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# Bwanaschleuder (/)

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**Fairphone: Criticism in a blog - what do you think about this?**

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# Criticism in a blog - what do you think about this?

Today I got this link from a friend. Any comments?

[http://www.macmark.de/blog/osx\\_blog\\_2013-12-a.php](http://www.macmark.de/blog/osx_blog_2013-12-a.php)  
([http://t.umbl.com/redirect?z=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.macmark.de%2Fblog%2Fosx\\_blog\\_2013-12-a.php&t=YjMxMzc5ODM0ZWE3MTFIMjEjOTEzNDVjNGZjMmRiNzZmOTg1YWRhNCxseHdKMFB5bw%3D%3D&b=t%3AQKI7PFmNkGK2FMjMRgBC3Q&m=1](http://t.umbl.com/redirect?z=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.macmark.de%2Fblog%2Fosx_blog_2013-12-a.php&t=YjMxMzc5ODM0ZWE3MTFIMjEjOTEzNDVjNGZjMmRiNzZmOTg1YWRhNCxseHdKMFB5bw%3D%3D&b=t%3AQKI7PFmNkGK2FMjMRgBC3Q&m=1))

Answer:

Hi Daniele,

Thanks for bringing this to the forum and the community. We'd like to respond to people's opinions and comments about whether the phone is fair or not and want to hear from you too. I liked reading your comments so far and just wanted to post a few of my own.

We know that the reality of the phone can be interpreted in various ways, but if taken out of context – that is, out of the greater mission of what we are trying to do together – we end up with a product that can be seemingly disappointing. Of course the phone is important, because without a good quality, cool version of the same product, supporting the ethical version is a lost cause. But this phone is not the end point of our endeavors. It is in fact the starting point. By buying this phone, our buyers have invested in something bigger than a piece of electronic equipment.

Markus Möller and other critics are right about one thing: this is not a 100% “fair” phone and 25,000 devices is by comparison a small production run. What's more, the industry is involved in and responsible for some great initiatives. The Solutions for Hope project through which we source our tantalum from conflict-free mines in the DRC, for example. We acknowledge there is no way that Fairphone could make a statement and raise the bar, unless we work together with both consumers and the industry. So, to fully understand what we are trying to do is to take the product not as an end-point or an achievement, but as a starting point for change.

Because we are a social enterprise, aiming to create social impact, we can approach our partners with a different agenda and inspire different results. Because we are making a phone to uncover the supply chain and understand it, we can be fully transparent about our actions. We want to show you what goes in to your phone and where your money goes for example

<http://www.fairphone.com/2013/09/12/costbreakdown/>  
(<http://t.umbl.com/redirect?z=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fairphone.com%2F2013%2F09%2F12%2Fcostbreakdown%2F&t=NWQ1Yjl1ZTM0N2RmOWNiNTg1MzlyNDM5MWMyN2Y4NGU4MTgwODBhYyxseHdKMFB5bw%3D%3D&b=t%3AQKI7PFmNkGK2FMjMRgBC3Q&m=1>). Because we aren't aiming to maximize profits for shareholders, we can focus on other values in negotiating with our purchasing partners.

Fairphone is about uncovering the complexity of the supply chain and the nuances of this could be more finely conveyed, for which we would perhaps need a different platform than our current website. We try as best we can on our blog of which I want to lift out two stories:

#### Conflict minerals:

We have succeeded in sourcing and using two conflict-free minerals from mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo that are mined without the interference of local militias. We could have avoided mining our minerals from the DRC (like most companies do) and get them from conflict free mines in Australia for example, but a lot of people in the DRC depend on mining as their only source of income and we would have been avoiding the real problem. In order to achieve this, we had to accept that there is still child labor in the mines and that health and safety standards are still far from ideal. But by investing in local economies, we want to (indirectly) tackle these issues step-by-step. By knowing more about where our materials come from, we can choose to mine more responsibly. There are around 30 metals in a smartphone, so we have a long way to go.

#### Production:

Fairphone aims to tackle problems at the root. When it comes to wages of the workers in the factory where the Fairphone is produced for example. We felt strongly that if wages were to go up, they should include wages of the entire factory workforce, not just the people on our line. Why? If we only paid people on our line, chances are that the unbalance would create envy or discomfort among staff, which is not a desirable situation.

Instead, Fairphone chose to put the extra \$2.50 – that our buyers contributed with a Fairphone purchase – for the direct benefit of the worker's welfare into a Fund. The factory agreed to match this \$2.50, amounting to a total of \$125,000 for this first production.

So, in short, the Worker Welfare Fund is dedicated to all workers. The workforce at Changhong consists of around 1,000 people, of which around 100 will be working on the Fairphone over the next month. If we calculate what this means per worker, depending on

what the workers decide to do with the funds, all 1,000 people could receive the equivalent of one-month's basic salary when the Fund is disbursed. This means that Fairphone buyers are in effect making it possible for workers to launch an initiative for worker elections, after which they can take part in discussions and control what happens with these funds. It remains up to them whether they spend these on bonus pay-outs or on leisure activities, skill training, personal development and team building. More detail on our blog\_ Made with Care: <http://www.fairphone.com/2013/12/10/made-with-care-social-assessment-report/> (<http://t.umbl.com/redirect?z=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fairphone.com%2F2013%2F12%2F10%2Fmade-with-care-social-assessment-report%2F&t=ZWQyMDNINGNjYwZmOTg3MTJkYTgwYjQxNDE3YTBINmFiOTFINThjNixseHdKMFB5bw%3D%3D&b=t%3AQKI7PFmNkGK2FMjMRgBC3Q&m=1>)

In other words, to understand what Fairphone is, and who the people are behind the movement is to understand that we want social values to triumph in our current economic systems. We want to make products that involve people across the world on the basis of mutual gain. We want to reconnect people with their products and take responsibility for the way these are made. And by making a product that people can buy, one that is making a step-by-step effort to be built on the basis of ethics they believe in, we hope to grow a movement that can demand an economy based on fairer principles.

Tessa and the Fairphone Team

← älter (<https://bwanaschleuder.tumblr.com/post/73555373544>)

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