

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive: An important step for EU due diligence

Brussels, 23 February 2022: “Today’s Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence proposal is an important milestone to strengthen Europe’s due diligence system for all sectors. The European metals industry takes its responsibility for ethical sourcing of metals and minerals”, said Guy Thiran, Director General of Eurometaux (European metals association), on the release day of the European Commission’s Sustainable Corporate Governance Regulation.

“We have been working for several years to develop auditable due diligence initiatives that support responsible business practices and transparency in the metals sector, as well as contributing to multi-stakeholder programmes that aim to address root causes. Our ongoing goal is to ensure that the materials needed for Europe’s twin transitions are sourced responsibly, recognising the social and environmental risks in certain areas of global metals and minerals supply. The European Commission has today made this goal a requirement across all sectors of the EU economy”.

European metals companies are involved in responsible supply chain initiatives and auditing schemes¹, and support multi-stakeholder programmes². A shared priority is to implement risk-based due diligence in a dynamic way, fitted to real risk profiles on the ground

Guy Thiran continued “It’s crucial that today’s horizontal framework is coherent with overlapping EU policies like the Conflict Minerals Regulation and the upcoming Batteries Regulation, and relevant international frameworks such as the OECD and UN Guiding Principles. We need an effective and practical system, which ensures a level playing field for European companies while avoiding excessive burdens. Building on our experience, we look forward to contributing our industry’s perspective to these discussions with an aim for continued advancement”.

Several metals are already covered by EU due diligence requirements, including gold, tin, tantalum and tungsten in the Conflict Minerals Regulation, and lithium, nickel, cobalt, graphite in the European Commission’s proposed Batteries Regulation.

The metals industry has consistently advocated for a proportionate risk-based due diligence in these policies, having as wide coverage as possible without the possibility for loopholes.

Contact: Chris Heron, Communication & Public Affairs Director | heron@eurometaux.be | +32 (0) 493 18 89 63

About Eurometaux: Eurometaux is a trade association representing the collective European non-ferrous metals industry, including miners, smelters, refiners, fabricators and recyclers. The industry employs 500,000 people across over 900 facilities, with an annual turnover of €120bn.

¹ Available schemes include the Responsible Jewellery Council, Cobalt Industry’s Responsible Assessment Framework (CIRAF), LBMA, Responsible Gold Mining Principles, Responsible Minerals Initiative, ITA Code of Conduct and ITSCI, Metal Alliance for Responsible Sourcing (Mars), Aluminium Stewardship Initiative, Responsible Steel, The Copper Mark, the Joint Due Diligence Standards for Copper/Lead/Nickel/Zinc, the Cobalt Refiner Supply Chain Due Diligence Standard, the IRBC Agreement for the Metals Sector, the ICMM Mining Principles, the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance, and others

² Multi-stakeholder programmes include the Global Batteries Alliance, Fair Cobalt Alliance, Responsible Mica Initiative

