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# 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit Final Compliance Report

22 May 2023 to 15 May 2024

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## 12. Human Rights: Forced Labour

“We reiterate our commitment to the effective abolition of all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.”

*Hiroshima G7 Leaders’ Communiqué*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+0.63 (81%)		

### Background

Issues of forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking stressed the utmost importance for the international community to cooperate in eradicating human rights abuses. According to the International Labour Organization’s (ILO), 27.6 million people are in forced labour: with 17.3 million exploited in the private sector, 6.3 million in forced commercial sexual exploitation and 3.9 million in state-imposed forced labour.<sup>2852</sup> In addition to the mass victims and severe violations of human rights, forced labour remains a decisive cause of poverty and an obstacle to economic development in the international community. On 22 October 2021, the G7 trade ministers issued a Statement for Forced Labour and stressed the need to strengthen cooperation to “prevent, identify and eliminate forced labour in global supply chains.”<sup>2853</sup>

Highlights of the G7’s governance on forced labour and human rights follow:

At the 1989 Paris Summit, the G7 leaders declared their commitment on human rights, especially on promoting universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this commitment, the G7 leaders reinforced their belief on the “rule of law which respects and protects without fear or favor the rights and liberties of every citizen.”<sup>2854</sup> They also committed to foster an international community where all individuals can develop in freedom and diversity.

At the 1990 Houston Summit, G7 members explicitly addressed for the first time the recognition of human rights in the global economy. In the Houston Economic Declaration, the G8 leaders called for the “mutually reinforcing” nature between freedom and economic prosperity.<sup>2855</sup> The members further acknowledged that sustainable economic prosperity depends on a skilled labour force whose fundamental rights are protected.

<sup>2852</sup> Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm>

<sup>2853</sup> G7 Ministers’ Statement on Forced Labour, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/trade/211022-forced-labour.html>

<sup>2854</sup> Declaration on Human Rights, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 15 July 1989. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/human.html>

<sup>2855</sup> Houston Economic Declaration, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 11 July 1990. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1990houston/declaration.html>

At the 1995 Halifax Summit, the G7 leaders reiterated their support for the UN High Commissioner for UN rights in coordinating the protection of human rights among member states.<sup>2856</sup>

At the 1999 Köln Summit, G8 members promoted effective implementation of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles at Work and adherence to the ILO Convention on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.<sup>2857</sup> The members further aimed to cooperate with developing states in expanding their economic and technological capacities in meeting core labour standards.

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, the G8 leaders reinforced their dedication to work with the ILO to combat against child labour and create incentives to raise school enrollment.<sup>2858</sup> The members also reaffirmed their support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in promoting universal education.

At the 2009 L'Aquila Summit, the G8 members called for their commitment regarding employment and social dimension. They committed to promote social protection to workers on a global level. The G8 leaders also agreed to advocate for the compliance to labour rights as reflected in the ILO declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights on its follow-up.<sup>2859</sup>

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 leaders stressed the significance of recognizing human rights and equality in fostering sustainable economic development. They emphasized the importance of measures to “eradicate trafficking in persons, forced labour and all forms of slavery, including modern slavery.”<sup>2860</sup>

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, the G7 members reiterated their concerns of all forms of forced labour in global supply chains. The G7 leaders reaffirmed the “importance of upholding human rights and international labour standards.”<sup>2861</sup> They further commit to cooperate in domestic and multilateral institutions in tackling forced labour throughout the global supply chain.

### **Commitment Features**

At the 2023 Hiroshima Summit, leaders reiterated their commitment to “the effective abolition of all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.”<sup>2862</sup>

### **Definitions and Concepts**

“Reiterate” refers to “commitments that have been established in the past ... however, new efforts in the area should be made.”<sup>2863</sup> This means that compliance for this commitment can be fulfilled by either expanding on old initiatives or creating new ones.

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<sup>2856</sup> Halifax Summit Communique, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 16 June 1995. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1995halifax/communique/index.html>

<sup>2857</sup> G8 Communiqué Köln 1999 Final, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 20 June 1999. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/1999koln/finalcom.htm>

<sup>2858</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>

<sup>2859</sup> Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, L'Aquila Summit, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>

<sup>2860</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

<sup>2861</sup> Carbis Bay and G7 Communiqué: Our Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communique.html#top>

<sup>2862</sup> G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 1 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2023hiroshima/230520-communique.html>

<sup>2863</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 1 October 2023. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf), p.71.

“Abolish” is understood to mean “to end the observance or effect of (something, such as a law)” or “to completely do away with (something).”<sup>2864</sup>

“Effective” is understood to mean “actual” or “producing a decided, decisive, or desired effect.”<sup>2865</sup> In the context of this commitment, “effective abolition” refers to actions including implementing legislative and regulatory changes, but particularly actions beyond this, such as the creation or expansion of programs or further allocation of money towards such programs or to enforcement. In other words, actions that will contribute to bringing about the actual end of forced and compulsory and child labor.

“Forced and compulsory labour” is defined as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.”<sup>2866</sup> This includes individuals in situations of debt bondage, suffering slavery-like conditions or who have been trafficked. This also includes situations where an employer or recruiter makes false promises so that a worker takes a job they would have not otherwise accepted as this is considered involuntary.

Exceptions to what is considered “forced labour” include compulsory military service, normal civic obligations, prison labour under certain circumstances, work in emergency situations (e.g. fire, flood, famine, war, violent epidemics, etc.), minor communal services under certain circumstances.<sup>2867</sup> Forced labour is distinct from situations characterized by substandard or exploitative working conditions. The presence of certain indicators will help determine whether forced labour exists, including (but not limited to): restrictions on workers’ freedom of movement, withholding of wages or identity documents, physical or sexual violence, threats and intimidation or fraudulent debt from which workers cannot escape.

“Child labour” is defined as “work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.”<sup>2868</sup> It “refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and/or interferes with their schooling.” This could exclude “work” such as children assisting in family businesses or those earning pocket money outside of school hours. Whether “work” constitutes as “child labour” then depends on “the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed, the objectives pursued by individual countries” as delineated by various ILO conventions on child labour, and additionally, definitions adopted by individual countries.”

### **General Interpretive Guidelines**

G7 members committed to the “effective abolition” of forced or compulsory labour and child labour, which creates a high standard for what actions count towards full compliance.

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that take strong actions with respect to effective abolition in both pillars of the commitment: a) forced or compulsory labour and b) child labour. Examples of strong actions include creating or expanding existing initiatives or programs aimed at one of the following: prevention, monitoring, enforcement, the protection of victims, the provision of remedies for victims and the punishment of perpetrators. Strong actions also include increasing the funding or capacity of such programs. For forced labour in particular, ILO member-states came to a consensus in 2014 on more specific, non-binding

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<sup>2864</sup> Abolish, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 1 October 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/abolish>.

<sup>2865</sup> Effective, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 8 October 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/effective>.

<sup>2866</sup> CO29 - Forced Labour Convention, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 28 June 1930. Access Date: 1 October 2023. [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:CO29](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:CO29).

<sup>2867</sup> CO29 - Forced Labour Convention, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 28 June 1930. Access Date: 1 October 2023. [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:CO29](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:CO29).

