

PRESS RELEASE



International Conference “Mineral Resources for Europe”

28th - 29th April 2009, Prague

The official Conference of the Czech Presidency

EU2009.CZ

With the support of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Euromines – the European Association of Mining Industries, Metal Ores & Industrial Minerals - and Těžební unie – the Czech Mining Association -, organized an outstanding conference “**Mineral Resources for Europe**” with high level participation from downstream-industries as well as European and worldwide mineral suppliers. The conference took place on 28 and 29 April 2009 in the capital of the Czech Republic – Prague.

In total more than 200 participants attended this event: Representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic, Czech Mining Authority and the European Commission attended this event as key speakers. Other participants were the representatives of ministries of industry and ministries of economy from EU Member States, EU Parliamentarians, and representatives from European Commission Directorates, CEOs and CFOs from the extractive as well as downstream-user industries.

This event was organized in response to the new European Union Communication “The raw materials initiative – meeting our critical needs for growth and jobs in Europe” by initiated by Vice-President of the European Commission Günter Verheugen and officially published in November 2008. The aim of the conference was to address the question of demand and supply of minerals for the European Union with the intention of providing additional input for the analysis of the “strategic” short, medium and long-term needs of mineral resources for Europe’s industry and economy.

The competitiveness of the European industry, raw material and energy policy, energy and raw material prices, demand and supply of mineral resources for Europe are high on the political agenda and therefore all these aspects were discussed during the conference.

Among the conference conclusion the following issues were stressed:

- Mining has played and continues to play a crucial role in the development of industrial and economic activity in Europe as well as in other parts of the world.
- Minerals and metals represent one of the basic material options for industrial production processes and every day products.

- Minerals and Metals have always been an integral part of our every day life.
- Disregarding the current financial crisis, the strong and growing markets for aggregates, metals and minerals and their downstream products in Europe will remain.
- Many EU products and technologies are world-leading and serve many world markets; In order to produce these downstream products reliable, competitive energy is required.

Just after the conference the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic organized the High Level Meeting of Member States Representatives. Almost 50 representatives from 21 European countries attended this event. Informal conclusions taken by the Czech Presidency and reflecting views of different participants of the meeting were officially published by the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade. For more information please contact Pavel Kavina from the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic (kavina@mpo.cz)

The participants of the conference had the opportunity to see an extraordinary exhibition with the title "Minerals of European Countries" that was a part of accompanying conference programme. The exhibition presented by the department of Mineralogy and Petrography of the Moravian Museum Brno showed – using many minerals – the processes unifying the European continent in its geological history.

The organizers would like to thank all financial and media partners that supported this event: Czech Coal, OKD, NWR, Česká naftařská společnost, Boliden, K+S, LKAB, RHI, Strojírny Podzimek, Sedlecký kaolín and Moravské naftové doly. The event is also supported by: Sandroek, Lega-Inox, Severočeské doly, Blatenské strojírny and Gemec-Union. The conference has following Media Partners: Minerální suroviny, Industrial Minerals, Bagry.cz, Enviweb, Kámen, Technický týdeník, Stavební technika, Dopravní noviny, Uhlí, rudy geologický průzkum, BVV Veletrhy Brno, Plavba a vodní cesty, Lobby, Build info and Stone+Tec Nürnberg 2009 and Slovenské sdružení výrobců kameniva.

For more information please visit the web page: www.EUresources2009.eu or contact Veronika Sandova, Euromines (sandova@euromines.be).