

The processing and exploitation, for economic and environmental purposes, of the mining waste deposits from EU

## Green week

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*European Economic and Social Committee  
Consultative Commission on Industrial Change – CCMI*

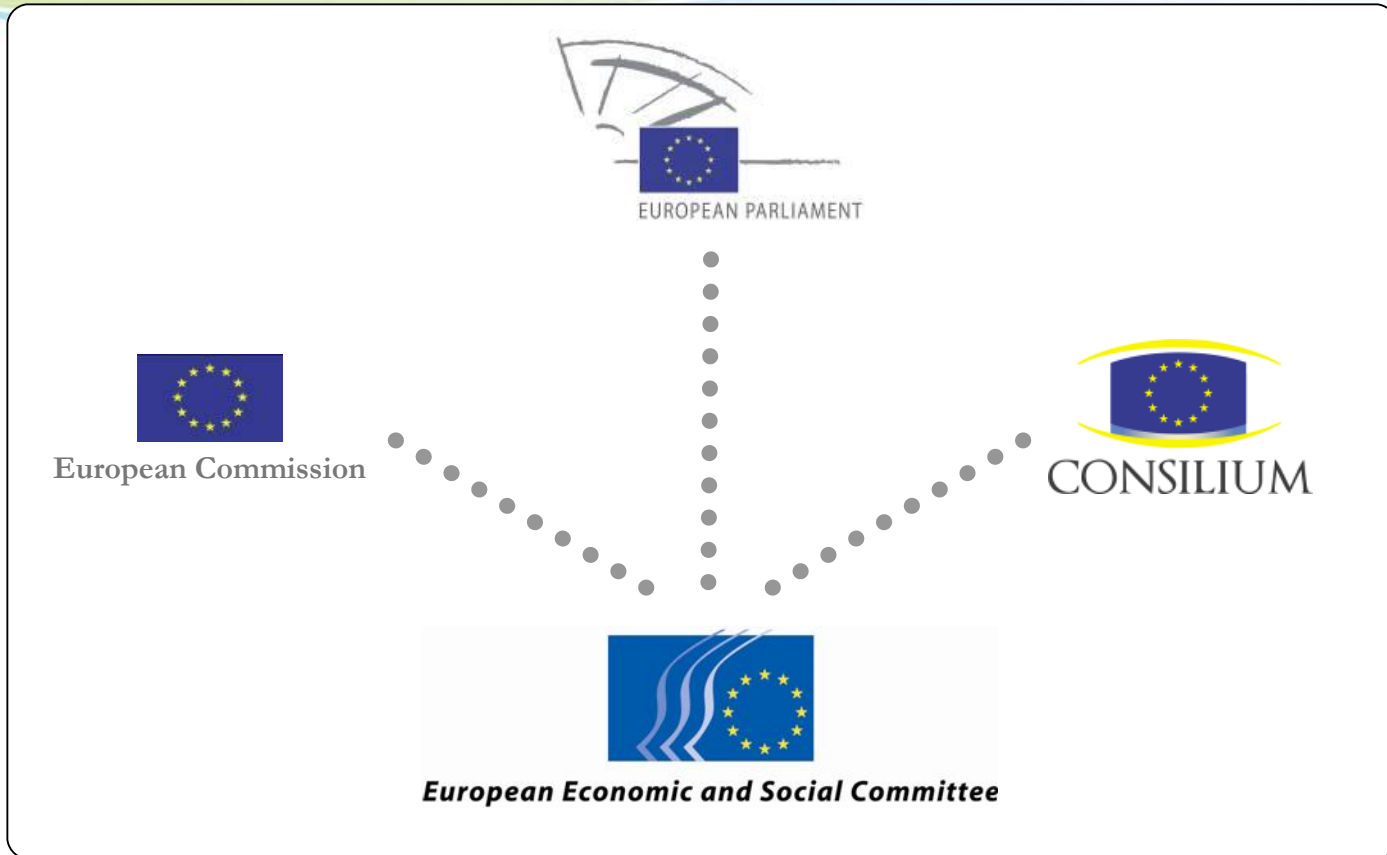
# What is the EESC?



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



European Economic and Social Committee

# 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



# Raw Materials Initiative

## 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.



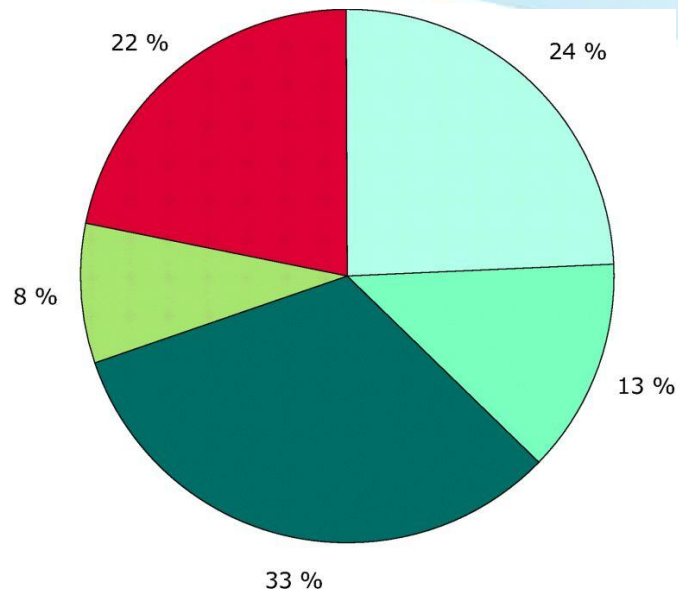
# The mining wastes are by-products of our civilization

