

## Counsellor Dibon - Courtin 's lecture

---



Friday, December 14th, the students of the Legal Studies Department were lucky enough to welcome a lawyer to their class. She came to the University Institute of Technology in Rodez to talk to us about business ethics.

Business ethics is a set of moral principles that guide the way a business behaves. But Counsellor Dibon-Courtin told us that it was not always easy for companies because they are torn between morals and profits.

Why should a business act ethically ?  
Because companies have a great potential to transform people's lives and alleviate poverty by generating economic growth. However, a business must keep in tune with the wishes of the societies it serves otherwise it runs the risk of alienating its shareholders, stakeholders, and customers.

This would be bad for business, reducing growth and potentially affecting profit. Governments in the developing world face many challenging social and economic issues, they need companies which are ready to be part of the solution.

The benefits of ethical behaviour are : eliminating occupational diseases, increasing energy efficiency, working without fatal accidents or increasing the benefits of mining for local communities.

In 2008, 135 companies were honoured for their ethical behaviour. Among them, we find L'OREAL for example, which is a French company.

We would like to thank Counsellor Dibon-Courtin for dedicating her time to us.