Stuttgart, 14.08.2024

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS RESOURCE CENTRE

Dear Business & Human Rights Resource Centre,

Thank you for reaching out to Mercedes-Benz. We would like to express our gratitude for the opportunity to provide comments on the allegations and to elaborate in more detail on some of the points you have raised.

- We are aware of the current case and take any hint very seriously. We are already in contact with the supplier and have pressed for the potential allegation to be clarified. Please be assured that we will take appropriate action if allegations prove to be valid and verifiable.
- The Respect for and protection of human rights are of fundamental importance to Mercedes-Benz. We are aware that there is the potential risk of human rights violations in certain supply chains and are therefore actively taking action against it.
- Mercedes-Benz seeks to ensure that its products contain only materials that have been mined and produced without violating human rights and environmental standards.
- Sustainability is the guiding principle of the Mercedes-Benz business strategy and thus the core of our entrepreneurial activities. This claim also characterizes the cooperation with our suppliers. We can only achieve the goal of a sustainable supply chain together with our partners, with whom we work closely.
- Our supply chains are very complex. With tens of thousands direct suppliers and many more sub-suppliers, you have to proceed strategically and risk-based. With our Human Rights Respect System (HRRS), we have developed a systematic approach for the prevention of human rights violations in our supply chains. It allows us to identify and avoid risks and possible negative effects of our business activities on the respect for human rights at an early stage. We have defined clear responsibilities and internal policies for the implementation of our risk-based management approach to the protection of human rights. We also manage this topic in compliance with globally applicable guidelines and reference frameworks. Where appropriate, we work together with selected partners and industry associations and continuously further develop our due diligence approach. For more information, click here.
- Besides our systemic risk-based approach, Mercedes-Benz Group AG requires its direct suppliers to comply with the Responsible Sourcing Standards, to integrate them into their upstream value chains and to monitor compliance with these in their business processes and sphere of influence. The Responsible Sourcing Standards are derived from the requirements for human rights, environmental protection and business ethics, which Mercedes-Benz Group AG applies in its own business activities. They contain minimum requirements as a contractually binding prerequisite for business relationships with our suppliers. We encourage our suppliers to go beyond the minimum requirements and align with our supplementary expectation.
  More information: Responsible Sourcing Standards | Mercedes-Benz Supplier Portal

Should you have any questions arising from our response, please feel free to contact us. We would appreciate if our answer were still taken into account for your newsletter. Please excuse the delayed response due to public holidays in Germany and resulting absences.

Thank you very much!