

Meeting between Cabinet of Executive-Vice President Vestager and Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer (DIHK)

15 July 2021, 10h00

Participants:

Commission:

Christiane Canenbley, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Executive-Vice President Vestager
Werner Stengg, Cabinet of Executive-Vice President Vestager
[REDACTED]

DIHK:

[REDACTED] (DIHK)
[REDACTED] (company representatives)

- DIHK emphasized that they agree with the objectives of the planned EU supply chain due diligence part of the sustainable corporate governance objective but that feasibility and proportionality are key. DIHK sees concrete risks that a too wide proposal has important impacts on the competitiveness of EU companies.
- The four representatives of the companies presented examples of the impact that the proposal could have on their operations and stated which parts they consider impossible or very difficult to comply with in practice.
- [REDACTED] (Metro AG) emphasized their commitments on corporate governance. They buy and sell 120.000 products, out of which 75.000 are sources directly from tier 1 suppliers, which are often very small. It is difficult to pass on strict requirements on these, especially if they are expensive to implement for the suppliers. [REDACTED] argues against liability for third party products (as opposed to their own branded products).
- [REDACTED] represents a medium-sized family business, supplying metal parts in particular to the car industry. They are afraid of being passed on the obligations of car manufacturers. They consider very difficult to check requirements given the nature of the world-wide raw materials markets. [REDACTED] also representing a medium-sized family business, had similar concerns.
- [REDACTED] emphasized the importance to have only digital processes and a one-stop-shop. DIHK also emphasized that a digital platform, on which for example audits of companies would be listed, could be part of a solution. [REDACTED] also stressed that in cases where companies buy very old machines and refurbish them, there are no unrealistic requirements on supply chain due diligence of such very old machines.
- CAB Vestager thanked the participants for the valuable input provided.