

Cobalt Project

“Conflict minerals” initiatives in Africa

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Bilbao

A PERCEPTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Session 2 [13:45-14:45]

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PLAN

- I. Introduction: NGOs assessment of RMI**
- II. Conflict mineral initiatives in Africa : lessons to be learned**
- III. EU draft Regulation and Joint Communication: what do we need?**

I. Introduction: NGOs assessment of RMI

“Balanced consideration of economic, environmental and social aspects”

Is RMI the right framework to foster sustainable development in third countries?

We need other tools/policies (PCD, Trade relations, CSR)

- ⇒ Revision of EU Financial Transparency Directives
- ⇒ EU Directive on Non Financial reporting (HR Due Diligence)
- ⇒ draft EU Regulation on responsible sourcing of minerals originating from conflict affected and high risk areas.

II. Conflict mineral initiatives in Africa : lessons to be learned

Brief overview of existing initiatives:

- Due Diligence Guidance (DD) on Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas
- President Kabila's Ban (September 2010-March 2011)
- Mineral Trading Centres (or 'Centre de Négoce')
- Certified Trading Chains (CFTI)
- Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources
 - ⇒ Six tools (regional certification)
- National legislation on due diligence (DRC and Rwanda)
- Conflict Free Smelter Program
- Solution for hope
- D-F Act (US)
- Conflict-free tin initiative
- EU draft Regulation on responsible sourcing (+ Joint Communication)

II. Conflict mineral initiatives in Africa : lessons to be learned

Results of IPIS research 'Conflict Minerals' initiatives in DR Congo: Perceptions of local mining communities (November 2013):

- Initiatives' effects overlap
- Generally speaking, security and socio-economic effects differs
 - the least isolated regions
 - More remoted areas
- feasibility/credibility problems
 - ⇒ Governance and Security issues
 - ⇒ gaps in design and implementation feasibility/credibility problems
- Problems to access market (3Ts)
- Most of DRC artisanal are "conflict free"
- Mandatory DD that applies to the whole supply chains (upstream and downstream)
- Businesses operators are part of the solution (decision making process in Supply Chains)

III. EU draft Regulation and Joint Communication: what do we need?

Mandatory approach (HR abuses + conflict financing)

Importance of accompanying measures (Joint Communication)

- Improved framework for the artisanal exploitation and trade of minerals in DRC
- Certification, traceability and DD are complementary
- Support to companies to responsibly source from conflict-affected and high risk areas (more incentives)
- Address weak governance/security issues in producing countries
 - ⇒ through rights-based development cooperation measures
 - ⇒ policy dialogue with States
- Businesses are part of the solution (central players in Supply Chains + decision making process)