

Euromines Update

16 March 2021

Internal News Update for Euromines Members Not for public discussion

Upcoming Euromines General Assembly

All members are welcome to join Euromines General Assembly meeting next **Wednesday 24th March 2021 at 10:00h CET.**

We will have two special guests:

Ms. Hildegard Bentele, Member of the European Parliament (EPP, Germany), Rapporteur in the Industry Committee for the "Critical Raw Materials" EP Initiative Report

and

Mr. Massimo Gasparon, Director, European Raw Materials Alliance ERMA

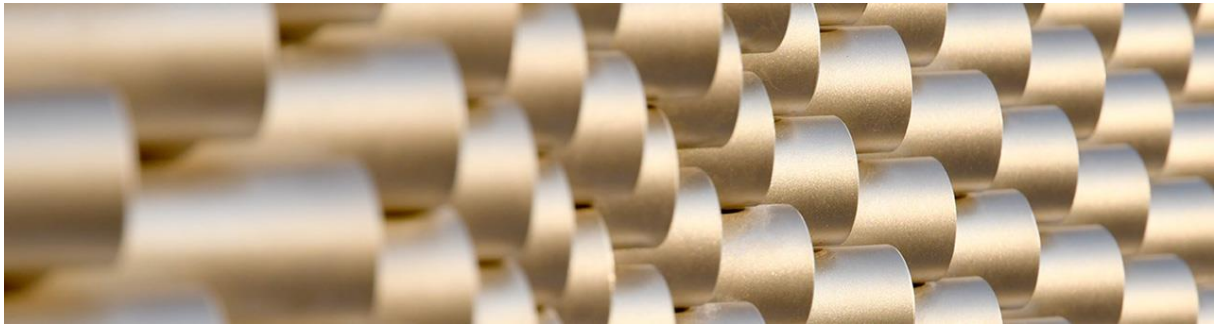
For members, who have not had the opportunity to register for the meeting yet, we look forward to receiving your confirmation by email.

A WebEx invitation has been sent out. Please also find, below, the link giving you access to the meeting:

<https://euromines.webex.com/euromines/j.php?MTID=m7e0480d44d9a8036686107705d5ab661>

For members, being unable to attend the meeting, we would appreciate to have your proxies (one per organization/association), enabling us to have your vote at the meeting.

Please do not forget to register! In case of interest, please send an email to [Azi bairami@euromines.be](mailto:Azi.bairami@euromines.be)



Policy

Critical Raw Materials

Critical Raw Materials Action Plan

The Action Plan has been submitted to the European Parliament and the Council for examination. Under Rule 57, the European Parliament's ITRE (Lead) and ENVI and INTA (Associated) Committees work in close cooperation. The Rapporteur for the ITRE Committee MEP Bentele Hildegard (EPP, Germany) is expected to come forward with a draft Report that would react to the Commission's Action Plan. The ITRE Committee is expected to hold an exchange of views on 17 June 2021. The ITRE MEPs would be able to table amendments to the draft Report until 22 June.

The ENVI Committee assigned the file to the the Greens/EFA group during the last coordinators' meeting.

The INTA Committee designated MEP Roman Haider (ID, Austria) as the Rapporteur for Opinion.

During the next two months, Euromines will meet the MEP (ITRE, ENVI and INTA) and discuss the importance of the European raw materials mining sector.

Euromines Position Paper - [Implementation of the Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials](#).

Industrial Policy

Strengthening of European industrial policy to guarantee the EU strategic independence

Bruno Le Maire, French Minister for the Economy, Finance and Recovery and Peter Altmaier, German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy on 17th February and discussed key Franco-German industrial projects and the strengthening of European industrial policy.

They underlined once again that industrial policy is a crucial part of the EU recovery. They are striving for a competitive, sovereign and resilient EU industry by investing on future-oriented technologies “made in the EU” and by putting an enabling policy framework in place.

