



EU Perspectives on Responsible Business and Compliance

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Treaty of the European Union I

- Preamble: reference to Sustainable Development
- TITLE I: COMMON PROVISIONS
- Art.3(5): *In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values and interests and contribute to the protection of its citizens. It shall contribute to peace, security, the sustainable development of the Earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and particular the observance and including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter.*



Treaty of the European Union II

- **TITLE V: GENERAL PROVISIONS ON THE UNION'S EXTERNAL ACTION AND SPECIFIC PROVISIONS ON THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY**
 - CHAPTER 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS ON THE UNION'S EXTERNAL ACTION
 - Article 21*
 1. The Union's action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation, development and enlargement, and which it seeks to advance in the wider world: democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law (...)
 2. The Union shall define and pursue common policies and actions, and shall work for a high degree of cooperation in all fields of international relations, in order to:(...)
 - (b) consolidate and support democracy, the rule of law, **human rights** and the principles of international law;
(...)
 - (d) foster the **sustainable economic, social and environmental development** of developing countries, with the primary aim of eradicating poverty;
 - (e) encourage the integration of all countries into the world economy, including through the progressive abolition of restrictions on international trade;
 - (f) help develop international measures to preserve and improve the quality of the environment and the sustainable management of global natural resources, in order to ensure **sustainable development**;
(...).
 3. **The Union shall respect the principles and pursue the objectives set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 in the development and implementation of the different areas of the Union's external action** covered by this Title and by Part Five of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and of the external aspects of its other policies.



Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

- Legally binding with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty 2009
- Primarily addressed to the EU Institutions when developing legislative proposals and EU Member State Authorities when implementing EU Law
- Art.5: Prohibition of slavery and forced labour
- Art.8: Protection of personal data
- Art.27: Worker's right to information and consultation within the undertaking
- Art.28: Right of collective bargaining and action
- Art.31: Fair and just working conditions
- Art.32: Prohibition of child labour and protection of young people at work
- Art.37: Environmental Protection
- Art.38: Consumer Protection



Compliance: Examples of relevant EU Legislation

- Non-financial reporting Directive 2014/95/EU
- Conflict Minerals Regulation (EU) 2017/821
- IUU Regulation (EU) 2008/1005
- EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) Regulation (EU) 2010/995
- GDPR Regulation (EU)
- Others: a.o. Kimberley Process (conflict free diamonds)
- Possible Future:
 - Human Rights Due Diligence (demand by the EU Parliament) ?
 - Extension of the Scope of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive ?
 - Other Sectors ?