



From: BELTRAMELLO Andrea (CAB-DOMBROVSKIS)
Sent: dimanche 27 mars 2022 16:59
To: Art.4(1)(b)
Cc: Art.4(1)(b); Art.4(1)(b) (CAB-DOMBROVSKIS);
BOESHERTZ Caroline (CAB-DOMBROVSKIS)
Subject: RE: Forced Labour Ban - Meeting request

Dear Art.4(1)(b),

Thank you for your message.

I will be happy to have a meeting with you.

My colleague Art.4(1)(b) who reads in copy can help us identify a suitable slot.

I also copy my colleague Caroline who is responsible for raw materials in the cabinet.

Best regards,

Andrea Beltramello

From: Art.4(1)(b) <[Art.4\(1\)\(b\)@Cobaltinstitute.org](mailto:Art.4(1)(b)@Cobaltinstitute.org)>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 7:05 PM
To: BELTRAMELLO Andrea (CAB-DOMBROVSKIS) <Andrea.BELTRAMELLO@ec.europa.eu>
Cc: Art.4(1)(b) <[Art.4\(1\)\(b\)@cobaltinstitute.org](mailto:Art.4(1)(b)@cobaltinstitute.org)>
Subject: Forced Labour Ban - Meeting request

Dear Mr. Beltramello,

On behalf of the Cobalt Institute – the global trade association representing the interests of cobalt producers, users, recyclers, and traders, representing 75% of all cobalt used worldwide – I am writing to request an introductory meeting to discuss your recent communication on decent work worldwide, and how it and broader responsible sourcing regulation can provide a springboard to more resilient and sustainable supplies of cobalt, as well as more strategic autonomy for the EU.

Our industry recognises the need to do more on forced labour and child labour globally. 70% of the world's cobalt is produced in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a country which has well documented instances of child labour and poor working conditions. The current government in the DRC is taking steps in concert with industry to improve working conditions, and has sought to build its relations with the West, including a visit from the White House this year, followed by a visit from their mining minister to Washington DC.

Done well, responsible sourcing rules like those suggested for forced labour can improve working conditions whilst also supporting EU soft power and access to critical raw materials. Implemented imprecisely, it can have cascading effects that making things worse and harm the EU's soft power. We would like to discuss how a holistic approach

to responsible sourcing, due diligence and support via schemes like the Global Gateway will create win-wins for the EU and Africa.

We would welcome the opportunity to explain these ideas in more detail and answer any questions you might have about cobalt and the DRC. In particular we would like to discuss it in the context of any proposed forced labour ban, as well as the review of the conflict minerals regulation, battery regulation and corporate sustainability due diligence proposal.

Kind regards,

Art.4(1)(b)