



ROMANIA
PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA
The Chamber of Deputies
Committee for Industries and Services



National Trade Union Confederation MERIDIAN

To
Mr. Günter Verheugen
Vice-President of the European Commission,

Your Excellency,

On May 15, 2008, the Committee for Industries and Services of the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament, the National Trade Union Confederation MERIDIAN – representative social partner in Romania constantly involved in the debates regarding the future of the mining industry, at the national and European level, together with the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change from the European Economic and Social Committee and Euromines – organization recognized as representing the interests of the non-energy mining industry European Union, have organized and held in Bucharest, in the “Human Rights” hall of the Romanian Parliament Palace, the International Conference with the title:

„The non-energy mining industry in Europe”

The conference intended to set up a debate framework for the main issues specific to the European non-energy mining sector and facilitate an exchange of good practises between the Member States of the European Union.

The debates of the Conference were based on the ideas of your Excellency showed in the public information issued on June 5, 2007, with the title: “Securing raw materials supply for the EU industries“ when you have said that the *“European industries need predictability in the flow of raw materials and stable prices to remain competitive. We are committed to improve the conditions of access to raw materials, be it within Europe or by creating a level playing field in accessing such materials from abroad.”*, that were rightfully appreciated and completely assimilated.

We inform you that such an international conference on this strategic subject was organized for the first time in Romania and the representatives of the European Institutions, the central and local public administration institutions from Romania, the academic environment, the European and national trade union and employer organizations attended this event. Thus, the European Economic and Social Committee was represented by the President of the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change, Mr. Joost van Iersel, the President of the EESC' Section for Transport, Energy and Information Society, Mr. Janos Toth, as well as other 8 EESC members. The European Commission was represented by Mr. Paul Anciaux from DG Enterprise and Industry, the European Parliament by Mr. Dragos Florin David and Euromines by Mrs. Corina Hebestreit.

We would like to particularly point out the support offered by the President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Mr. Dimitri Dimitriadis, in the organization of this event that for the organised civil society has represented an important framework for debating the specific issues related with the non-energy mining industry in the context in which DG Enterprises and Industries is involved in the issuing of a Communication on this subject until the end of this year.

Also, we very much like to say that the contribution of Mr. Paul Anciaux, the representative of the European Commission at this conference, was unanimously appreciated by the attendants and the partners involved in the organization of this event.

The drawn conclusions referring to the present condition of the mining industries of the E.U. countries pointed out the need to draw up an integrated European strategy for the non-energy mining industry as a response to the challenges related to the security of supply with mineral resources of the European industries and the need to integrate the principles of the sustainable development in the further achievements in this respect.

The international conference revealed a set of measures we would like to inform you about:

- The European Union should effectively have knowledge of the dimension of its mineral deposits and anticipate the future needs with respect to the resource provision.
- The European Union may adopt a positive position with respect to this sector by drawing up a strategy.
- The trade union organizations will support any project implemented in the non-energetic mining industry representing a development factor of the horizontal activities, other types of industries and services that could result in the provision of more and better paid jobs, social cohesion.

- For companies, the non-energetic mining means development and profit opportunities.
- For regions it means regional sustainable development.
- For the European Union States it means security of supply with mineral resources for economic needs and for green technologies.
- In order to reduce the impact on the environment we mention the measures that were stated:
Based on the principles „*that who pollutes pays*”, respectively „*pay for what you dispose*”, we mention the stated solutions as follows:

- a) - tax system for recycling promotion;
- b) – the implementation of the civil and industrial works system for cars, electronics and electric appliances, office facilities, etc., of modules, by assembly, so that by their dismantling a large part of the materials should be recycled;
- c) - remanufacturing;
- d) – aircraft recycling;
- e)- fiscal conditions favouring the setting up of new enterprises, technological innovation to improve the energetic efficiency by:
 - the reduction of the energy consumption and material recycling,
 - provision of new jobs for the unemployed, women, old people.
 - for regions it means regional sustainable development.

We add to all these the measure we consider the most important, namely the *change of work taxation to the taxation of each company according to the environment pollution level.*

We take this information opportunity to show our appreciation for you and the activity you perform within the European Commission.

Deputy
Iulian Iancu
 President of the
 Committee for Industries and Services



President
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 MERIDIAN
 Trade Union Confederation

