

Conference

**Strategies for the Improvement of Working Conditions  
within Global Supply Chains**

**3./4.9.2015**

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Hiroshimastraße 17, 10785 Berlin

Grave fire and construction hazards in the workplace, extreme working hours, inadequate pay, gender based violence and restrictions on trade union rights as well as violence against trade unionists are all part of the everyday reality of global supply chains. These conditions have been the subject of increased political and societal debate since the fire disasters in Pakistan and Bangladesh in autumn 2012 and the Rana Plaza catastrophe in Bangladesh in spring 2013. Trade unionists and civil society actors are taking action in a variety of forms in production countries, in consumer states and on the international level in an effort to improve working conditions in global supply chains.

Over the course of our two-day symposium we aim to analyze and reflect on these various international and national strategies. The focus will be on the question of how existing efforts can be improved and better linked with one another. We will also examine the role law and legal interventions can play in this context.

The conference will be held in German and English, simultaneous translation will be provided.

The event is jointly organized by Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB) and Berlin based European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) and is supported by the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.



## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

### 1. Day, 3.9.2015

#### 09:00- 09:15 Welcome Remarks

Jochen Steinhilber, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung  
Oliver Emons, Hans-Böckler-Stiftung  
Frank Zach, German Trade Union Federation / DGB

#### 09:30-11:30 Global supply chain – Economic and Political Background **Neo-Liberal Economy and Global Supply Chain Structures – Stakeholder, Legal Frameworks and the Promise of Social Up Grading (Presentation)**

Cornelia Staritz, Austrian Foundation for Development Research, Vienna

#### **Theories of Change: What helps to Improve Working Conditions in the Global Economy? (Moderated Talk)**

Ali Karamat, Pakistan Institute for Labour Education and Research, Karachi  
Cornelia Staritz, Austrian Foundation for Development Research, Vienna  
Frank Hoffer, International Labour Organization, Geneva  
Wolfgang Kaleck, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights,  
Berlin

*Facilitator: Anke Hassel, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin*

#### 11:30-12:00 Coffee break

#### 12:00-13:00 International Standards to Protect Workers' Rights (Moderated Talk)

Reingard Zimmer, Berlin School of Economics and Law, Berlin  
Kirstin Drew, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD, Paris  
André Gunia, IG Metall, Frankfurt am Main

*Facilitator: Frederike Boll, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin*

#### 13:00-14:30 Lunch break

**14:30-16:00 What is the role of Companies?**

**When does Corporate Social Responsibility work and what are the limits?**

**How can works council work with the UN Guiding Principles? Can bad CSR practices be legally challenged? Is legal regulation the answer?**

**(Moderated Talk)**

Jeffrey Vogt, International Trade Union Confederation, Brussels

Brigitte Hamm, Institute for Development and Peace, University of Duisburg

Stefano Bertone, Lawyer, Italy

Sarah Lincoln, Bread for the World / CorA Network, Berlin

*Facilitator: Miriam Saage-Maaß, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, Berlin*

**16:00-16:30 Coffee Break**

**16:30-18:00 From Voluntary to Binding Standards**

**The Safety Accord in Bangladesh (Moderated Talk)**

Henrik Maihack, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Bangladesh

Mahmudul Hasan Sumon, Activist Anthropologist, Bangladesh

Ben Vanpeperstraete, UNI Global Union, Brussels

Ineke Zeldenrust, Clean Clothes Campaign, Amsterdam

*Facilitator: Frank Zach, German Trade Union Federation, Berlin*

**Afterwards: Reception**



2. Day, 4.9.2015

**09:00-10:00 From Voluntary to Binding Standards**

**The German Textile Alliance (Moderated Talk)**

Frank Zach, German Trade Union Federation, Berlin

Tandiwe Gross, Clean Clothes Campaign, Bonn

Remo Klinger, Attorney at Law, Berlin

*Facilitator: Miriam Saage-Maaß, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, Berlin*

**10:00- 11:30 On the Company Level**

**Strengthening Worker's Representation and Legal Remedies for Workers and Transnational Litigation of Workers' Rights (Moderated Talk)**

Gudrun Willner, H&M work council member, TIE

Jasmina Smajilovic, H&M work council member, TIE

Carolijn Terwindt, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, Berlin

Ali Karamat, Pakistan Institute for Labour Education and Research, Karachi

*Facilitator: Jeffrey Vogt, International Trade Union Confederation, Brussels*

**11:30-12:30 Lunch break**

**12:30-13:30 Discussion& Wrap-Up**

**How do existing strategies complement each other?**

Ineke Zeldenrust, Clean Clothes Campaign, Amsterdam

Kirstin Drew, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD, Paris

Wolfgang Kaleck, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, Berlin

*Facilitator: Brigitte Hamm, Institute for Development and Peace, University of Duisburg*