<sup>2868</sup> What is Child Labour, International Labour Organization (Geneva), n.d. Access Date: 1 October 2023. <https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/facts/lang--en/index.htm>

guidance on the types of effective measures that states can adopt.<sup>2869,2870</sup> Such measures, more specific to the forced or compulsory labour pillar of this commitment, include basic social security guarantees, eliminating fraudulent practices by recruitment agencies, compensation schemes and/or legal remedies for victims and the imposition of penalties on offenders.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members that take weak actions with respect to effective abolition in both pillars of the commitment, or strong action in one of the pillars. Examples of actions that, while important, would be considered “weak” for the sole purposes of this commitment include domestic or international information-sharing, awareness-raising campaigns on identifying and combating abusive practices at work, and active participation at domestic or international summits on these topics.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned to G7 members that did not demonstrate any actions with respect to the effective abolition of forced or compulsory labour and child labour. Given the high standard for this commitment, actions including (a) verbal statements or reaffirmations in support of the effective abolition of forced/compulsory labour or child labour and (b) cabinet reconfigurations to signal action on the aforementioned types of labour and (c) attendance at domestic or international summits on these topics and further international legalization, will not count towards compliance.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member did not take actions to effectively abolish all forms of forced or compulsory labour or to abolish child labour.
0	The G7 member took weak action to effectively abolish both forced or compulsory labour and child labour; or a member took strong action either with respect to forced or compulsory labour or child labour.
+1	The G7 member took strong action to effectively abolish both forced or compulsory labour and child labour.

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### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to the effective abolishment of all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.

On 28 May 2023, Canada amended its Customs Tariff Act C.26, subparagraph 132(1)(m)(i.1) to include both child labour and forced labour as conditions to exclude goods from a tariff item.<sup>2871</sup> The current amendment states that tariff item must exclude “goods mined, manufactured or produced wholly or in part by forced labour or child labour as those terms are defined in section 2 of the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act.”

On 28 June 2023, the representatives from the three Parties comprising the Labour Council of the United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) met, pursuant to Article 23.14 of the USMCA Labour Chapter, and discussed three key topics.<sup>2872</sup> One such topic was the implementation of the USMCA provisions related to imports

<sup>2869</sup> R203 - Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203), International Labour Organization (Geneva) 11 June 2014. Access Date: 1 October 2023.

[https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:R203:NO](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_ILO_CODE:R203:NO)

<sup>2870</sup> Protocol P029 - Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 11 June 2014. Access Date: 1 October 2023.

[https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:P029](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:P029)

<sup>2871</sup> Customs Tariff, S.C. 1997, c. 36. Assented to 1997-12-08 (Toronto) 28 May 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023.

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-54.011/FullText.html>

<sup>2872</sup> Joint Statement of the Labor Council United States – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA), Global Affairs Canada (Mexico City) 29 June 2023. Access Date: 6 May 2024. [https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/2023-06-28-labour\\_coun\\_cusma-conseil\\_travail\\_aceum.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/2023-06-28-labour_coun_cusma-conseil_travail_aceum.aspx?lang=eng)

produced through forced labour. The three Parties also decided to hold a trilateral dialogue in the near future on forced labor enforcement to exchange best practices.

On 13 June 2023, the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) launched a new online complaint form on its website, allowing for the creation of file numbers and the existence of a secure electronic case system.<sup>2873</sup>

On 11 July 2023, the CORE published Initial Assessment Reports for two Canadian businesses that are alleged to have used or benefitted from Uyghur forced labor.<sup>2874</sup> The focus of the assessment was on Nike Canada Corp. and Dynasty Gold Corporation, a mining business.<sup>2875</sup> Both companies denied culpability with Dynasty Gold Corporation stating it did not have operational control over its mine and that such allegations arose after it left the region. In response, the CORE began conducting independent fact-finding investigations.<sup>2876</sup>

On 15 August 2023, the CORE published Initial Assessment reports on the mining company GobiMin and Ralph Lauren Corporation regarding allegations of the use of forced labour in their respective supply chains.<sup>2877</sup> For GobiMin, the CORE provided recommendations regarding responsible business conduct, including emphasizing the importance of the risk of forced labor that may arise from investments in companies abroad.<sup>2878</sup> The CORE additionally decided that certain allegations have warranted the need for an investigation using independent fact-finding sources.<sup>2879</sup>

On 24 August 2023, the CORE published Initial Assessment reports regarding the use of forced labour in the supply chains of three Canadian companies – Diesel Canada Inc., Hugo Boss Canada Inc. and Walmart Canada Corp.<sup>2880</sup> The CORE launched independent fact-finding investigations into all three companies.

On 20 September 2023, the CORE published an Initial Assessment report regarding the use of forced labour in the supply chain of Levi Strauss & Co. Inc., and subsequently launched an investigation.<sup>2881</sup>

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<sup>2873</sup> The CORE launches a new online complaint form, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 13 June 2023. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/news-nouvelles/new-complaint-form-nouveau-formulaire-plainte.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/news-nouvelles/new-complaint-form-nouveau-formulaire-plainte.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>2874</sup> CORE ‘investigations’ into allegations of Canadian company links to Uyghur forced labour will likely yield few results, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 24 August 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. <https://cnca-rcrce.ca/2023/08/24/core-investigations-will-likely-lead-to-few-results/>

<sup>2875</sup> The CORE launches investigations into two Canadian companies, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 11 July 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/news-nouvelles/press-release-communique-2023-07-11.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/news-nouvelles/press-release-communique-2023-07-11.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>2876</sup> Initial Assessment Report for a complaint filed by a coalition of 28 organizations about the activities of Nike Canada Corp., Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 11 July 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/activities-nike-canada-corp-activities.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/activities-nike-canada-corp-activities.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>2877</sup> The CORE addresses forced labour complaints against two Canadian companies, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 15 August 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/press-release-communique-presse.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/press-release-communique-presse.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>2878</sup> Initial Assessment Report for a complaint filed by a coalition of 28 organizations about the activities of GobiMin, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 15 August 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/activities-gobimin-activities.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/activities-gobimin-activities.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>2879</sup> Initial Assessment Report for a complaint filed by a coalition of 28 organizations about the activities of Ralph Lauren Canada LP, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 15 August 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/activities-ralph-lauren-activities.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/activities-ralph-lauren-activities.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>2880</sup> Allegations of Uyghur forced labour in the garment supply chains and operations of Walmart Canada, Hugo Boss Canada Inc. and Diesel Canada Inc. in China, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 24 August 2023. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/press-release\\_walmart-hugo-boss\\_diesel\\_communique.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/press-release_walmart-hugo-boss_diesel_communique.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>2881</sup> The CORE launches investigation into Levi Strauss Canada, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 20 September 2023. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/press-release-levi-strauss-communique.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/press-release-levi-strauss-communique.aspx?lang=eng)

On 6 November 2023, the CORE published an Initial Assessment report regarding the use of forced labour in the supply chain of Zara Canada Inc., and subsequently launched an investigation.<sup>2882</sup>

On 21 November 2023, the Government of Canada presented its 2023 Fall Economic Statement, which indicated it will provide a total of CAD8 million to Public Safety Canada over the period of 2023-2026 to support their work on eliminating forced and child labour from Canadian supply chains.<sup>2883</sup>

On 11 December 2023, the CORE announced the launch of investigation into allegations of Uyghur forced labour in the supply chain of “Guess? Canada Corporation” following publication by CORE of the Initial Assessment report.<sup>2884</sup>

On 20 December 2023, Public Safety Canada released guidance on the reporting criteria for Canadian businesses under Bill S-211, requiring transparency regarding implemented measures to remove and prevent forced and child labour.<sup>2885</sup>

On 1 January 2024, Bill S-211 entered into force. The Act requires specific private-sector firms and government organizations to submit annual reports detailing measures to mitigate forced labor and/or child labor practices within their practices to the Minister of Public Safety.<sup>2886</sup>

On 1 January 2024, the Canadian Parliament amended its Customs Tariff to include new obligations under the USMCA.<sup>2887</sup> Under “Article 23:6 on [eliminating all] forced or compulsory labor”, Canada added amendments prohibiting the “importation of goods mined, manufactured, or produced wholly or in part by child labor.”

