**Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence – how to make it work?**

***This meeting is under Chatham House Rule***

**Final agenda**

**Date**: February 1st, 2023

**Time:** 10:00 - 12:00

**Location:** Hybrid; ERCST, Rue Archimède 61, 1000 Bruxelles

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| The Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive is part of the unfolding EU corporate sustainability landscape which aims at integrating sustainability to strategies and everyday activity of large undertakings. Among them the CSDDD is a special case. It focuses on environmental and human rights impacts of businesses, but it also introduces an obligation for large companies to ensure that their business model and strategy are aligned with the Paris Agreement objectives, including the 1.5°C commitment. In contrast to other elements of the sustainability framework (e.g. SFDR, CSRD/ESRS, Taxonomy) CSDDD goes beyond the disclosure requirements and introduces the obligation for companies to actively manage those issues: identify, prevent, end, mitigate. In 2023 the co-legislators and the Commission will start meeting for the trilogues to negotiate the final shape of this legal act. To make the due diligence scheme workable the EU institutions will have to clarify and reconcile many issues, including how to prepare and implement transition plans, the scope of liability and boundaries of covered risks, impact on SMEs, or interplay with national and international schemes and commitments and other corporate sustainability requirements. The event’s objective is to discuss the key issues necessary to make the corporate sustainability due diligence workable.Guiding questions:* To what extent the regulation, rather than the market, should influence objectives of companies beyond making profit? What are the legitimate reasons and the consequences of such a choice?
* Transition plans to align with the Paris Agreement - is the regulation clear enough? How does it relate to the existing market and international standards?
* How to reconcile various voluntary, national and multinational due diligence schemes?
* What are the key elements of the EU due diligence framework necessary to make it work?

The ERCST workstream on the corporate sustainability aims at providing input from the real economy to the ongoing discussion on the design and implementation of the policy framework in this field. In doing that, we follow the principle of safeguarding the balance between market driven and regulatory solutions and we analyze relevant policies from the perspective of their fitness to finance and guide the sustainable transition of the real economy.  |

**10:00 Welcome and introduction**

* A. Marcu, Executive Director, ERCST

**10:05 Keynote**

* Simona Constantin, Deputy Head of Cabinet of VP Věra Jourová, European Commission

**10:20 ERCST presentation**

* + - B. Czyczerski, Senior Policy Manager, ERCST

**10:30 Panel discussion**

**Moderator**

* O. Imbault, Senior Fellow, ERCST

**Panelists**

* Emily Norton, OECD
* Aleksandra Palińska, Eurosif
* Odile de Brosses, AFEP
* Winand Quaedvlieg, Confederation of Netherlands' Industry and Employers
* Jørgen Hanson, Hydro

**11:20 Q&A and debate**

**12:00 Concluding remarks**