

# Euromines Update – 09 November 2020

## Internal News Update for Euromines Members

**Not for public discussion**

### Responses to Covid-19 Pandemic

#### European Commission

2 December 2020 – [Commission presents “Staying safe from COVID-19 during winter” strategy](#)

The Commission adopted a strategy for sustainably managing the pandemic over the coming winter months, when the virus transmission risk may increase owing to indoor gatherings.

The strategy recommends continued vigilance and caution throughout the winter period and into 2021 when the roll out of safe and effective vaccines will occur.

A coordinated EU-wide approach is key to avoid a resurgence of the virus, and any relaxation of measures should take into account the evolution of the epidemiological situation.

1 December 2020 – [The European Commission disburses €8.5 billion under SURE to five Member States to help sustain jobs](#)

The Commission has disbursed €8.5 billion to 5 EU countries in the third instalment of financial support to Member States under the SURE instrument. To support national short-time work schemes, Belgium has received €2 billion, Hungary €200 million, Portugal €3 billion, Romania €3 billion and Slovakia €300 million. With today’s disbursement, 15 Member States have received around €40 billion under the EU SURE instrument between the end of October and the end of November.

17 November 2020 – [The European Commission disburses €14 billion under SURE to nine Member States to help sustain jobs](#)

The Commission has disbursed €14 billion to nine EU countries in the second instalment of financial support to Member States under the SURE instrument. To support national short-time work schemes Croatia has received €510 million, Cyprus - €250 million, Greece - €2 billion, Italy – an additional €6.5 billion, Latvia - €120 million, Lithuania - €300 million, Malta - €120 million, and Slovenia - €200 million and Spain an additional €4 billion. At the end of October, Italy, Spain and Poland received a total of €17 billion under the EU SURE instrument to also help sustain short-time work schemes.

#### European Council

19 November – [EU leaders step up coordination on mutual recognition of tests and vaccines deployment](#)

Meeting via video conference on 19 November, EU leaders agreed to further strengthen coordination in the EU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They focused in particular on mutual recognition of tests, vaccines deployment and a common approach on the lifting of restrictive measures.

To prepare the discussion, the German presidency published a report on the state of play of EU coordination in response to

the COVID-19 pandemic on 12 November 2020. The report sets out the ongoing work at EU level on different strands:

- testing strategies and the use of rapid antigen tests
- mutual recognition of tests
- cross-border contact tracing
- quarantine regulations
- development, manufacturing and deployment of the COVID-19 vaccines

## Mining Association of Canada

### Considerations for the Development of COVID-19 Risk Reduction Measures

This document, prepared by Think Research with support from the Mining Association of Canada, contains a series of summary documents intended to support companies in making informed decisions about COVID-19 risk reduction measures by providing information on current best practices and evidence of the effectiveness of various risk mitigation tools. This includes:

- Best Practices Summary: Information on the best practices related to COVID-19 screening, testing, quarantine, and risk reduction inside and outside of the workplace, with reference to other summary documents for additional detail.
- Testing Summary: Information on the types of tests available for COVID-19, when in the disease process those tests should be taken, and the effectiveness of those tests.
- Symptom Screening Summary: Information on the types of screening available to detect COVID-19 and the effectiveness of those types of screening.
- Quarantine Summary: Information on the types of quarantine, how to implement quarantine, and how long to implement quarantine measures related to COVID-19.
- Managing Transmission Risk At and Off Work Summary: Information on strategies to mitigate risks related to COVID-19 outside of the workplace and work hours.

Considerations for the Development of COVID-19 Risk Reduction Measures [Report](#).

## Energy and Climate Change

### Amendment of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS)

The Emission Trading System is one of the most important legal pillars and support systems for the European energy intensive industries. Therefore any amendment brought to it or any of its subsequent acts in the light of the proposed increased climate ambition for 2030 should be based on a stable,

consistent, coherent, socio-economically feasible policy framework, allowing the implementation of the most efficient measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring that long-time goals and the international competitiveness of the industry are not endangered.

Considering the above, Euromines would like to make the following comments with regards to the specific objectives and assessed options for this initiative:

- The carbon leakage protection measures currently in force should remain the main instrument protecting the competitiveness of the energy intensive industries
- Any amendment requires a systemic, holistic approach along integrated value chains
- The European raw materials sector is crucial for achieving a minimum 55% climate target by 2030
- For the ETS to continue to be an effective and efficient instrument, the additional sectors should be kept separate

Read the [Position Paper here](#).

