

How can European policies strengthen sustainable global value chains

Outcomes of the sessions

Call on the EU and Member States in cooperation with stakeholders to...:

Plenary I

- *Be proactive*: All stakeholders invited to submit suggestions for enhancing sustainable trade in the EU to euandgvc@minbuza.nl before 12 January 2016 (used in preparing informal meeting EU Trade and Development ministers 1/2 Feb '16).
- Improve the implementation of Chapters on Trade and Sustainable Development in Free Trade and Investment Agreements (EC and MS meeting before 1 Feb '16).
- Improve coherence → Bring it to the ground! Create ownership by supporting bottom-up sustainability networks.

Textiles:

- Launch EU Garment Initiative. Focus: implementation; prioritize countries/issues; Bangladesh Accord as example; examine due diligence legislation; Non-Financial Reporting Directive also applicable for small companies. Also: compliance with international standards within EU.
- Develop an EU Responsible Business Conduct Action Plan as umbrella for existing initiatives and to cover living wage and decent work for women. Also: public procurement, purchasing practises and social dialogue as vehicle for change.

Financial sector:

- Take the Dutch International Corporate Social Responsibility covenant process on board as part of guidelines for implementation of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive; scale-up to European level for whole sector.
- Continue debate on incentives for contribution of financial sector to sustainable Global Value Chains.

Gold sector:

- Draft an action plan to reach an EU covenant for the gold sector.
- Do their utmost to financially support an European Public-Private Partnership for Responsible Minerals Sourcing.

Agricultural commodities :

- *Strengthen synergy between production, trade and landscapes. Using: trade agreements, investment, natural capital accounting, standards, transparency, traceability and partnerships.*
- *Move market with encouragement & regulation; success also depends on consumers: PPPs, CSR reporting for all companies, public procurement, regulation (equal playing field), prohibit import of 'illegal' commodities.*

Palm oil:

- Organise and engage in 2016 a European dialogue on the private sector target for 100% sustainable palm oil in Europe by 2020.
- Engage with producer countries and consumer countries outside EU on sustainable production and trade.
- Create market incentives for sustainability; raise the level playing field.

Plenary II

- Address risks in Global Value Chains, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Global Goals, is evident. An active search for opportunities to scale up EU or MS sustainable global value chain initiatives is needed.
- Make better use of instruments and best practices at EU and MS level, e.g. in the form of PPPs, PSD tools and the leveraging of private funding. Focus on inclusion of youth and women.