

JBCE & JEITA Joint Statement on agreed text on “Conflict Minerals” regulation

17 February, 2017

JBCE and JEITA welcome that the EU:

- Aim to establish a market for responsibly traded minerals that originate in conflict regions.
- Follows the principles and processes set out in the OECD Due Diligence Guidance.
- Builds on industry initiatives that have already been put in place.
- Maintains focus on 3TG and excludes recycled materials.

JBCE and JEITA consider:

- Responsible sourcing from conflict affected and high-risk areas is deeply related to human lives and the economic development in developing countries. The effort of industry alone cannot ensure responsible sourcing from such regions. **It is crucial to have the efforts of all national governments.** In light of promoting worldwide collaboration, the role of EU diplomacy is extremely important.

In this regard, the JBCE and JEITA has consistently argued that **dialogue and engagement with stakeholders is a key driver for creating value for business and society.** The EU-Japan CSR Working Group at government level as well as the EU-Japan Business Dialogue on CSR at business level could play a key role in deepening collaboration.

JBCE and JEITA request:

- **Timely disclosure** of the planned Handbook by the European Commission on “conflict-affected and high-risk” (CAHR) areas to allow also non-EU companies operating within the EU to implement it.
- **More clarity** regarding how the Commission’s non-exhaustive list of CAHR areas be aligned with outsourced projects and other initiatives that would define CAHR.
- **Synchronisation of the listing and delisting** of responsible smelters/refiners with the recognized (by EU) supply chain due diligence industry schemes. Difference in timing of listing and delisting could be a source of confusion for companies.
- **Focus on importers** and set clear criteria for the certification of Responsible Importers, Smelters and Refiners. JBCE and JEITA welcomes the Commission’s intention to publish a list of ‘responsible’ importers who publicly declare their due diligence obligations as set up in the Regulation. Such criteria should make use of the existing criteria such as CFSI’s Conflict Free Smelter Program and LBMA.



About the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE):

Created in 1999, the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE) is a leading European organisation representing the interests of almost 80 multinational companies of Japanese parentage active in Europe. Our members operate across a wide range of sectors, including information and communication technology, electronics, chemicals, automotive, machinery, wholesale trade, precision instruments, pharmaceutical, railway, textiles and glass products. Together, our member companies represented in 2013 global sales of 1.4 trillion euros. Building a new era of cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Japan is the core of our activities.

JEITA

About the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA):

The Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA), ranging from materials to electronic components and semiconductors, from consumer electronics to industrial system devices, from IT products to solution services. JEITA represents a large number of companies in these sectors, many of which are active on the European market, both through local manufacturing plants and research centers and through trade with the European Union.

Since 2011, the JEITA Responsible Minerals Trade Working Group has been working on. (<http://www.jeita.or.jp/english/>).