Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the 'Non-energy mining industry in Europe' (2009/C 27/19)

International workshop

User needs on energy and minerals data and services

10 March 2011

Budapest

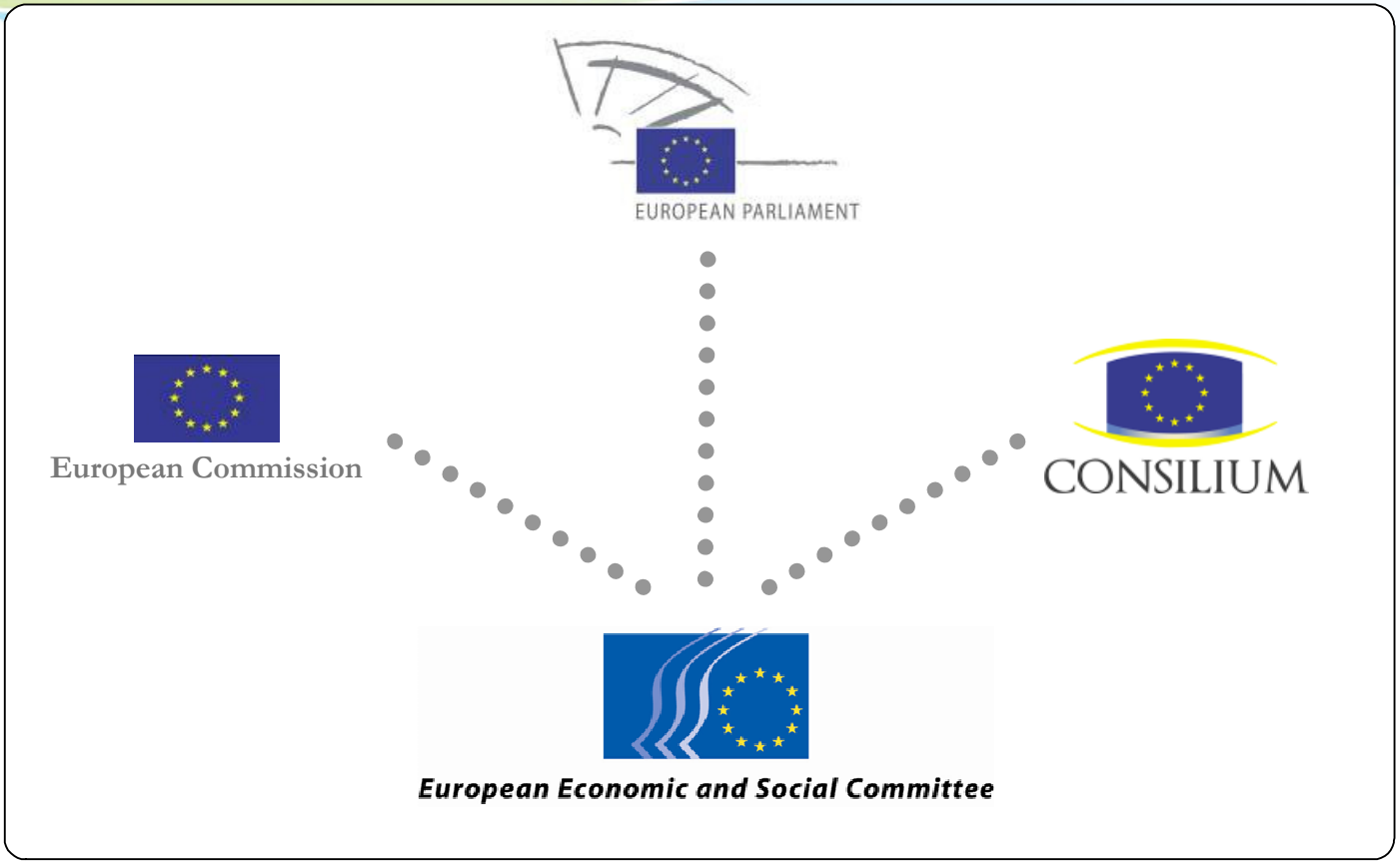
European Economic and Social Committee

Consultative Commission on Industrial Change – CCMI

What is the EESC?

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is a **consultative body** that gives representatives of Europe's socio-occupational interest groups (**employers, employees, various interests**) a formal platform to express their points of views on EU issues. Its **opinions** are forwarded **to** the larger institutions - the **Council, the Commission and the European Parliament**. It thus has a key role to play in the Union's decision-making process.

Institutional position of the EESC



What is the CCMI?

- The European Economic and Social Committee's Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI) is the successor of the European Coal and Steel Community's Consultative Committee
- Created 24 October 2002 following expiry of ECSC Treaty (July 2002)
- Retention of acquis, expertise and continuation of structured dialogue in the areas of coal and steel
- Expansion of remit to cover other sectors and all issues relating to industrial change

Non-energy mining industry in EU: What are we talking about? (1)

The European Non-Energy Extractive Industries provide jobs for **295 000 employees** in about **18 300 companies**, with a turnover of EUR **45.9 billion**, and include many SMEs (5).

The sector promotes environmental responsibility and sustainable development through its member organisations and is committed to corporate social responsibility.

Non-energy mining industry in EU: What are we talking about? (2)

Today, 70 % of the European manufacturing industry depends on extracted substances, while the EU 27 is currently facing a large-scale restructuring of the mining industry and the price of metals on the global market is rising steadily.

In order to tackle this trend, European industrial policies have to take into consideration the fact that security of supply and demand for raw materials should prevail in the context of free market forces.

Security of supply of European industry on raw materials;

Many Europeans do not recognise the importance of mining, but in future, the sustainable growth of Europe will depend heavily on locally extracted substances, while the high demand for minerals coming from countries such as China and India will have a real potential to affect security of supply for the EU (6).

