



## Conference

# Responsibility towards society and the environment: businesses and their due diligence obligations

September 19th, 2019

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety  
Stresemannstraße 128-130, 10117 Berlin, Germany

### Agenda

Moderation: Hanna Gersmann

9:30 – 10:00

**Registration and coffee**

10:00

**Opening and greeting**

Jochen Flasbarth (State Secretary Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)

10:15

**Greeting**

Dr. Margaretha Sudhof (State Secretary Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection)

10:30

**Introductory Presentations**

1. Environmental due diligence for companies under different standards and legislation – a comparison (Christoph Töpfer, German Environment Agency)
2. The European Certification Mark as a voluntary instrument for due diligence (Dr. Jutta Figge, Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection)
3. The Swiss Responsible Business Initiative (Dr. Mirina Grosz, University of Basel)

11:15

**Panel discussion: Due diligence between voluntary implementation and regulation**

- Dr. iur. Mirina Grosz (Lecturer, University of Basel)
- Judith Herzog-Kuballa (Policy Officer for Sustainability, VDMA e.V.)
- Lia Polotzek (Head of Department Economy, Finance and Trade, Friends of the Earth Germany)
- Michael Krake (Director private sector, trade, employment, digital technologies, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)

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12:00	<b>Lunch break</b>
13:00	<b>Workshops</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Which role can voluntary instruments and initiatives play in fulfilling due diligence obligations? Keynote: Jan Kosmol, Federal Environment Agency Moderation: Dr. Nele Kampffmeyer, Oeko-Institut</li> <li>2. How can due diligence and environmental management systems be linked? Keynote: Peter Fischer, Environmental Verifier Moderation: Christoph Töpfer, Federal Environment Agency</li> <li>3. How can companies be legally required to exercise environmental due diligence? Keynote: Attorney David Krebs, Chancery Geulen&amp;Klinger Moderation: Attorney Prof. Dr. Remo Klinger, Chancery Geulen&amp;Klinger</li> </ol>
14:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
15:00	<b>Practical experiences in exercising environmental due diligence</b> Dialogue with MaasNatur and Daimler
15:30	<b>Panel discussion – Success factors and barriers to practical implementation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reinhard Maas (Manager, MaasNatur)</li> <li>- Swantje Pabst (Manager Corporate Responsibility Management, Daimler AG)</li> <li>- Dr. Uwe Sayer (General Manager, Forest Stewardship Council Germany)</li> <li>- Dr. Marianne Schönnenbeck (Chairwoman, German EMAS Advisory Council)</li> <li>- Annette Schmidt-Räntsch (Policy Officer, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)</li> </ul> Moderation: Hanna Gersmann
16:15 – 16:30	<b>Closing comments and farewell</b> Hanna Gersmann

Conference language is German. English translation will be provided.

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