- To produce the metals contained in a computer will result 1.5 t of waste
- To produce 1 t of gold is necessary to process 200 000 t of ore
- To extract 1 t of lignite – 5 t of mining waste will be generated
- To produce 1 t of Aluminium – 10 t of waste-rock will be generated from which 3 tonnes of toxic red mud



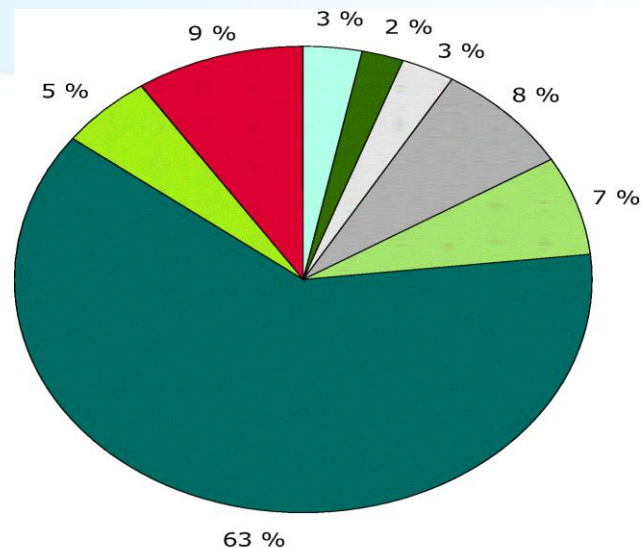
# Mining waste in EU

Total waste generation in the EU, EFTA, Turkey and Croatia in 2006 by – Source: EEA



- Construction and demolition waste
- Mining and quarrying waste
- Other wastes
- Manufacturing waste excluding recycling
- Waste from households

Waste stream in the EU 27 and Norway by type of waste – Source: EEA



- Mineral waste
- Other wastes
- Animal and vegetal wastes
- Mixed household and similar wastes
- Combustion wastes
- Metal wastes
- Wood wastes
- Paper and cardboard wastes



# Environmental challenges and economic opportunities are measured in billions of cubic meters of mining waste

## Spain

Plan Nacional de Residuos de Industrias Extractivas 2007-2015: **988 registered mining ponds and dams** with a total volume of **325 878 800 cubic meters**, and the total volume of mining tailings generated in the period **1983-1989** was around **1 375 673 315 cubic meters**. From the total number of mining tailings, **47.2 %** represents **abandoned tailings**.

## Romania

According to the the Ministry of Economy:

- **77 mine tailings** with a total volume of **340 millions of cubic meters**, covering a surface of **1700 ha**
- **675 mine waste dumps** with a total volume of **3.1 billion cubic meters**, covering **9300 ha**



# Mountains of mining waste....



## ... and big surfaces of mining tailings

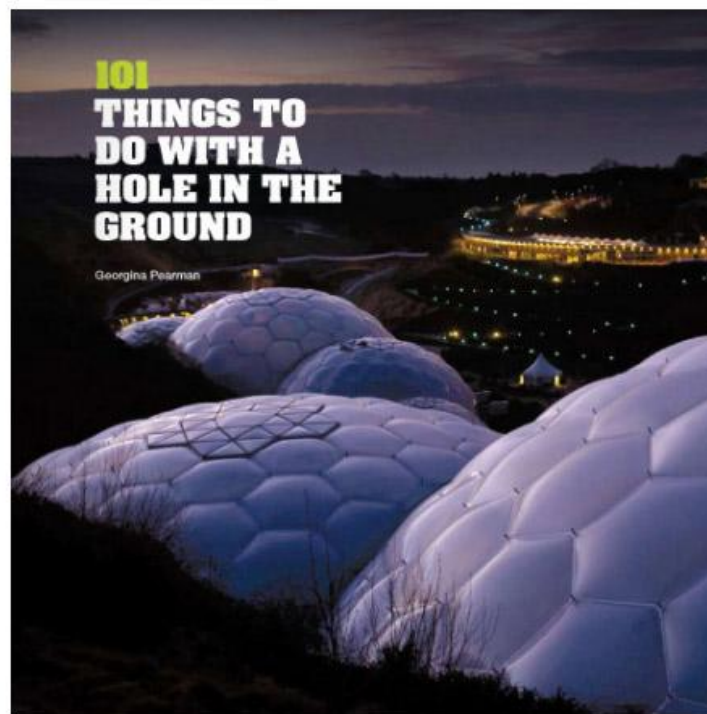


# .... waiting for a green solution

What we have in some Member States



What is possible to be done



# Mining waste – turning problems into sustainable social and economic opportunities

## Doing nothing with the mine wastes deposits is not an option

- Long term negative environmental impact and a permanent source of hazard
- Negative impact on human health
- Negative impact on landscape
- Negative impact on the quality of life of the people around these areas
- Local communities cannot use efficiently the surfaces that are affected by the mining tailings and mining waste dumps.

## Processing mine wastes activities can lead to new economic initiatives and positive environmental results

- Processing of the useful substances and cleaning the environment
- Improving the quality of waters
- Monitoring and management of the closed mines
- Cleaning and land reclamation of the ex industrial and mining sites
- R&D for developing worldwide marketable technologies and management solutions for processing and rehabilitation of the mine waste deposits
- New jobs and economic benefits for the local communities



# Contribution of EESC related with the raw materials efficiency and supply security

**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



**Thank you for your attention!**

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