

Väljavõte Euroopa Komisjoni kommünikeest: *Communication from the commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Tackling the Challenges in Commodity Markets and on Raw Materials.* European Commission, Brussels, 2.2.2011, COM(2011) 25 final.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0025:FIN:en:PDF>

5.3. Fostering sustainable supply within the EU (pillar 2)

The Europe 2020 Strategy underlines the need to promote technologies that increase investment in the EU's natural assets. Extractive industries fall under this category but its development is hindered by a heavy regulatory framework and competition with other land uses. Many regulatory issues in this area are the competence of Member States. The Commission therefore acts mainly as a facilitator for the exchange of best practices.

At the same time, extraction in the EU must occur in safe conditions. This is important both for the image of the sector and as a precondition for the public acceptance. The Commission considers that the following practices⁴³ are particularly important in promoting investment in extractive industries:

- defining a National Minerals Policy, to ensure that mineral resources are exploited in an economically viable way, harmonised with other national policies, based on sustainable development principles and including a commitment to provide an appropriate legal and information framework;
- setting up a land use planning policy for minerals that comprises a digital geological knowledge base, a transparent methodology for identifying mineral resources, long term estimates for regional and local demand and identifying and safeguarding mineral resources (taking into account other land uses) including their protection from the effects of natural disasters;
- putting in place a process to authorise minerals exploration and extraction which is clear, understandable, provides certainty and helps to streamline the administrative process (e.g. the introduction of lead times, permit applications in parallel, and one-stop-shop).

The Commission proposes to assess with the Member States, in full respect of the subsidiarity principle, the feasibility of establishing a mechanism to monitor actions by Member States in the above area, including the development of indicators.

It is also important to further enhance the knowledge base necessary for an efficient raw materials strategy. In the short term the Commission proposes to assess with the Member States the scope for increased synergies between national geological surveys, that would allow for economies of scale, reduced costs and increased potential to engage in joint projects (e.g. harmonised minerals database, European Raw Materials Yearbook). In the medium term, any synergies should contribute to an improved European raw materials knowledge base in a co-ordinated way, in particular taking into account future opportunities within the GMES programme. For some raw materials, such as wood, the growing demand for renewable energy continues to increase competition for them. Increased demand is not always matched by a corresponding supply increase, thereby leading to higher prices.

The Commission intends to:

- promote the work of UNECE in the area of standardisation concerning reporting of reserves and resources at EU-level;
- carry out an appropriate analysis on the availability of wood and recovered paper taking into account the potential demand from both the forest based industries and the renewable energy sector (biomass);
- continue to support the creation of sectoral skills' councils at European level when an initiative comes from stakeholders such as social partners or the relevant observatories;
- Promote research and development in the raw materials value-chain including extraction, processing and substitution.

⁴³ “Improving framework conditions for extracting minerals for the EU”. Report of the RMSG Ad-hoc working group on exchanging best practices on land use planning, permitting and geological knowledge sharing. June 2010.