How to reconcile the needs of the extractive industries with the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity

15 November 2018

Le Plaza Hotel (Boulevard Adolphe Max 118-126, 1000 Bruxelles)

The overall goal of the conference is to discuss how to reconcile sourcing and extraction of raw materials with the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity. The first part will be dedicated to the implementation of the measure of the Commission's Action Plan on Nature, People and Economy to complement the Commission guidance on 'Nature 2000 and non-energy extractive industries' with good practises examples. The second part will focus on knowledge in the international context. Its main objective is to identify gaps of the international framework and to discuss feasible solutions.

08.00-09.00 Registration
09.00-09.30 Networking coffee

09.30-9:40 Welcome and introduction by Dr Michael O’Briain, Deputy Head of Unit, Nature Protection, DG ENV, EC


Session I aims at presenting work progress in implementing the measure of the Commission’s Action Plan on Nature, People and Economy on complementing the Commission guidance on 'Nature 2000 and non-energy extractive industries' with good practises focusing on land rehabilitation and restoration

General introduction: working method, topics/operations reviewed, key findings - Mr. Boris Barov, The N2K Group

Presentation case I - Grensmaas / Border Meuse project. The “green for gravel initiative” – Mr Peet Adams, Grensmaas Consortium

Presentation case II - Soto Pajares quarry (Spain), enhancing habitats and species in a SPA (BAP pilot site for CEMEX) – Ms Julieta Valls, SEO-BirdLife

Presentation case III – Krumovgrad gold mine: implementation of Natura 2000 assessments and stakeholder management – Mr Boyan Rashev, Denkstatt Bulgaria

11.20-11.50 Coffee break

11.50-13.00 Session II: Continuation of Session I – Chaired by Dr Michael O’Briain, Deputy Head of Unit, Nature Protection, DG ENV, EC
Session II is continuation of Session I. It will also offer an opportunity for the audience to comment on the progress, to discuss gaps and ways to overcome them.

Presentation case IV – Cooperation approach to minerals extraction and biodiversity management, the case of WKO - Austrian Association for Building Materials and Ceramic Industries and NGOs, reflections from UEPG - Mr Dirk Fincke, Secretary General

Interactive discussion

13.00-14.00 Buffet networking lunch

14.00-15.30 Session III: Reconciling sourcing and extraction of raw materials with the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity – international approach (existing best practises) – Chaired by Ms Ligia Noronha - Director, Economy Division UN Environment

The objective of Session III is to present international examples on approaching biodiversity/ecosystems protection and raw materials governance, sourcing and extraction.

Biodiversity/ecosystems protection and Artisanal and Small-scale mining - Ms Laura Barreto, PhD, Director, MERG - Materials Efficiency Research Group International Specialist in Mining and Sustainable Development Strategies, Policy and Law

Biodiversity and voluntary standards in the extractives sector - Dr Fiona Solomon, Chief Executive Officer Aluminium Stewardship Initiative

Enrichment of biodiversity in process of reclamation and revitalisation of post-mining areas through implementing sustainable tourism concept - case study from Poland - Prof. Anna Ostrega, AGH University of Science and Technology, Kraków

Opportunities and challenges in accessing and using planetary data to mitigate environmental impacts - Mr David Jensen, Head of Environmental Peacebuilding and Co-Director of MapX, UN Environment

Q&A

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.30 Session IV: Reconciling sourcing and extraction of raw materials with the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity – knowledge gaps in the international framework – Chaired by Mr Peter Handley, Head of Unit, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials, DG GROW, EC

The objective of Session IV is to present the latest analysis regarding protection of ecosystems/biodiversity in the context of responsible and sustainable governance, sourcing and extraction of raw materials. The session will illustrate key knowledge gaps and present possible solutions in this regard.
Data transparency, traceability and verifiability on environmental issues along global value chains - Prof Gavin Hilson, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee for the Delve project, the World Bank funded project on ASM data

How can EU raw-material policy support international responsible mining practice? Findings and recommendations from the STRADE project - Dr Doris Schueler, Oeko-Institut, Germany, senior researcher, currently STRADE coordinator

Environmental criticality of raw materials and related due diligence schemes - Mr Jan Kosmol, German Environment Agency

Perspective of environmental NGO - Mr Peter Koegler, Director, Corporate and Ecosystems Finance, Conservation International Europe

International Resource Panel’s report on Mineral Resource Governance - Ms Sharon Brooks, UN Environment’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Q&A

17.30-17.40 Closing remarks by Mr Peter Handley, Head of Unit, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials, DG GROW, EC