

Stakeholder consultation for Revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive - Potential inclusion of additional sectors

Ref. Ares (2020)1738021 - 24/03/2020

Brussels, 5 March 2021

Euromines represents the European mineral raw materials industry covering more than 42 different metals and minerals and employing 350.000 directly and about four times as many indirectly. Its members mine metals and minerals, which will play an important role for a sustainable transition and which make EU's economy less dependent on raw materials from third countries and thus more resilient to crises.

Within the EU, Member States have sovereign rights over their own natural resources and responsibility for mining and quarrying lies with the Member States within a defined framework of established ownership rights and national, regional, and local regulations – in particular specific mining legislation.

The current review of the IED considers inter alia to possibly include extractive industries in the Directive. Nevertheless, such an inclusion would fail to recognise the specificities of the mining sector, among others by the following reasons:

- In contrast to installations regulated under the IED, mines and quarries are bound to their geological mineral deposits. Depending on their origin the ores for further processing are naturally unique with different composition and a wide range of geochemical properties.
- Applied techniques and emissions depend on the mined and processed mineral, but also vary strongly within each of these subsectors due to the unique and varying geological conditions and location of each mining site. These conditions largely determine the mining, extraction and processing techniques and – as a consequence - emissions and amount and composition of extractive wastes. As a result, mining operations are adapted to the respective local conditions and therefore their techniques differ significantly from each other.
- Regarding environmental requirements the European mining sector is already today strongly regulated by a dense regulation system on European level as well as on national level ensuring a – especially in world-wide comparison – very high level of environmental protection and performance. That way, numerous EU Environmental Directives (e.g. 92/43/EEC, 2000/60/EC, 2004/35/CE, 2008/50/EC, 2008/56/EC, 2008/98/EC, 2008/105/EC, 2009/147/EC, 2014/52/EC) are applicable for mining and quarrying as well as national environmental legislation, international management standards and best practice guidelines.

- Extractive waste facilities, which might be the most relevant extractive installations from an environmental point of view, are regulated separately in the specific extractive waste directive (2006/21/EC including the MWEI Reference Document).
- It should also be mentioned that some industrial activities that are also carried out by mining companies already fall under the IED (e. g. power plants, large drying systems).
- Moreover, the application of the IED would cause more administrative burden. This could also impede the development of current and new mine projects which are needed for a shift to use more of Europe's available raw extractive resources (<https://erma.eu/eu-policy/>).
- The European mining sector, in cooperation with European technology suppliers, is world leading when it comes to the development of mining and processing technology and equipment. For critical raw materials, of which some are not mined today, it must remain possible to assess all proposed mining and quarrying techniques, currently existing or newly developed. We fear that a BREF could hinder such developments.

Considering the above said the IED, that has been developed as an instrument for similar operational techniques, is not the appropriate instrument for such a diverse sector such as mining.

Therefore in our view the IED framework and processes related would not be the appropriate instrument. Moreover, we don't recognize that the inclusion of the extractive industries would lead to an added value.

***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 350,000 people in Europe. Its membership also includes technology providers for the extractive industry.*