

REPORT INTER-SERVICE GROUP ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

13 March 2018, 10.30-12.30

Participating services: EEAS, DEVCO, GROW, JUST, SG and TRADE.

Aim of the meeting: first brainstorming on a EEAS/Commission non-paper to start preparing the EU's input ahead of the next OEIWG.

Next steps:

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Summary of the discussions:

- [Redacted text block]

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- JUST updated the participants on the new **sustainable finance action plan** adopted on 8/03, which includes Commission action (analytical and consultative work) to explore how best the EU could establish mandatory human rights due diligence, including in the supply chain. The idea was to adopt a wording that is closer to the French law adopted last year: the due diligence would apply not only to human rights violations but also more broadly, ie. with respect to environmental damage and labour rights, this is why it is linked to the “sustainability strategy”. The first step will be to tender out a study which would analyse existing laws (NL, UK, FR, forthcoming CH, etc.), costs/benefits, feasibility, etc. In parallel, consultations could start. The analytical work should be completed by Q2 2019.

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- Under AOB, the EEAS provided an update on parallel developments regarding **private security and military companies (PMSC)**. In the short term, the EU is expected to participate in two important events:

- 1) **end May 2018: next session of the UN Intergovernmental working group** to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private, military and security companies
- 2) **6-7 June 2018: Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Montreux Document Forum:** EU expressed public support to the [Montreux Document](#), elaborated in by the Swiss Government and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and which outlines the main responsibilities and best practices under international humanitarian law for states to ensure that PMSCs respect international law and are accountable for violations.