutive year, ETHIC Intelligence is gathering professionals and international experts in the field of anti-corruption compliance to discuss recent developments across the globe on this important issue. Join us at the [OECD Conference Center](#) in Paris on September 1, 2017!

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Beyond guidelines: 20 years of dialogue

When, as a member of the OECD Secretary General's cabinet in the 1990s, I was privileged to participate in the negotiations which led to the [Anti-Bribery Convention of 1997](#), I had no idea that the dozen or so pages of the Convention would have such a profound impact not only on international business practices, but also on the way civil society views the relevant players in international business and global politics.

The numbers alone are impressive. Following the Convention hundreds of companies were sanctioned for corruption and received very heavy fines. Dozens of individuals - including executives – were convicted and sentenced to prison. That is not what is important, however.

In my opinion, what is important is the fact that public opinion no longer tolerates corruption at any level and most companies now demonstrate zero tolerance for corrupt business practices.

It is easy to condemn and forbid corruption. It is much more difficult to ensure that this crime – hidden by necessity – is not committed. It is essential that we reflect collectively on the subject to identify best practices to prevent and detect corruption and then enshrine these recommendations into guidelines for dissemination to as many stakeholders as possible.

The publication of guidelines has increased over the past 20 years and they have originated with international organizations, national authorities, professional associations and most recently with the [International Organization for Standardization](#) (ISO).

But more important than the publication of these guidelines is the dialogue undertaken by governments, companies and civil society all of whom contribute to their creation. It is essential that this dialogue continue even after the publication of the guidelines. Why? Because the time when corruption was represented by a suitcase full of bank notes is over. Because corruption is a crime committed by intelligent people. Because, year after year, corruption becomes more complex and obscure.

It is my ambition for this second annual international conference on standards & guidelines to continue this ongoing dialogue between the citizens that we are - civil servants, business professionals, politicians, taxpayers - in order to contribute to the effective eradication of corruption.

Philippe Montigny

President, ETHIC Intelligence

Program

Monday, 11 September 2017

9:30 Registration

10:30 Opening

- Anti-corruption Standards and Guidelines: meeting stakeholders' expectations
Philippe Montigny, President, ETHIC Intelligence (Paris)
- From dialogue to guidelines: 20 years of Anti-Corruption Convention

11:00 Panel 1

National anti-corruption guidelines: establishing dialogue between the public and private sectors

The countries which have issued guidelines, obligatory or not, did so after an extensive consultation among authorities, companies and civil society. To what extent have these guidelines contributed to a more effective fight against corruption?

- Moderator: *Stephane Bonifassi, [Bonifassi Avocats](#) (Paris)*

12:00 Panel 2

OECD - G20/B20 - ICC - extending versus deepening the dialogue

The issue of a level playing field is crucial for companies operating internationally, however, the ways in which individual countries prosecute corruption differs substantially. Initiatives abound which try to convince every country to incriminate an act of transnational corruption. At the same time, in the OECD zone, more work is needed to harmonize the disparate methods of prosecution and sanction. Where are the priorities? How can we accelerate the process? What role can multi-nationals play within the OECD's Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) or the B20?

- Moderator: *Philippe Montigny, President, ETHIC Intelligence (Paris)*

13:00 Buffet lunch

14:30 Panel 3

ISO 37001: facilitating the dialogue between economic and public actors

An [ISO 37001 certification](#) ensures that a company's corruption prevention program meets international best practices. Designed as much for the private sector as for the public sector, the ISO 37001 is also a way for companies and public entities to communicate on their commitment to

corruption prevention. Under which conditions will this new standard – published in 2016 – be able to bring comfort and confidence to the public vis-à-vis the business community, public institutions and political parties?

- Moderator: *Kristy Grant-Hart, CEO, [Spark Compliance](#), (London)*

15:45 Coffee break

16:15 Panel 4:

The Tainted Assets Initiative: encouraging dialogue to agree on guidelines

External growth is an important activity for the development of any company. Unfortunately, and often in spite of the prerequisite due diligence, an acquiring company runs the risk of discovering, after the fact, a pre-existing act of corruption. These discoveries can have an impact not only on the company's projected turnover, but also on the company's risk of criminal prosecution. Faced with the risks linked to acquisitions in developing countries, some companies choose not to get involved in these areas which are sorely in need of investment. In addition, foreign direct investment is important for its concomitant transfers of technology and know-how. How can this trend be reversed? Will guidelines which respect international best practices allow companies to conduct a sufficient level of due diligence and even offer a certain legal protection? Initially supported by a small number of companies, the initiative is expanding thanks in part to the interest and support of the Legal Department of the OECD.

- Moderator: [Karina Litvack](#), Non-Executive Director, ENI, founder of the initiative

17 h 15: Panel 5:

From the law of silence to open dialogue

Richard Bistrong was arrested in 2007 for having paid bribes to foreign public officials. Since serving his sentence, Richard has dedicated his life to the promotion of anti-corruption compliance through his site, blog and participation in conferences which specialize in anti-corruption compliance. He travels the world meeting business leaders to share his experience and offer practical advice. "We all have challenges in our lives and work, if we speak about them, we can address them together, and reduce the power and probability that they will lead to a 'tipping point'

to the wrong side of ethical conduct” in “**From behind the bribe: the sharp end of compliance.**”

- Guest Speaker: *Richard Bistrong, CEO, [Front-line Anti-Bribery LLC](#), New York)*
- Interviewed by:
 - *Philippe Montigny, President, ETHIC Intelligence (Paris)*
 - *Robertson Park, Lawyer, [Murphy & McGonigle](#) (New York), former DoJ Prosecutor*

18 h 00: End of Conference followed by a cocktail

Practical details

Lieu:

OECD Conference Centre

Château de la Muette

2, rue André Pascal,

75116 Paris - France

Working language:

English/French with simultaneous translation

Security:

For security reasons, the list of participants will close on Wednesday, September 6th and will be communicated to the OECD.

Participants will be required to show identification

Participants are encouraged to arrive early enough so as not to be delayed by security.

Registration:

Registration fees: 350€ (includes buffet lunch and cocktail)

Participation is subject to written confirmation by ETHIC Intelligence

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Please register at:

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