



PRESS RELEASE

16th June 2016

Political agreement does not address Conflict Minerals problem

Eurometaux, the European non-ferrous metals association, expresses disappointment at today's political agreement on a Conflict Minerals Regulation. As an industry, we remain committed to high standards of responsible sourcing and due diligence. However, today's deal will do little more to address the problems in conflict-affected areas.

After several months of negotiations, EU politicians have agreed to place mandatory requirements on smelters and refiners importing raw materials, and not their downstream users.

Guy Thiran, Eurometaux's Director General, reacted: *"EU smelters and refiners of gold, tin, tantalum and tungsten only make up 5% of global production. In large, they are already conflict-free, through compliance with voluntary due-diligence schemes. Today's Regulation will make no significant difference in improving that situation, while placing EU producers at a competitive disadvantage with other areas of the world"*

EU producers comply with several due-diligence schemes, which are based on OECD guidelines and include third-party auditing. More than 300 companies participate in the Conflict Free Sourcing Initiative, while 99% of cassiterite imports from Central African countries are controlled through the Tin Supply Chain Initiative. Overall, Thomson Reuters have concluded that EU smelters operate "to the highest standards"¹.

Guy Thiran continued: *"After high pressure to break the negotiations deadlock, we're left with an agreement that would have little impact on those affected. By only focussing on upstream producers, the gate remains open to imports of phones and laptops containing conflict minerals, and even their constituent parts. We support an effective Conflict Minerals regulation. However, it needs to cover all companies equally, not just targeting a sector which has already invested into being conflict-free."*

Eurometaux will now work closely with the European Commission to define the Regulation's technical details and implementation.

About Eurometaux

Eurometaux is the decisive voice of non-ferrous metals producers and recyclers in Europe. With an annual turnover of €120bn, our members represent an essential industry for European society that businesses in almost every sector depend on. Together, we are leading Europe towards a more circular future through the endlessly recyclable potential of metals.

For more information please contact:

Chris Heron, Manager, Communication and Sustainability – heron@eurometaux.be
Tel: +32 (0) 2775 63 21 www.eurometaux.eu

¹ "Regulatory Changes and their impact on the Gold Supply Chain (2016): http://trmcs-documents.s3.amazonaws.com/Final_S031740_v1_LR_nc.pdf