Both Ministers call on the acceleration of pan-European collaboration on innovative technologies, in particular Industrial Alliances and Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs).

Read more on [Euromines website](#).

The importance of raw materials highlighted by EC President Ursula von der Leyen

In her opening speech on the occasion of the EU Industry Days 2021 European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen highlighted the importance of raw materials several times, especially the critical raw materials essential for a sustainable European future: *‘Green and digital technologies currently depend on a number of scarce raw materials. We import lithium for electric cars, platinum to produce clean hydrogen, silicon metal for solar panels. 98% of the rare earth elements we need come from a single supplier: China. This is not sustainable. So we must diversify our supply chains. And at the same time, we must invest in circular technologies that re-use resources instead of constantly extracting them. This is the goal of our Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials. This is why we have proposed to create a European Raw Materials Alliance.’*

Demand for raw materials is projected to double by 2050, making diversified sourcing essential to increase Europe’s security of supply. Strategic and critical raw materials are crucial for sectorial value chains, such as e-mobility, batteries, renewable energies, pharmaceuticals, aerospace, defense and digital applications.

Euromines welcomes the EC support for the European Industry and is prepared to support these ambitious goals.

Read more on [Euromines website](#).

Strengthening the local sustainable sourcing and processing of raw materials

On the occasion of the 5th high-level meeting of the European Battery Alliance Vice-President Šeřčovič delivered a speech at a press conference highlighting the role of the local sustainable sourcing and processing of raw materials.

‘It is essential to strengthen the local sustainable sourcing and processing of raw materials used in batteries as well as local production of key components that determine the performance of lithium-ion batteries.

- *This calls for significant investment and greater mobilisation of public funding. As the Member States are finalising their national recovery and resilience plans, I encourage them to include investment in raw and advanced materials. Cohesion funds are another source of funding to consider.*
- *The EIB’s involvement is decisive here to de-risk raw materials projects, leverage additional private money and effectively, to close the estimated financial gap of 15 billion euros by 2025.*
- *The Commission, for its part, will launch a Roundtable on the environmentally and socially sustainable raw materials mining and will publish a set of EU principles for sustainable raw materials to guide industrial action.’*

Read more on [EC website](#).

Media

EU's industrial policy stalls before takeoff - Politico, 25 February 2021

While Europeans spar over the direction of travel, the US plows ahead. While U.S. President Joe Biden this week launched himself into the race to bolster American industry, ideologically divided Europeans are struggling to even get to the start line in their attempt to strengthen EU corporate power.

The complete article is available [here](#).



Sustainable Finance

EU Taxonomy: Technical Screening Criteria

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Technical Criteria

The Commission is planning to adopt the draft Delegated Regulation in the second half of April 2021. The Communication would likely be presented alongside the expected [Delegated Regulation](#) establishing the technical screening criteria for determining the conditions under which an economic activity qualifies as contributing substantially to climate change mitigation or climate change adaptation and for determining whether that economic activity causes no significant harm to any of the other environmental objectives. With regard to transition finance, the Commission would take into account the advice from the Platform on Sustainable Finance. The Commission's advisory body is expected to respond to a request for advice from the Commission on financing the transition towards a sustainable economy after mid-March 2021.

EU Environment Technical Criteria

The second Delegated Act on technical screening criteria will focus on activities making a substantial contribution sustainable water use, circular economy, pollution prevention and control as well as biodiversity, while doing no significant harm to other environmental objectives. Regarding the remaining four objectives, the technical group is currently discussing approximately 60 headline activities, including **Mining and Processing Sectors**. The methodology for developing the criteria, which has been developed by the Commission's Joint Research Centre follows eight steps for developing the criteria for a specific economic activity:

- i. describing the nature of the substantial contribution;
- ii. defining the scope of the activities;
- iii. defining the type of contribution;
- iv. identifying forward-looking reference points;
- v. selecting a quantitative or qualitative approach to defining the contribution;
- vi. setting the level of ambition;
- vii. determining the criteria for substantial contribution;
- viii. determining the criteria for 'do no significant harm'.

