

**Question for written answer E-003540/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Conflict minerals

Over the last decade considerable advances have been made in investigating the links between the trade in and extraction of minerals, and the funding of armed conflicts. In order to break these links, the European Commission's Guide to Due Diligence drawn up by the OECD and applicable since 2010, was used as a reference. Both texts specify that compliance with due diligence is voluntary for companies in the minerals supply chain which supply or use tin, tantalum, tungsten and minerals or derivatives thereof, as well as gold originating from areas of conflict or high risk.

Given the low percentage of companies which, voluntarily and under the provisions of the OECD Guide, publish their due diligence policies and practices:

1. How does the Commission believe that its proposal can complement the system already set out in the OECD Guide without creating duplications?
2. What measures are proposed to encourage voluntary compliance with due diligence?
3. What does the Commission believe would be the positive and negative consequences of making it compulsory for companies to comply with due diligence?