



EFG Position Statement on
MINERAL RESOURCE POLICY AND MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE

Aims: to reduce EU exposedness to outside sources; to discover, delineate, book, maintain a strategic resource base for the case of non-access to import resources .

- Develop an EU policy to follow principles of sustainable development, t.i. to preserve the equilibrium among economic, environmental and social aspects with particular stress on balance between rational exploitation of resources and nature conservation and biodiversity: It is possible and can be done. Include financial aids for land reclamation and mining heritage projects.
- Legal harmonization in the EU of environmental protection and mining legislation so that all stakeholders operate in the same legal framework by the establishment of EU Codes.
- Avoid imports of mineral raw materials from abroad such that the EU does not export its environmental problems to countries which do not have the knowledge or the money to cope with them. Protection of the EU mineral resources against foreign dumping to avoid mine closure and job losses.
- Make a real and full-cost accounting of the different alternatives to mineral extraction when competing for space: The full costs and benefits, economic and ecological, of actual and alternative land-uses, including international or inter-regional impacts; to raise awareness of the scale of the external costs of many common land-use practices, and the scope for major financial savings by adopting alternatives. Full costs accounting must never forget that mineral resources are natural occurring and sites cannot be changed.
- Policies and financial resources allocated for long-term monitoring: Europe has best practice legislation, but national authorities lacks the financial resources to put their laws in force. Costed options for long-term monitoring of the impacts with full-cost accounting should be carried out, to learn from former or future land-use changes.
- Accreditation Schemes: Identification of elements suitable for incorporation into an eventual Sustainable Mineral Exploitation accreditation scheme to inform local communities, companies, governments, trading partners and consumers about the sustainability of their resource-use. Establishment of Best practice.
- Support, at European and national level, policies to a) fund national geological surveys to research and map natural resources, and b) educate a future generation of geoscientists.
- Develop a dialogue with policy makers, decision takers within governments, industry, and with civil society to make them aware of a) the central role of geology in addressing this issue; b) inter-relationship between a range of policy initiatives such as industrial, infrastructure, land-use planning, etc., and c) the implications of decisions taken now on future generations of European citizens.
- Contribute to the development of best practice standards in professional practice and to thus ensure the confidence of civil society in both the profession and its actions.
- The key to improving capital efficiency is better technology - driving down costs, lowering risk and improving recovery.
- Transparency of license terms within the EU.
- Reduction of barriers and cost of entry for new companies within the EU.
- Support small scale exploration and production operations by fiscal incentives.

Prepared by J. Clifford within the WG Mineral Resources for the EFG Council meeting in Prague 2005, with comments by T.Imbach, and final editing by S.Solar. (March 2006)