



Brussels, 27 April 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

European semiconductor industry committed to use responsibly sourced minerals

At the occasion of the 14th Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA) is highlighting the industry's commitments to source its raw materials in an ethical and sustainable manner that safeguards human rights within the global supply chain.

The European semiconductor industry has been a leading participant on the responsible sourcing of minerals. Its ambition, as a downstream purchaser of minerals, is focused on supply chain due diligence processes in order to determine that minerals in the semiconductors that the industry manufactures do not directly or indirectly finance or benefit armed groups. The industry remains committed to use responsibly sourced minerals in its products.

ESIA, alongside the wider semiconductor industry, has been addressing conflict minerals issue over the past decade. Through the World Semiconductor Council (WSC), a "[Conflict-Free Supply Chain Policy](#)"¹ was agreed to support the global progress in addressing the sourcing of conflict minerals (tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold, or 3TG) from conflict zones, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and surrounding countries in 2013. Since 2018, the industry has broadened its policy scope beyond 3TG and DRC to responsible sourcing of minerals from "*conflict-affected and high risk areas*".² Due diligence activities now look at other minerals such as cobalt.

The industry's due diligence activities are designed based on the "[OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas](#)".³ Semiconductor companies have played a leading role in the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals⁴ and also actively collaborate with the work of the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI)⁵.

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About ESIA: *The European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA) is the voice of the semiconductor industry in Europe. Its mission is to represent and promote the common interests of the Europe-based semiconductor industry towards the European institutions and stakeholders in order to ensure a sustainable business environment and foster its global competitiveness. As a provider of key enabling technologies, the industry creates innovative solutions for industrial development, contributing to economic growth and responding to major societal challenges. Being ranked as the most R&D-intensive sector by the European Commission, the European semiconductor ecosystem supports approx. 200.000 jobs directly and up to 1.000.000 induced jobs in systems, applications and services in Europe. Overall, micro- and nano-electronics enable the generation of at least 10% of GDP in Europe and the world.*

¹ World Semiconductor Council (05/2018). *WSC Conflict-Free Supply Chain Policy*, WSC Public Documents and White Papers. URL: <http://www.semiconductorcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/WSC-Conflict-Free-Supply-Chain-Policy.pdf> (retrieved 20/04/2021)

² World Semiconductor Council (24/05/2018). *JOINT STATEMENT OF THE 22ND MEETING OF THE WORLD SEMICONDUCTOR COUNCIL (WSC). MAY 24TH, 2018. San Diego, California, USA*, WSC Joint Statements. URL: <http://www.semiconductorcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/22nd-WSC-Joint-Statement-San-Diego-CA-FINAL-1.pdf> (retrieved 20/04/2021)

³ OECD (04/04/2016). *OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas*, Guidelines for multinational enterprises. URL: <https://www.oecd.org/corporate/mne/mining.htm> (retrieved 20/04/2021)

⁴ The European Partnership for Responsible Minerals. URL: <https://europeanpartnership-responsibleminerals.eu/>

⁵ Responsible Minerals Initiative. URL: <http://www.responsiblemineralsinitiative.org/>