FLASH_Bilateral meeting between Commissioner Reynders and 30.1.2023

Participants: Commissioner Reynders, the Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030, Luc De Lobel [CAB REYNDERS]

Objective: To exchange on the Commission proposal for a Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDD).

Key takeaways:

- The interlocutor introduced the Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030 whose vision is to create a fully sustainable watch and jewellery industry that is resilient to climate change, preserves resources and fosters inclusiveness.
- The Initiative was formed by well-known brands Cartier and Kering coming together and committing to ambitious goals (current commitment of 40 CEOs). It builds on existing strong initiatives in the industry and acts as a platform that coordinates collective actions to achieve the goals.
- The interlocutor stressed that most companies have been working on due diligence for a decade but mostly looking at tier 1. The Initiative helps them understand their entire supply chain through systematic use of data.
- The Commissioner clarified the expected timeline of the CSDD proposal, the hope for a final decision during this mandate and entry into force 5 years from now. The Commissioner agreed that covering tier 1 is not enough even though there is not the same possibility for verification further down the supply chain, thereby highlighting the importance of the obligation of means.
- The Commissioner stressed that in order to facilitate the process, there is the possibility for industries to organise a common process as it pertains to same suppliers/same supply and value chain involving boards and CEOs, but reminded that the end responsibility is of the individual company.
- The interlocutor welcomed the CSDD proposal and offered to “test the waters” on due diligence practices, possibilities and challenging in application of the requirements, looking at learning curves from other industries and giving companies time to explore and get ready. The Commission agreed to keep the channels of communication open once such need would arise.