The group will produce a final report which will include the level of ambition, the reference point and rationale for the technical criteria, the substantial contribution criteria and the 'do no significant harm' criteria for each environmental objective.

Stakeholders are free to contact members of the working group, which are listed on the Platform's website, should they wish to provide input to the group's work. A public consultation on the draft criteria is expected to be launched in June 2021.

Euromines Sustainable Finance Task Force

Lobbying Outreach

Euromines is discussing lobbying outreach in Sustainable Finance Task Force and we would welcome additional members for further discussions.

We appreciate your involvement, please register with Mirona Coropciuc coropciuc@euromines.be.



EU Industry

News from ERMA

European Raw Materials Alliance contributes to Europe's industrial resilience

On 23 February 2021, President von der Leyen, in the opening speech at the EU Industry Days 2021, highlighted the importance of the European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA) to build Europe's resilience, reduce dependency on third countries, improve resource efficiency and circularity to ensure Europe's ambition for a green and digital future.

ERMA Cluster on Materials for Energy Storage and Conversion officially kicks off

On 16 February, ERMA officially kicked off the second Cluster focused on Materials for Energy Storage and Conversion. The meeting brought together over 160 stakeholders from industry, academia, research, national authorities, associations and financial institutions.

EIT RM Call for Projects 2022 is now open

EIT RawMaterials connects stakeholders and actors from different parts of the raw materials value chain creating a unique collaborative environment for breakthrough innovations and radically new ways to address raw materials challenges. EIT RawMaterials comprises more than 120 core and associate partners from leading businesses, universities and research institutes, and an additional 190 project partners contributing to and benefitting by being involved in specific tasks in Calls for Projects.

EIT RM encourages its partners to submit new project proposals that will generate a significant impact on European industrial competitiveness, innovation capacity and human capital, as well as empower students and entrepreneurs driving towards the circular economy and the contribution towards the EU Green Deal goals.

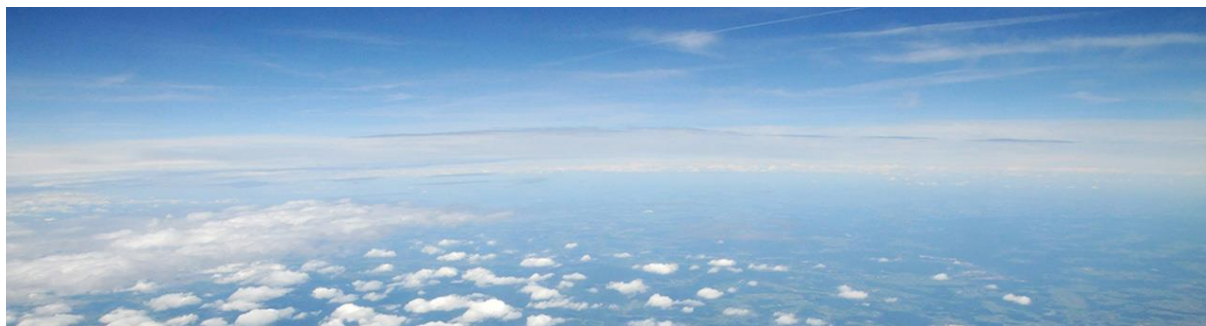
Read more on [EIT RM website](#).

ERA-MIN3: Raw Materials for the Sustainable Development and the Circular Economy

ERA-MIN3 aims to improve synergy, coordination and coherence between regional, national and EU funding in the raw materials sector by reducing fragmentation of raw materials funding across Europe and globally, as well as, improving the use of human and financial resources, the competitiveness and the environmental, social, health and safety issues of raw materials operations through supporting of transnational, excellent and translational R&I activities.

