



Der Bevollmächtigte  
des Rates der EKD bei der  
Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
und der Europäischen Union

Dienststelle Brüssel



# Programme

European Office Brussels

## „Last Exit, Brussels?!“

The initiative for a European Due Diligence Legislation as an opportunity for mandatory corporate social and environmental standards

19 November 2020

12.00 - 13.30 h

European Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Online-Event

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For several years, development politicians and human rights activists have been advocating for the introduction of due diligence requirements through supply chains. Under the German EU Council Presidency, an EU Action Plan shall be promoted to strengthen corporate social responsibility in global supply chains. However, the introduction of a federal law to ensure binding requirements on corporate due diligence is already highly controversial within the Federal Government and is facing increasing criticism from inter alia the business sector. The Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Gerd Müller (CSU), together with the Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, Hubertus Heil (SPD), are particularly committed to promote binding social and environmental standards at the national as well as European level. In April 2020, EU Commissioner for Justice, Didier Reynders, announced to present a legislative proposal on sustainable corporate governance and mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence by 2021.

In the run up to the draft proposal, we would like to discuss the chances of this European initiative with our guests **Anosha Wahidi**, Head of the Sustainable Supply Chains Unit at the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), **Lucrezia Busa**, Member of the Cabinet of EU Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders, MEP **Axel Voss** (EPP) and **Thilo Hoppe**, Representative for Development Policy at Bread for the World. How realistic is the introduction of a European due diligence legislation in light of the current economic crisis? What is the added value of the initiative compared to the existing rules on corporate responsibility? What are the concrete ideas of the EU Commission?

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## Programme

12.00 h

### Welcome

**Dr. Hardy Ostry**

*Director of the European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung*

**Oberkirchenrätin Katrin Hatzinger**

*Director, Representation of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD), Brussels*

12.05 h

### Statements

**Anosha Wahidi**

*Head of the Sustainable Supply Chains Unit at the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*

**Lucrezia Busa**

*Member of the Cabinet of EU Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders*

**Axel Voss**

*Member of the European Parliament*

**Thilo Hoppe**

*Representative for Development Policy, Bread for the World*

**Moderation: Senior Church Counsel Katrin Hatzinger**

13.00 h

### Discussion and Q&A

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### Information on registration and participation:

Please register by entering your name, e-mail address, organization and position. You will then receive a confirmation of your registration and further information about participation in the online event. You can use your computer's microphone and speakers.

### During the online event:

You will not be connected via video and muted by the host during the meeting. After the brief statements from the speakers, you are welcome to join the conversation: You can ask the speakers a written question (click the chat symbol in the toolbar) OR raise your hand (click the hand mark in the toolbar) to speak. The presenter will unlock the microphone for you and you can ask your question or comment in person. Remember to switch your microphone back on when verbally contributing and then mute it again afterwards. Please make sure that there is no background noise. Please introduce yourself briefly (name and company/organization) and let us know to whom your question is directed.

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