

Short report meeting GROW and EUROMETAUX

Date: 2/9 2021

Participants DG GROW: [REDACTED]

EUROMETAUX: [REDACTED] and members: [REDACTED]
(Umicore), [REDACTED] (FMI).

Subject: Sustainable Corporate Governance- progress, implications and position papers for Eurometaux members.

Eurometaux shared their position paper on due diligence (Feb 2021) and written follow-up of meetings with DG JUST, TRADE and EP (May 2021).

Based on their experience on Conflict minerals, they have outlined 10 recommendations for the design and implementation of the future EU due diligence legislation. Among those are:

- Proportionate minimum requirements covering all sectors
- Provide incentives
- Recognition of industry schemes
- Ensure level playing field by covering all actors within value chain and by including also trading companies with EU
- High risk SMEs should be in the scope

Discussion:

Industry schemes: Stakeholders mentioned that in the context of CMR, the recognition of industry efforts/schemes is very slow. EM refers to its involvement in the OECD process on Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, and lists a number of responsible supply chain initiatives and auditing program schemes in their position paper.

The recognition of schemes/initiatives under SCG is being considered.

Scope: Stakeholders drew attention to that the Batteries regulation, in terms of its proposals relating to due diligence, paves the way for a level playing field. The activity and risk profile of the SME in question is relevant, not the size of the company. This could be a model to follow also for the SCG. GROW asked for concrete examples from EM on upstream/downstream responsibilities that could be relevant for the SCG. The choice of policy instrument (directive, regulation) is still unclear, Eurometaux would prefer Regulation on due diligence part also to ensure harmonized enforcement.