## Sustainable Finance

### Sustainable Finance Sector Team

The EU Sustainable Finance Platform has assigned a Sector Team to the task of developing criteria for “extraction, mining” (NACE groups B07, B08, B09) and “processing” (NACE groups C23, C24). Business and Science Poland is represented on the Sector Team by Johannes Drielsma and the work has begun ahead of the next Platform plenary meeting on 15 December. Euromines is co-ordinating inputs with BusinessEUROPE, Eurometaux & the NEEIP.

## Sustainable Mining

### Mining Association Dialogue

The latest edition of the Dialogue will take place remotely on 8-10 December.

## Environment

### Environmental Footprint Pilots

ARP Project leaders (Danish Technical University) hosted their Final Conference Webinars to present the project’s results. The new method for Resource Use in PEF is now being written up for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. The European Commission Joint Research Centre has invited the project to present its findings to the PEF Technical Advisory Board next February.

## EU Water Framework Directive

The ENVI Committee of the EU Parliament voted on 01/12/2020 in favour of the amended WFD resolution. In general, the resolution is not concerning the industry views at all, but still under point 6 it questions the one-out-all-out principle and calls for alternative reporting methodologies. The text will still have to be approved by the plenary.

## Biodiversity Strategy Position Paper

Euromines prepared with dedicated help of several members feedback to the consultation on Nature Restoration Targets Roadmap through a Position Paper on Biodiversity Strategy. The [Position Paper](#) is published on Euromines website.

## BAT Workshop on report “Collection of available techniques for the prevention or reduction of environmental impacts in non-energy extractive industries (NEEI) – Background paper”

The Workshop was organised on 3 December 2020 and Euromines was represented by Jaap van Nes. The main statement that Euromines made was that the mining industry is so diverse that it is just not possible to define BAT techniques which are generally applicable. Several MS (such as Spain) expressed the same view that site specific information is very important. DG Grow and JRC are open for comments to improve the document. Euromines will provide written feedback on the report (deadline was postponed to 07/01/2021).

## Commenting on JRC EIA study

EM delivered comments on the background Study by JRC on behalf of DG GROW on the “environmental impact assessment of non-energy minerals extraction projects with regard to EU Community requirements”. General critic is that according the Commission the main purpose of the document was to “assist the sector in achieving a better environmental performance, and a fluent, streamlined environmental permitting practice.” We delivered our main concern that the study is risking to rather increase the difficulties for the realization of projects instead of facilitating streamlined permitting. The document does not seem fit for purpose. It would be preferable for DG Grow to re-establish dialogue with the European mining associations to find a more effective way to meet the relevant EIP SIP objective. Also, several more specific remarks were made.

## Access to Justice for environmental matters

Euromines joined an alliance to analyze the ongoing legislative process regarding the reform of the directive on access to Justice for environmental matters, assess the impact it is likely to have on industry, work on a common advocacy strategy.

The directive on access to justice for environmental matters aims at implementing in EU legislation the Aarhus convention which aim is to broaden the rights of NGOs on accessing justice for environmental questions.

The European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) took the initiative on creating such alliance, which was joined by Euromines. Other industry associations are expected to join.

### Upcoming Events on Environmental Legislation

- 10/12/2020 Deadline for commenting on Soil Strategy Roadmap
- 15/12/2020 Extra Sub-Group meeting on Review (SG-R) of Priority Substances list - Update on EQS dossier finalization.
- 15/12/2020 Industrial Emission Directive review stakeholder meeting. Morning (provisionally 09:30 to 12:30) – Overview and IED session. Afternoon (provisionally 13:30 to 15:30) – E-PRTR session.

## Health and Safety

### EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work (2021-2027)

This initiative builds on the previous EU Strategic Framework 2014-2020. It aims to maintain and improve the high health & safety standards for EU workers - also in light of new circumstances, and will help to prepare for new crises and threats. Setting new updated EU policy strategic orientations for the period 2021-2027 will contribute to the improvement of the health and safety of workers across Europe. These strategic orientations are particularly relevant in this new period to address new risks, such as those resulting from new ways of working, new technologies and digitalisation and COVID-19 pandemic alongside the more traditional ones, such as exposure to dangerous substances and risk of accidents at work. The Framework will set out how to combine actions at EU and national levels and of different natures, according to the particularities of the issues to be addressed.

Particular focus will be given to encouraging Member States to adopt national strategies which will build on the EU strategy by taking into account national specificities and national laws and practices.

The framework could build on the following elements:

- Anticipating and managing change for better and longer working lives
- Preventing work-related diseases and accidents
- Improving the application of EU rules
- Ensuring evidence-based policy
- Promoting higher safety and health standards in the world

Euromines submitted its feed-back on published Roadmap and stressed the need for interim assessment of rate and feasibility of implementation of nearly adopted lower OELs and need for a better coordination between EU Agencies, Commission, ACSH and Industry when setting up OELs.

