

**From:** Art.4.1(b) <Art.4.1(b)@cidse.org>  
**Sent:** Monday 15 February 2016 16:51  
**To:** CAB CECILIA MALMSTROM CONTACT  
**Cc:** ASENIUS Maria (CAB-MALMSTROM); BURGSMUELLER Christian (CAB-MALMSTROM); BILLAUX Cecile (CAB-MALMSTROM); Art.4.1(b)@ec.europa.eu  
**Subject:** CIDSE's policy briefing on Conflict Minerals  
**Attachments:** EN\_CIDSE briefing on conflict minerals\_February 2016.pdf

Dear Commissioner Malmström,

As the Conflict Minerals Trialogue is currently taking place, CIDSE and its members today published a [policy briefing](#) (also enclosed) accompanied by two new videos alerting about the stories of suffering and violence linked to natural resource extractions.

Following the Council's mandate, CIDSE is deeply concerned that EU member States are only proposing a voluntary scheme that ignores the vast majority of companies that place the concerned minerals on the EU market—whether in raw forms or within products. While undermining leading related international frameworks, such as the OECD's Due Diligence Guidance already endorsed by the EU, the council mandate is watering down the very meaning of being a responsible company.

In the policy briefing, [CIDSE recommends that Member States revisit their positions](#) and:

1. Show leadership on this issue by **supporting mandatory due diligence requirements along the entire supply chain.**
2. Support a **Regulation that aligns with the OECD Due Diligence** Guidance on Conflict Minerals, by:
  - Ensuring that all due diligence obligations are **consistent with the OECD standards**
  - **Engaging companies downstream of metal importers**, in particular companies that place products containing covered minerals on the EU market
  - Including **language that reflects the flexible and progressive nature of due diligence.**

These demands are echoed in a [statement](#) signed by nearly 150 Bishops from 38 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and America and supported by CIDSE. In their statement, the Bishops demand a **“mandatory due diligence system”** together with **“shared responsibility by companies along the entire supply chain”** to guarantee the respect of human rights.

The first [video is filmed at the Fungamwaka mine in the DRC](#) and produced by our member Misereor. It reveals the working conditions of artisanal miners who extract the minerals that enter many daily life products such as laptops and smartphones. The Fungamwaka mine is an example of a "clean mine", where no rebel groups are present to illegally tax the miners, and child labor is banned. This example demonstrates how the sector could be cleaned up under effective regulation.

In a separate [video message](#), Art.4.1(b) [from the DRC](#) explains as one of the leading signatories of the bishops' statement, why he wishes *“wholeheartedly that the position of EU Member States will evolve towards a binding regulation”*. Art.4.1(b) points out that the lack of a proper legislation on conflict minerals could pose a problem for consumers because *“using a product, without*

*knowing where it came from, with the risk that it might come from a conflict affected area and contain "blood minerals", can create a problem of conscience for many European citizens."*

In the coming weeks CIDSE will be working to help raise voices of concerned EU citizens and representatives of affected communities towards EU decision makers in the final phase of this important legislation for many people world wide.

Kind regards,

Art.4.1(b)

**CIDSE - together for global justice**

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