

EN

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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.2.2026)

1. The EU remains committed to promoting the full application of the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation¹, which lays down supply chain due diligence obligations for EU importers of tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold (3TG). These obligations are essential to help ensure that EU imports do not contribute to conflict and human rights abuses, while promoting sustainable development and preventing business disengagement. The EU also supports relevant initiatives in this area, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative².

2. The EU is committed to fighting gender inequalities and gender-based violence (GBV) in Africa. At the African Union – EU Summit³, both parties agreed to enhance efforts against all forms of discrimination, exclusion and violence particularly against girls and women. The EU's commitment to gender equality is anchored in the EU Gender Action Plan III⁴ and the EU's Roadmap for Women's Rights⁵, where the first principle is a world free of GBV.

The EU remains deeply concerned about the ongoing war in Sudan, including mass sexual and gender-based violence. The EU is working with international accountability mechanisms to break the persisting cycle of impunity.

3. The EU continues its active engagement with the international community, using diplomatic tools and instruments to support the work of the International Criminal Court and the UN, while maintaining political dialogue with the United Arab Emirates, including the negotiations for a free trade agreement. The EU exercises its trade policy, including with respect to negotiation and implementation of trade agreements, in consistency with other EU external policies. In addition, an enhanced political dialogue will be a key tenet of the future Strategic Partnership Agreement⁶.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/821/oj/eng>.

² <https://eiti.org/>.

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/vtej1kjs/joint-declaration-of-the-7th-african-union-european-union-summit-2025-24-25-november-2025.pdf>.

⁴ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-01/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf.

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/document/0c3fe55d-9e4f-4377-9d14-93d03398b434_en.

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1874.