## Media

### Articles to share

07 December 2020 - [Implementing the EU Industrial Strategy – how to track Europe’s competitiveness?](#)

In March 2020, the European Commission presented a “new Industrial Strategy” to help Europe’s industry lead the transitions towards climate neutrality and digital leadership.

Watch the [Euractiv Debate from 7 December 2020](#).

07 Dec 2020 - [Germany launches funding programme for ‘green steel’](#)

German environment minister Svenja Schulze (SPD) has made €5 million available to Salzgitter AG group to produce climate-friendly steel as part of a wider project on industry decarbonisation. The opposition criticises a lack of industrial policy.

04 December 2020 - EU 2050 climate targets: [Are they feasible and can they be achieved without stunting economic growth](#)

The EU aims to be climate-neutral by 2050 – an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. This objective is at the heart of the European Green Deal and in line with the EU’s commitment to global climate action under the Paris Agreement.

Watch the [Euractiv Debate from 3rd December 2020](#).

04 December 2020 - [Carbon pricing: The best instrument for climate change mitigation?](#)

To limit global warming to 2°C or less—the level deemed safe by science—large emitting countries need to take ambitious action.

Watch the [Euractiv Debate from 1st December 2020](#).

30 November 2020 - [Energy: A critical raw material in its own right?](#)

Access to affordable energy is a key factor underpinning the competitiveness of European industries. But as the green transition gains momentum, pressure is building to put a higher price signal on energy and CO2 emissions, leaving regulators in a quandary.

30 November 2020 - [Ahead of EU presidency, Portuguese say reaching budget deal is ‘fundamental’](#)

Reaching a solution for the deadlocked EU budget between all EU countries as soon as possible is a ‘fundamental issue’, the forthcoming Portuguese presidency of the EU has said, warning that failure to do so would further undermine citizens’ trust in the bloc.

23 November 2020 - [EU’s regions and local authorities brace for difficult times ahead – survey](#)

Regional governments across the EU are bracing for difficult times ahead as they lack technical means and have scarce financial resources, according to a joint survey conducted by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

20 November 2020 - [Taxing times as EU mulls best way to price carbon at the border](#)

EU climate officials are currently mulling how to deploy a so-called carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) on imported goods, as part of the bloc’s flagship Green Deal initiative, and it is proving to be a complex exercise.

## Communication

### The Briefcase Project and the Game

The Briefcase Project is an interactive, online tool that teaches students ranging from 6 to 14 years of age about minerals and metals used to make items they interact with every day.

Using an innovative method, it teaches students to match minerals to corresponding objects and encourages reflection on issues like conflict minerals, consequences of purchase decisions, as well as the importance of recycling and climate change, making it useful in a number of disciplines ranging from geology to economics.

The Briefcase Project is a funded EIT Raw Materials Project that is orientated for Wider Society Learning (WSL) and Euromines is one of the partners.

This tool is already available across a number of EU countries, ready for teachers to access and share with students in **17 languages and more languages will be online in the coming weeks.**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, schools in Europe and around the world are forced to use more and more online teaching tools. Educators are working hard to adapt to unprecedented circumstances and doing their best to provide students with new learning opportunities they can engage with online and at home.

**The Briefcase Project has the potential to help fill this void in education and offer teachers an interactive resource they can share with students contributing to the goal of understanding the physical world around us and improving the general knowledge of minerals and mining in society.**

Please consider taking a few minutes to think about who else could benefit from **The Briefcase** and reach out to them to share access to the project. Consider all your contacts: schools, museums, teachers, parents etc. and how this tool might be appreciated during this critical time of connecting with young people and keeping their minds interested and active.

Read more on [project website](#) and [try our game!](#)

New Briefcase Booklets just released:

#### [Minerals and Metals Enabling Sustainable Development Goals](#)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a total of 17 global sustainable development goals that were adopted by the United Nations (UN) in September 2015 and came into force in January 2016. Ecological, economic and social challenges such as climate change, inequality and poverty are to be solved by 2030 by means of this strategy. Here's how the European mineral raw materials industry is contributing to these goals.

#### [Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation](#)

Climate change is perhaps the most important issue facing our world today. Its consequences could be catastrophic to all the people, animals and plants that live on this Earth. As a foundational sector that affects many other industries and activities through the raw materials produced, there are a variety of ways the European mineral raw materials industry helps fight climate change. These contributions fall into two main categories: providing materials for sustainable efforts and continuously improving processes within the mineral raw materials sector.

## Upcoming Events

### Winter Holiday Season!



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*We appreciate your feedback, please send your comments and suggestion to Veronika [sochorova@euromines.be](mailto:sochorova@euromines.be).*