

# Globalizing or Escaping European Social Dialogue? Lessons from IFAs



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# IFAs: What Are They?



- Global agreements between multinationals and Global Union Federations (formally)
- Almost 80 of them (including major companies)
- Overwhelmingly with European MNCs

# IFAs: What Are Their Goals



- Promote core labor rights and standards at the level of the whole production and supply chain
- Through global social dialogue
- Through institutionalization

# Where Are They At And Why?



- No implementation
- Uneven implementation
- Comprehensive implementation
- The significance of transnational institutionalization

# What Can IFAs Contribute to GLG?



- GLG cannot be imposed on reconfigured core of world political economy
- GLG requires transnational constituencies within the core (and beyond)
- IFAs are one way to build such constituencies (when properly implemented)

# How Can IFAs Help Build Transnational Constituencies for GLG- I?



- Recast scale of governance to the whole value chain
- Develop best practices in implementation and monitoring respect for core labor rights and standards
- Promote (trans)national legalization
- Promote upward harmonization

# How Can IFAs Help Build Transnational Constituencies for GLG –II?



- Institutionalize global social dialogue between capital and labor
- Promote global social dialogue within labor
- Promote global social dialogue within corporations

# How Can IFAs Obstruct Comprehensive GLG?



- By legitimating private regulation over public regulation
- By encouraging global micro-corporatism



# Why Are IFAs Worth Our Attention?



- Because they are the only instance of institutionalized transnational social dialogue between capital and labor
- Because they may work as intended
- Because they may work as unintended