

## Euromines Update – 17 June 2020

### Responses to Covid-19

#### European Commission: Speech by Commissioner Breton

On 12 June, EU Commissioner Thierry Breton delivered a speech on the occasion of the COMPET Council. He addressed the importance of a level playing field both within Europe and with the US and China, followed by the details of the recovery plan proposed by the Commission. He explained the important role of critical industrial “ecosystems” in the EU and the necessity of investing in these industries.

In regards to raw materials, he stated:

*“To drive these strategic cross-cutting innovations or technologies, I believe that the model of Industrial Alliances is particularly adapted. It has shown great results already for batteries and plastics, and should be extended to other areas such as raw materials and hydrogen.”*

To read the full transcript of the speech, click [here](#).

#### European Council: Joint Statement on Recovery Plan for Europe

The Ministers responsible for Industry and Internal Market have issued a joint statement concerning the Recovery Plan for Europe that was presented as a response to the severe impact the COVID-19 crisis has had on the EU. The statement expressed support for the Recovery Plan and emphasised that “solidarity, convergence and close cooperation between the Member States and the EU institutions should be at the heart of the policies to initiate a sustainable recovery that accelerates the transition to a green and digital economy.”

To read the full statement including all action points addressed by the Ministers, click [here](#).

#### Recovery Plan for Europe

28 May 2020 - To help repair the economic and social damage brought by the coronavirus pandemic, kick-start European recovery, and protect and create jobs, the European Commission is proposing a major recovery plan for Europe based on harnessing the full potential of the EU budget.

To mobilise the necessary investments, the Commission is putting forward a two-fold response:

- Next Generation EU- a new recovery instrument of €750 billion which will boost the EU budget with new financing raised on the financial markets for 2021-2024
- A reinforced long-term budget of the EU - for 2021-2027 (€ 1 100 billion)

To ensure an effective EU response to the coronavirus crisis, which reaches out to everybody in the EU and to its global partners, the European Commission is mobilising a number of instruments. Next Generation EU will be rolled out across three pillars:

- Supporting Member States to recover
- Kick-starting the economy and helping private investment
- Learning the lessons from the crisis

More information can be found on Commission's [website](#).

## Business Europe: Spring Economic Outlook 2020

27 May 2020 – [Determined financial and non-financial European response essential to overcome corona crisis](#)

## OECD: Latest Economic Outlook

10 June 2020 - [Global economy faces a tightrope walk to recovery](#)

The Covid-19 pandemic has triggered the most severe recession in nearly a century and is causing enormous damage to people's health, jobs and well-being, according to the [OECD's latest Economic Outlook](#).

## EIT Raw Materials

○ 03 June 2020 - [EIT RawMaterials Academy supports students during COVID-19](#)

## ICMM

○ 05 June 2020 - [Mining with principles to address a health and social crisis](#)

## IGF - Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development

○ 10 June 2020 - [The impact of Covid-19 on employment in mining](#)

## Documents and links to share

Interesting and useful files and links are shared on ["Responses to COVID-19"](#) page. This week we would like to highlight the following:

### Media

- 11 June 2020 - [Miners moving fast and ethically in response to COVID-19](#)  
The International Council on Mining and Metals said company members had donated more than US\$315 million to global COVID-19 response efforts, as it outlined the industry's support to nations, communities and supply chains in a briefing this month.

- 11 June 2020 - [EU agreement on recovery plan by July 'very difficult', officials warn](#)  
It will be “very difficult” to reach an agreement on the recovery fund and the EU’s overall seven-year budget by July, as intended, given the disagreements over the size, the distribution of the stimulus and the attached conditions, EU officials and national diplomats acknowledged on Wednesday (10 June).
- 08 June 2020 - [COVID-19 relief for fossil fuel industries risks green recovery plans](#)  
The failure of governments and central banks to set out a green recovery from the coronavirus crisis is threatening to derail vital UN climate talks aimed at staving off global catastrophe, campaigners have warned. EURACTIV’s media partner, The Guardian, reports.
- 04 June 2020 - [‘Open strategic autonomy’: A vision for Europe’s raw materials future](#)  
Europe’s “green recovery” will be based on industrial leadership in the production of computers, batteries, electric vehicles, and wind turbines, writes Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou.
- 03 June 2020 - [US hopes to expand strategic minerals initiative](#)  
The US State Department hopes to expand a strategic minerals initiative aimed at ensuring supply chains for metals critical for batteries and wind and solar power as demand for green energy keeps growing despite the coronavirus, a top diplomat said on Tuesday (2 June).
- 03 June 2020 - [Commission vows to break with troika-type conditions in recovery phase](#)  
The European Commission has redoubled efforts to show that Europe will avoid mistakes made during the ‘Great Recession’ in dealing with the ‘Great Lockdown’.
- 28 May 2020 - [EU boosts ‘just transition fund’, pledging €40 billion to exit fossil fuels](#)  
The European Commission has increased five-fold its proposed EU fund to wean carbon-intensive regions off fossil fuels, with fresh cash from a new recovery fund to help Europe’s ailing economies rebound after the new coronavirus pandemic.
- 28 May 2020 - [Recovery fund brings EU one step closer to fiscal union](#)  
A European Commission plan to issue large amounts of common EU bonds under a coronavirus recovery fund potentially marks the first step towards the euro zone finally getting a region-wide safe-haven asset, investors said.
- 27 May 2020 - [‘Do no harm’: EU recovery fund has green strings attached](#)  
The European Union’s proposed €750 billion fund to help the bloc recover from the coronavirus crisis will have green strings attached, with 25% of all funding set aside for climate action, the European Commission has said.

