Euromines Critical Materials Conference - 9 March 2012


The event was stimulated by the European Union Report on Criticality and aimed at providing input for the upcoming review of results achieved so far, the fine-tuning of the methodology, presenting specific case studies, benchmarking with similar work outside the EU and taking into account what had already been done at UN and OECD level.

The programme started with the definitions of ‘Critical’ and ‘Essential’ raw materials, emphasising the issues of economic importance and supply risk. Presentations that followed included two by the European Commission (DG Enterprise and DG Trade) and several others by the EU industry and associations that are active in mining and processing, utilising and recycling of Critical Raw Materials. Among the companies and agencies that presented their views were BRGM, DaiEcon Advisors, Euroallages, The Geological Survey of Finland, Hewlett Packard, LKAB, Natural Resources GP, PWC, Renault, RHI AG, and Umicore.

Euromines is the European representation of the extractive industry. The organisation represents 42 different metals and minerals being mined in Europe and abroad and companies employing 350000 people in Europe. Its membership also includes many technology providers for the extractive industry.
In addition, there was extensive participation from outside the EU, notably from Canada, Japan and the USA. Talks included those from American Elements, The Basel Convention, The Metal Economics Research Institute of Japan, Natural Resources Canada, Tasman Metals and the U.S. Foreign Military Studies.

From left to right, Mr. Patrick Chevalier - Natural Resources Canada, Mr. Henryk Karasi - KGHM Polska Miedz, Ms. Cindy Hurst - U.S. Foreign Military Studies, Mr. Susumu Okada - Metal Economics Research Institute Japan

Dr. Katharina Kummer Peiry, Basel Convention

Of great value were numerous lively and in-depth questions and answers that followed each session.

From left to right, Dr. Philippe Schulz - Renault, Mr. Klaus Hieronymi - Hewlett Packard, Dr. Thomas Dreme - Euromines and RHI AG, Dr. Christian Hagemüken - Umicore, Mr. Daniel Cassard - BRGM

Conference participants

Of great value were numerous lively and in-depth questions and answers that followed each session. The conclusions of the Conference were presented by Euromines President Dr. Thomas Dreme, and were as follows:

- There should be no ‘per-se’ exclusion of minerals or intermediate products from the review which could be of relevance for the value chain;
- the assessment methodology should be refined; there should be an assessment of the impact of current EU legislation on the competitiveness of the mining and resources sector and the economy as a whole;
- developing a ‘checklist’ for future EU legislative impact assessments with regard to the long-term impact of all EU policies on the sustainable access to raw materials is highly desirable;
- long-term strategy is needed for diversification and integration of environmental costs also into imports, whilst not jeopardising the competitiveness of the EU economy;
- there is need for support on joint research and the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials.

KGHM of Poland, Magnesitas Navarras of Spain and Tasman Metals of Canada sponsored the Conference, while Natural Resources GP of Greece offered technical assistance.

More details, including comments by participants, can be found in [http://criticality2012.euromines.org/](http://criticality2012.euromines.org/).