



Raw Materials High Level Conference

Maximising Value: The Importance of the Extractive Industry to Growth in the EU Economy and its Regions

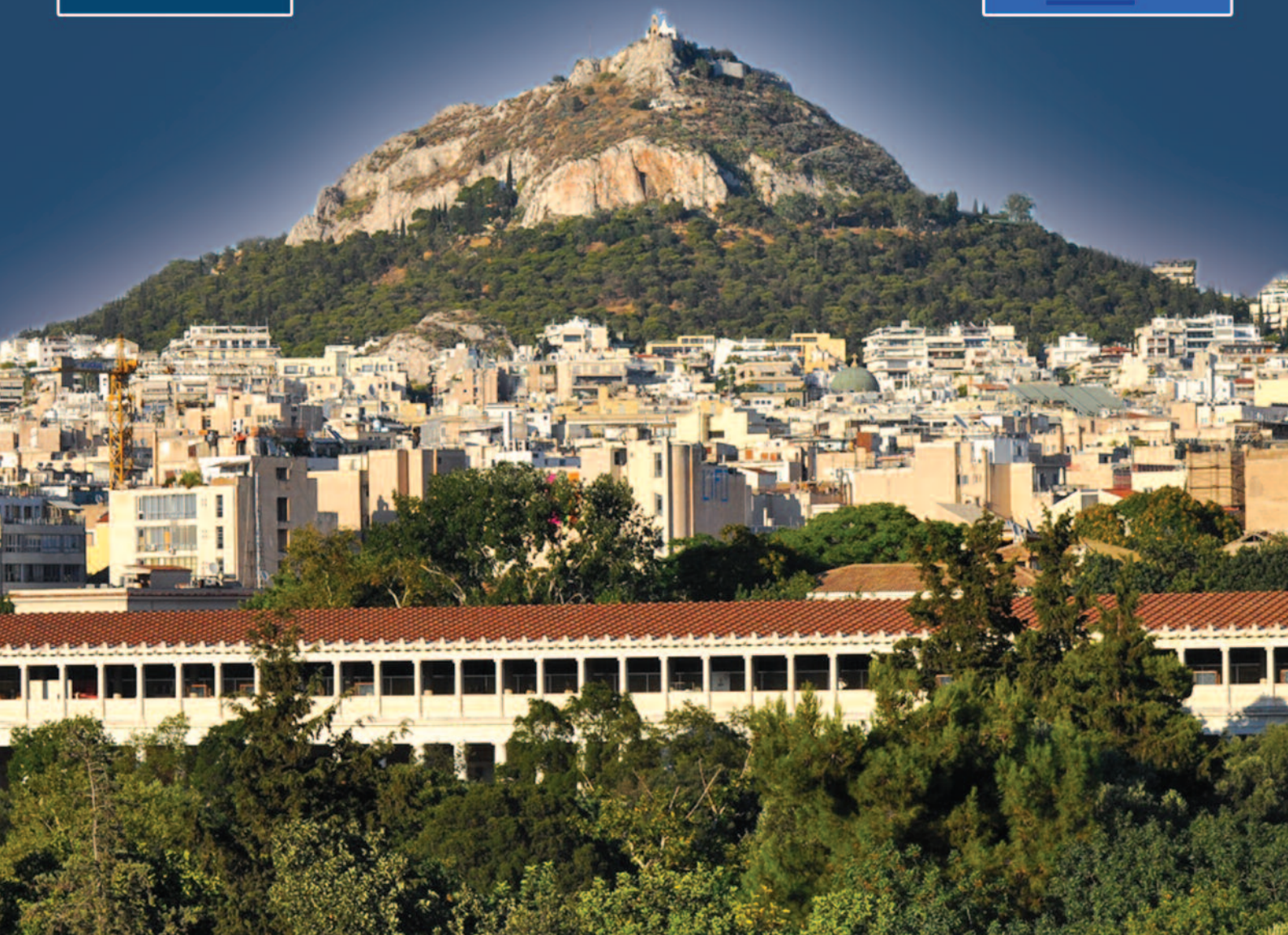
Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI/EESC) Conference

CCMI on Regional Development



Where: MEGARON – ATHENS – GREECE

When: FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2014



Under the Auspices of



European
Economic and Social Committee



In cooperation with



SYMEON G. TSOMOKOS S.A.



