

Press release

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Online conference: “Global Responsibility of Global Enterprises”

The Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection today hosted a high-level online conference on the “Global Responsibility of Global Enterprises” as part of the German EU Council Presidency.

State Secretary **Dr Margaretha Sudhof** came away with the following observations:

“It became evident during the online conference that there are no simple answers to the question of the legal responsibility of global corporations.

Nevertheless, the current situation is clear: In our globalised world, economic interests carry much greater weight than protection standards for people working in subsidiaries of European corporations. Economic interests retain the upper hand and are not in balance with social interests.

The message of today’s event is this: We need stronger protection of human rights. This protection has become urgently necessary – and enforcing it will be a real challenge.

As the German EU Council Presidency, we look forward to pushing ahead on this issue over the coming months. We want to make progress on the subject of business and human rights.

And we look forward to making an essential contribution towards implementing the UN Resolution on sustainable development.”

The online conference got underway with a welcome address by Dr Margaretha Sudhof, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection.

The complete **conference programme** can be found on the conference website:

www.eu2020-bmjv-corporate-governance.de

The conference website also provides information about the conference participants, videos on the conference topics and other materials.

The topics of the conference:

The conference focused on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as a corporate management task and on the liability of parent and subsidiary companies. From the corporate law viewpoint, one significant aspect is the tension between on the one hand wanting to apply European human rights standards to non-European subsidiaries, and on the other hand having regulations in the relevant third countries which may conflict with this external influence. The aim of the event was to develop standards for appropriate and effective corporate management in the interests of better human rights protection.