On 7 March 2024, Public Safety Canada updated its guidance to Canadian businesses regarding the Act formerly known as Bill S-211, altering what entities were subject to the reporting requirements.<sup>2888</sup>

On 25 March 2024, the CORE published its final report into allegations of the use of forced labour in the supply chains of Dynasty Gold Corporation.<sup>2889</sup> The CORE provided several recommendations to the Minister of International Trade, including withdrawing any trade advocacy support and refusing to provide such support in the future until Dynasty fulfilled the CORE’s recommendations.

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<sup>2882</sup> Allegations of Uyghur forced labour in the garment supply chains of Zara Canada Inc. in China, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 6 November 2023. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/press-release-zara-communiqueur-presse.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/press-release-zara-communiqueur-presse.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>2883</sup> 2023 Fall Economic Statement: Annex 1: Details of Economic and Fiscal Projections: Supplementary Information, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 November 2023. Access Date: 5 May 2024. <https://www.budget.canada.ca/fes-eea/2023/report-rapport/anx1-en.html#a27>

<sup>2884</sup> The CORE launches investigation into Guess? Canada Corp., Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 11 December 2023. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/press-release-guess-communique.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/press-release-guess-communique.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>2885</sup> Part I: Canada Unveils Long-Awaited Guidance on Act Fighting Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP (Toronto) 20 December 2023. Access Date: 6 May 2024. <https://www.blakes.com/insights/canada-unveils-long-awaited-guidance-on-act-fighting-forced-labour-and-child-labour-in-supply-chains/>

<sup>2886</sup> Bill S-211 Unveiled Ensuring Ethical Practices in Your Supply Chain, Crowe Soberman LLP (Toronto) 14 February 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. <https://www.crowe.com/ca/crowesoberman/insights/bill-s-211-unveiled>

<sup>2887</sup> Canada: Enforcement update on Canada’s Import Prohibition on forced and child labor, Baker McKenzie (Toronto) 20 December 2023. Access Date: 2 March 2024. [https://www.globalcompliancenews.com/2023/12/20/https-insightplus-bakermckenzie-com-bm-international-commercial-trade-canada-enforcement-update-on-canadas-import-prohibition-on-forced-and-child-labor\\_11282023/](https://www.globalcompliancenews.com/2023/12/20/https-insightplus-bakermckenzie-com-bm-international-commercial-trade-canada-enforcement-update-on-canadas-import-prohibition-on-forced-and-child-labor_11282023/)

<sup>2888</sup> Second update on guidance for the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act: Deadline approaching, Dentons Canada LLP (Ottawa) 11 April 2024. Access Date: 6 May 2024. <https://www.dentons.com/en/insights/articles/2024/april/11/second-update-on-guidance-for-the-fighting-against-forced-labour-and-child>

<sup>2889</sup> Final report: Investigation for a complaint filed by a coalition of 28 organizations about the activities of Dynasty Gold Corporation, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 25 March 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/news-nouvelles/complaint-dynasty-gold-plainte.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/news-nouvelles/complaint-dynasty-gold-plainte.aspx?lang=eng)



On 16 April 2024, the Government of Canada tabled its 2024 Budget, which reaffirmed its commitment to introduce legislation in 2024 to eradicate forced labour from Canadian supply chains and to strengthen the import ban on goods produced with forced labor.<sup>2890</sup>

On 24 April 2024, the CORE published a follow-up report regarding a complaint filed against Canadian mining company GobiMin Inc.<sup>2891</sup> The report stated that the CORE would not issue any recommendations to the Minister of International Trade regarding the company, as the company had participated in the dispute resolution process in good faith. The CORE published the Initial Assessment report in August 2023.

On 25 April 2024, the CORE published a final report regarding a complaint filed against Hugo Boss Canada Inc. regarding the use of forced labour in its supply chains.<sup>2892</sup> The CORE indicates the company provided a satisfactory response to the allegations. The CORE published the Initial Assessment report in August 2023.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor, and child labor. Canada has been effective in taking actions to abolish and/or improve labor conditions, particularly through launching reports and investigations to assess forced labor usage across Canadian-based companies. Canada has also been introduced legislative changes to comply with its commitment.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ridhima Sinha*

### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.

On 1 June 2023, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child published its final observations on the protection of children's rights in France.<sup>2893</sup> The committee welcomed the progress made by France and its active efforts of the public authorities for children. The committee also paid special tribute to the national strategy on prevention and the protection of children. Additionally, the Committee viewed the creation of a parliamentary delegation on children's rights at the Senate and National Assembly, as positive as well as the opening of more places where child victims' testimonies could be heard.

On 8 September 2023, Deputy Prosecutor in Châlons-en-Champagne opened up two investigations of human trafficking during the grape harvest.<sup>2894</sup> The investigations pertained to accusations that over 200 foreigners allegedly worked in appalling conditions from substandard and unsanitary facilities to forced labor.

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<sup>2890</sup> Budget 2024: Chapter 7: Protecting Canadians and Defending Democracy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. <https://budget.canada.ca/2024/report-rapport/chap7-en.html#s7-2>

<sup>2891</sup> GobiMin Inc. follows the Canada Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise's recommendations on responsible exit policy for foreign investments, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 24 April 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/news-nouvelles/2024-04-24-press-release-communique.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/news-nouvelles/2024-04-24-press-release-communique.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>2892</sup> Hugo Boss Canada Inc. addressed the complaint through the CORE's alternative dispute resolution process, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (Ottawa) 25 April 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core\\_ombuds-ocre\\_ombuds/news-nouvelles/2024-04-25-press-release-communique.aspx?lang=eng](https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/news-nouvelles/2024-04-25-press-release-communique.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>2893</sup> United Nations – The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomes the progress made by France and its active efforts for children - Joint communiqué issued by the ministry for Europe and foreign Affairs and the office of the minister of state for children, France Diplomatie (France) 2 June 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/france-and-the-united-nations/news-and-events/news/news-2023/article/united-nations-the-un-committee-on-the-rights-of-the-child-welcomes-the>

<sup>2894</sup> Investigations opened for human trafficking during grape harvest in Champagne, Le Monde (Paris) 29 September 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. [https://www.lemonde.fr/en/france/article/2023/09/29/investigations-opened-for-human-trafficking-during-grape-harvest-in-champagne\\_6140857\\_7.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/france/article/2023/09/29/investigations-opened-for-human-trafficking-during-grape-harvest-in-champagne_6140857_7.html)

France has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor, and child labor. France has taken measures to file lawsuits against and combat networks and companies that carry out human rights abuses such as forced labor, human trafficking, and smuggling. However, France has not been able to commit to actions that effectively combat forced labor and harsh working conditions in the country.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Zabra Javaid*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.

