

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

## EU Due Diligence and Forced Labour Laws: European Parliament confirms balanced path forward

Brussels, 24 April 2024: “This week’s European Parliament Due Diligence and Forced Labour votes have confirmed a more balanced path forward for EU responsible sourcing laws. Our ongoing goal as the metals industry is to ensure resilient and ethical supply chains for the raw materials that Europe’s green and energy transitions will increasingly require”, said Guy Thiran, Director General of Eurometaux (European Metals Association), in a week of two important European Plenary votes for more responsible sourcing.

Europe’s energy and digital transition will require much higher volumes of metals and minerals, for batteries, renewable energy technologies, grid infrastructure, electric vehicles, semiconductors, and more. The replacement of fossil fuels has major lifecycle benefits. But to ensure sustainability, Europe and its industries must together address the potential for adverse impacts at each stage of the metals life cycle.

Guy Thiran continued: “We strive to be responsible material stewards for the energy transition, from the mine through multiple lifecycles. The EU’s due diligence and sourcing laws will play an important role in supporting responsible sourcing of minerals and metals throughout global value chains. It’s always been paramount that they are designed in a proportionate and workable way for European companies”.

On the EU’s Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, Guy Thiran commented: “We welcome that the final text agreed today is based on proportionate, risk-based due diligence obligations. Its recognition of industry schemes will be particularly important to ensure the Directive’s efficiency and effectiveness. As a frontrunner, the metal sector has developed several initiatives to increase transparency of responsible practices for mining and metals. These efforts will now rightly provide a strong foundation for the EU’s due diligence requirements”.

On the EU’s Forced Labour Regulation, Guy Thiran commented: “We’re pleased that EU institutions have agreed a workable way forward for companies, aligned with existing EU legislation. Forced labour has no place in European supply chains, but it’s right that the burden of proof now falls on competent authorities instead of the companies themselves. That reduces the risk of unintended consequences arising from disengagement from high-risk areas. We need to support efforts that address the root causes of forced labour to improve the situation”.

“Moving forward to the implementation of both laws, it’s now crucial that the European Commission keeps a focus on avoiding excessive company burden, while enforcing consistency across Member States”.

**Contact:** Chris Heron, Communication & Public Affairs Director | heron@eurometaux.be | +32 (0) 493 18 89 63

**About Eurometaux:** Eurometaux is a trade association representing the collective European non-ferrous metals industry, including miners, smelters, refiners, fabricators and recyclers.