The EU Co-funded ERA-MIN 2021 Joint Call is the first joint call of the ERA-NET Cofund ERA-MIN3, officially launched on the 15th of January, 2021, which counts with an indicative budget of €19.5 Million. The deadline for pre-proposal submission is just two weeks ahead, April 1, 2021 - 17:00 (Brussels time).

Read more on [ERA-MIN website](#).



Energy and Climate Change

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

The European Parliament adopted its Resolution on towards a WTO-compatible EU carbon border adjustment mechanism on 10 March 2021. The adoption follows a contentious vote on amendments, including the close adoption by a slim margin removing a reference to phasing out free allocation of emission allowances. This was not enough to derail the Resolution as a whole, but it is certainly to be a sensitive issue moving forward. As such, the proposal establishing the carbon border adjustment mechanism is expected to be subject to intense discussions in the Parliament during the second half of the year.

Euromines believes that the CBAM should be complementary to ETS and that free allowances and reimbursement of indirect costs should remain the main carbon leakage protection measures.



Environment

Industrial Emissions Directive Review

The reply to the IED public consultation has been uploaded on 10 March, together with our short position paper with arguments against inclusion of the mining sector ([Euromines Position Paper](#)). The PP was also sent for information to DG Grow. The targeted consultation has a new deadline on 02 April. We aim to deliver a first draft response to the targeted questionnaire next week for review by the Environmental Committee.

Your help at national level would be highly appreciated in contacting your ministries and provide them with arguments against inclusion of IED. Enough resistance from MS to include mining in the IED may help to encourage the Commission to finally decide to withdraw their plans.

EC Risk Management Study

Environmental and H&S Committee members delivered comments to the draft background document by the internal deadline of 26 January.

A revised Background Document with several RM key activities for the Kick-Off Meeting with the expert group on risk management was delivered to the stakeholders on 3 March by a consortium led by consultant Eco-Efficiency.

Members of Euromines Env and H&S Committees were invited to participate in a mirror group. We received until now 9 confirmations. Goal is to further discuss the background document and prepare joint statements for further use that are in line with replies to other parallel initiatives from the Commission.

During the kickoff meeting (only for TAG members) of 17 March it will be decided which key activities will be included in the final document.

Priority Substances Ag (NEW)

Euromines is participating as stakeholder in the Ag expert subgroup that deals with defining an EQS for Ag. Other participants are JRC, BE (Wallonia), DE, FR, NL, SE, and pro-industry consultant ArcheConsulting.

There were several disagreements from stakeholders on usability of new data and methodology for correctly deriving an EQS for freshwater and marine water. The draft EQS dossier on silver was sent for evaluation by independent SCHEER (Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks)'s revision on the 24th February. We will update you on the outcome of the SCHEER's evaluation, when ready. A revised draft EQS dossier will be then circulated accordingly.

Euromines cosigned a paper together with other sector organizations that urges to apply correct data handling practices for selecting PS.

EC Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)-study

On Monday 8 March, our comments on the 2nd version of the **Background Study on the environmental impact assessment of non-energy minerals extraction** (by JRC) were delivered to the dedicated project platform. Our general message was that the document should not be binding in any means. The requirements for an environmental impact assessment are exclusively regulated in the EIA-Directive. The document goes beyond the requirements of the EIA or treats topics that are not covered by the EIA. The additional topics should be better labeled as such throughout the document to avoid confusion.

EC study guidance Extractive Waste

End of February Mr. Christian Wimmer (DG Env) and Eurostatt delivered their reviews of the draft **report supporting the development of general guidance on the implementation of the Extractive Waste Directive**. Euromines is part of the project consortium which is led by VITO. Mr. Wimmer had several comments on tasks in which Euromines was directly involved in 2019 and 2020. One of his key requests is the delivery of extractive waste management plans (EWMP) per site and the review if permits are according to EW Directive. In 2020 Euromines tried to retrieve this information during real/virtual country visits through meetings with the national associations and/or companies. At some MS the EWMP are fully publicly accessible. Several other MS (often regional or local level) are reluctant to give this information to the Commission.

