



PROGRAMME

Online conference

European Regulation on Responsible Mineral Sourcing: What are the lessons learned so far for the upcoming review and new legislative proposals?

Civil society perspectives from the DR Congo and Colombia

■ 28th September 2021 ■



Context

On 28th September 2021, five European NGOs will host an online conference bringing together local and European civil society representatives, European Union (EU)'s officials and companies. This event will provide recommendations to EU decision-makers with regards to the implementation of the EU Regulation on Conflict Minerals Sourcing¹, its accompanying measures as well as related EU Regulations currently being drafted and discussed.

The 1st of January 2021 marked the entry into force of the European Regulation on Responsible Sourcing of tin, tungsten tantalum and gold (3TG) from conflict-affected and high-risk areas. The Regulation aims to ensure that European companies carry out due diligence checks on their suppliers up-to the middle of the supply chains, so as to minimise and manage the risks of human rights abuse and to break the link between the exploitation of mineral resources and violent conflicts.

The Regulation was coupled with the disbursement of € 20 million worth of “accompanying measures” by the European Commission. These measures aim to assist producing countries, local communities and the most vulnerable actors to engage with systems of accountability throughout the production chain. The measures include initiatives targeting local dynamics of illegal exploitation, the formalisation of small-scale and artisanal miners to improve the position of women in mining and to support civil society organisations (CSOs) in their effort to monitor supply chains and to voice grievances from their respective countries.

The Regulation represents an important first step in ensuring transparent mineral production chains that curb human rights abuse. However, a question remains: what is its real impact in producing countries, particularly with regards to benefits for local communities and small-scale, artisanal mining operators?

Local and European CSOs have already voiced a number of concerns regarding the Regulation. To name a few: its limited scope (addressing supply chains up to refiners and smelters and excluding manufactured products); the cost of traceability and certification mechanisms that are often borne by upstream actors; the lack of environmental standards; the risk that on-paper due diligence reports might provide an opportunity for companies to white-wash their practices on the ground; the import thresholds that may exclude the riskiest imports.

The conference is being organised with a view on the 2021 evaluation of the accompanying measures, on the 2023 review of the Regulation, as well as on upcoming legislations such as a horizontal due diligence legislation (Sustainable Corporate Governance Initiative) and the Batteries Regulation that includes due diligence requirements for specific minerals.

Organisers: European Network for Central Africa (EurAc), Germanwatch, IPIS, Justice & Paix, the MADINI project, Ecumenical Network for Central Africa (ÖNZ).

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The publisher is responsible for the content of this publication.

¹ Further referred to as “The Regulation” or “the 3TG Regulation”.

Programme

■ ONLINE CONFERENCE ■

Tuesday 28th September 2021

- 14:30 – 16:30 Brussels / Bukavu / Lubumbashi time
- 13:30 – 15:30 Kinshasa time
- 7:30 – 9:30 Colombia time

 BRU	 KIN	 COL	Discussion	Speakers
14:30 – 14:40	13:30 – 13:40	7:30 – 7:40	General introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clara Debeve, Director at EurAc
14:40 – 14:55	13:40 – 13:55	7:40 – 7:55	Topic 1: EU 3TG Regulation implementation – Lessons learned and proposal for the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A representative from the Congolese civil society – TBC ▪ Philipp Dupuis, Deputy Head of Unit C4: Multilateral Trade and Sustainable Development Policy, Green Deal, Conflict Minerals at DG TRADE, European Commission
14:55 – 15:10	13:55 – 14:10	7:55 – 8:10	Topic 2: EU Regulation – Lessons learned and proposal regarding environmental issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Colombia: Andrés Angel, Scientific Advisor, AIDA ▪ Ewout Deurwaarder, Policy Officer Energy Efficiency/Ecodesign & Energy Labelling of Products at DG GROW, European Commission
15:10 – 16:30	14:10 – 15:30	8:10 – 9:30	Panel: What are the lessons learned from the EU Regulation on Responsible Sourcing for developing EU Regulations (Batteries Regulation and EU Supply Chain Legislation)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Johanna Sydow, Resource Policy Officer at Germanwatch ▪ Bernd Lange, MEP, Chair of the INTA Committee, European Parliament ▪ A representative from DG JUST / DG ENVI, European Commission ▪ A representative from the Colombian civil society ▪ A representative from the private sector