On 20 June 2023, the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, a non-profit organization based in Berlin, filed a complaint with German regulators against Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes-Benz for allegedly using forced labor from Xinjiang.<sup>2895,2896</sup> This was filed under the newly created German law, the Supply Chain Due Diligence Act, which came into effect on the 1st of January 2023, although a verdict is yet to be determined.<sup>2897</sup>

On 2 July 2023, Germany introduced their new German Whistleblower Protection Act, which requires all businesses and companies with 50 or more employees to establish internal reporting channels. This includes covering channels to report its compliance regarding criminal behaviors, violations of health and safety and minimum wage regulations.<sup>2898</sup>

On 7 July 2023, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs put into effect the Citizen's Benefits Act, which aims to introduce standard support requirements covering all daily living costs for employees. This Act would also ensure monthly bonuses, such as EUR75 for sustainable integration bonuses, topping the citizen's benefits.<sup>2899</sup>

On 5 September 2023, Germany began consultations with civil society for its National Action Plan against labour exploitation and forced labour, aiming to finalize and adopt the plan within the next legislative period.<sup>2900</sup>

On 18 September 2023, Germany, Belgium and Spain pledged EUR21 million for the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, an International Labour Organization–coordinated initiative.<sup>2901</sup> The initiative aims to support the creation of 400 million decent jobs and extend universal social protection, including those of forced laborers and children, for over 4 billion people.

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<sup>2895</sup> German economic engine roars thanks to forced labor: Complaint filed against VW, BMW and Mercedes Benz, European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights (Berlin) 21 June 2023. Access Date: 6 June 2024. <https://www.ecchr.eu/en/press-release/deutscher-wirtschaftsmotor-brummt-dank-zwangsarbeit-beschwerde-gegen-vw-bmw-und-mercedes-benz-eingereicht/>

<sup>2896</sup> Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes hit by Xinjiang forced labour complaint, Financial Times (London) 20 June 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. <https://www.ft.com/content/688470e9-d335-4c85-83d3-67ea64891035>

<sup>2897</sup> BMW, Mercedes, and Volkswagen Accused of Forced Labor Under German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act, Resilinc (Milpitas) 11 July 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. <https://www.resilinc.com/blog/german-supply-chain-due-diligence-act>

<sup>2898</sup> Germany's New Whistleblower Protection Act: What Employers Need to Know, Ogletree Deakins (Greenville) 28 August 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. <https://ogletree.com/insights-resources/blog-posts/germanys-new-whistleblower-protection-act-what-employers-need-to-know/>

<sup>2899</sup> Citizen's benefit (Bürgergeld) for People from Abroad, (Berlin) n.d. Access Date: 8 November 2023

<sup>2900</sup> Germany: General information: situation on trafficking in human beings, European Commission Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 15 February 2024. [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/together-against-trafficking-human-beings/eu-countries/germany\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/together-against-trafficking-human-beings/eu-countries/germany_en)

<sup>2901</sup> 21 million euros pledged at UNGA for Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, International Labour Organization (New York City) 18 September 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_894291/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_894291/lang--en/index.htm)

On 16 October 2023, Germany highlighted the importance of eradicating markets for forced labor products and committed to incorporate these legislations within government and the European Commission.<sup>2902</sup>

On 1 January 2024, Germany amended the German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (LkSG), requiring 1000 more business to disclose their due diligence actions in preventing and mitigation human right violations, including child labor and labor exploitation practices.<sup>2903</sup> Before the introduction of LkSG, only 3000 businesses are required to disclose due diligence practices. This act aims to continue increasing the number of businesses it assesses.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor, and child labor. Germany has taken measures to abolish forced and compulsory labor practices by, for instance, having union reforms aiming to increase public-sector workers' wages by 10.5 per cent. Additionally, Germany has been able to commit actions to combating child labor meritoriously.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ridhima Sinha*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labour and child labour.

On 6 October 2023, Italy declared that it would be subject to a proposed European Union mandate to prohibit goods made by forced labour throughout the EU Market. Alongside with Egypt and the Intl Labour Organization, Italy has also signed the National Action Plan for Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Egypt and Supporting Family to combat child labour in Egypt.<sup>2904</sup> This plan aims to eliminate all forms of child labour by 2025 by providing social integration and protection to targeted children and their families.

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced labour and compulsory labour and child labour. Italy has conducted a singular action pertaining to this commitment, entailing the application of regulations to its territory.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Wania Gondal*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.

On 23 July 2023, Japan hosted the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights to discuss the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries plans to develop human rights due diligence guidelines for the food industry supply chain and raise awareness on business and human rights overseas through a push for the inclusion of relevant language regarding UNGPs. Despite gaps in the understanding and implementation of UNGPs among

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<sup>2902</sup> EU BAN ON PRODUCTS MADE BY FORCED LABOUR A PRIORITY FILE FOR RENEW EUROPE FOR THE END OF THE MANDATE, Renew Europe (Brussels) 16 October 2023. Access Date: 2 March 2024. <https://www.reneweuropesgroup.eu/news/2023-10-16/eu-ban-on-products-made-by-forced-labour-a-priority-file-for-renew-europe-for-the-end-of-the-mandate>

<sup>2903</sup> German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (LkSG), EcoVadis (Paris) 1 January 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. <https://ecovadis.com/regulations/german-supply-chain-due-diligence-act-lksg>

<sup>2904</sup> Egypt, Italy, ILO sign an agreement to support national plan to combat child labour (Geneva) 6 October 2023. Access Date: 28 November 2023. <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/187158/Egypt%2C-Italy%2C-ILO-sign-an-agreement-to-support-national-plan-to-combat-child-labour?lang=en-us>

businesses, the working group noted Japan's excellent cooperation both in the country and from its Permanent Mission in Geneva.<sup>2905</sup>

On 15 August 2023, Japan and UNESCO's funding for Care and Recovery for Migrant Children project led to the first installment of food items to reach 20 migrant learning centres in the three border districts of the Tak Province. This delivery is estimated to benefit more than 3,000 migrant students on the Thai-Myanmar border by providing them with daily nutritious lunches.<sup>2906</sup> This demonstrates that Japan's pledge of USD2.1 million to this project has been worthwhile, reemphasizing their commitment to safeguarding against child sexual abuse and exploitation of child labour.<sup>2907</sup>

On 18 September 2023, the Japan International Cooperation Agency joined the Australian Embassy, United States Agency for International Development and Thailand International Cooperation Agency to reinforce commitments against human trafficking. The delegation met with stakeholders to further support regional development and work with Lower Mekong countries.<sup>2908</sup>

On 18 October 2023, Japan's government expert panel drafted a proposal to scrap the current Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) and instead introduce a new system. This reform is significant as the TITP was criticized for its allegedly exploitative nature; the proposed changes underscore Japan's recognition and eradication of these systemic flaws.<sup>2909</sup>

On 14 November 2023, Ministers Yoko Kamikawa and Yasutoshi Nishimura and United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo convened for the second ministerial meeting of the Japan-US Economic Policy Consultative Committee.<sup>2910</sup> With a focus on bilateral relations, they discussed aims to promote meaningful labor protections while supporting women's economic empowerment, entrepreneurship and leadership.

On 13 February 2024, the US-Japan Task Force on the Promotion of Human Rights and International Labour Standards in Supply Chains held the first round of government and stakeholder dialogues.<sup>2911</sup> The Office of the United States Trade Representative and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry launched the task force last year. Participants from both countries discussed best practices regarding corporate due diligence, US policies on eliminating forced labour in supply chains (e.g. implementation of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act).

