



# Taking stock of the progress – feedback by the 3 Belgium Trade Unions



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# The 3 Belgium Trade Unions/ETUC project 2020 - 2021

## Aim & Activities achieve:

1. Practitioner training on 11/03/2021
2. Time for 8 workshop (via the Belgium SDG Forum) on 29/10/2020
3. Developed of awareness raising material to sensitize on trade union political position



## Target groups :

Direct target group: Trade union Policy officers, Trade union sector and company delegates and official representatives

Indirect target group: participants from civil society working together under the Belgium platform “PERSPECTIVE 2030”, governmental representatives and the 296.617 members of CGSLB; 1,54 million members of FGTB; 1,58 million member of CSC





**A Trade union take on SDG's: Rights, Rules and Results for Agenda 2030 Focus on the role of the private sector and contribution to SDG's :  
#TimeFor8! *Time for PR or real time for SDG 8?***

**Key trade union Messages in the project ETUC / 3  
Belgium trade unions 2020 - 2021**



# Key trade union Messages in the project ETUC / 3 BE trade unions 2020 - 2021



## I. Why trade unions are engaging for SDG's....

i. Agenda 2030 - sustainable development is about more than just economic growth, also ecological and social progress and peace and good government. SDG8= motor of development. Time for 8 means labour **Rights** = floor for sustainable development

# I. Why trade unions are engaging for SDG's... Rights, Results, Rules.



ii. Agenda 2030 = worldwide agenda for sustainable development compass for policies at international, European and Belgian level. Focus on framework of **Results and accountability** – not only econ – social and ecological

iii. Agenda 2030= leverage for **Rules** for sustainable development, in particular for **private sector esp for social sustainability** in their own production site and all long chain of supply lines



## II Call to Action Rules for Mandatory Due diligence of companies for social sustainability all along their supply chains.

Initiatives of Belgian companies for sustainability Findings and Trade union assessment **#TimeFor8! *Time for PR or real time for SDG 8?***

Research of HIVA (2019) **60% of Belgian companies with sustainability reporting, with large differences in quality of reporting. Focus mainly on ecological sustainability and philanthropy, social sustainability just half of cases.**

Reporting on different types of initiatives, from individual initiatives of companies - codes of conducts on sustainability for suppliers, to business group initiatives relying on external social audits, third party sustainability certification, multi staker holders of companies and sectorfederations with NGO's, trade union and governmental authorities for sustainable development all along the supply chains, Global Framework Agreements between trade unions and companies for respect for labour rights all along supply chains

**Conclusion Findings on voluntary initiatives of Belgian companies:** Only 1 in 3 Belgian companies has strategy in place for social sustainability in supply chains



## **II Call to Action Rules for Mandatory Due diligence of companies for social sustainability all along their supply chains.**

**I These Findings constitute a clear call to action for legislation on mandatory due diligence of companies for sustainability in supply chains (Belgium / Europe / International)**

**II Call to action also for trade union delegates to engage in trade union work for the respect of labour rights, environmental standards and all SDG's in their own company and in supply chains and come with proposals for social dialogue in their companies (analyze sustainability reporting of company, Use their mandate in works' council and committee on health and sustainability to discuss sustainability See HIVA roles of trade unions in collaborative versus hostile environments – HRDD as tool for trade union work)**



## II. Call to Action: A stronger Foreign Policy for social sustainability of companies operations.



Preliminary Comments :

→ States responsibility to ratify ILO standards and let respect them by their companies

→ Ratification and respect of ILO Standards are not linked to economic consequences.

→ No social level playing field at international level → social dumping.





## II. Call to Action: A stronger Foreign Policy for social sustainability of companies operations.

2 mains union's demands

TRADE TREATIES: private companies rights enjoy strong protection, worker's rights don't.

→ **Social clauses** = independent complain mechanisms, proportionated and targeted sanctions, ...(cf. ETUC statements).

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: private companies get aid for their investment abroad under weak conditions in terms of social sustainability.

→ (existing) **Stronger Due Diligence mechanisms**

ROLE TRADE UNIONS



# Sharing of a practice – Sustatool



The CGSLB and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the workplace!



Les ODD au travail : comment commencer maintenant ?

Un outil éventuel pour lancer le débat sur les ODD sur le lieu de travail c'est le SUSTATOOL. Cet outil a été développé par l'Université d'Anvers avec le soutien du gouvernement flamand.



Selon la CGSLB, « l'outil peut être utilisé pour donner aux employeurs et aux travailleurs une structure sur la façon de traiter les ODD au sein de leur entreprise et sur les thèmes ou actions de durabilité qu'ils peuvent choisir de mettre à l'ordre du jour des organes consultatifs (comité d'entreprise et CPPT) afin d'établir le lien avec les ODD. »

En complétant le Sustatool-scan, une série de questions sont générées en liens avec les 15 thèmes du Sustatool. Cette analyse donne un aperçu immédiat des forces et des faiblesses de l'organisation. Sur la base des résultats, les représentants syndicaux peuvent, par exemple, introduire des actions de durabilité appropriées et surveiller les initiatives existantes.



La CGSLB a testé l'outil à travers une série de leçons, auxquelles 250 représentants syndicaux de la CGSLB ont participé, et cela montre que la plupart des actions de durabilité dans les entreprises se concentrent sur les 5 thèmes de durabilité suivants : mobilité, environnement, collaborateurs (bien-être), santé & sécurité et communication

(dialogue). « En agissant sur ces 5 thèmes, nous pouvons contribuer, via le dialogue social, à la réalisation des ODD 3 (soins de santé), ODD 4 (éducation de qualité => apprentissage tout au long de la vie), ODD 8 (travail décent), ODD 11 (villes et communautés durables => bonne politique de mobilité), ODD 12 (consommation et production durables) et ODD 13 (climat). »

Cet outil présente des avantages et des inconvénients, cependant il semble que cela vaille la peine d'approfondir son utilisation. Pour en savoir plus et commencer à utiliser le SUSTATOOL: <https://www.mvovlaanderen.be/sustatool/home>



# Conclusions and possible next steps...



- Workshop during the Belgium SDG Forum 2021, 5/10/2021
- Development of training material
- a trade union tool to analyse how companies comply to the Agenda 2030 and sustainability
- Action plan for trade union delegates or militants to place the SGD on the social dialogue agenda of their companies