Subject: Flash report on meeting with Watch & Jewellery initiative 2030 regarding pilot on CSDDD implementation, 1 February 2024, online

Participants:
- the Watch & Jewellery initiative
- [Watch & Jewellery initiative]
- [Watch & Jewellery initiative]
- DG JUST

Summary:
JUST A3 met with the Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030 at their request to discuss their pilot on CSDDD. They intend to aid companies, including major brands and those indirectly affected within the diamond supply chain, in meeting upcoming legal obligations. They proposed bi-monthly exchanges with the team from JUST A3, starting in late spring 2024, to exchange experiences and update the Commission on their pilot’s progress.

In detail:
The Watch & Jewellery initiative 2030 representatives explained that they intend to launch a pilot on CSDDD implementation. The initiative represents all levels of the supply chain with the aim of accelerating impact of due diligence amongst their members. They have a set of minimum commitments on climate and biodiversity and human rights due diligence, currently aligned with the UN Guiding Principles and the OFCD Guidelines. They also require compliance with the Women’s Empowerment Principles. Aside from the minimum commitments, the initiative has additional projects and workstreams.

The initiative has previously contacted CAB Reynders on CSDDD. They wanted to start working with their initiative members or already implementing the rules and to support industries meeting the new legal requirements. They also aim to include companies that are not in scope but will be indirectly affected. The pilot launch event should take place in February/March.

They explained that many companies taking part in the initiative, such as Richemont (holding including Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, and others), Chanel, Gucci are likely to fall directly under the scope of CSDDD. Some companies in the diamond supply chain will be affected indirectly.
They do not consider themselves a traditional initiative. They are not a standard setting nor a certification body. They asked about measures to support the industry and rationalisation schemes, explaining that they looked at ESG rating agencies, Global Compact, World Economic Forum requirements and were wondering about the CSDDD approach. They also asked what kind of indications and data the companies need to prove their compliance, about the timeline of accompanying measures and how they could make sure that they would be consulted.

They would like to have a standing call with the team from DG JUST, for example every 8 weeks, to quickly discuss and exchange experience. They would be the ones to proactively suggest points for the agenda and update us on their progress with the pilot. They believe that they bring a holistic picture to the table, taking into account different perspectives (including SMEs, digitalisation). We explained that the initiative cannot be advertised as a Commission initiative, but we are happy to keep an open line of communication with them, and we could start these exchanges in late spring 2024 with the suggested periodicity.