

PRESS RELEASE

Commission's conflict minerals proposal will promote real change

Brussels, 19 March 2014 – The American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union (AmCham EU) welcomes the European Commission's new legislative proposal on conflict minerals, addressing the responsible sourcing of these minerals originating from conflict-affected areas. This is a complex issue that requires the engagement of multiple stakeholders, including governments, the private sector and civil society. There is a clear need to promote real change, and we believe the Commission proposal is a step in the right direction.

The proposed Regulation would complement existing US legislation on responsible sourcing of conflict minerals (Dodd-Frank Act) and contribute to the harmonisation of global compliance programmes. We are pleased to see that the Regulation will exert pressure on importers of conflict minerals to source from smelters and refiners that are verified as being conflict-free. In addition, the list of smelters and refiners that the Commission would publish, and the information developed by responsible importers, would assist companies with their due diligence inquiries under the US Dodd-Frank Act.

AmCham EU speaks for American business committed to Europe on trade investment and competitiveness issues. It aims to ensure a growth orientated business and investment climate in Europe. AmCham EU facilitates the resolution of transatlantic issues that impact business and play a role in creating better understanding of EU & US positions on business matters.

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