



European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials: Commission chooses European Minerals Day as communication platform!

The European Commission has chosen the European Minerals Day as its primary platform to communicate about the **European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Raw Materials**. The minerals sectors organising this biennial pan-European public awareness raising event much welcome this decision.

The **EIP on raw materials** was launched on 12 February by European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani, responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship, together with his colleagues, Maire Geoghegan Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, and Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment.

Bringing together Member States and other stakeholders, the EIP on Raw Materials will help make Europe a world leader in sustainable and resource efficient exploration, extraction, processing, product use, reuse and recycling of raw materials by 2020 and beyond. Acknowledging that raw materials are the lifeblood of EU industry, with at least 30 million jobs in the EU and 70% of EU manufacturing production depending upon them, the Commission proposes concrete targets to be achieved by 2020 to reduce Europe's dependency on imported raw materials.

This year, the European Minerals Day puts a particular focus on the key themes of the EIP including innovation and resource efficiency all along the value-chain. It is important that Europe maintains the necessary skills to ensure optimal extraction. The development of new technologies to improve efficiency, energy and material recovery and recycling at the level of processing should also be encouraged. The use of secondary and alternative materials is another area of great relevance to our sectors, without forgetting recycling and, more in particular, the implementation of new, cost-effective and environmentally-sound recycling techniques and best practices regarding the collection and treatment of waste.

Minerals are essential raw materials in most manufacturing sectors, including paint, electronics, metal casting and foundry, paper, plastics, glass, ceramics, detergents, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, construction materials and agriculture. They are also used as processing aids or supplements in the food and feed industries, and have an increasingly important role to play in environmental engineering, such as water treatment and filtration, in gas treatment, and in renewable energies, such as photovoltaic solar cells, wind turbines, electric cars, and so on.

The European Minerals Day aims to raise awareness about the importance of minerals, both in daily life as well as for the European economy as a whole, thereby reaching out to a wide range of stakeholders, from policy makers at EU and national levels to the general public.

From 6-8 May and on 13 & 15 May 2013, an exhibition and several satellite events hosted by MEPs will take place in the European Parliament entitled "The European minerals sector – an essential, innovative industry, throughout the value chain". On 23-24 May, the Launch Event of the European Minerals Day 2013 will take place in the presence of Commission V-P Antonio Tajani at an underground mine site in Vipiteno, Italy.

On 24 to 26 May 2013, local communities and children will explore the world of minerals at open day events at quarries, mines and plants across the EU (see www.mineralsday.eu)

The European Minerals Day is organised by European trade federations from the mineral raw material industry and related organisations, currently CEMBUREAU, EuroGeoSurveys, EuroMetaux, Euromines, EuSalt and IMA-Europe as well as the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Mineral Technologies (ETP SMR). Several other organisations lend their active support: IndustriAll, European Federation of Geologists, ELO, EBCD/IUCN, Cerame-Unie and UEPG. Other sectors are most welcome to join the initiative.

Further information: www.mineralsday.eu



Q&A ON THE EUROPEAN MINERALS DAY 2013



The European minerals sector – an essential, innovative industry, throughout the value chain

What is European Minerals Day?

During the weekend of 24-26 May 2013, mineral producers and related sectors all over Europe will be opening their doors. Various events will enable the general public, including students, government officials and the media to learn more about how important and beneficial minerals are to our everyday lives, as well as experience how they are mined and processed. Tailored events will raise awareness about the importance of the minerals sector to European society, highlight the need to have access to raw material deposits in Europe, and demonstrate the good work being undertaken in the fields of biodiversity and resource efficiency, as well as the sector's role in innovation.

What specific events are taking place in the different countries?

All events are published on the Minerals Day Website: www.mineralsday.eu. A general idea on the type of events that may take place can be obtained from the 2011 country reports.

Why are minerals so important?

Minerals play an essential role in our lives, with 70% of EU manufacturing production depending on mined substances.

Minerals are essential raw materials in most manufacturing sectors, including paint, electronics, appliances, metal casting and foundry, paper, plastics, glass, ceramics, detergents, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, construction materials and agriculture. They are also used as processing aids or supplements in the food and feed industries, and have an increasingly important role to play in environmental engineering, such as water treatment and filtration, in gas treatment, and in renewable energies, such as photovoltaic solar cells, wind turbines, electric cars, and so on.

Most people are however unaware of how important mineral raw materials are to the European economy. For this reason, the European mineral raw materials sectors, the European Commission and Members of European Parliament as well as other stakeholders have joined forces to raise awareness about their importance.

How many countries are taking part in European Minerals Day?

