

Entrepreneurs' Forum

Why Do We Need Minerals?

Understanding why minerals matter means understanding
the foundations of Europe's future.



The event is held under the
auspices of the Cyprus
Presidency of the Council of the
European Union.

28 May 2026

09:00 - 12:30

Sun Hall Hotel

Athens Ave 6, Larnaca, Cyprus

Registration Link:

<https://entrepreneursforum26.eventbrite.be>



CYPRUS QUARRIES ASSOCIATION
Essential Materials, for Sustainable Development



**ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ
ΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΤΙΚΩΝ
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΕΩΝ**

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09.00 Welcome address

Maria Panayiotou, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment

09.15 Minerals for a modern life, Why do we need raw materials for Europe's resilience?

Antonis Antoniou Latouros, President Aggregates Europe

Alison Saxby, Industrial and Critical Minerals Expert, Project Blue

Dionysios Gkoutis, General Manager, Hellenic Survey of Geology & Mineral Exploration and Energy, Greece

9.35 The European perspective

Joan Canton, Head of Unit, Raw Materials, Energy Intensive Industries (GROW.I.1), European Commission

10.00 The Cypriot perspective

Costas Costantinou, Permanent Secretary of the Directorate General for the Environment, Cyprus

10.25 Coffee break

10.45 Ask the experts: In conversation with the audience. How can we best manage raw materials, and which strategies help us mitigate risk and secure reliable supply?

Dionysios Gkoutis, General Manager, Hellenic Survey of Geology & Mineral Exploration and Energy, Greece

Boris Erg, Director for IUCN European Regional Office (tbc)

Costas Costantinou, Permanent Secretary of the Directorate General for the Environment

Nektarios Michail, Chief Economist at Bank of Cyprus

Bernd Schäfer, CEO and Managing Director of EIT Raw Materials

Alison Saxby, Industrial and Critical Minerals Expert at Project Blue.

Moderators: Dirk Fincke (Aggregates Europe) & Tristan Suffys (Eurogypsum)

12.00 The way ahead: What is needed to achieve Europe's resilience? Key takeaways from the leader of raw materials industries

Antonis Antoniou Latouros, President Aggregates Europe

Mark Rachovides, President emeritus Euromines

Christoph Dorn, Member of the Group Management Committee for the Knauf Region Central Europe and Vice-President of Eurogypsum

Kostas Yazitzoglou, President of the Greek Mining Enterprises Association

Moderator: Rolf Kuby, (Euromines)

12.30 End of event