



Weekly News email

3rd October 2024

Horizon scanning

Brazil- Chicken found in Europe's leading supermarkets linked to deforestation, land grabbing, corruption and violence against communities, says Earthsight. Their latest investigation traces soy linked to illegal deforestation, land grabbing, corruption, and violence against traditional communities in the Brazilian Cerrado to chicken found on the shelves of Europe's leading supermarkets – Carrefour, Intermarché, Edeka and Albert Heijn – and in fast-food giant McDonald's. This soy, used as feed in European chicken farms, is the secret ingredient in popular chicken products that links unwitting consumers to destruction and rights abuses in the Brazilian Cerrado.

Indonesia - As big supermarkets pursue profits, new research shows growing exploitation of shrimp farmers. Indonesian shrimp farmer Yulius Cahyonugroho operated more than two dozen ponds only a few years ago, employing seven people and making more than enough to support his family. Since then, the 39-year-old says the prices he gets from purchasers have fallen by half and he has had to scale back to four workers and about one-third the ponds, some months not even breaking even

Israel – Trade Unions accused Israel Government of breaking international labour law by withholding Palestinian worker pay, pushing many into extreme poverty. Accused of holding back pay and benefits from more than 200,000 Palestinian workers since 7 October.

Ireland - Union claims Irish fishing companies are hiring undocumented Indonesian workers. Michael O'Brien, a regional organizer with London, England-based Unite the Union, said Indonesian workers are being sent to work on Irish vessels without proper work permits through a trafficking network run by a labour agent in Indonesia which he said has undermined hard-won reforms to the permitting system currently in place for fishery workers in Ireland...

Mexico - Mexico's first female president vows 'it's time for women'. It has been a long road which led the first female mayor of Mexico City to break the glass ceiling in Mexican politics again, this time at national level.

UK - McDonald's and supermarkets failed to spot slavery. Signs that modern slavery victims were being forced to work at a McDonald's branch and a factory supplying bread products to major supermarkets were missed for years, the BBC has found. A gang forced 16 victims to work at either the fast-food restaurant or the factory - which supplied Asda, Co-op, M&S, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose. Watch the programme on BBC i-player. (29mins)

UK - A new documentary on the BBC has showcased how the brutal exploitation of 16 modern slavery victims – many of whom Justice and Care have been supporting – went undetected in the UK for years.

UK - 'Fire and rehire' protests staged by striking Oscar Mayer workers. Striking Oscar Mayer employees have staged protests against 'fire and rehire' practices outside the offices of Pemberton Asset Management and Co-Op.The dispute is over plans to remove some paid breaks, reduce other breaks and end enhanced payments for workers who work bank holidays.

UK - Asda sets up ESG-gearred incentive for suppliers. The new Asda scheme will be tacked on to the supermarket's existing Supply Chain Finance programme.

UK - Food firms rank in top 100 companies for gender equality. Hilton Food Group, Greencore and Britvic are just some of the food and drink firms that have ranked within the top 100 UK companies achieving gender equality.

UK - Workers must keep all customer tips under new law. Workers should receive all tips from customers under a new law which bans firms from withholding the payments - whether in cash or by card. More than three million service workers in England, Scotland, and Wales should benefit from the law which comes into force on Tuesday.

UK - The gangster brought down by a shipment of bananas. he has been jailed for 20 years for masterminding an international cocaine smuggling operation where the drugs were hidden in a shipment of bananas and setting up a drugs factory in England.

UK - UK to finish with coal power after 142 years. The country's last coal power station, at Ratcliffe-on-Soar, finishes operations on Monday after running since 1967.

USA - Biden urges port operators to increase wages after 45,000 workers go on strike. Strike – the first by port workers on US east coast since 1977 – threatens to shut down ports from Maine to Texas

USA - Dockworkers join other unions in trying to fend off automation, or minimize the impact. The union is demanding, along with hefty pay raises, a total ban on the automation of grates, cranes and container-moving trucks in its ports

Human rights and ethical trade news

Unseen - Helpline wins £1 million in funding to expand the fight against modern slavery. More people from hard-to-reach communities will be helped to escape exploitation thanks to new funding made possible by National Lottery players. The Helpline received a record number of calls and contacts via our web form and app in 2023. Our advisers handled 11,700 calls and contacts from potential victims and people requesting information and guidance, a 20% increase on the previous year.

Thailand - Almost 300 undocumented Myanmar construction workers arrested, at risk of refoulement amid ongoing conflict following recruitment charges of USD600. On the morning of September 24, Thai authorities raided a construction site in Ayutthaya Province and arrested a total of 272 Myanmar workers, both men and women, for working illegally. One of the arrested workers stated that around 300 workers, including themselves, had illegally entered Thailand paying about 20,000 baht per person to brokers to secure jobs at the construction site.

