EFG Presents Industrial Minerals Manifesto at the European Parliament: Calling for Greater Recognition of Their Strategic Importance to Europe

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Photo caption: From left to right: Maria Tzima (President of the Association of Greek Geologists), Yannis Maniatis (MEP, S&D), and David Govoni (President of the European Federation of Geologists).

The European Federation of Geologists (EFG), together with the Association of Greek Geologists (AGG), presented the Industrial Minerals Manifesto at a high-level policy event at the European Parliament in Brussels on 19 November 2026, calling for greater recognition of industrial minerals and aggregates as essential resources for Europe's strategic autonomy, competitiveness and clean industrial transition.

Held under the title “Industrial Minerals and Aggregates: The Foundation of Europe’s Strategic Autonomy, Competitiveness and Clean Industrial Future”, the event was co-organised by EFG and AGG, with the support of the Industrial Minerals Association Europe (IMA-Europe) and Aggregates Europe (AE), and hosted by Member of the European Parliament Yannis Maniatis (S&D).

The event has brought together representatives from European institutions, the geoscience community and industry to highlight the essential contribution of industrial minerals and aggregates to Europe's economic resilience and sustainable development. These resources underpin construction, manufacturing, advanced technologies, renewable energy, agriculture and healthcare. Yet, despite their strategic importance, they often receive less political attention than metallic critical raw materials, while facing similar challenges, including lengthy permitting procedures, access to land, investment and long-term resource security.

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Three priorities for Europe's industrial future

A key highlight of the event was the presentation of the Industrial Minerals Manifesto, which sets out a shared vision and policy recommendations for a competitive, sustainable and resilient industrial minerals sector. The Manifesto identifies and proposes three priorities for European policymakers to ensure that these essential resources are adequately recognised and integrated into EU policies and strategies:

1. Raw materials security starts with geological knowledge and resource planning.

We cannot manage what we do not know. As mineral deposits cannot be relocated, Europe needs greater investment in geological mapping, exploration and resource assessment, integrating geological knowledge into land-use planning. Geological mapping is an economic investment, with studies showing benefit-to-cost ratios ranging from 4 to more than 100. It reduces exploration risks, supports investment and strengthens resource security.

As EFG President David Govoni emphasised: “Investing in geology is investing in the future of Europe.”

2. More efficient permitting must go hand in hand with a stronger Social Licence to Operate.

With new extraction projects taking an average of 10 to 15 years to obtain approval in the EU, responsible investment must become more predictable.

The Manifesto therefore calls for streamlined permitting, a one-stop-shop approach, better coordination, appropriate fast-track mechanisms and more predictable environmental assessments.

Professional expertise is equally essential to public trust. Qualified geologists ensure resources are assessed and developed responsibly. Recognised professional qualifications and standards, such as the EurGeol title, alongside professional independence and ethical accountability, provides assurance of competence and strengthen trust between industry, authorities and society.

Responsible resource development depends not only on sound regulation, but also on qualified professionals who can ensure that projects are designed and implemented to high technical and ethical standards.

3. Europe needs a stable, predictable and proportionate legislative framework.

Environmental protection and industrial competitiveness must go hand in hand. The Manifesto calls for digitalised permitting, stronger administrative capacity and better assessment of regulatory impacts, so that environmental objectives can be achieved through

clear, coherent and proportionate rules that are both technically feasible and economically sustainable.

Strengthening dialogue between policymakers, geologists and industry

Highlighting the importance of geological expertise and cooperation, MEP Yannis Maniatis stated:

“Considering the key importance of industrial minerals and aggregates for Europe’s resilience and industrial policy, geological knowledge and expertise, mapping, and collaboration between geological surveys, public authorities and companies are crucial.”

Through this initiative, EFG and AGG aim to bring the priorities of the geoscience community to the forefront of European policy discussions and strengthen cooperation between policymakers, geologists and industry, ensuring that industrial minerals and aggregates receive the recognition they deserve in European policymaking.

Discover the full Industrial Minerals Manifesto here: https://eurogeologists.eu/go/2026-insdustrial-minerals-manifesto

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