

Strategic Implementation Plan for the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials launched

25 September 2013

The ETP SMR (European Technology Platform on Sustainable Mineral Resources) whole heartedly supports the European Commission in its European Innovation Partnership (EIP) and welcomes the issuing of the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for the EIP on Raw Materials that was officially adopted today. The SIP addresses all actions necessary to achieve the objectives and targets of the European Innovation Partnership, in particular with regard to research and development along the value chain and raw materials knowledge in general. It calls for a swift implementation of the SIP, supporting the ambitions and goals of Horizon 2020.

With its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, the ETP SMR members have already actively contributed to the preparation of the SIP, especially to the Technology Pillar which aims to better integrate and push Europe to the forefront in the raw materials technology sector and to contribute to improving access to resources in the EU on the one hand, and develop marketable technologies on the other hand. At the same time it addresses the issue of reducing the EU's import dependency through new integrated technological solutions for accessing new raw materials, better resource efficiency of industrial processes and improved recycling, as well as through finding new alternatives to supply rare and critical raw materials through substitution, while mitigating the related negative environmental impacts and increasing social sustainability.

In the SIP this will be achieved through the actions in the following Priority areas:

- Raw materials research and innovation coordination
- Technologies for primary and secondary raw materials production
- Substitution of raw materials

Raw materials research and innovation, as one of the priority areas, has the objective to strengthen the coordination of research efforts among all relevant players in the EU, knowledge, tools and research infrastructures in order to maximize impacts of all R&D actions in the technological pillar. This will be achieved through different initiatives such as increased coordination with other European Technology Platforms (ETPs) on relevant raw materials issues, future programming under Horizon 2020, future joint Member States research programming as stipulated by ERA-MIN and other comparable initiatives.

Members of ETP SMR will closely cooperate with the European Commission to initiate up to 10 innovative pilot actions on exploration, extraction, processing, and recycling for innovative production of raw materials.

ETP SMR members will help to establish the right framework for supporting pilot actions which enhance the introduction of the innovation pathways as a means to foster innovation along the entire value chain from exploration, extraction, mineral processing, metallurgy and refinement to recycling. As specified in the SIP “the experience acquired from the pilot actions could be used to speed up development and implementation of innovative breakthrough solutions, ideas and concepts to sustain in the long term the global population growth, the increased demand for raw materials; to ease land use limitations in Europe; and to replace depleted deposits.”

The launch of the EIP on Raw Materials and the launch of Europe 2020 Strategy targets on resource efficiency creates a historic opportunity to establish a 3D data and knowledge infrastructure and “Mineral Intelligence” at EU level that would be built on existing national / Member States capacities and derive synergies from international cooperation. By 2020, the EU will have secured a sustainable minerals and metals supply base to ensure competitiveness and growth of the EU industry as a whole. Scientific breakthroughs and sustained

innovation efforts will have significantly improved access to, production, use and recycling of resources. By 2050, the EU will have managed on a sustainable basis the entire life-cycle of minerals and metals in the EU.

“Technological research, development and education will be a core element of the overall innovation agenda that by 2020 will have extended Europe’s raw materials supply, its knowledge and competence and industrial growth and leadership” highlights Dr Corina Hebestreit, Chair of the ETP SMR High Level Group.

As presented on the SIP the knowledge base on raw materials will help all the EU actors to better target their sustainability efforts. Improving the knowledge is a continuous process and will constantly support all the other initiatives, actions and decision making.

The **European Technology Platform on Sustainable Mineral Resources (ETP SMR)** aims at modernising and reshaping a fundamental pillar of the European economy: the European Minerals Industries. These include oil, gas, coal, metal ores, industrial minerals, ornamental stones, aggregates, smelters as well as related technology suppliers and engineering companies. The ETP SMR unites many stakeholders from minerals industry and related technology and machinery providers, the research community, regulators, consumers and civil society around the major technological challenges to the sector, in order to jointly act towards a common vision. For more information, visit the website at www.etpsmr.org