

## **Eurometaux and Euromines**

**25 July 2022**

### Participants:

Cabinet EVP Vestager: Pierre Arnaud PROUX, Member of the Cabinet

Cabinet EVP Dombrovskis: Caroline BOESHERTZ, Member of the Cabinet

Eurometaux and Euromines network: Chris Heron, Director for Communication & Public Affairs at Eurometaux (European Metals Association), Rolf Kuby, Director General at Euromines, Stefan Romedahl, President of Boliden Mines, Martin Phillips, CEO Europe at Talga Group, Dechambenoit Lawrence, Global Head of External Affairs at Rio Tinto.

The representatives of Eurometaux and Euromines introduced the representatives of three mining companies with European operating mines or mining projects. These companies were selected because of their differences in terms of size, portfolio, areas of activity, and together indicate the range of project types in Europe.

Resources in the EU are not sufficient to cover future needs of critical raw materials, but there is a lot of unexploited potential in the EU, which is underestimated (e.g. lithium, graphite). They called for a better codification of critical raw materials with priorities and targets. The 3 mining companies explained that the permitting procedures are extremely lengthy, sometimes due to patchwork of administration and should be accelerated. RePowerEu provides an example. Acceleration should not be at the detriment of public acceptance, which is low in the EU/Europe. Low public acceptance is due to a negative perception of mining largely caused by ignorance of new mining processes. Impact assessment should be made in a harmonised way and should be made available to the public in an understandable format. Local communities should also be better included in mining projects. Greening mining industry will also require access to a stable and cheap source of decarbonised energy. It will also have a cost for European mining industry that competes with global markets where different standards apply. Public support might be needed.

The member of the cabinets were interested in understanding their concrete proposals for a new legislation and the dimension of the European mining network.