In the context of a global approach, these regions tend to capture the lion's share of raw materials and financial resources, and the result of this is industrial restructuring and investment relocations on an international scale.

Special focus on the "domestic supply Pillar"

Europe still have potential to supply totally or partialy, the EU industries with Mineral Raw Materials but for this we need:

- A scientific and economic assessment of the geological potential
- To support the industry to develop best technologies and to facilitate the transfer of best practices across EU
- An EU industrial policy which take into consideration the domestic supply capacities
- To identify and to understand how to use more efficiently the secondary raw materials sources: "urban mines " & industrial and mining waste
- Raise awareness among public and politicians about the importance of the extractive industries for growth, jobs and sustainable development in EU.

Special focus on the “domestic supply Pillar”

Major mineral resources are available in the Eastern European countries where the geological structure has always allowed for the development of mining activities. However, in these new EU countries, the sector was underfunded by the state, so the situation today does not show the real potential of the non-energy mining industry. From this perspective, it is essential to have private capital invested in these mining companies in order to supply the financial resources which up to now were provided mostly by the state.

Some mines can be reactivated through proper investments in new technologies and innovative management

Coppermine SW Romania

Coppermine W Romania

Mountains of mining waste

Expected future developments on European strategy to mineral resources – Contribution of EESC

The raw materials initiative: needs for growth and jobs in Europe
Rapporteur: Dumitru Fornea
http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.opinions.14382

Non-energy mining industry in Europe
Rapporteur: Mr. Fornea; Co-rapporteur: Mr. Pop
http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.opinions.14383

Supply of raw materials
Rapporteur: Mr Voss Co-rapporteur: Mr Gibellieri
http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.opinions.14384

List of opinions to be adopted / or underway:
CCMI 078 Secondary raw materials, Rapporteur Mr Zbořil Co-rapporteur: Mr Gibellieri
CCMI 091 Tackling the challenges in commodity markets and on raw materials
CCMI 087 The processing and exploitation, for economic and environmental purposes of the industrial and mining waste deposits from EU

Sources used by EESC related with Non-energy mining industry in Europe

- UNCTAD - United Nation Conference on Trade and Development
- OECD
- European Commission
- EUROMINES
- EUROSTAT
- Raw Materials Data, Sweden
- Metals Economic Group, Canada
- Deutsche Bank Research, Germany
- EuroGeoSurveys, Belgium
- Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy

How a consultative body as EESC could benefit from a portal with energy and non-energy mineral resources data as the one EuroGeoSource is building? (1)

The aim of the EuroGeoSource project is to provide information on oil and gas fields, including prospects and mineral deposits, in order to stimulate investment in new prospects for geo-energy resources, as well as in renewing production at mines undergoing economic decline or closure, contributing this way to the independence of the EU having to import valuable minerals from outside resources.

How a consultative body as EESC could benefit from a portal with energy and non-energy mineral resources data as the one EuroGeoSource is building? (2)

- EESC is using a high volume of data previous to adopt any opinion.
- Reliability of these data is a key issue.
- An important number of EESC's opinion are related with the energy and security of supply of the European industries with mineral raw materials.
- These type of opinions are elaborated by two specialized sections of the EESC: TEN Section & CCMI Section

How a consultative body as EESC could benefit from a portal with energy and non-energy mineral resources data as the one EuroGeoSource is building? (3)

MINERAL	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Per Capita
Crude Oil	4,208,310.0	4,206,900.0	4,201,300.0	4,249,550.0	4,189,210.0	616 kg
Raw Steel	1,130,000.0	1,170,000.0	1,340,000.0	1,330,000.0	1,100,000.0	162 kg
Aluminum	31,900.0	33,100.0	38,000.0	39,000.0	36,900.0	5.4 kg
Copper	15,000.0	15,100.0	15,400.0	15,400.0	15,800.0	2.3 kg
Lead	3,520.0	3,650.0	3,770.0	3,840.0	3,900.0	1.6 kg
Nickel	1,460.0	1,560.0	1,660.0	1,570.0	1,430.0	570 g
Cobalt	58.6	63.4	65.5	75.9	62.0	201 g
Uranium	41.5	39.3	40.7	42.7		6 g
Lanthanum	32.5	32.9	32.9	32.9	32.9	5 g
Silver	20.8	20.4	21.1	21.3	21.4	3 g
Neodymium	18.9	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1	3 g
Cadmium	20.1	19.9	19.4	19.6	18.8	3 g
Lithium	21.5	24.4	25.8	25.4	18.0	3 g

Reliable information, updated, systematized and presented in a form that allows an interdisciplinary use, can contribute to the issue of qualitative opinions of the European Economic and Social Committee, with considerable influence over the decisions of the European Commission, European Council and European Parliament.

How a consultative body as EESC could benefit from a portal with energy and non-energy mineral resources data as the one EuroGeoSource is building? (4)

Which kind of data ?

- We want to know how much minerals we use generaly and for specific innovative products from our daily life (e.g. ICT aplications, electric cars, wind power plants, solar pannels, batteries, etc).
- An inventory of the minerals available in EU (geology, mining capacity, secondary raw materials from mining waste and urban mines)
- Minerals fact sheets
- Flows of minerals on international markets and the main players in the global trade (consumption, production, import – export statistics)

Thank you for your attention!

Dumitru Fornea

Member of EESC

International Relations, NTUC MERIDIAN

csnmeridian@csnmeridian.ro

ccmi2@eesc.europa.eu

Rue Belliard 99, 1040 Brussels**, Belgium**

www.eesc.europa.eu

www.csnmeridian.ro

Tel.: +32 2 546 90 11

Fax: +32 2 513 48 93

European Economic and Social Committee