



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Employment and Social Governance
Social dialogue

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

Videoconference Plenary Meeting

06 October 2020

MINUTES

Participants:

Employer representatives

Cesar Luaces Frades, Spanish Aggregates Federation, Spain (Chair)
Corina Hebestreit, Euromines, Belgium
Kasia Palaczanis, Euromines, Belgium
Tobias Andres, VKS, Germany
Beata Staszko, Employers' Organization of Polish Copper, Euromines, Poland
Rafal Szkop, Employers' Organization of Polish Copper, Euromines, Poland
Radoslaw Zydok, KGHM Polish Copper, Poland
Christos Kavalopoulos, Greek Mining Enterprises Association, Greece
Akos Zoltay, Hungarian Mining Association, Hungary
Dirk Fincke, UEPG, Belgium
Sergiu Scolobiuc, UEPG, Belgium
Florence Lumen, IMA-Europe, Belgium
Roger Doome, IMA-Europe, Belgium
Lluís Rodríguez Camino, APEP
Hans-Peter König, APEP
David Bonson-Hesener, Euracoal
Brian Ricketts, Euracoal
Vladimir Budinsky, Severoceske Doli, Czech Republic

Employee representatives

Jean-Pierre Damm, FNEM FO, France

Corinna Zierold, industriAll, Belgium
Károly Stanitz, BDSZ, Hungary
Ferencz Rabi, BDSZ, Hungary
Alberto Simoes, SIMA, Portugal
Jesus Ignacio Crespo Torres, CCOO de Industria, Spain
Victor Fernandez Vazquez, IndustriAll, Spain
Sergio Hernandez Jimenez, FICA UGT, Spain
Letterio Oceano, CGIL FILCTEM, Italy
Andrea Bottaro, UILTEC, Italy
Grazia Gullo, UILTEC, Italy

European Commission:

Kathy Haas, DG EMPL
Peter Handley (DG GROW C2)
Felix Rohn (DG EMPL E2)



1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

Cesar Luaces Frades (Chair) opened the meeting.

The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the meeting on 19/06/2020 were adopted.

2. Critical Raw Materials Action Plan – presentation by Peter Handley, DG GROW

Peter Handley (GROW C2) presented the Critical Raw Materials Action Plan and the Critical Raw Materials Alliance launched in September 2020 (see slides). He explained that critical raw materials are essential to many industrial ecosystems, energy-related, digital-related, and strategic sectors. In the following discussion, he clarified that the Action Plan is fully aligned with the European Green Deal, the Industrial Strategy, the Circular Economy Action Plan and the biodiversity strategy, as we have to ensure access to critical raw materials for the green transition (strategic autonomy) and reduce our dependency on single points of supply (diversification). Guidance exists on how to conduct mining activities in a safe way without harming the environment: regulatory steps like environmental impact assessments are of course necessary. He said the Alliance will need all actors, but emphasized that trade unions will be essential players in regions in transition and should be consulted by default. The Commission is now looking at carbon-intensive regions and is working very closely with DG REGIO, CLIMA, ENER, JRC and others on the just transition agenda. He clarified that the map shown in the slides is only approximate for now: it is work in process showing regions with potential unexploited resources, but is partial as it excludes basic metals (showing only 30 critical raw materials). The aim is to make better use of the resources we have in Europe and give alternative pathways to regions in transition like coal mining ones in order to safeguard their economy and jobs, on the basis of an equal discussion with local communities and NGOs. He called on social partners' help to identify regions potentially interested to join the Raw Materials Alliance and Action Plan.

Replying to UEPG who said that all raw materials are important, and not only critical ones (e.g. sand scarcity), Peter Handley said that the use of the adjective “critical” is a good way to arouse political attention, but indeed the Commission is looking at all materials. He clarified that the scope of the list is non-energy and non-agricultural and excludes chemicals and plastics; the purpose of the list being to send a signal to attract investment in some areas, to prioritize work on R&I, to serve in trade negotiations and to help Member States set priorities in their recovery plans under NextGenerationEU. IMA-Europe criticized the methodology, underlining the Commission should not confuse raw material and refined material when assessing the dependency risk. Peter Handley said the Commission's methodology looked at where the supply risk and economic importance were the main concern. In some



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cases this was for the ores, for others at the refining stage. He offered to follow up bilaterally on any issue that IMA-Europe may have.

The Chair informed Peter Handley that this SSDC is finalizing a position paper on a raw materials strategy for adoption in December and later submission to the Commission and stakeholders.

Regarding development of sustainable finance criteria for the extractive industries, Peter Handley said Action 2 of the Critical Raw Materials Action Plan is to develop taxonomy criteria for the full raw materials value chains through the Sustainable Finance Platform (DG FISMA), in order to attract investment in extractive industries, and DG GROW will help bring expertise in the Platform. Trade unions commented that the social dimension should be represented in the sustainability criteria, and not only the economic and environmental dimensions.

3. Discussion on the 2021 Work Programme

The discussion on the 2021 Work Programme was postponed to the next meeting on 4/12.

4. Polish potential for coal-to-copper mining transformation – presentation by Radoslaw Zydok, KGHM Polish Copper

Radoslaw Zydok from KGHM group presented the integrated green transition plan of the group, explained how by the end of 2030, up to 50% of KGHM's annual demand of energy would be covered by own energy sources and presented the Polish potential for coal-to-copper mining transformation (see slides). KGHM resources can contribute to make the EU strategically autonomous and independent from uncertain and high carbon footprint imports of raw materials and help a Polish region still partly affected by the end of coal exploration by using the qualified personnel available there.

5. New EU Skills Agenda – presentation by Felix Rohn, DG EMPL

Felix Rohn (DG EMPL) presented the European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness and social fairness and resilience: its objectives and implementation through investment in skills, the Pact for skills, and the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (see slides).