OVERVIEW OF SWEDISH AND POLISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE RAW MATERIALS INITIATIVE

Demand for metals is increasing as more and more of the population of emerging nations worldwide move to cities, increasing the need for new housing and investments in infrastructure.

In the growing global metal market Sweden and Poland, with the countries’ natural resources and experienced extracting industries, can make important contribution to secure Europe as a lead player according to the intentions of the Raw Material Initiative.

Today, metal companies in the two countries together with Finland contribute strongly to European growth and increased raw material supply. Only between the years 2007 and 2011 was more than 7 billion Euros invested in various expansion projects. Furthermore, over the last 7 years, the Polish and Swedish metal industries have cooperated intensively when it comes to Innovation programs, with the overall goal of creating a greener, leaner and safer metals industry for the future.

What? Strategic Alliance Sweden-Poland in Research and Innovation

When? May 2007

Why? Strengthening co-operation for efficiency of R&D and for creating an impact on the European arena. Expected outcome: Joint projects in several areas

Who? MITU – Swedish Mining Research, Lulea Univ. of Technology, AGH University of Science and Technology, KGHM Cuprum, Wroclaw University of Technology.

JOINT PROJECTS

What? Consortium MIGS – Mining Initiative on Ground Support Systems and Equipments

When? The MIGS project was executed during 2007-2011

Why? Ground support has significant impact on safety and tunneling/development advance rate both in mining and construction and is even more important due to mines going deeper where the rock stresses are closer to rock strength and increased use of ground support in rock due to stricter safer requirements. For more information please click here.

What? Smart Mine of the Future I

When? Conceptual Study 2009-2010

Why? For the Swedish and Polish mining industry, including mines and suppliers, it is vital to keep up the good work done so far in productivity gains and technology development. Now entering the new century, Swedish and Polish mining industry have to take the next step in productivity, safety and environment friendly operations. For more information please click here.

What? Smart Mine of the Future II

When? Feasibility Studies of selected work packages 2011-2012
Why? Vision SMIFU: The mining industry is an important supplier of efficient and sustainable solutions to meet the needs of modern society for metals and minerals. Safe, Lean and Green technology and an innovative organisation attract talented young men and women to meet the grand challenges and opportunities of future mineral supply.

What? Active participation in the FP7 NMP projects implementing some activities of Raw Materials Initiative announced in 2008

When? 2011-2013

Why? EU Raw Materials Initiative is based on three pillars:

- Ensuring a level playing field in access to resource in third countries;
- Fostering sustainable supply of raw materials from European sources;
- Boosting resource efficiency and promoting recycling.

For more information click [here](#).

Who? Members of the European Technology Platform on Sustainable Mineral Resources including participants from Poland and Sweden. Please visit [ETP SMR website](#) for more information.

The conference on Swedish and Polish Contribution to the EU Raw Materials Initiative was held in Brussels on 27 November 2012. It was organized by KGHM Polska Miedź, LKAB, ZGH Bolesław and Boliden with the support of Euromines. It was held under the auspices of Permanent Representation of Sweden & Republic of Poland to the EU. More than 50 participants attended.

The event was opened by the two Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives of Poland and Sweden to the EU, who highlighted the importance of the mining industry in their country as well as the need of cooperation between them. The representatives of the Polish and Swedish ministries presented the country’s approach to the minerals strategy and the speakers from European Commission presented the developments with regard to the implementation of the Raw Materials Initiative.

**Innovation – a prerequisite for success**

An estimate made by the Swedish Mining Association states that by 2025 Sweden’s mine production could be three times larger than today and create more than 50 000 new job opportunities. Polish mining companies attempt to secure supply of metals by acquisitions of mining projects and operations on other continents such as North and South America, and by advancing exploration projects in Poland and Germany.
In order to succeed with the growth visions of the Metals Industry in Sweden and Poland and at the same time secure the European Raw Material supply, Innovation has been identified as one area three critical areas in the Raw Materials Initiative to focus on.

Already today the industry's investment in education and research has put Europe in a leading position globally in several of the most important research areas in this field. But in order to keep our competitive edge, we are must continue to invest in Innovation also through joint research programs in Europe.

Together with about 75 per cent of European mining companies and leading mining universities, we have developed a common vision about a greener, leaner and safer metals industry. We have also, through this cooperation, described an Innovation strategy, “Sustainable Mining and Innovation for the Future(SMIFU)”, which we are now publishing. The strategy will lead us towards achievement of this vision over the next 10-20 years. It is our belief that Innovation cooperation will change the way in which we supply society with necessary minerals in the future.

You can find more information about the conference including the photo gallery and presentations shown here.