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International Regulation & Compliance

We have a long history of counseling clients on the scope, meaning, and administration of the legal requirements affecting international business transactions. We understand the subtleties of these requirements, provide candid and sound legal advice, and offer solutions that are sensitive to business objectives. In addition, our attorneys have substantial experience in assisting clients to manage commercial and regulatory risks in international transactions, as well as other issues, including immigration and international fora challenges.

EU and WTO activities affect commercial operations—export controls, economic sanctions, ITAR, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the Patriot Act (FinCEN), antiboycott regulations, immigration, and foreign investment review and regulation—across the member states and their trading partners. Our lawyers and regulatory specialists draw on a broad range of knowledge and experience to advise on matters involving national legal systems and on issues raised in the EU and WTO context, in order to promote our clients' business goals.

Local law is an increasingly important element of any effective global anti-corruption program. Steptoe has created the International Law Guides to meet this challenge. The Guides are a web-accessible compliance tool designed to provide corporate subscribers and their employees with detailed information on local anti-corruption laws around the globe. A second tool provides information on laws affecting the hiring, retention, and termination of sales representatives in countries around the world. Each country guide is developed by an attorney in the local jurisdiction, is updated each year and is carefully vetted for clarity and scope. Currently 28 countries are included in the Guides and 22 more countries will be added by the end of 2011.