

Petition “TELL EU LEADERS TO STOP CONFLICT MINERALS”

Subject: Stand up in favor of an ambitious regulation on « conflict minerals »

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The “conflict minerals” regulation is currently being negotiated between the European Parliament, the European Commission and the 28 EU Member States. The stated objective is to break the links between natural resources and conflicts, as is the case in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo but also in Myanmar or Colombia. Confronted today with violence and abuses by armed groups, it is the local populations that are paying the price for the exploitation of certain natural resources.

*While I welcome this initiative from the European Union, I am concerned about the position adopted by the Council on **17 December 2015**, in which EU Member States only propose a voluntary opt-in system that ignores the vast majority of minerals entering the EU market within finished or semi-finished products. As a citizen, I am deeply worried that the products I buy might hide a story of suffering; I therefore want to ask for a legislation that ensures that the products I use daily do not fuel violence and abuses. I demand a legislation that put at its core the ethical dimension of production and trade.*

For the legislation to truly contribute to breaking the links between natural resources and conflicts, I call on you to:

- 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.*

As a European citizen, I ask you to promote the adoption of an effective regulation that will truly contribute to putting an end to conflicts, and I am sure I can count on you for this.

Kind regards,