Since its launch in 2007, the site participation is on the rise:

2007: 106 sites in 17 countries

2009: 116 sites in 21 countries

2011: 180 sites took part in 32 countries of which 22 in Europe and 11 in the rest of the world

On average, we welcome around 30.000 visitors at each edition.

The number of sites and countries that will participate in 2013 will be known closer to the event and can be followed through the European Minerals Day website (www.mineralsday.eu).

Why is the European Commission involved in European Minerals Day?

The European Commission recognises that access to raw materials for industry should be improved. In this respect, the European Commission has chosen the European Minerals Day as one of the key channels for the promotion and launch of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials. As such the European Minerals Day receives the personal support from European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani, responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship, as well as from Maire Geoghegan Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, and Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment.

Which sectors depend on a sustainable supply of mineral raw materials?

The construction, chemicals, automotive, aerospace and machinery sectors, which provide a total added value of €1324 billion and 30 million jobs all depend on access to raw materials.

Why do raw materials still need and deserve a central focus?

As mentioned, raw materials play an essential role in our lives, with 70% of EU manufacturing production depending on mineral substances. Our cars, houses and domestic appliances all contain minerals. Our mobile phones contain over forty raw materials, our PCs, sixty. Nevertheless, the vast majority of EU citizens are unaware of the importance of raw materials to Europe's economy. Therefore, the European Minerals Day partners* welcome the increased importance being given to raw materials by the European Commission.

Mineral definitions

Metallic ore: a mineral, from which a metal can be extracted economically.

Industrial mineral: mineral, which may be used in an industrial process directly due to its chemical/physical properties. Industrial minerals are used in a range of industrial applications including the manufacture of cement, concrete, steel, chemicals, glass, fertilisers and fillers in pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, ceramics, plastics, paint, paper, and the treatment of gases and waste, etc. Industrial minerals include barites, bentonite, borates, clays, diatomite, feldspar, fluorspar, gypsum, limestone, salt, silica sand, talc, and many others.

See also: "Critical raw materials for the EU" June 2010 - available from DG ENTR website:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/rawmaterials/documents/index_en.htm

Are there any other important themes which will be highlighted during EMD 2013?

Yes. The sector will highlight its key role in enhancing **resource efficiency**, notably in its extraction and production processes, the manufacturing of the end-use applications, as well as end-of-life recycling and disposal.

Biodiversity will continue to remain one of the key themes in 2013. Visitors will be able to discover the unique biodiversity found in rehabilitated quarry and extraction sites, which provide habitats for rare plant and animal species. Finally, the crucial role the sector plays in **Europe's competitiveness and innovation** will also be addressed. A healthy European minerals sector ensures products are manufactured using European resources, by European employees, generating wealth for Europe. In addition, minerals are crucial for the development of modern, environmentally-friendly technologies and downstream products.

Where will the EMD 2013 launch Event take place?

The 2013 central launch event will be hosted by calcium carbonate producer Omya in Italy, welcoming Commission V-P Tajani to the underground mine site and modern mineral processing plant in Vipiteno on 23-24 May.

In addition, the **European Parliament** will host the Première through means of an exhibition in the week of 13-16 May 2013. The exhibition is one of the communication platforms on the Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials, showing the importance of mineral raw materials throughout the whole value chain, from exploration, extraction, and processing, to transformation and recycling. Several high level satellite events will take place that week involving the European Commission and the EP Intergroup on Business and Raw Materials.

The European Minerals Day receives the support from several Members of the European Parliament: MEP Panayotov, MEP Rübzig, MEP Merkies, MEP Leinen, MEP Sartori, MEP Szymanski, MEP Helmer a.o..

Can anyone attend a European Minerals Day event?

In principle, European Minerals Day events are open to everyone, including students, politicians, the media and general public. In some cases however, the activities are organised specifically for schools or employees' families. Please consult the individual event announcements for more details (www.mineralsday.eu).

Who are the main partners in European Minerals Day?

The European Minerals Day partners are:

- CEMBUREAU - The European Cement Association (www.cembureau.eu)
- ETP SMR – The European Technology Platform on Sustainable Mineral Resources (www.etpsmr.org)
- EuroGeoSurveys – The European Geological Surveys (www.eurogeosurveys.org)
- EuroMetaux – The European Metals Association (www.eurometaux.eu)
- Euromines – The European metals and minerals mining industry (www.euromines.org)
- EuSalt, the European Salt Producers' Association (www.eusalt.com)
- IMA-Europe - The European Industrial Minerals Association (www.ima-europe.eu)

The European Minerals Day supporters:

- The European Commission
- Members of European Parliament
- IndustriAll (trade union)
- IUCN – International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- EFG - European Federation of Geologists
- UEPG – the European Aggregates Association
- ELO – the European Landowners Organisation

What is CEMBUREAU?

