

European Parliament - Brussels

Industrial Minerals and Aggregates: The Foundation of Europe's Strategic Autonomy, Competitiveness and Clean Industrial Future

19 November 2026 9:30-14:30 CET

Hosted by MEP Yannis Maniatis, S&D

Organised by



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Background:

Industrial minerals and aggregates are indispensable to Europe's economy and strategic ambitions. They provide the essential raw materials for construction, manufacturing, advanced technologies, renewable energy, agriculture, healthcare and numerous everyday products and services. Despite their fundamental role, the industrial minerals and aggregates sector often receives less political attention than metallic critical raw materials, although it faces many of the same challenges relating to permitting, land access, workforce development, public acceptance, investment and long-term resource security.

As the European Union advances its competitiveness agenda, Clean Industrial Deal, Circular Economy objectives and strategic raw materials policy, there is a timely opportunity to strengthen recognition of industrial minerals and aggregates as an essential pillar of European industrial resilience and strategic autonomy.

The event will feature the presentation of the **European Industrial Minerals Manifesto**, setting out a shared vision and policy recommendations for a competitive, sustainable and resilient industrial minerals sector.

Objectives:

- Officially launch the Industrial Minerals Manifesto.
- Raise awareness among European policymakers of the strategic importance of industrial minerals and aggregates for Europe's economy, energy transition and industrial competitiveness.
- Present concrete policy recommendations to strengthen sustainable domestic production, responsible resource management and investment across the industrial minerals and aggregates value chain.



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- Foster dialogue between policymakers, industry, geoscientists and other stakeholders on future policy priorities.
- Highlight the contribution of geoscientific expertise to responsible resource development and evidence-based policymaking.

Programme:

9:30-10:15 – Opening Session

- Welcome by MEP Yannis Maniatis
- Key recommendations from the European Industrial Minerals Manifesto, David Govoni, President European Federation of Geologists (EFG) and Maria Tzima, President Association of Greek Geologists (AGG)

10:15-11:15 – High-Level Policy Session: Industrial Minerals and Aggregates at the Heart of Europe's Competitiveness

Moderator: Pablo Núñez Fernández, EFG Board

- Yannis Maniatis, MEP, S&D
- Gerardo Herrera, European Commission, DG GROW
- Panagiotis Zachariadis, EFG
- Leah Wilson, President Industrial Minerals Association Europe (IMA-Europe)
- Konstantinos Laskaridis, Hellenic Survey of Geology & Mineral Exploration & EuroGeoSurveys

11:15-11:25 – Technical break

11:25-12:25 – Industry Perspectives: Delivering Sustainable Industrial Minerals and Aggregates for Europe's Green and Digital Transition

Moderator: Rudi Ruggeri, CNG

- Antonis Antoniou Latouros, President at Aggregates Europe (AE): Aggregates: Essential Local Resources for Housing, Infrastructure and Europe's Green and Digital Transition—Securing Sustainable Supply, Circularity and Responsible Production
- Brecht De Roo, Director Sustainability, HSE and Public Affairs EMEA at CARMEUSE: Decarbonisation pathways and sustainability targets in the lime industry in the context of ETS developments
- Jyrki Bergstrom, IMERYs: Responsible resource management and the importance of reserves and resources classification
- Cathy Blervacq, Vice President Sustainability at SIBELCO: Case studies on renewables, biodiversity management and circularity
- Thomas Richter, Vice President Global Government and Public Affairs at SOLVAY: Sustainable production and innovation in carbonate-based industrial minerals
- Roger Doome, Secretary General at European Borates Association (EBA): Securing strategic mineral supply through responsible production and innovation

12:25-12:40 – Conclusion

Pablo Núñez Fernández, EFG Board

Networking lunch: Industrial Minerals and EU Policy: Navigating the Regulatory Framework for Sustainable Resource Development

The lunch reception will complement the morning session, providing an additional opportunity for dialogue between the European geoscience community, policymakers and industry, while identifying concrete regulatory issues that could inform the follow-up to the Industrial Minerals Manifesto. Rather than a conventional networking reception, this session will combine short policy interventions with an interactive discussion, focusing on EU legislation that has a direct bearing on mineral exploration, extraction, permitting and resource management.

13:00–13:10 – Welcome and introduction to the networking lunch

13:10–13:40 – Policy pitches: Three EU policy files shaping the future of mineral resource development

1. Water Framework Directive – Water protection and mineral resource development

Pernille Weiss-Ehler / DG ENV / European Commission (tbc)

2. Nature Restoration Regulation – Reconciling resource development and nature restoration

Ion Codescu / DG ENV / European Commission (tbc)

3. Permitting and access to Europe's subsurface resources

Brendan Devlin / DG Energy / European Commission (tbc)

13:40–14:00 – Open discussion: What regulatory framework does Europe need for sustainable mineral supply?

14:00–14:30 – Informal networking

- Event participation by invitation –

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