



Cross-border Social Dialogue and Agreements

An emerging global industrial relations framework?

Konstantinos PAPADAKIS (Editor)

Globalization has generated a mismatch between the scope of the activities of global actors (such as multinational enterprises, or MNEs), which is increasingly transnational, and that of social actors (such as trade unions, social movements, nongovernmental organizations and consumers' organizations), which remains largely embedded at national level.

In response to this mismatch and in the absence of a state-driven multilateral framework, numerous private initiatives have appeared. International framework agreements (IFAs) have been one response.

IFAs are the outcome of negotiations between individual MNEs and global union federations. IFAs aim to establish ongoing relationships between MNEs and such federations, for the benefit of both parties. They are intended to promote principles of labour relations and conditions of work – notably in the area of freedom of association and collective bargaining – and to organize a common labour relations framework at cross-border level.

The present volume brings together the contributions of 13 specialists in the field of cross-border social dialogue and agreements. They come from both academic and policy-making backgrounds, such that this volume combines scholarly research with lessons learnt through experience.

The volume examines various facets of IFAs, and looks at other efforts to introduce a global "social floor". It also addresses relevant issues such as the possibility of cross-border solidarity action as a complement to cross-border dialogue.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Dominique Bé	Dan Gallin	Konstantinos Papadakis
Brian Bercusson	Nikolaus Hammer	Udo Rehfeldt
Giuseppe Casale	Nathan Lillie	André Sobczak
Isabel da Costa	Doug Miller	Katerina Tsotroudi
Renée-Claude Drouin		

SPECIFICATIONS

ISBN:	978-92-9014-862-3
Price:	35 Sw.frs.; US\$29.95; UK£16.95; € 23
Trimmed Size:	6.3 x 9.5 inches; 16 x 24 centimetres
Page Count:	xx+290 pages
Publication Date:	May 2008

Contacts:

Publicity

Ms. Elvira Lesaffre
lesaffre@ilo.org

Sales

Mr. Neil Thornton
pubvente@ilo.org

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