

The Protection of Human Rights for Foreign Workers in the European Union from the Perspective of International Labor Standards

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Abstract

This paper gives a comprehensive review of the European Union's safeguarding of human rights of foreign workers with respect to other international labor standards. It also examines the actual contents of this protection compared with related standards proposed by other international organizations. Furthermore, it discusses whether these efforts can be applied to Taiwan. In addition to the introductory and concluding remarks, this paper is divided into four sections. Section One provides an overview of worldwide developments of mechanisms in protecting foreign workers such as efforts made by the International Labor Organization, United Nations, and the NAFTA. Section Two describes the political and economic background of the EU's recruitment of foreign workers, as well as past practices and future developments. Section Three assesses the EU's legal framework concerning the protection of fundamental human rights for foreign workers. Section Four compares the EU's practices with related international labor standards and analyzes their merits and shortcomings. Finally, it also discusses whether the EU's regime can be applied to Taiwan in its endeavor to protect the fundamental human rights of its foreign workers.

Key Words: European Union, Foreign Workers, International Labor Standards, Worker Rights, Fundamental Human Rights