



Mining, Minerals and  
Sustainable Development

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# Minutes of Euromines and Eurométaux Meeting with MMSD

Brussels, 20 February 2001

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## I Introduction

On 20 February 2001, the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (MMSD) Project held a meeting with members of Eurometaux and Euromines at Eurometaux's offices in Brussels. [Appendix A lists participants].

Key objectives of the meeting were:

- To inform Eurometaux and Euromine members of the progress of MMSD and the priority issues it is addressing at the global level
- To understand members' perspectives on priority issues in Europe
- To inform MMSD of ongoing initiatives in which Eurometaux and Euromines are involved in Europe
- To understand members' perspectives on what MMSD could contribute to existing activities in Europe

## 2 Priorities for Eurometaux and Euromines

### 2.1 Eurometaux

Mr Guy Thiran described Eurometaux's priorities as articulated around four areas:

1. Trade.
2. Competitiveness
3. EHS management
4. Communication

The objectives of Eurometaux for these four areas are the following:

#### *Environment, Health and Safety*

- Assert the industry's responsible behaviour in respect of environmental protection and pollution prevention.
- Develop a proactive attitude vis-à-vis any environmental issues likely to have an impact on the sector's activities and future development

#### *Trade Policy*

- Assert the industry's international dimension in global commodity markets
- Contribute to Europe's bargaining power in international trade negotiations and foreign industrial relations
- Steer the industry's course of action in respect of European trade policies
- Foster and carry through industry initiatives against international competitive trade distortions

#### *Competitiveness*

- Highlight the competitiveness factors of the European non-ferrous metals industry and the terms of competition which it is facing vis-à-vis third countries
- Challenge the European policies which jeopardise such competitiveness or create competitive market distortions
- Promote initiatives in the framework of the EU R&D and industrial cooperation programmes

#### *Communication*

- Ensure that industry speaks with "one voice / one message"
- Upgrade the industry's profile so as to express its benefits to European society
- Be more proactive and influential with the European and national authorities
- Advocate the industry's views and positions vis-à-vis all sectors of society
- Co-ordinate with metal and other associations in order to promote the benefits and reputation of metals
- Improve the way in which the members are kept informed of Eurometaux activities

## **2.2 Euromines**

Dr Corina Heberstreit described Euromine's priorities and the work they are currently undertaking:

Apart from following the current legislative proposals to follow-up the EU's Communications on the non-energy extractive industry and sustainable development and

on the Safe Operation of Mines which were adopted last year and to emphasize in this context

- On the economic front, the industry's concerns are dominated by the access to land and the NIMBY phenomenon. On the environmental front, the solution to the Commission's attempt to cover mine waste with EU legislation is the biggest issue.
- On the social front, to improve occupational health and safety. Emergency communication and response systems have been developed and are continued to be refined.

It should be noted that the current focus on mining-related issues in some parts of the Commission are the result of the two accidents in Spain and Romania. It has to be seen in a more general public concern about metals in the environment. The accident in Austria which killed ten people is never talked about.

### **3 Ongoing Initiatives**

Participants underlined that Eurometaux and Euromines were already involved in several existing initiatives achieving a good level of dialogue and stakeholder engagement in the mining and metals sector in Europe. However, it was acknowledged that there are other actors that could be involved. For example, dialogue could be broadened to involve the labour movement as well as social NGOs. Such stakeholder consultations are often formally organised by the EU authorities that have as an obligation to consult with industry and other stakeholder groups on their regulatory initiatives. These consultations are more and more frequent and give Eurometaux and Euromines opportunities for continuing interaction with other stakeholder groups in an informal and bilateral manner. Both Eurometaux and Euromines are the officially recognised organisations representing the mining and metals sectors in the EU.

- Euromines feel they have extensive stakeholder engagement through DG Environment
- The European Commission has issued its recommendations for the sustainable development of the European extractive industry. Euromines has and is participating in this initiative.
- A Reform of the EU Commission's Raw Materials Supply Group is under preparation to improve the standing and responsibilities of the Group. The stakeholder engagement was already introduced in 2000.
- Eurometaux and Euromines and their members, being collectively or separately, are engaged in discussions on global issues. The organisation and its members are very much integrated in the wider industry network that address sustainable development related issues (UNICE, BIAC, ICC).

One of the difficulties faced in Europe is the number and diversity of stakeholders and the diversity of their concerns. Issues of concern are quite different in France, Germany or the UK. For example, a representative from a national trade association commented that their

association is dealing with 90 issues. Only 10 to 15 of these are international ones. Engaging national stakeholders at regional/international level was perceived to be particularly difficult.

