

The Luleå Declaration

A response to the Raw Materials Initiative



October 2009

This declaration constitutes a response from the European extractive industry, governmental institutions, geological surveys and academia across Europe. It emphasizes the responsibility in terms of future needs for a common agenda concerning research and higher education related to a sustainable supply of metallic and non-metallic raw materials.

We believe that:

- A future society without minerals and metals is unthinkable.
- The global growth of population and of the world economy demands a strong emphasis on securing future mineral supply.
- There is a great potential for sustainable supply of raw materials from EU resources, but we need access to land, an improved knowledge base and R&D to improve methods for exploration, extraction and recycling.
- European companies are highly competitive and (high-tech) technology providers for the world. It is important that the mineral sector is recognized in the EU land access planning and in the EU R&D programs for maintaining this leadership. The development of a pan-European “Europe beneath our feet” knowledge base on the geology and mineral resources needs to be supported jointly by the European Commission and the Member States.
- The future mineral supply is **a grand challenge** for society at large. The extractive industry, academia and geological surveys are committed to contribute to sustainable mineral supply and meeting future challenges by excellent R&D. Improved transparency and simplifications are necessary in the mechanisms and administrative procedures governing EU-funded research.
- A sustainable supply of minerals and metals needs to be eco-efficient. This can be achieved by improved resource and energy efficiency and by increased use of secondary raw materials.

The appendix describes the way forward.

The organisations present at the *Conference on sustainable mineral resources within EU: European higher education and research on metallic and mineral raw materials*, listed below, agreed on the declaration.

Universities

INPL, Nancy
Luleå University of Technology
RWTH, Aachen
University of Leoben
University of Oulu
University of Oslo

Geological Surveys

BRGM, France
EuroGeoSurveys
Geological Survey of Finland
Geological Survey of Norway
Geological Survey of Sweden
IGME, Spain

Organisations and Institutes

Centek
Cewic
Euromines
Georange
Inst. Mech. Constr. & Rock
MinFo
Mintek
MIRO
MITU
North Sweden European Office
ProMine
SveMin
Sveriges Bergmaterialindustri

Industry

Atlas Copco
Boliden AB
Destia Ltd
KGHM
LKAB
Lapland Goldminers AB
Nordic Rock Tech Centre AB
Outotec Oyj
Raw Materials Group
RHI

Appendix

Raw materials are essential for the sustainable functioning of modern societies. The global growth of the population and the growth of the world economy create unprecedented requirements on the supply of minerals. Access to and affordability of mineral raw materials are crucial for the sound functioning of the EU's economy. Sectors such as construction, chemicals, automotive, aerospace, machinery and equipment sectors which provide a total value added of € 1,300 billion and employment for some 30 million people all depend on access to raw materials.

EU is currently a net importer of many of the minerals needed for the modern and future European society. We believe there is a great potential for much larger share for sustainable supply of raw materials from EU resources, but we need access to land, an improved knowledge base and R&D to improve methods for exploration, extraction and recycling. Such R&D shall be executed in close collaboration between academia and the industry as the European industry through sustained R&D and innovation is technology providers to the world in the field of extractive technologies.

The Raw materials Initiative¹ states that *“raw materials are essential for the sustainable functioning of modern societies. Access to and affordability of mineral raw materials are crucial for the sound functioning of the EU's economy ... Securing reliable and undistorted access to raw materials is increasingly becoming an important factor for the EU's competitiveness and, hence, crucial to the success of the Lisbon Partnership for growth and jobs”* and *“the Commission will promote research projects that focus on the extraction and processing of raw materials in its 7th Framework Programme (FP7). The European Technology Platform on Sustainable Mineral Resources focuses on innovative exploration technologies to identify deeply located onshore and offshore resources (including deep sea mining), and new extraction technologies to maximise economic and environmental benefits.”*

We strongly support the Raw Materials Initiative by the EU, being the right step at the right time. With respect to research, development, innovation the European Technology Platform Sustainable Mineral Resources (ETP-SMR)² has adopted a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) that provides a solid platform for necessary actions.

Research

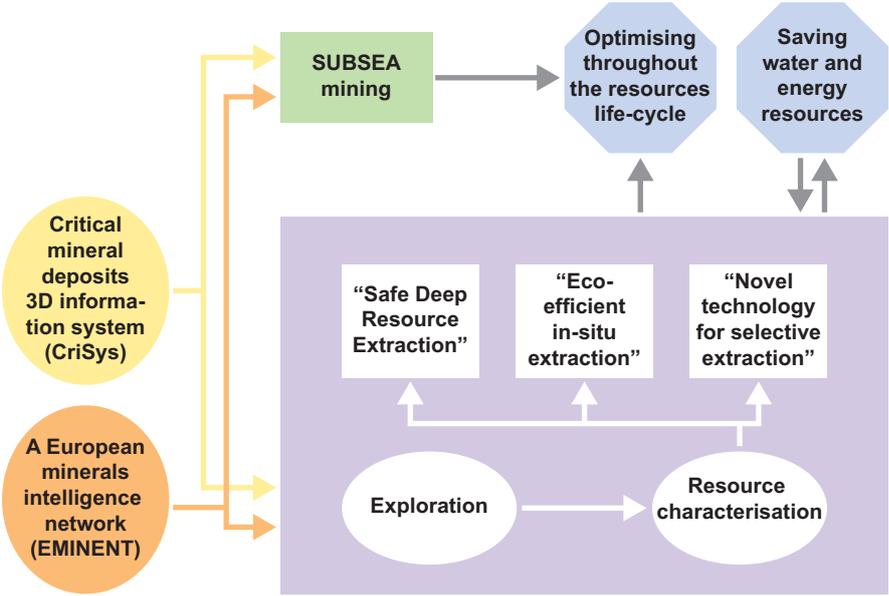
The ETP-SMR has adopted a strategic research agenda (SRA) for the European extractive industry and the involved stakeholders are committed to contribute through a major research effort to make the step change that will be required to secure critical and essential resources for Europe and achieve higher resources efficiency. In order to achieve this, the ETP SMR is seeking support from the European Commission and the Member States through complimentary funding of research as well as active involvement through a related ERANET.

To this end it is recommended that the Framework Programmes FP7 and FP8 clearly identify topics related to this SRA.

1 THE RAW MATERIALS INITIATIVE — MEETING OUR CRITICAL NEEDS FOR GROWTH AND JOBS IN EUROPE. COM(2008) 699. http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/document.cfm?action=display&doc_id=894&userservice_id=1

2 See www.etpsmr.org for information and downloads

The following items are seen as essential in order to implement the RMI research strategy as defined above:



For the FP8, the necessary actions relating to the Raw Minerals Initiative should be clearly identified in the program. The structure of the program should be suitable for the process industry where geology, IT, energy, environment and materials issues are strongly linked. We support increased transparency and simplifications how the framework programs are planned and implemented.

Education

There is strong links between high quality research and development and high quality education. We endorse a clear definition of European minerals programs, a framework for funding Pan-European education, funding of mobility of students and teachers, international networking and integration of European education with other leading schools internationally.