

Flash report – 12/01/2021

On 12 January 2021, Commissioner Reynders held an exchange of views with the three business federations of the Benelux, upon their invitation, on the upcoming EU legislative initiative on due diligence and sustainable corporate governance. The participants from the associations were the following

- o BE: FEB/VBO
- o NL: VNO/NCW:
- o LUX: FEDIL:

The business association underlined the efforts of their members on responsible corporate governance. They also underlined that the Commission's initiative should build up on international practices and also be proportionate, in particular in relation to SMEs. The Commissioner presented the Commission's ongoing work, notably referring to the public consultation, ongoing until 8 February 2021. He explained that in the Commission's view voluntary practices didn't bring the necessary change so far, and that the Commission aimed to propose a horizontal legislation, where due diligence throughout the supply chain would be underpinned by directors duties relating to sustainability. The proportionality of the future initiative, notably the situation of SMEs, as well as possible enforcement mechanisms, were also addressed.