## Industrial Strategy

### Euromines Position on the New Industrial Strategy for Europe

On 4 June 2020 [Euromines is publishing its Position on the New Industrial Strategy for Europe](#). One key element of implementing Europe's Green Deal successfully must be increasing the resilience of value chains and bringing back value chains to Europe.

## Sustainable Finance

### Sustainable Finance Public Consultations

The European Commission has gone ahead and published its public consultation on the proposed delegated acts on the Sustainable Finance with deadline 6th July:

They are all delegated acts (Directives and 4 Regulations) and their aim is to clarify the duties of financial institutions to provide their clients with clear advice on the social and environmental risks and opportunities attached to their investments with the aim to shift capital flows away from activities that have negative social and environmental consequences and to direct finance towards economic activities that have genuine long-term benefits for society.

Euromines formulated its position on this, but would encourage you to respond as well directly and if possible provide us with your input, so we can incorporate it in our position.

#### **DRAFT ACT: OPEN**

#### **Sustainable finance – obligation for mutual funds to advise clients on social & environmental aspects**

##### **Topic**

Banking and financial services

##### **Type of act**

Delegated directive

##### **Feedback period**

08 June 2020 - 06 July 2020

#### **DRAFT ACT: OPEN**

#### **Sustainable finance – obligation on investment funds to advise clients on social & environmental aspects**

##### **Topic**

Banking and financial services

##### **Type of act**

Delegated directive

##### **Feedback period**

08 June 2020 - 06 July 2020

**DRAFT ACT: OPEN**

**Sustainable finance – obligation for insurance firms & brokers to advise clients on social & environmental aspects**

**Topic**

Banking and financial services

**Type of act**

Delegated regulation

**Feedback period**

08 June 2020 - 06 July 2020

**DRAFT ACT: OPEN**

**Sustainable finance – obligation for (re)insurance companies to advise clients on social & environmental aspects**

**Topic**

Banking and financial services

**Type of act**

Delegated regulation

**Feedback period**

08 June 2020 - 06 July 2020

**DRAFT ACT: OPEN**

**Sustainable finance – obligation for investment firms to advise clients on social and environmental aspects of financial products**

**Topic**

Banking and financial services

**Type of act**

Delegated regulation

**Feedback period**

08 June 2020 - 06 July 2020

**DRAFT ACT: OPEN**

**Sustainable finance – obligation for alternative investment funds to advise clients on social & environmental aspects**

**Topic**

Banking and financial services

**Type of act**

Delegated regulation

**Feedback period**

08 June 2020 - 06 July 2020

**Please note the open public consultation on the renewed EU sustainable finance strategy**

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/finance-2020-sustainable-finance-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/finance-2020-sustainable-finance-strategy_en)

**Deadline: 15 July!**

Please forward to us any positions you might already have. We will try to formulate a joined Euromines position.

## Euromines Sustainable Finance position

Euromines distributed Sustainable Finance position to members for approval following comments made at the GA. **Approval due 19 June.**

- [Euromines Position: Sustainable Finance - The Raw Materials Imperative](#)

**Overview on [Sustainable Finance issues in Euromines Members Area](#).**

## International Policy Issues

### Sustainable Finance and Green Bonds

- [Sustainable Finance Presentation](#)
- [EC Action Plan: Financing Sustainable Growth](#)
- [Green Bonds](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about the work of the European Commission and the Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance on Eu Taxonomy & EU Green Bond Standard](#)

### Mineral Policies and Permitting

- [Worldwide Mineral Policies and Permitting](#)

### Minamata Convention

- [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#)

### The Outlook for Global Oil and Gas

- [The Outlook for Global Oil and Gas, June 2020, PWC](#)
- [Covid 19 future proofing the Oil, Gas Chemicals business, June 2020, Deloitte](#)

## Sustainable Mining Regions

### Sustainable mining and metallurgy regions across Europe

Euromines submitted its feedback to draft SLO guidelines from the [MIREU project](#). Strongly objected to suggestions that legislation is inadequate.

## Energy and Climate Change

### ETS 2021 – 2030: Direct Emissions (updating the benchmark values)

European Commission has continued its work concerning the updating of the benchmarks (BM). Even if data is still preliminary and checks are ongoing it seems clear that the updates have been driven by installations using biomass and cogeneration and therefore the heat and fuel benchmarks are likely to be reduced by 24% (maximum update rate) from 2021. As the emission factor for electricity has decreased by around 20% between 2007 and 2015, for the benchmarks considering this electricity emission factor (exchangeability fuel and electricity), the update rate is likely to be in many cases 24%.