Indigenous People Rights - Asia - Declaration of Regional Conference Highlighting the Voices of Indigenous Women and Youth. *"Businesses [should] respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples..."*

ensure equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms for all energy transition initiative.” [Read the full statement here.](#)

Due Diligence Beyond Tier 1 - [Labor Abuses at Taiwanese Textile Manufacturers Due Diligence Beyond Tier One. A useful resource for supply chain due diligence.](#)

Environment & sustainability

Climate - [Last week was New York Climate Week, which happens alongside the UN General Assembly every year, or as I overheard one person describe it: the UNGA games.](#) Thoughts of the writer on greenwashing and positive stories.

Sustainable Farming - “Advancing a plant-rich food system offers five times the climate benefits per dollar invested compared to renewable energy, and four times that of electric vehicles” according to a new report published by Tilt Collective. [Report on transforming the global food system from Tilt.](#) Read the [press release for the headline data](#)

Deforestation - [Commission strengthens support for EU Deforestation Regulation implementation](#) and proposes extra 12 months of phasing-in time, responding to calls by global partners. The Commission is today publishing **additional guidance documents** and a **stronger international cooperation framework** to support global stakeholders, Member States and third countries in their preparations for the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation. Given feedback received from international partners about their state of preparations, the Commission also proposes to give concerned parties additional time to prepare. If approved by the European Parliament and the Council, it would make the law applicable on 30 December 2025 for large companies and 30 June 2026 for micro- and small enterprises. Since all the implementation tools are technically ready, the extra 12 months can serve as a phasing-in period to ensure proper and effective implementation.

Resources/Reports/Blogs/Films

Responsible Trucking Guidelines - Today, CSR Europe’s Responsible Trucking Collaborative Platform is thrilled to release its **[newly updated Social Guidelines!](#)** The Guidelines outline key requirements and aspirations regarding working conditions and business ethics and align with important regulations, including:

- The European Mobility Package;
- The European Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive;
- The UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights;
- The ILO MNE Declaration.

Responsible Planet - [In this documentary film produced by Eliotness in collaboration with Welcome to the Jungle, we delve into the world of corporate responsibility and its profound impact on our planet amidst the climate crisis.](#) Exploring the intricate interplay between capitalism and environmental stewardship, this film sheds light on the imperative for businesses to prioritise eco-conscious practices that safeguard both humanity and the Earth. Join us on a thought-provoking journey as we challenge the notion that profit should ever supersede the well-being of people and the planet. The 52-minute documentary film, Responsible, was officially released in France on September 21st, with international distribution coming soon! Even better, you can organise your own private

screening for your organisation or group. Just write to the Welcome to the Jungle team at: responsible@wttj.co

Living Wage - "Living wages are to social sustainability... what net zero was to environmentalism... Net zero carbon emissions gave companies a specific, quantifiable objective to aim for, and allowed them to track progress toward an environmental goal. The living wage seems to be on a similar path—it offers a quantifiable, comparable metric, but toward a social/economic goal." Elizabeth A. Bennett [Article One latest blog](#).

Living Wage Indicator - To explore Living wages further look at [WageIndicator Foundation](#) database estimates #livingwages for 2600+ regions across 165+ countries.

Sustainability Action - The [Sustainability Action Readiness Assessment \(SARA\)](#) is a survey-based assessment tool built by Kite Insights. It is designed to assess employees' knowledge, engagement, and ability to act on sustainability in the context of their work, using Kite's Head, Heart, and Hands Framework.

Events and webinars

17th September – 14th January 2025 - AIM-Progress Supplier Capability Building Programme, Thailand

What will suppliers get out of it?

- Deeper understanding on the concept, business case, and implementation of HRDD
- Increased awareness of forced labour trade bans and its impacts on suppliers
- Hear practical examples, best practices and lessons learned on HRDD, grievance and responsible recruitment to inspire learning and action

For more details follow this [link](#)

4th October - Webinar and in-person International Expert Round Table, [Countering the Toxic Interface of Migration](#), Human Trafficking & Related Labour Exploitation 2.0 - 09:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

9th October - IHRB (Institute for Human Rights & Business) – [Responsible Business in Uncertain Times](#) – Geneva - 9th October 2024 9-5pm (CET).

9th October - 2024 HRDD Forum Annual Conference: [Human Rights Due Diligence and the Future of Corporate Human Rights and Climate Change Litigation](#).

2 – 5.30 at BIICL

9th October [Join us for the launch of the Climate Change & Modern Slavery Hub!](#)

 9th October | 13 BST | 18:00 UTC+6 | 08:00 EST

Anti-Slavery International, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and OKUP - Ovivashi Karmi Unnayan Program are excited to invite you to the launch of the Climate Change & Modern Slavery Hub.

www.foodnetworkforethicaltrade.com

14th October - Screening of Death at Sea and expert roundtable in London. Tickets:
deathatsea.eventbrite.co.uk Time: 18:15 - 20:30

Location: Everyman Cinema Borough Yards, London, SE1 9PA

18th October Anti-Slavery Day

What are you doing to mark Anti-Slavery Day? – Free resources from Slave Free Alliance

Stronger Together Resources