Raw Materials High Level Conference

Maximizing value: The importance of the extractive industry to growth in the EU economy and its regions



Welcome Note



It is with great pleasure to welcome you to the European Conference “Raw Materials High Level Conference – Maximizing Value: The Importance of the Extractive Industry to Growth in the EU Economy and its Regions ” in Athens 2014. This Conference has been included in the program of the Hellenic Presidency of the European Union of the EU council.

This is a very timely Initiative that comes at a moment in which the access to raw materials, guaranteed and undistorted, has become an increasingly important factor for EU industry competitiveness. The Greek Presidency, having established as its priority the fight against the current economic crisis and the search for a new, coordinated, EU industrial policy, gladly endorses this Conference. Our aim will be that we together go forward in the implementation of this Initiative.

One of the basic pillars of this Initiative is to ensure the sustainable production of raw material, coming from European ore deposits. Access to the land-sites for the mining industries in an adequate legal, environmental and economic framework needs a common effort in the streamlining of administrative conditions and the benchmarking of better practices to guarantee a sustainable economic development.

I hope, therefore, that will be able to make the best of this opportunity to advance together in a matter of the utmost importance for the European industry.

Yannis Maniatis

**Minister, Ministry of Environment,
Energy and Climate Change,
Hellenic Republic**





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Welcome Letter



Dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of Euromines (the European Association of Mining Industries, Metal Ores & Industrial Minerals) to invite you to this Raw Materials High Level Conference:

“Maximising value: The Importance of the extractive industry to growth in the EU economy and its regions”

The conference is included in the official programme of the Greek Presidency of the EU and is fully endorsed by the Greek Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change

Securing reliable and undistorted access to raw materials is of continuing concern both within the EU and globally. As a consequence, the Raw Materials Initiative was instigated to manage responses to raw materials issues at an EU level. At the heart of this work is defining what are the critical raw materials that have high economic importance to the EU combined with high risk associated with their supply. The conference aims to discuss these issues and share the views of the European Commission, Member States, industry CEOs and other stakeholders.

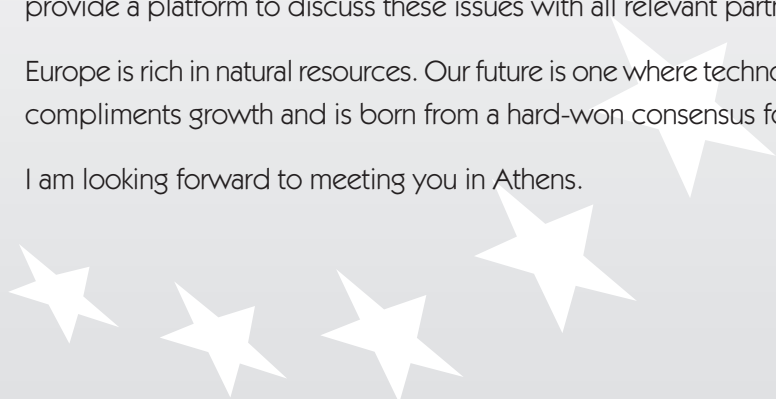
The conference will also examine the development of the 2nd Pillar of the Raw Materials Initiative. There remain a large number of valuable raw materials deposits in Europe. Their sustainable exploitation can increase Europe's supply of mineral resources, help to ease imports from third countries that may apply lower environmental, corporate and social standards, foster the growth of Europe's Regions as well as provide raw materials that are crucial for the competitiveness of several industries and the development of green technologies.

The European mining industry carries out its activities in a highly-regulated and ever-evolving EU regulatory framework and, despite fierce and, sometimes, unfair international competition. We promote the implementation of best practices for the continuous improvement of the industry's high environmental as well as health & safety performances and for the well-being of local communities benefiting from our activities.

New EU policy initiatives deserve our participation and support. We must be part of shaping their outcomes. Innovation, research and resource efficiency are themes at the core of what we do. We are long-term investors, creating jobs and skills and paying taxes, often in the regions of Europe that need them most. The conference will provide a platform to discuss these issues with all relevant partners.

Europe is rich in natural resources. Our future is one where technological advances lead our industry, where regulation compliments growth and is born from a hard-won consensus for a better future.

I am looking forward to meeting you in Athens.