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<sup>2905</sup> UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights – Country Visit to Japan, 24 July to 4 August 2023, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (Tokyo) 4 August 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/development/wg/statement/20230804-eom-japan-wg-development-en.pdf>

<sup>2906</sup> UNESCO and Japan team up to provide education and food assistance to migrant children on the Thai-Myanmar border, UNESCO (Bangkok) 27 October 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-japan-team-provide-education-and-food-assistance-migrant-children-thai-myanmar-border>

<sup>2907</sup> UNESCO and Japan announce education in emergencies project for migrant children along the Thailand-Myanmar border, UNESCO (Bangkok) 8 November 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-japan-announce-education-emergencies-project-migrant-children-along-thailand-myanmar?hub=701>

<sup>2908</sup> Press Release 2023 – Commitment to combating human trafficking\_Eng, Australian Embassy – Thailand (Bangkok) 20 September 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023.

[https://thailand.embassy.gov.au/bkok/PR2023\\_Commitment\\_combating\\_human\\_trafficking\\_Eng.html](https://thailand.embassy.gov.au/bkok/PR2023_Commitment_combating_human_trafficking_Eng.html)

<sup>2909</sup> Japan to overhaul foreign trainee program, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (Vancouver) 26 October 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://cast.asiapacific.ca/map/event/4280>

<sup>2910</sup> Joint Statement of the Japan-U.S. Economic Policy Consultative Committee, U.S. Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 14 November 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2023/11/joint-statement-japan-us-economic-policy-consultative-committee>

<sup>2911</sup> Readout of First Round of the U.S.-Japan Task Force on the Promotion of Human Rights and International Labor Standards in Supply Chains, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 14 February 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2024/february/readout-first-round-us-japan-task-force-promotion-human-rights-and-international-labor-standards>.

On 28 February 2024, the fourth phase of the Promoting and Building Social Protection in Asia – Indonesia project came to an end.<sup>2912</sup> This phase built on the roadmaps to extend social security coverage in Association of Southeast Asian Nations and other development cooperation projects to help spur the design and implementation of a new employment insurance scheme.

On 19 March 2024, a group of Japanese ruling party and opposition lawmakers called on the government to investigate links between carmakers and forced labour in the Xinjiang aluminum industry.<sup>2913</sup> In particular, they advocated for the enactment of a human rights due diligence law and a human rights sanction law, with coordinated and targeted sanctions on officials responsible for serious abuses.

On 1 April 2024, amendments to the Ordinance for the Enforcement of the Labour Standards Act came into force.<sup>2914</sup> This will require employers to clearly notify all employees of the specific employment terms. More specifically, this ordinance has implications for overtime workers, allowing for fairer treatment and less of an unhealthy focus on long work hours.<sup>2915</sup>

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labour and child labour. They have consistently followed through with promises to regulate supply chains, create new initiatives and actionable plans, and lead discussions related to forced labour and child labour.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Amelia Hui*

### **United Kingdom: 0**

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.

On 5 June 2023, the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group launched its report 'Child Labour: strengthening the UK's approach to a persistent problem' in Parliament.<sup>2916</sup> Speakers further called for reforming the 2015 Modern Slavery Strategy and distinguishing exploitative child labour from modern slavery. Business representatives warmly received the report, having supported calls for clarity in UK child labour regulations and a harmonization with foreign jurisdictions where rules are often more stringent.<sup>2917</sup>

On 19 June 2023, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities introduced 'The Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill, also known as the Anti-Boycott Bill, in the House of Commons.<sup>2918</sup> The bill restricts public bodies from making investment or procurement decisions that "indicates political or moral disapproval of a foreign state." Opposition parliamentarians and civil society groups stated that the Bill

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<sup>2912</sup> Promoting and Building Social Protection in Asia (Indonesia – 4<sup>th</sup> phase), ILO (Geneva) 28 February 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. [https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/whatwedo/projects/WCMS\\_818822/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/whatwedo/projects/WCMS_818822/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>2913</sup> Japan Lawmakers Seek Probe of Carmaker Links to Xinjiang Abuses, Human Rights Watch (New York City) 19 March 2024. Access Date: 29 April 2024. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/03/19/japan-lawmakers-seek-probe-carmaker-links-xinjiang-abuses>.

<sup>2914</sup> Japan: Effective 1 April 2024 – Changes to employer's obligation to provide clear notice of terms of employment, Global Compliance News (Chicago) 7 February 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. [https://www.globalcompliance.com/2024/02/07/https-insightplus-bakermckenzie-com-bm-employment-compensation-japan-effective-1-april-2024-changes-to-employers-obligation-to-provide-clear-notice-of-terms-of-employment\\_01152024/](https://www.globalcompliance.com/2024/02/07/https-insightplus-bakermckenzie-com-bm-employment-compensation-japan-effective-1-april-2024-changes-to-employers-obligation-to-provide-clear-notice-of-terms-of-employment_01152024/)

<sup>2915</sup> How Japan is creating a sustainable and resilient future for the logistics industry, World Economic Forum (Cologne) 20 February 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/02/japan-sustainable-and-resilient-future-for-logistics/>

<sup>2916</sup> Listening to children must be key to UK's strategy on child labour, Institute of Development Studies (Brighton) 6 June 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.ids.ac.uk/news/listening-to-children-must-be-key-to-uks-strategy-on-child-labour/>

<sup>2917</sup> The government must act to tackle child labour, Drapers (London) 19 July 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.drapersonline.com/insight/why-the-government-must-act-to-tackle-child-labour>

<sup>2918</sup> Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill 2022-23, UK Parliament – House of Commons Library (London) 23 October 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9822/>

may prevent public bodies from taking action (e.g., boycotts, divestment campaigns) in response to China's treatment of Uyghurs.

On 20 July 2023, the UK's Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill received Royal Assent.<sup>2919</sup> This bill allows the Secretary of State to make regulations on minimum level of service that unions and workers must comply with during strikes. Unions and workers will be obligated to adhere to these regulations, or else they forfeit protections safeguarding them from being sued or dismissed.

On 20 July 2023, the UK's Illegal Migration Act also received Royal Assent. This law ensures those who arrive irregularly to the UK will be detained and promptly deported to their home country or a "safe third country."<sup>2920</sup> However, some entities believed that the Act would likely increase denial of support and prevent potential victims of forced labour from reaching safety.

On 10 August 2023, the UK published extensive research and data on the number of potential victims of modern slavery, following the National Referral Mechanism via the Duty to Notify. This is a step to reinforcing their commitment against forced labour and trafficking.<sup>2921</sup>

On 22 September 2023, the International Labour Organization and Plan International conducted a training session on inter-agency child labour for the Middle East North Africa region, made possible through funding from the European Union, Sweden and the UK.<sup>2922</sup>

On 25 September 2023, the UK held a roundtable discussion on its negotiation with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). This discussion emphasized the importance of ensuring mobility for workers within the GCC and the importance of gender equality and labour rights.<sup>2923</sup>

On 12 October 2023, the UK held a roundtable meeting to discuss implementing recommendations from the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. To combat human trafficking across the country, participants focused on victim access to legal aid and compensation, investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases, identification of victims of trafficking, provision of assistance and protection and cooperation with civil society and the private sector.<sup>2924</sup>

On 13 October 2023, the UK launched the Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking as a global initiative to confront modern slavery. The UK and Bahrain funded the commission, which aims to

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<sup>2919</sup> Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill 2022-23, UK Parliament – House of Commons Library (London) 13 January 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9703/>

<sup>2920</sup> explainer: The Illegal Migration Act modern slavery provisions, Modern Slavery & Human Rights – Bingham Centre (London) 11 September 2023. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://modernslaverypec.org/assets/downloads/Modern-Slavery-PEC-Explainer-Illegal-Migration-Act-v.2.pdf>.

