

European Parliament against conflict gold rush

On Wednesday the European Parliament voted in favour of the regulation to prevent the trade in conflict minerals along the whole supply chain. EU firms processing, importing and using tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold for manufacturing consumer goods need to employ mandatory due diligence practices according to the draft law. The extraction and trade of these commodities have been financing armed groups that are violating human rights of civilians. CEEweb for Biodiversity is demanding strong regulation based on the EP decision.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo army commanders, rebel leaders, and corrupt regional government officials benefit significantly from the mining and trade of conflict minerals, first of all gold. A recent [report](#) has shown again that the revenues fuel violence and contribute to attacks on local communities, rape, and pillage even if the control over the resources is not the primary cause of conflict.

As metal smelters and gold refiners are the last point at which the minerals' origin can be effectively traced, the EP decision calls for smelters and refiners to undergo a compulsory, independent, third-party audit to check their due diligence practices. By this MEPs have made an important step forward, going beyond the European Commission's original approach about self-certification.

“Voluntary schemes are not enough to make significant changes. The European Parliament has made the right decision to place more responsibility on the companies involved -” commented Klára Hajdu from CEEweb for Biodiversity.

The EU "Supply-Chain Due Diligence" standards will be based on the [OECD Due Diligence Guidance](#) recommendations. These are designed to help companies respect human rights and avoid contributing to conflict through their mineral purchases from conflict-affected and high-risk areas.

After the Parliamentary vote, the European Commission, the Member States and the European Parliament will need to seek agreement on the final version of the law. **CEEweb for Biodiversity is demanding strong regulation based on the EP decision.** These calls are supported internationally by many civil society organisations, 140 bishops, investors, small and medium sized companies and 44,000 supporters of an online petition supported also by the European campaign “Stop Mad Mining.”

The campaign consists of twelve European - CEEweb among them - and one Salvadoran organisation. They call for binding regulations regarding environmental and social standards including human rights when extracting raw materials, as well as a reduction of resource consumption.

The Green Go Short Film Contest - as part of the campaign- is a great opportunity to meet the problems of the people affected by conflict minerals. It is organised to collect short films and video recorded testimonies from citizens from all over the world and one of the categories is about the social and environmental costs of mining.

Link to the digital press kit: <http://stop-mad-mining.org/2015/05/20/victory-in-voting-on-conflict-mineral-regulation-in-the-european-parliament/>

Campaign website: <http://stop-mad-mining.org>

Green Go Short Film Contest website: www.greengofest.eu

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2015
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