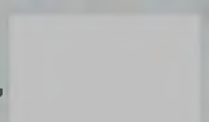


Meeting report

Date/Place: 18 June 2020, video conference

Active participants: Commissioner T. Breton and representatives of Non-ferrous metals sector - 

Key messages:

- There is great potential for sustainable metals and minerals investment to unite Europe's goals for a resilient, green and digital recovery.
- Metals and minerals are the specific raw materials required in higher volumes for Europe's batteries, electric vehicles, hydrogen, and renewable energy technologies - from the base metals that Europe already sustainably produces and recycles, to those designated as critical, such as lithium, cobalt and rare earths.
- Europe's metals and minerals industry stands out on a global level for its high climate, environment and social standards. Producing more metals in Europe is the best guarantee of sustainability for European strategic value chains and ecosystems.
- Recovering from the heavy impacts of COVID-19, Europe must address its areas of supply vulnerability, while advancing its existing industrial base and stopping further contraction versus other regions.
- Investments will be made in Europe to meet the growing demand if the right conditions are there. The sector is characterized by the fact that metals prices are set globally, and competitiveness of companies is therefore directly linked to their production costs.
- Non-ferrous metals sector support new Industry Alliances, with several of companies participating on batteries, hydrogen and rare earths. Sector would also give support for a broader raw materials alliance approach covering the wider metals and minerals required in the green and digital transitions, and emphasised wish to join the new Low-Carbon Industry Alliance to build on sector's leadership and support for the EU's High-Level Group on Energy-Intensive industries.
- The local supply of base metals is important for Europe's climate ambitions, and potential to mitigate of future supply vulnerabilities. Europe covers only about 20% or less of its needs through mining in Europe, there are sustainability benefits of opening more mines in Europe.
- Industry calls for supportive environmental legislation and a level playing field to enable the expansion of strategic EU mining projects.
- There will always be the need to complement mining of raw materials in the EU with imports, the EU needs to secure supply chain, to secure access to raw materials. Industry calls for dedicated EU financial tools to support upstream industries.
- EU needs to distinguish itself through ethical/sustainable sourcing. Industry calls for an EU regulatory framework that makes environmental and social standards a differential for EU vs. Asian

production, e.g. "battery passport" to ensure the origin and lifecycle of the battery and its materials remains sustainable.

- Industry calls for EU measures to facilitate Circular Economy for batteries and electronics waste (e.g. waste shipments).
- It is a critical phase for European aluminium industry to avoid closure and for Europe to not repeat the outcomes from 2008 financial crisis (1/3 of primary production closing in Europe).
- Industry calls for an international level playing field, for a stable state aid policy and compensation of Emission Trading System indirect costs, including for other metals like copper and nickel.
- Industry calls for creation of markets for Low carbon products and sustainable products.
- Industry calls for coherence between climate, circularity and chemicals objectives to ensure predictability and investment security (example: need for elements like lead to ensure metals recycling).
- Sector emphasized the need for competitively priced energy in the EU.

Next steps:

- Another call could take place after the summer break, in a mean time, further contacts at technical level could be organised, further ideas from industry (white papers) would be also welcome.