



Note of the 1st meeting of the Advisory Board of the OECD National Contact Point on Responsible Business Conduct

On **October 4, 2024**, the first meeting of the **Advisory Board of the Polish OECD NCP for Responsible Business Conduct** (hereinafter: the 'OECD NCP Advisory Board' or 'Board'), established by the Order of the Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy of 14 June 2024 on the establishment of the OECD NCP Advisory Board for Responsible Business Conduct (Journal of Laws of the Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy 2024, item 25), was held at the headquarters of the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy (MFiPR) in Warsaw.

The meeting was attended by:

Representatives of the MFiPR:

- **Ms Katarzyna Pełczyńska-Nałęcz**, Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy;
- **Ms Monika Kusina-Pycińska**, Director of the European Affairs and International Cooperation Department, MFiPR – **Chair of the Advisory Board of the OECD NCP**;
- **Ms Jacqueline Kacprzak**, Counsellor, Polish OECD National Contact Point for RBC, European Affairs and International Cooperation Department, MFiPR;
- **Ms Małgorzata Kłoś**, Chief expert, Polish OECD National Contact Point for RBC, European Affairs and International Cooperation Department, MFiPR;
- **Ms Katarzyna David**, Chief expert, Polish OECD National Contact Point for RBC, European Affairs and International Cooperation Department, MFiPR.

Advisory Board members and representatives for two absent members of the Board at this meeting included:

- **Mr Karol Perkowski**, Deputy Director of the Department of Dialogue and Social Partnership, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy;
- **Mr Dawid Sobczyński**, Chief Specialist, Department of International Cooperation and European Funds, Ministry of State Assets;
- **Ms Nadia Winiarska** (substituting for Mr **Robert Lisicki**), expert from the Department of Labour, The Polish Confederation Lewiatan;
- **Mr Norbert Kusiak**, Director of the Department of Economic Policy, OPZZ (All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions);
- **Ms Beata Faracik**, President of the Board, Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business;
- **Mr Miłosz Jakubowski** (substituting for Mr **Bartosz Kwiatkowski**) from the Frank Bold Foundation;
- Professor **Bolesław Rok** from Koźmiński University.



The meeting was formally open by **Ms Katarzyna Pełczyńska-Nałęcz**, the Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy, who emphasized the importance of cooperation with stakeholders and presented appointments to the Advisory Board for the Chair and seven members of the Board.

The meeting was subsequently chaired by **Ms Monika Kusina-Pycińska**, Chair of the Advisory Board.

Members of the Board were introduced in detail to the responsibilities of the OECD NCP defined in the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct, 2023 edition* (OECD Guidelines), on which they will provide the Polish OECD NCP consultative and advisory support, i.e.:

- promoting the OECD Guidelines (as well as related OECD Sectoral Guidances and OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct (RBC))
- conducting proceedings based on notifications of alleged breaches of the OECD Guidelines;
- supporting the coherence of government policies for RBC.

Members of the OECD NCP Advisory Board were also briefed on:

- the number of proceedings currently being conducted by the Polish OECD NCP in relation to notifications of alleged breaches of the OECD Guidelines by companies;
- the status of implementation of the recommendations formulated during the Peer Review of the Polish OECD NCP, which took place on June 28-29, 2023.

The draft rules of procedure of the OECD NCP Advisory Board were discussed, to which it was agreed to add a new paragraph on the exclusion of an Advisory Board member from part of the meeting in a situation of conflict of interest.

The participants of the meeting adopted the proposed schedule of Advisory Board meetings, which foresees three Board meetings in 2025 (in March/April, in June and in November). These will be dedicated to topics such as the effective promotion of the OECD Guidelines and OECD Due Diligence Guidance for RBC, the coherence of RBC policies and the status of the proceedings conducted by the Polish OECD NCP.

Participants of the meeting formulated some of the recommendations for the further actions of the Advisory Board:

- Initiate educational activities for administration and courts in connection with the development of ESG regulations and due diligence regulations and explore the possibility of involving the Polish National School of Public Administration (KSAP);
- Start discussions with the Social Dialogue Council (the Social Dialogue Council serves as a central forum in Poland for tripartite dialogue and collaboration among representatives from the workers' side, the employers' side, and the government) about organizing meetings and training for employees and entrepreneurs, as well as utilizing the potential of the Social Dialogue Council as a broad mediation forum;
- Direct educational activities concerning the OECD Guidelines, especially for State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs);



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- Focus on narrow but practical topics where enterprises face difficulties, which are important for proper compliance with legal obligations. An example of such a topic is stakeholder mapping, their role, and cooperation of enterprises with stakeholders;
 - Draw attention to the issue of due diligence in the area of human rights, as this is still a relatively unknown area for enterprises;
 - Emphasize the connection between the OECD Guidelines and legal regulations (references to the OECD Guidelines are found in the CSRD, CSDDD and ESRS directives). The OECD Guidelines as a basis for legal regulations in the ESG area.

Next Steps: The Chair of the Board, **Ms Monika Kusina-Pycińska**, thanked the participants for their valuable recommendations. She informed that the next step would involve representatives of the OECD NCP contacting the authors of these recommendations to discuss them in more detail and consider possible implementation methods. The outcomes of these discussions will be reported at the next Advisory Board meeting in March/April 2025. She expressed hope that by then, it would be possible to discuss specific projects.

Note was prepared by:

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(Polish OECD National Contact Point for RBC)

Warszawa, 18 October 2024 r.