



British Institute of
International and
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PRESS RELEASE

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Rolls-Royce to join Business Network for the Rule of Law

Rolls-Royce is to join other leading international companies as the latest member of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law's Business Network which was launched in January. Founding members BP, BT, Diageo, HSBC, Nestlé, Rolls-Royce, Shell, Unilever and Vodafone have all pledged their support for this new initiative which will support the think tank's global initiatives on rule of law whilst identifying and addressing specific challenges in the countries where they operate.

Chaired by Graham Vinter, formerly of BG Group, the Business Network will support Bingham Centre research on issues such as tensions between national and international human rights standards, as well as rule of law capacity building for boards and senior managers.

In a recent survey¹ conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit for The Bingham Centre, the majority of executives surveyed had in the past five years experienced several failures of the rule of law in countries in which they had invested. Expropriation by governments of key assets, absence of protection for intellectual property rights, retrospective taxation and unenforceability of promises have all resulted in financial loss for multinational companies and damage to local economies.

The Bingham Centre is working to promote a clear understanding by policymakers, business leaders and legal practitioners of the importance of the rule of law in facilitating trade and laying the foundations for economic growth. The Centre focuses particularly on developing states and countries emerging from conflict and identifies ways in which the rule of law as a practical idea can be understood and implemented. The Bingham Centre is part of The British Institute of International & Comparative Law (BIICL).

¹ The Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) surveyed 301 senior decision-makers at Forbes 2000 companies around the world. The survey was conducted in 2015.

Graham Vinter, Chairman of the Business Network, said:

“We are delighted that Rolls-Royce is joining the Business Network in its formative stages. Like many of our members this global leader is facing a growing number of legal risks around the world, which cannot be resolved without the rule of law. We look forward to working with all our members and other stakeholders to address these issues, helping to promote international trade, economic growth and security.”

Mark Gregory, Rolls-Royce General Counsel, said:

“We are delighted to join the Business Network, which offers a unique opportunity to highlight and address rule of law issues affecting the global business community. As a company with customers in more than 150 countries and a global supply chain, the stability of commercial arrangements is critical to us. We look forward to supporting the Bingham Centre and our peers in this initiative to mitigate legal risks in the operation of cross-border trade and investment.”

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Notes to editors:

The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law

The rule of law is characterised by legal certainty, accessible and prospective laws that are equally enforced, and access to justice where rights may be asserted through fair trials before an independent judiciary. The Bingham Centre is dedicated to the study, promotion and enhancement of the rule of law worldwide. It helps countries, international organisations, corporations and legal bodies to build rule of law commitments, whilst improving the skills and abilities of legal practitioners and governments around the world to secure access to justice for their populations. The Centre is part of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), an independent research institute which was established in London over 50 years ago. www.biicl.org

The Business Network

The purpose of the Business Network is to act as a bridge between the Bingham Centre and the business community. One important aspect of this role is to assist the Centre in identifying rule of law issues which have particular relevance to the business community. Another is to help spread awareness of the Centre (and BIICL more generally) and its work among business leaders. The founding members of the Business Network are BP, BT, Diageo, HSBC, Nestlé, Rolls-Royce, Shell, Unilever, and Vodafone.

<https://binghamcentre.biicl.org/bingham-centre/business-network>