<sup>2921</sup> Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, end of year summary 2022, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 2 March 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2022/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2022>

<sup>2922</sup> Training marks a significant step forward in addressing child labour in Lebanon, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 22 September 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023. [https://www.ilo.org/beirut/media-centre/news/WCMS\\_894706/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/beirut/media-centre/news/WCMS_894706/lang-en/index.htm)

<sup>2923</sup> Trade Policy Advisory Group meeting: 25 October 2023, Welsh Government services and information (Cardiff) 7 November 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://www.gov.wales/trade-policy-advisory-group-meeting-25-october-2023.html>

<sup>2924</sup> Round-table meeting on combating human trafficking in the United Kingdom, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 12 October 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/-/round-table-on-malta-s-progress-in-combating-human-trafficking-duplicate-1>

make change through an action plan and its according implementation. Ultimately, its aim is to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate alarming increases in slavery and trafficking.<sup>2925</sup>

On 18 October 2023, Ambassador James Kariuki gave a joint statement on behalf of the UK and 50 other countries at the United Nations Third Committee on human rights violations occurring in Xinjiang.<sup>2926</sup> The UK led on the statement, demonstrating their commitment to combating against forced labour.

On 8 November 2023, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's Better Regional Migration Management project funded an ILO-held workshop for employers from regions of South Sudan in Juba on better regional migration. During the workshop, stakeholders came to a consensus about the need to establish "clear, transparent and efficient national immigration laws and policies" to ensure workers can move freely to where their inputs are needed.<sup>2927</sup>

On 15 November 2023, the UK published updates to the Right to Work Scheme for employers, which applies to all work checks as of 22 January 2024.<sup>2928</sup> This means employers will be monetarily punished for each illegal worker they employ; specifically, from 15,000GBP to up to 45,000GBP for a first breach.<sup>2929</sup>

On 21 November 2023, the UK's Supreme Court ruled against collective bargaining rights, such that gig economy workers are not allowed to unionise and were "independent self-employed contractors" rather than workers. This ruling threatens gig workers' abilities to receive key protections, including fair pay and collective bargaining, which could heighten exploitation.<sup>2930</sup>

On 30 November 2023, the UK's Lords Chamber debated child labour and artisanal cobalt mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>2931</sup> Speakers reiterated the Modern Slavery act and actions with international mining companies to ensure the elimination of modern slavery.

On 12 January 2024, the UN's special rapporteur on modern slavery, Tomoya Obokata, voiced concerns over the "clear indicators of forced labour" in the UK's seasonal worker scheme.<sup>2932</sup> The scheme offers a six-month

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<sup>2925</sup> Global Commission on Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking to lead international battle to end forced labour, University of Oxford (Oxford) 13 October 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2023-10-13-global-commission-modern-slavery-human-trafficking-lead-international-battle-end>

<sup>2926</sup> Human rights violations in Xinjiang: joint statement at the UN Third Committee, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 October 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/joint-statement-on-human-rights-violations-in-xinjiang-at-the-un-third-committee>

<sup>2927</sup> Labour migration, if properly managed, is essential to the needs of businesses and the long-term success of economies, the South Sudan Employers' Confederation argues, International Labour Organisation (Geneva) 10 November 2023. Access Date: 1 March 2024. [https://www.ilo.org/actemp/news/WCMS\\_901856/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/actemp/news/WCMS_901856/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>2928</sup> Draft code of practice on preventing illegal working: Right to Work Scheme for employer, November 2023, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 November 2023. Access Date: 1 March 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-codes-of-practice-on-illegal-working-penalties/draft-code-of-practice-on-preventing-illegal-working-right-to-work-scheme-for-employers-november-2023-accessible-version>

<sup>2929</sup> UK Employment Law: Step into 2024, The Bureau of Investigative Journalism (London) 20 December 2023. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.littler.com/publication-press/publication/uk-employment-law-step-2024>.

<sup>2930</sup> Blow to gig economy workers after UK supreme court rules against collective bargaining rights, The Guardian (London) 21 November 2023. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/nov/21/blow-to-gig-economy-workers-after-uk-supreme-court-rules-against-collective-bargaining>.

<sup>2931</sup> Child Labour and Artisanal Cobalt Mining in the DRC, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 30 November 2023. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2023-11-30/debates/DE24A19D-A7BA-4675-A5A2-3768820E1D40/ChildLabourAndArtisanalCobaltMiningInTheDRC>

<sup>2932</sup> UK: Special Rapporteur on modern slavery says govt. breaching intl. human rights amid alleged failure to address Seasonal Worker Scheme abuse, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (London) 12 January 2024. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/uk-special-rapporteur-on-modern-slavery-says-govt-breaching-intl-human-rights-amid-alleged-failure-to-address-seasonal-worker-scheme-abuse/>

temporary visa to people from overseas in order to address the UK's labour shortages; it has been plagued with allegations of worker mistreatment which seem to have gone largely unexamined by the government.

On 6 February 2024, the British government revealed policy work aiming to remove modern slavery from healthcare supply chains, under Section 12ZC of the NHS Act 2006.<sup>2933</sup> This will further aid the NHS in "assessing and mitigating" modern slavery risks.

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labour and child labour. They have reemphasized their mission against modern slavery and forced labour through roundtables, reports, and committees; however, their actions do little to address human rights abuses within the global supply chain and are generally works in progress.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Amelia Hui*

### **United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.

On 27 July 2023, the Labor Department condemned a national surge in the exploitation of migrant child workers. The agency claimed to find thousands of cases where minors were employed in illegal and dangerous jobs, largely as a result of the 300,000 unaccompanied minors that have come to the US since 2021. House Democrats launched a task force to fight child labor and requested a federal audit to assess the range of the problem. The Labor Department announced its efforts to find companies that rely on child workers and hold them accountable. It also prohibited the shipment of goods when child labor is involved.<sup>2934</sup>

On 1 August 2023, the United States banned goods from two China-based companies, Camel Group Co. Ltd., a battery manufacturer, and Chenguang Biotech Group Co. Ltd., a spice and extract manufacturer. The Department of Homeland Security stated these companies were implicated in the genocide and crimes against humanity being committed in the Xinjiang Region.<sup>2935</sup>

On 26 September 2023, the United States restricted imports from three Chinese companies tied to forced labor as part of their continued efforts to eliminate goods made with forced labor from the US supply chains. Xinjiang Tianmian Foundation Textile Co Ltd, Xinjiang Tianshan Wool Textile Co. Ltd. and Xinjiang Zhongtai Group Co. Ltd were added to the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List, bringing the total number of companies to 27. The list prohibits importing goods into the US that are produced in Xinjiang or by the identified companies unless the importer can prove that the goods were not produced with forced labor.<sup>2936</sup>

On 24 October 2023, the heads of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China urged the Department of Homeland Security and the Biden administration to ban seafood processed in two provinces in China from

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<sup>2933</sup> NHS: Supply Chains - Department of Health and Social Care written question answered at on 6 February 2024, TheyWorkForYou (London) 6 February 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2024-01-30.HL2039.h>.