CEMBUREAU, the European Cement Association, based in Brussels, is the representative organisation of the cement industry in Europe. Today CEMBUREAU includes 29 Members (27 Full Members and 2 Associate Members). Currently, its Full Members are the national cement industry associations and cement companies of the European Union (with the exception of Cyprus, Malta and Slovakia) plus Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. Croatia and Serbia are Associate Members of CEMBUREAU.

In 2011, the production of cement in the CEMBUREAU Member Countries amounted to 263 million tonnes, representing just over 7% of total world cement production (3.6 billion tonnes). In Europe, the production of cement provides an estimated 61000 direct skilled jobs, and up to 3 –5 times as many indirect jobs, translating into a total of ~245000 to ~365000 jobs related to cement production. The Association acts as spokesperson for the cement industry before the European Union institutions and other public authorities, and communicates the industry's views on all issues and policy developments with regard to technical, environmental, energy and promotional issues. *For more information on CEMBUREAU, please consult: www.cembureau.eu*

What is the ETP SMR?

The European Technology Platform on Sustainable Mineral Resources (ETP SMR) aims at modernising and reshaping a fundamental pillar of the European economy: the European Minerals Industries. These include oil, gas, coal, metal ores, industrial minerals, ornamental stones, aggregates, smelters as well as technology suppliers and engineering companies. For more information on the ETP SMR, please consult: www.etpsmr.org.

What is EuroGeoSurveys?

EuroGeoSurveys is an organisation of 33 European Geological Surveys. Our statutory aims are to address the European issues, to promote contribution of geosciences to EU affairs, to assist EU to obtain technical advice and to provide a network between the geological surveys.

What is EUROMETAUX?

Eurometaux constitutes the interface between the European non-ferrous metals industry and the European authorities and international or intergovernmental bodies. It is committed to establishing dialogue with the latter in order to ensure early consultation in all fields of policy and legislation that may affect industry and to asserting the sector's views and positions in this respect. It asserts the contribution of the European industry and its products to sustainable development, as well as this industry's views and positions, whenever the opportunity to do so arises across all sectors of society. In doing so, Eurometaux is the industry's voice on all regulatory matters.

The metals industry is an integral part of Europe's industrial network, employing over 400,000 people directly and another 800,000 indirectly, generating an average annual 2% of the EU's GDP.

For more information on Eurometaux, please consult: www.eurometaux.be.

What is Euromines?

Euromines is the recognised representative of the European metals and minerals mining industry. The association's main objective is to promote the industry and to maintain its relations with European institutions at all levels. Euromines provides services to its members with regard to EU policy and serves as a network for cooperation and for the exchange of information throughout the sector within Europe. The association also fosters contacts with the mining community throughout the world. For more information on Euromines, please consult: www.euromines.org.

What is EuSalt?

EuSalt is the European association representing the common interests of salt producers across Europe. EuSalt's members all produce salt (sodium chloride) as an end product and stand for 70% of the European salt industry and 25% of the global salt production. In addition, EuSalt maintains close collaboration with associate members (namely located in Armenia, China, and Australia) as well as with national salt associations.

Given the many uses of salt, from chemical to food applications, including de-icing and water treatment activities, EuSalt covers a wide range of issues related to environment, energy, health, and safety.

For more information on EuSalt, please consult: www.eusalt.com.

What is IMA Europe?

The European Industrial Minerals Association was founded in 1993 to provide sector-based representation for industrial minerals and to promote the interests of its members: CCA-Europe (Calcium carbonates), EBA (borates), EuLA (lime & limestone), ESMA (andalusite, mica, sepiolite & vermiculite), EUBA (bentonite), EUROFEL (feldspar), EUROSIL (silica sand), EUROTALC (talc), IDPA (diatomite), KPC-Europe (kaolin & plastic clays).

Under its umbrella, IMA-Europe represents about 500 companies which operate around 700 quarries and 750 plants throughout Europe, offering direct employment to around 42,500 people and producing an annual volume of some 180 million tonnes of minerals, contributing a value of round 10 billion Euros to Europe's GDP.

IMA-Europe covers all but commercial issues: Health and safety at the workplace, environmental protection, and product safety are some of IMA's top priority issues. IMA-Europe ensures that the industrial minerals industry at large benefits from the sharing of non-sensitive information and plays a supporting role in the promotion of best practices. The European Minerals Day was launched in 2007 at the initiative of IMA-Europe, as a multi-sectoral pan-European awareness raising event. For more information on IMA-Europe, please consult: www.ima-europe.eu.

Where can I find more information?

More information is available on www.mineralsday.eu

27 March 2013