

# Memorandum

## 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of European Heads of State Mining Authorities

Cottbus, Germany, 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019

We, the representatives of European State Mining Authorities, signed hereunder, have been pleased to accept the invitation from Germany and Brandenburg to attend the 25th Meeting of the Heads of European State Mining Authorities in Cottbus, which focused on the topic "Community and environment protection of active and abandoned mines and quarries".

We unanimously proclaim that:

1. This format is an important platform for sharing information about issues and developments of relevance to mining and the establishment and maintenance of a network of mining administrations in Europe. The 25th meeting has made an important contribution to the sharing of information, knowledge and experience about mining in the various countries and about raw materials policy in general, with its diverse references to environmental protection, worker and community safety, public participation and climate change mitigation.
2. Mining plays a major role in all countries. Domestic extraction of raw materials is important in order to supply our economies with the necessary raw materials. Imports of raw materials are often expensive and unreliable. They also mean that the problems relating to mining are exported to the countries from which raw materials are imported.
3. Mining always needs to give consideration to the impact on the environment and the local residents. For this reason, all countries have comprehensive sets of rules on environmental protection and on the involvement of the public in approval procedures. There are EU rules for this. In particular, water legislation has become increasingly significant in recent years.
4. Mining needs to comply with all aspects of environmental protection if it is to meet with public acceptance. It is also necessary to ensure compatibility between the intervention which mining always entails and the interests of environmental protection. Our experience shows that it is possible to combine these two aspects. With a view to a sustainable conclusion to the extraction of mineral resources, the sites used for mining operations need to be made usable again. The highest standards apply to this.
5. We are constantly seeking new solutions to shaping the interplay between mining and environmental protection. In this context, a role is played by the concept of "temporary nature", in which specific aspects of the protection of biodiversity benefit from the dynamism of operational mining management. In particular, the renaturalisation of former mining sites offers great potential for environmental protection.
6. The expectations placed in the involvement of various levels of society in the planning, approval and monitoring of mining projects have grown in recent years. A special role here is played by the municipalities. From the point of view of the mining authorities, it is necessary to ensure that, despite the rising attention being paid to social interests and environmental aspects, new mining projects can continue to be approved and operated commercially.
7. We agree that we wish to continue our dialogue. Our group should remain open to other participants from Europe; representatives of the European Commission are also welcome, since the European Commission plays a major role in our policy fields.

We are pleased to accept the offer from Slovenia to host the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The focus should be on "Opening and closing of underground mines with special aspect on health, safety and financing". We are happy to get an invitation from the Czech Republic for 2021.

## SIGNATURES

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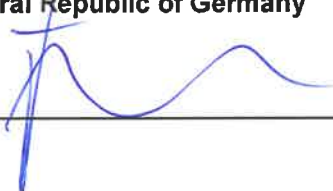
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