<sup>2934</sup> Labor Department Denounces Surge in Exploited Migrant Children, The New York Times (New York City) 27 July 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/27/us/migrant-child-labor.html?searchResultPosition=1>

<sup>2935</sup> US targets two China-based firms over forced labor practices, Department of Homeland Security says, Reuters (Washington D.C.) 2 August 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/business/us-targets-two-china-based-firms-over-forced-labor-practices-dhs-2023-08-01/>

<sup>2936</sup> US restricts imports from three more Chinese companies tied to forced labor, Reuters (Washington D.C.) 27 September 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-adds-three-entities-forced-labor-entity-list-involving-uyghurs-2023-09-26/>



entering the US market because of concerns of human rights abuses on Uyghurs. They also demanded a ban of Chinese facilities using forced labor from doing business with US companies.<sup>2937</sup>

On 26 October 2023, lawmakers introduced Senate bills aimed to combat the rising number of child labor violations in the United States.<sup>2938</sup> Together, the bills target companies with federal contracts that employ children for more scrutiny and require the Labor Department to produce detailed annual reports to Congress about the perpetrators and victims involved in child labor cases. They also announced a third bill to improve protections for unaccompanied migrant children, especially those who worked in dangerous conditions in plants and factories.

On 16 November 2023, Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai launched the Presidential Memorandum on Advancing Worker Empowerment, Rights, and High Labor Standards Globally.<sup>2939</sup> Acting Secretary Su noted that the US Department of Labor is committed to combatting forced labor and improve transparency and accountability of global corporations and supply chains.

On 16 November 2023, the White House published a Memorandum on Advancing Worker Empowerment, Rights and High Labor Standards. It emphasizes a whole-of-government approach, integrating labor rights into foreign, trade and economic policies.<sup>2940</sup> The document details specific actions for U.S. agencies abroad, focusing on protecting internationally recognized labor rights, promoting high labor standards and strengthening engagement with labor organizations. It also targets improving labor conditions through diplomatic efforts and enhancing global cooperation on labor issues.

On 22 November 2023, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) denied entry of electronics from Malaysia and Vietnam worth USD74 million for components from forced labor in China.<sup>2941</sup> In that month alone, CBP refused or held for check USD82 million worth of shipments, with the majority being electronics such as solar panels and semiconductors. Following the passage of the Uyghur Forced Labor Protection Act, exporters must demonstrate their products are free from any raw materials or components from Xinjiang.

On 12 January 2024, the US and India held the 14th Ministerial-level meeting of the India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF), where the respective Ministers committed to cooperating on issues regarding child and forced labour in global supply chains.<sup>2942</sup>

On 26 January 2024, the House of Representatives introduced a bipartisan legislation “No Funds for Forced Labor Act” that aims to prevent international financial institutions (IFI) from supporting projects with significant risk of using forced labor. This act allows American officials to block IFI loans; for projects employing forced labour, such as the forced labor schemes involving Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in

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<sup>2937</sup> Forced labor concerns prompt US lawmakers to demand ban on seafood from 2 Chinese provinces, Associated Press (Washington D.C.) 24 October 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://apnews.com/article/congress-ban-china-forced-labor-seafood-uyghur-119b35e4522011c888837b931ae259e6>

<sup>2938</sup> More bipartisan Senate bills take aim at curbing US child labor, Reuters (New York City) 26 October 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/more-bipartisan-senate-bills-take-aim-curbing-us-child-labor-2023-10-26/>

<sup>2939</sup> Readout: Acting Secretary Su Delivers Remarks at Launch of Presidential Memorandum on Global Labor Rights, U.S Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 16 November 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20231116>

<sup>2940</sup> Memorandum on Advancing Worker Empowerment, Rights, and High Labor Standards Globally, The White House (Washington D.C.) 16 November 2023. Access Date: 25 April 2024. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/11/16/memorandum-on-advancing-worker-empowerment-rights-and-high-labor-standards-globally/>

<sup>2941</sup> Malaysia, Vietnam electronics face closer US scrutiny over China forced labor, Reuters (Hanoi/Kuala Lumpur) 22 November 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/malaysia-vietnam-electronics-face-closer-us-scrutiny-over-china-forced-labour-2023-11-22/>

<sup>2942</sup> Joint Statement on the United States-India Trade Policy Forum, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 12 January 2024. Access Date: 6 May 2024. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2024/january/joint-statement-united-states-india-trade-policy-forum>

the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.<sup>2943</sup> The legislation emphasizes the US stance against exploitative practices. It seeks to close loopholes allowing US investments in companies implicated in the Chinese Communist Party's (forced labor activities and requires IFIs to scrutinize projects for forced labor involvement comprehensively.

On 13 February 2024, the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (PITF) met at the White House to reaffirm its commitment to combating human trafficking. They highlighted their efforts to address all forms of human trafficking, prosecute perpetrators, protect survivors and implement key priorities of the Federal government's National Action Plan.<sup>2944</sup> The Department of Labor's priority is to focus on identify and mitigate forced and child labor risks within global supply chains, such as conducting national surveys in industries, updating the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor and tracing supply chains. These efforts aim to enhance the U.S. commitment to preventing the importation of goods produced through exploitative labor practices.

On 13 February 2024, the US-Japan Task Force on the Promotion of Human Rights and International Labour Standards in Supply Chains held the first round of government and stakeholder dialogues.<sup>2945</sup> The Office of the United States Trade Representative and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry launched the task force last year. Participants from both countries discussed best practices regarding corporate due diligence and assorted policies on eliminating forced labour in supply chains (e.g. labour provisions in the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), implementation of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, updates on the Xinjiang Supply Chain Business Advisory).

On 26 February 2024, during the 13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), US Trade Representative Tai indicated that the US has been advocating for increased transparency regarding fishing vessels suspecting of using forced labour, in the context of the ongoing WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies.<sup>2946</sup>

On 28 February 2024, the Department of Labor allocated nearly USD7 million to support the International Labor Organization's research on child and forced labour.<sup>2947</sup>

On 8 April 2024, the EU and the US held the sixth ministerial meeting of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC).<sup>2948</sup> Among addressing diverse global challenges, they also furthered collaborative efforts to promote sustainable and responsible supply chains while ensuring robust protections from forced labor practices-

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<sup>2943</sup> Legislation seeks to prevent U.S. taxpayer funding of projects involving forced labor, United States House of Representatives (Washington D.C.) 26 January 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2024.

<https://youngkim.house.gov/2024/01/26/legislation-seeks-to-prevent-u-s-taxpayer-funding-of-projects-involving-forced-labor/>

<sup>2944</sup> FACT SHEET: President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Meeting, The White House (Washington D.C.) 14 February 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2024.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/02/14/fact-sheet-presidents-interagency-task-force-to-monitor-and-combat-trafficking-in-persons-meeting/>

<sup>2945</sup> Readout of First Round of the U.S.-Japan Task Force on the Promotion of Human Rights and International Labor Standards in Supply Chains, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 14 February 2024. Access Date: 6 May 2024.

