

Engie

Response received by BHRRRC from Engie regarding assessment of exposure to and steps taken in response to forced labour issues in XUAR as documented by Sheffield Hallam University, among others, 1 September 2023.

(1) Assessment of exposure & (2) Steps taken in response

“Concerning the specific issue of the Uighurs, here are the public information we have made available, which can be accessed here: <https://www.engie.com/en/group/ethics-and-compliance/FAQ-stakeholders-CSR> :

Supplies of photovoltaic panels from Xinjiang, China

ENGIE, leader in the energy transition, develops, installs and operates carbon-free energy production solutions, which include photovoltaic panels. China, which within the last decade has become the world’s main supplier of photovoltaic panels, sources most of its raw material (polysilicon) from Xinjiang, a region in the far west of China. In recent years, multiple investigations have highlighted the repression and grave violations of the fundamental freedoms of the Uyghurs. As the fate of the Uyghurs moves to the centre of international debate and places a question mark over the import of products from the Xinjiang region of China, the solar energy industrial sector is working hard to make its supply chain more transparent.

ENGIE has pledged to monitor respect of its commitments on human rights. ENGIE endeavours to engage in a dialogue with its suppliers to promote and uphold its commitments and to improve the transparency of the supply chain.

ENGIE experts implement preventive actions to address ethical, reputational and financial risks: ENGIE continuously assesses, selects and inspects its subcontractors, including through increasingly advanced ethical risk analyses.

ENGIE is therefore committed to:

- Ensure respect for the rights of workers under international law and take an active role in ensuring our suppliers do not use forced labour, across the whole supply chain.
- Systematically implement advanced “due diligence” (inspections) with suppliers prior to signing all contracts, particularly if they are likely to have links with the Xinjiang region.
- Listen to civil society organisations to adapt as quickly as possible to the reality of the human rights situation and to continuously strengthen compliance with ethical standards.
- Require suppliers to provide information on who they work with and where, across the whole supply chain; talk directly and regularly with our suppliers about respect for human rights.
- Use independent experts to fully investigate respect for human rights by our suppliers.
- Require our suppliers to commit in writing not to use forced labour, particularly in the Xinjiang region. All our contracts also include clauses that allow us to terminate the contract if our suppliers – and their subcontractors – fail to comply with their obligations, particularly the ban on forced labour.
- Take the necessary measures – which can go as far as termination of the contract – if it turns out that there is a risk of being associated with forced labour or any violation of human rights. “