

Berne Union Value Statement

We are committed to operate in a professional manner that is financially responsible, respectful of the environment and which demonstrates high ethical values - all in the best interest of the long-term success of our industry.

Supporting text for the Value Statement

“The Berne Union is the leading international organisation in the field of export credit and investment insurance. The organisation was founded in 1934 as an international non-profit, organisation with the aim to actively facilitate cross-border trade by supporting international acceptance of sound principles in export credits and foreign investments and by providing a forum for professional exchanges among its members.

The main role of Berne Union member organisations, coming from both the public and private sector, is to support exports and/or investments from their own countries to both highly developed and emerging markets. They do this by providing insurance or guarantees to protect exporting companies, investors and financing banks against political and/or commercial risks.

Consistent with Berne Union’s objective to work for the international acceptance of sound underwriting principles, Berne Union members are committed to conduct their business in a manner that contributes to the stability and expansion of global trade on a sustainable basis.

Export trade and foreign investment carried out based on sound principles is not a purely altruistic endeavour; it is good business practice which makes a major contribution to the long term success of our industry.

Berne Union members play an important role in supporting international trade flows, be it for trade finance or for the financing of large-scale projects. In engaging in these activities, they often act in cooperation with other international financial institutions involved in the supporting the successful development of world trade.

For several years, various members of the Berne Union have been developing and implementing new methodologies and procedures which enhance their ability to sustain long-term operation. This has included work in areas such as the environmental, social and ethical assessment of projects and measures to combat bribery.

Berne Union members fully appreciate the importance of communication and transparency, of good governance and of adopting strong ethical values in international trade. An important part of the Berne Union work is devoted to exchanging information on these practices, therefore contributing to their acceptance and adoption throughout the industry.

The Berne Union value statement reflects in a concise manner the on-going commitment and work of its members to support global trade on a professional, responsible and sustainable basis. It is the Berne Union’s intention to regularly review its value statement and when needed to extend or adapt the value statement to reflect the ongoing changes in our society, in our industry and in our cooperation with other leading institutions.”