<https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2024/february/readout-first-round-us-japan-task-force-promotion-human-rights-and-international-labor-standards>

<sup>2946</sup> Remarks by Ambassador Katherine Tai at the Ministerial Conversation on Trade and Sustainable Development, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2024. Access Date: 6 May 2024. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/speeches-and-remarks/2024/february/remarks-ambassador-katherine-tai-ministerial-conversation-trade-and-sustainable-development>

<sup>2947</sup> Department of Labor allocates \$6.95M to support ILO research on child, forced labor to inform policies, protect vulnerable workers, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 28 February 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20240228>

<sup>2948</sup> U.S.-EU Joint Statement of the Trade and Technology Council, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Leuven) 8 April 2024. Access Date: 21 April 2024. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2024/april/us-eu-joint-statement-trade-and-technology-council>

echoing recommendations by labor and business stakeholders in May 2023. They expressed their intent to sustain technical dialogue for information exchange and the sharing of best practices concerning the implementation of policies aimed at combating forced labor, including research and risk assessment methodologies.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor. The United States has taken measures to condemn and restrict importing goods from companies tied to forced and compulsory labor practices. In addition, the United States introduced bills aimed at the effective abolishment of child labour.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Zabra Javaid*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment in the effective abolition of forced and compulsory labour, and child labour.

On 1 June 2023, the European Parliament established a position on rules to integrate human rights into companies' governance.<sup>2949</sup> This required companies located in the EU to monitor and end the negative impact of their activities on child labour, slavery and labour exploitation. Companies who fail to report compliance will be liable for damages and sanctioning. As the European Parliament adopted their position on corporate accountability with regard to forced labour and child labour, negotiations on the final text of the legislation can begin.

On 12 June 2023, the European Commission and High Representative released a statement on World Day against Child Labour reaffirming their commitment to end child labour and safeguard children rights.<sup>2950</sup> They called for an intensification of the efforts to abolish child labour and provide children with access to education, healthcare and a decent life.

On 12 June 2023, the EU announced its commitment to be a member of Alliance 8.7, an organization ending child labour, forced labour and modern slavery. With this, the European Union accelerated efforts for the protection of children, safeguarding children rights and ensuring children are free from all forms of exploitation and abuse.<sup>2951</sup>

On 16 October 2023, the committees on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, and International Trade, adopted a mandate from the European Parliament to prohibit products made using forced labor on the EU Market.<sup>2952</sup> Companies in violation would have their goods halted at the EU border and withdrawn in the EU market. This removed financial incentives for companies to use forced labor, alongside protecting victims. The definition of forced labor has also been widened in alignment with the International Labour Organization

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<sup>2949</sup> MEPs push companies to mitigate their negative social and environmental impact, European Parliament (Brussels) 1 June 2023. Access Date: 23 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230524IPR91907/meps-push-companies-to-mitigate-their-negative-social-and-environmental-impact>

<sup>2950</sup> Statement by the European Commission and the High Representative on the occasion of World Day against Child Labour, European Commission (Brussels) 12 June 2023. Access Date: 23 November 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_23\\_3135](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_23_3135)

<sup>2951</sup> Statement by the European Commission and the High Representative on the occasion of World Day against Child Labour, European Commission (Brussels) 12 June 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_23\\_3135](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_23_3135)

<sup>2952</sup> Towards an EU ban on products made with forced labor, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 October 2023. Access Date: 25 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20231016IPR07307/towards-an-eu-ban-on-products-made-with-forced-labour>

to include “all work or service, which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily.”

On 18 October 2023, the European Parliament adopted a mandate to revise rules on combating human trafficking for victim protection, including forced labor and child labour victims.<sup>2953</sup> The revision of rules included allowing trafficking victims to receive intersectional support such as child-sensitive protection, appropriating support to unaccompanied children and issuing penalties to companies convicted of trafficking. These rules also protected trafficking victims from prosecution for criminal acts that they were coerced to committing.

On 18 January 2024, the European Parliament adopted a motion for a resolution to revise the mandate of the European Labour Authority (ELA).<sup>2954</sup> This motion would strengthen the powers and competences of the ELA, to investigate suspected labour infringements in cross-border cases, initiate alongside carry out checks and extend the mandate to protect third-country nationals.

On 25 January 2024, the Deputy General Secretary of European Trade Union Confederacy, Isabelle Schömann, acknowledged that more action should be delivered on tackling labour exploitation.<sup>2955</sup> Since 2019, the ELA has carried over 100 inspections, to uncover violations regarding the exploitation of building workers, lorry drivers and factory workers. In addition, the ELA requires more capacity to execute more inspections per year for there to be a real difference.

On 5 March 2024, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU struck a deal to ban all products made with forced labor.<sup>2956</sup> Under this ban, an investigation will be carried out for suspected instances of forced labor, with products potentially being removed from the market if such practices are confirmed. When deciding whether to launch an investigation, it will be considered whether the product is from a region with a high risk of state-enforced forced labor. The products may only be permitted to return in the product given that forced labor is eradicated from the supply chain.

On 8 April 2024, the EU and the US held the sixth ministerial meeting of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC).<sup>2957</sup> Among addressing diverse global challenges, they also furthered collaborative efforts to promote sustainable and responsible supply chains while ensuring robust protections from forced labor practices—echoing recommendations by labor and business stakeholders in May 2023. They expressed their intent to sustain technical dialogue for information exchange and the sharing of best practices concerning the implementation of policies aimed at combating forced labor, including research and risk assessment methodologies.

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<sup>2953</sup> Trafficking in human beings: MEPs ready to negotiate new EU rules, European Parliament (Brussels) 18 October 2023. Access Date: 25 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20231013IPRO7128/trafficking-in-human-beings-meps-ready-to-negotiate-new-eu-rules>

<sup>2954</sup> Motion for a Resolution on the revision of the European Labour Authority mandate, European Parliament (Brussels) 18 January 2024. Access Date: 1 January 2024. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2024-0059\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2024-0059_EN.html)

<sup>2955</sup> EU labour authority needs powers to tackle labour exploitation, European Trade Union Confederation (Brussels) 25 January 2024. Access Date: 1 January 2024. <https://www.etuc.org/en/pressrelease/eu-labour-authority-needs-powers-tackle-labour-exploitation>

<sup>2956</sup> Deal on EU ban on products made with forced labour, European Parliament (Brussels) 5 March 2024. Access Date: 21 April 2024 <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20240301IPR18592/deal-on-eu-ban-on-products-made-with-forced-labour>

<sup>2957</sup> U.S.-EU Joint Statement of the Trade and Technology Council, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Leuven) 8 April 2024. Access Date: 21 April 2024. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2024/april/us-eu-joint-statement-trade-and-technology-council>

On 22 April 2024, the European Parliament gave their final approval to a new regulation enabling the EU to prohibit the sale, import and export of goods made using forced labour.<sup>2958</sup> The European Commission will be able to investigate suspicious supply chains and manufacturers, with the products which have been deemed to be made using forced labour intercepted at the EU borders.

The EU has fully complied with its commitment in the effective abolition of forced and compulsory labour, and child labour. Through creating mandates for the prevention of forced and child labour, punishment of perpetrators, and the protection of victims, the European Union has strongly dedicated itself with respect to the abolition of both pillars of the commitment.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Wania Gondal*

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<sup>2958</sup> Products made with forced labour to be banned from EU single market, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 22 April 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20240419IPR20551/products-made-with-forced-labour-to-be-banned-from-eu-single-market>