

Why social fairness in insect food?

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The global human rights agenda is gaining attention in the last months across various countries, including United States, Switzerland and Germany. The European Union is planning to introduce **mandatory human rights due diligence regulations**. Governments will be serious about addressing human rights abuses, as well as broader environmental and social concerns in supply chains.

It may seem to someone a stretched concept but in the reality of business and international trading also the insect food growing industry is substantially at risk of bad practices and lack of guarantees around human rights. We must prevent as much as we can the pitfall of other traditional food chains where the farmer or producer, the workers and employees, cope with dubious working conditions, unfair contractual relationships, below acceptable standards.

In ENTOTRUST we care and a relevant part of our assessment is to verify what we call the **social fairness**, basically taking into consideration these topics related to human rights:



- ✓ **Fair wages**
- ✓ **Safe and healthy working conditions**
- ✓ **No forced and minor labour**
- ✓ **Freedom of association**
- ✓ **Fair working hours**
- ✓ **No discrimination and harassment**

It is clear that the new laws would require companies to **assess and prevent human rights issues through all the value chain**, for example in the food business this would be applied from the farming facility to the retailer's shelf. Which means that also the retailer, online or with physical stores, will be required by governments to comply and to show that its suppliers adopted must have social standards.

Whether you are an insect farmer or an insect-based food producer, familiar with these topics, it is time to be aware and to review your operations, in ENTOTRUST we can help in the assessment and certification.

We report here the country example of the **German Supply Chain draft law**:

Germany is currently working on a mandatory human rights due diligence law ("*Lieferkettengesetz*" or "*Sorgfaltspflichtengesetz*") that would oblige German companies to take appropriate measures to prevent human rights violations in their business activities and supply chains. If companies fail to comply with the law, they may face civil liability for damages and risk sanctions.

Source: [Current steps towards a mandatory human rights due diligence law | Herbert Smith Freehills | Global law firm](#)

Highlights are:

- ✓ **Targeting medium to large sized companies.** The law would require companies to carry out internal supply chain risk assessments, appoint a compliance officer to monitor compliance with the law's requirements, as well as establish an effective complaints mechanism for foreign workers.
- ✓ **Enforcement agencies.** The Labour Inspectorate, the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Human Rights Commissioner of the German Government are to be responsible for enforcement and monitoring. Potential sanctions are to include fines of up to five million Euros, imprisonment and exclusion from public procurement procedures in Germany.

Source: [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre \(business-humanrights.org\)](#)

For more details on the **wider European approach**, we recommend the following study which provides a framework covering both existing instruments of EU law relating to CSR, and existing legislation (and soft law) in this area in selected EU Member States, with a particular focus on corporate law. Source: **Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs**. AUTHORS Kletia NOTI, LL.M. (Columbia), Prof. Federico M. MUCCIARELLI, Prof. Carlo ANGELICI, Dr. Virginia dalla POZZA, Mattia PILLININI. The research paper was requested by the European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs and was commissioned, overseen and published by the Policy Department for Citizen's Rights and Constitutional Affairs.

Link to the full document: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/ReqData/etudes/STUD/2020/658541/IPOL_STU\(2020\)658541_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/ReqData/etudes/STUD/2020/658541/IPOL_STU(2020)658541_EN.pdf)

About ENTOTRUST



ENTOTRUST is the voluntary insect-food certification, an independent and science-based organization established in 2018, which allows producers to assess their food safety and sustainability. ENTOTRUST mission is to recognize quality insect farmers and products. The ENTOTRUST certification program envisions a world where edible insects will supply healthy food, making high value proteins accessible to a wider population with important environmental and social benefits. For more information: <http://www.entotrust.org>