



IV EurGeol Competent Person

Overview

One of the major problems the European and global minerals industry faces is public acceptance. The public has low confidence in the industry and proposals for establishment of mines at all scales are characterised by conflict.

Against this background, Europe could lead in setting and promoting a certification tool, based on existing and EU implemented standards and on personal warrants given by Competent Persons to assure the public (as consumers or end-users) that the products they are buying or using were made from raw materials exploited within responsible and sustainable mining practices. This certification scheme must: 1) include interoperability guidelines with other standards and; 2) be simple and based on personal warrants given by a EurGeol.

Such a scheme will favour European mines and quarries because the standards already in use in Europe require responsible mining. In this way, by certifying that a company follows principles and criteria already under the scope of existing EU regulations and standards (like ISO9001, ISO14001, OHSAS18001 or PERC), a certification process could be introduced quickly at minimum cost to industry and widespread benefit.

Informal feedback from EU officers suggests that the EU will support a certification scheme that promotes sustainability and best practices and at the same time benefits (and protects) the EU industry without raising trade barriers. To achieve this aim it is critical to attract the engagement and support of the minerals industry associations and leading companies.

Objectives and drivers:

1. Promote the EurGeol title and the advantages of the Competent Person framework, to ensure delivery of high levels of professional competence based on individual responsibility;
2. Actively seek opportunities to develop global standards promoting responsible and sustainable exploitation of geological resources, based on simple and personal warrants given by a Competent Person (EurGeol in Europe).

Outcomes:

1. Increase the status of the EurGeol title;
2. Increase recognition of the EurGeol title at the National, European, and International levels;
3. Increase the number of EurGeol applications and the revenues from EurGeol fees;
4. Develop and implement new EU standards (or reinforcing existing ones) or certification schemes based on warrants given by EurGeols.