Report of Cabinet Jourova with the Zurich Insurance Company on the Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence proposal – 15 May 2023

Participants:
- Zurich Insurance Company:
- CAB JOUROVA: Simona Constantin

Zurich Insurance Company indicated their overall support for the Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence proposal as an needed step towards embedding more sustainability. However, they flagged several aspects where they would want to see adjustments during the inter-institutional negotiations:
- the insurers' value chain should be limited to direct suppliers and commercial clients, and exclude SMEs;
- the identification of the clients' adverse impacts should be mandated only before providing the insurance service (i.e. "pre-service assessment"), as opposed to an ongoing assessment which is not feasible given the specificity of the financial services;
- insurers should be exempted from the obligation to refuse or to terminate a contract when negative impacts cannot be prevented, mitigated or brought to an end;
- groups should be allowed to decide whether to comply with due diligence and transition plans requirements at a consolidated group level, or at the level of each subsidiary;

They also indicated their interest in having a harmonized implementation across the 27 Member States.

I welcomed the general support of the company towards the proposal and explained its key objectives and elements. I took note of the views expressed on the more specific elements, and indicated that the Commission is also interested in ensuring a coherent implementation across the Member States. I indicated that the Commission will work closely with the co-legislators in order to facilitate agreement, and with the objective to have final rules that would bring a meaningful contribution to sustainability, while being mindful of the economic impact and need to have a balanced approach.

SIMONA CONSTANTIN
Deputy Head of Cabinet of Vice-President Věra Jourová
Values and Transparency

European Commission
BERL 11/205
B-1049 Brussels
Telephone: (+32-2) 29.50615