A number of national level initiatives were reported upon. For example, in Germany:

1. Mining for Tomorrow's World Conference in 1999
2. The Future begins with Mining – a federal government initiative to look at how to improve contribution of the mining industry to sustainable development and to ensure that the definition of sustainable development reflects conditions in the industry appropriately.

MMSD will attempt to document the major European initiatives at the regional level and at the major national level.

The participants did not see benefit in developing a new model of stakeholder dialogue in Europe.

## **4 Priority Issues**

The two key issues facing the mining, metals and minerals industry in Europe are:

1. Licence to operate in a crowded region
2. Licence to market (restriction of marketing and uses of metals)

It was stressed that dealing with land access needs to be dealt with at a very local level, engaging with a specific local NGO, where international or regional guidelines or standards are of little importance. A contrasting view was expressed that by dealing with each local problem individually, the industry players could be in danger of “winning the battles but losing the war”.

In the context of the license to market issue, a number of aspects were highlighted including risk assessment, the central role of the precautionary principle, the new EU chemicals policy, PBT and competing materials. The role of consumers in driving some of these issues was singled out in terms of the disconnect between the metals products they use and where that metal comes from and also in their distrust of scientific information.

Several contributors remarked on the need to demonstrate that metals and minerals are sustainable. Metals are not consumed but are used, recycled, reused over and over again. More attention needs to be paid to the role of scrap and recycled metals in the sustainable development debate.

It was agreed that documents from ICME and the commodity associations describing the need for metals were a useful resource. Therefore the role of MMSD could be in consulting more widely with other international stakeholders on these topics to ensure a balanced perspective.

## 5 Way forward for MMSD

It was concluded that MMSD in Europe focus on a review of:

1. *Key Issues Facing the Industry in Europe* - document European threats and opportunities on mining and metals production and use. Elements to be covered include: the 6<sup>th</sup> EU Environmental Action Program, policy on recycling, risk assessment methodology, review of the EU chemicals policy, precautionary principle and implementation of a global strategy on sustainable development.
2. *Main Drivers Influencing European Developments* – to understand the dynamics of regulatory initiatives, especially those influencing the production and use of metals. To identify key players or groups in governments, scientists, environmental groups and others and to understand the importance and the role of public opinion.
3. *Existing Models of Dialogue & Other Initiatives* – who is involved in what initiatives and why or why not

MMSD could add value by documenting work that has already been done and ensuring that there was an appropriate focus in its final report on the issues surrounding metal and consumers, metals in use and metals in the environment.

It was agreed that Eurometaux and Euromines would help to coordinate the flow of information to MMSD. However, it was clearly stated that the level of available resources in both organisation would not permit more than coordination and advise.

There was brief discussion on what organisations MMSD might work with. The following were suggested as possibilities:

- EEB is involved in work on metals
- University of Delft – metals, LCA

Members agreed to get back to MMSD with additional suggestions.

## Appendix A – List of Participants

Mr. P. Barrios	Senior Vice-President Corporate Development	Atlantic Copper
Mr. T. Berthoud	Adjoint au Directeur International	Pechiney
Mr. F. Buxbaum	Head of the Division Raw Materials	RHI-AG.
Mr. J. Chouvel	President	Fédération des Minerais et Métaux Non Ferreux
Mr. P. de Schrynmakers	Secretary-General	European Aluminium Association
Mr. R. Fenton	Secretary	Mining Association of the United Kingdom
Mr. A. Franckaerts	Vice-President Environment, Health and Safety	Union Minière
Dr. J. Groom	Senior Vice-President of Environment, Health & Safety	Anglo American
Dr. D. Johannes	Manager Public Relations and Mining Policy  Managing Director	Wirtschaftsvereinigung Bergbau  German Association for International Mining
Mr. G. Jourdan	Délégué Général	Fédération des Minerais et Métaux non-Ferreux
Dr. J. Mäkinen	Executive Vice President	Outokumpu Oy
Mr. J.L. Rebollo	Member of the Executive Board	Metaleurop sa
Mr. M. Taylor	Executive Director	International Cadmium Association
Mr. K. Wickstrand	Director	PIL

**MMSD**

Ms. Elisabeth Wood

Ms. Caroline Digby

**Euromines Secretariat**

Dr. C. Hebestreit, Director

**Eurometaux Secretariat**

Mr. G. Thiran, Secretary General