On 9 March, a consortium meeting took place where a plan was made on how/when replying as much as possible to the requests and comments. On 26 March, the consortium will meet with Mr. Wimmer and discuss those remarks that are difficult to fulfill. Any EWMP that was gathered by Euromines for this project will not be shared with third parties before having the discussion with Mr. Wimmer.

EC-study on dangerous chemicals - Cyanide

Monday 8 March Euromines was invited to a Workshop related to the EC-study on the **feasibility of restricting access to dangerous chemicals which can be used for terrorist attacks** (by consultant Ernst&Young). This workshop was dedicated to the specific chemical cyanide and asked for feedback from producers, distributors and users on potential measures concerning access to Potassium Cyanide and Sodium Cyanide.



Upcoming Events

How the European Arctic secures the European Green Deal and industrial leadership with sustainable raw materials and batteries

Towards a climate neutral supply of crucial raw materials for a successful European Green Deal

Over half of Europe's most critical mineral and metals are found in the European Arctic of Sweden and Finland. The competence and capability through the whole value chain from raw material extraction, battery production, recycling and re-use of raw materials makes this region the most advanced and valuable ecosystem for sustainable mining in Europe, crucial in realizing the European Green Deal.

Already this Wednesday 17 March, Svemin, Swedish Association of Mines, Mineral and Metal Producers, FinnMin, the Finnish Mining Association, North Sweden European Office and Region Västerbotten invite you to a webinar in three sessions:

- 13.00 Mineral extraction
- 14.00 Battery production
- 15.00 Recycling

The keynote speeches by Mika Lintilä, Minister of Economic Affairs, Finland; Peter Handley, Head of Unit Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials, European Commission's DG GROW and Ibrahim Baylan, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation, Sweden.

Euromines Director Rolf Kuby talks in the first session starting at 13:00h and giving his statement at 13:14h.

Don't miss the opportunity to meet a number of experts in the field of sustainable raw materials.

For more details please visit [Svemin website](#).

Argus Metals Conference - Euromines led panels

Euromines was invited to lead one of the panel at the International Argus Metals Conference to be held ONLINE from 16-18 March 2021. Argus Metals Live will deliver business critical insights and content tailored for the Americas, European and Asia-Pacific time zones. Engage with the expert speakers and ask questions during the live Q&As sessions. All conference sessions will be recorded and available to view on demand after the live event so you can catch up on what you may have missed.

Agenda - GMT (Greenwich Mean Time Zone) is [available here](#).

Don't miss Euromines speakers on Wednesday 17 March 2021.

13:00 - 13:40 Can decarbonised mining become a reality?

- Mirona Coropciuc, Deputy Director, Euromines
- Radoslaw Zydok, Director of the Regulatory and Strategic Analysis Department, KGHM Polska Miedz SA
- Jan Mostrom, CEO, LKAB
- Stefan Rathausky, Head of Corporate Communications, RHI Magnesita

Following questions will be addressed:

- Assessing the speed with which mining companies can reduce their reliance on fossil fuels for power and electricity
- What alternative and innovative methods can help to reduce emissions in the present and future?
- What are the consequences of decarbonisation for production costs, investment opportunities and trading?

14:00 - 14:30: Sustainable Finance from a European Perspective

- Mark Rachovides, President, Euromines
- Luis Martins, President of the Board, Cluster Portugal Mineral Resources

Following questions will be addressed:

- To what extent does the EU's Sustainable Finance Action Plan provide a workable framework for the mining industry?
- Which measures should be taken to ensure that investments are targeted and cost-effective?
- How can companies across the value chain be proactive in ensuring that they are attractive prospects for investment?

Euromines members can receive 10% off the current rate with the promotional code:

EUROMINES10

Discover more and secure your place here: <http://bit.ly/36q0nge>

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