Given the our position that unrepresentative energy sources (e.g. biomass) shall be excluded from the benchmark curve, Euromines together with its members are currently working together in contacting the Commission as well as the national authorities and asking them (where possible) to support our position, also expressed by several other sectors and industries.

### The EU 2030 Climate Target Plan

As part of the [European Green Deal](#), the Commission will put forward a comprehensive plan to increase the EU's 2030 climate target in September this year. The plan will propose to increase the EU's current 2030 target of at least -40% greenhouse gas emission reductions to at least -50% and towards -55%, compared to 1990 emission levels.

In this context the European Commission launched on March 31 a public consultation whose main purpose is to collect opinions on the desired ambition level of climate and energy policies, necessary actions in different sectors and specific policy design to increase climate ambition by 2030. It also aims to gather further information, including roadmaps, policy briefs and studies relevant for deeper greenhouse gas emission reductions. The consultation is open until 23 June 2020.

Euromines will participate at the public consultation and submit its position. The energy committee members are scheduled to discuss the input and survey answers on Monday 8th June 2020.

### The EU's strategy on adaptation to climate change

On May 14th, the Commission launched two [public consultations](#) to feed into its process developing an ambitious new EU Strategy for climate change adaptation. As part of the European Green Deal, the Commission envisions a revision to the EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change to strengthen efforts in the EU on climate proofing, resilience building, prevention and preparedness.

The first public consultation on the Roadmap (deadline 30th June) sets the context, the problem the initiative aims to tackle, the policy options and objectives, a preliminary assessment of impacts and the consultation plans. The Roadmap notes, economic losses from weather and climate-related extremes are on average EUR 12 billion per year in the EU. Concerning institutional and public perception of the problem, the Roadmap highlights the fact that a climate emergency has been recognised by the European Parliament, several Member States and more than 1,000 cities worldwide.

The second public consultation (deadline August 20th) aims at to feed into the development of the Strategy. The Commission is interested in better understanding stakeholder opinions on policy options and their possible impacts and to identify triggers of behavioural and institutional changes to support the take-up of adaptation measures and practices.

The Commission is expected to adopt and publish the Communication on the revised adaptation to climate change Strategy by the end of 2020.

Euromines is currently assessing the updated strategy importance and impact it will have on the mining sector. Together with its members it will decide on the best input to the public consultations.

## Coal Regions in Transition

### Launch of the Just Transition Platform

The EC has just launch the **Just Transition Platform - Coal Regions in Transition virtual week and Carbon Intensive Regions seminar**, a series of 6 sessions taking place during the week of 29 June – 3 July 2020 that will be held online.

The series of sessions fall into 4 categories:

- Launch of the Just Transition Platform;
- Coal Regions in Transition virtual week;
- Stakeholder seminar for carbon-intensive regions;
- Side-events.

The week will kick off with the Launch of the Just Transition Platform, where the European Commission will present this new, comprehensive assistance package, designed for helping stakeholders to implement a 'just transition'.

The launch of the Platform will be followed by the Coal Regions in Transition Virtual Week, organised by the [Secretariat of the Coal Regions in Transition Initiative](#), addressing issues faced specifically by coal, peat and oil shale regions. During the week, a stakeholder seminar will also be held, hosted by the European Commission, focusing on regions dependent on carbon intensive industries.

Please register to the sessions you would like to attend by clicking on the button below. You can find further information on each session [here](#), and the agenda for the week [here](#). **Registration will close on 26 June at 17:00.**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For any questions on the logistics of the events, or for any issues filling in the registration form, please send an email to [events@coalregions.eu](mailto:events@coalregions.eu).



## Environmental Policy

### Priority Substances Review Surface Water

In preparation on the Priority Substances debates that will start this summer, the dossiers of Chromium (former Watch list candidate) and Uranium are being reopened (information from period 2016 to 2018) to proactively reconsider our counter arguments.

### REACH

Euromines forwarded request to members from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway about possible use of surfactants containing PFAS in flotation cells. They are preparing a Restriction dossier under REACH and do not have time to check submitted Registration dossiers.

### Life Cycle Assessment in Circular Economy

Mr. Drielsma debriefed after webinar series, prepared last set of Q&A, called for discussion of RECHARGE PEF proposal, and JRC price-proxy proposal. LinkedIn article is being prepared for Outreach to broader set of stakeholders.

## New Publications

### Euromines Annual Report 2019 – Security of Supply: It starts with us!

The [Euromines Annual Report 2019](#) was published on 26 May 2020. This year, we present what Euromines is doing to secure supply chains in a rapidly changing world. The European mineral raw materials sector supports a wide variety of industries through the supply of raw materials, and in this role as well as within the mining sector itself, we must prioritise both sustainable efforts and competitiveness.

*We appreciate your feedback, please send your comments and suggestion to Veronika [sochorova@euromines.be](mailto:sochorova@euromines.be).*