Mr. Mark Rachovides

President of Euromines



Introduction 1

Maximising value – Invitation to Athens

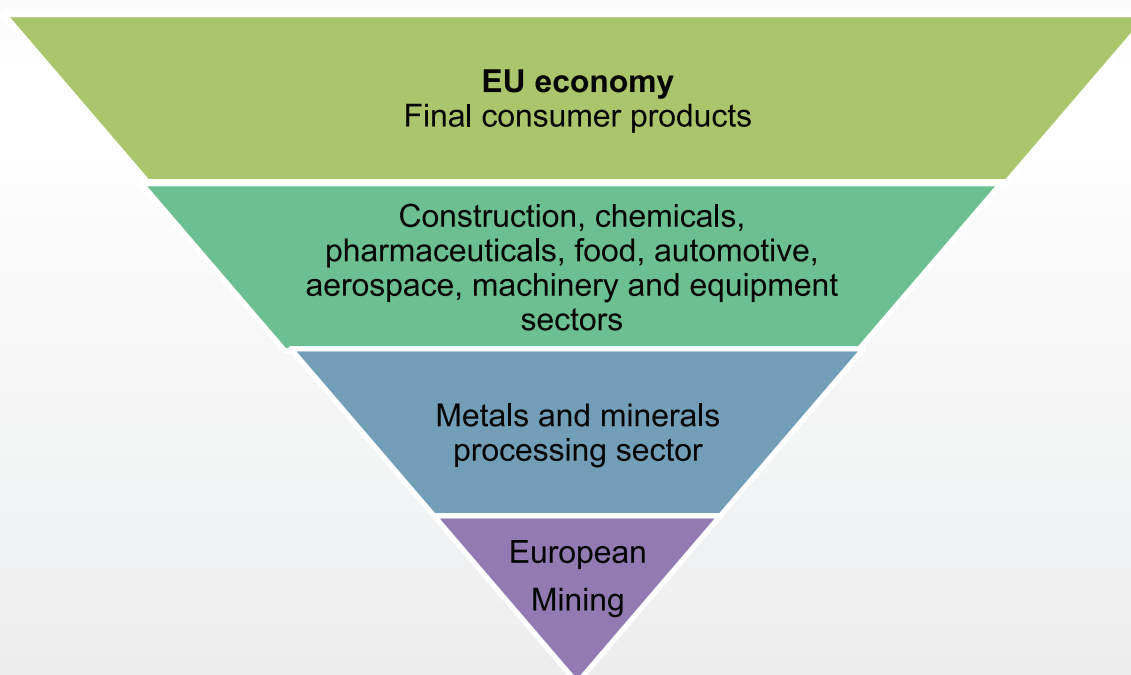
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Minerals and metals are essential to industrial production processes and every day products. They have always been an integral part of our everyday life. Minerals and metals are vital to development our quality of life and sustainable communities.

Mining is a fundamental industry to Europe, providing the material base for many other European business and industrial sectors:



Construction, chemicals, automotive, aerospace, machinery and the equipment sectors, which together provide a total value added of €1,324 billion and employment for some 30 million people, all depend on access to raw materials.

The ultimate aim of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials is to help raise industry's contribution to EU GDP to around 20% by 2020. It will also play an important role in meeting the objectives of the flagship European Commission initiatives 'Innovation Union' and 'Resource Efficient Europe'. It will do this by ensuring the sustainable supply of raw materials to the European economy whilst increasing benefits for society as a whole.



Introduction 2

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It is in the mining regions where both local traditions and political ambitions meet European strategies and legislative challenges. While the origins of change are global, its impacts are regional and local. This means that the mining regions have to come up with manageable and competitive solutions, which also are sustainable environmentally, socially and economically. This is a challenging task.

Many of the European mining regions are facing the same challenges; applying a high number of EU regulations, the need of exchange of information on European and regional level, the need for a closer interaction between companies and regional actors, and finding solutions for sustainable growth in the regions.

The extractive industry can play a central role in community development by acting as a catalyst for positive change in areas that may otherwise have little if any opportunities for economic and social development. This is especially true in situations where mining can be a catalyst to help to build up other (non-mining) sustainable income sources in the areas where mines are located so that communities are able to develop beyond the exhaustion of ore reserves and the closure of the mining operation.

New EU policy initiatives deserve our participation and support. We must be part of shaping their outcomes. Innovation, research and resource efficiency are themes at the core of what we do. We are long-term investors, creating jobs and skills and paying taxes, often in the regions of Europe that need them most. The conference will provide a platform to discuss these and other crucial issues with our most relevant counterparties and partners.



Raw Materials

BACKGROUND

The Raw Materials Initiative (RMI) from 2008 and reviewed in 2011 has 3 pillars: 1) *Ensuring a level playing field in access to resources in 3rd countries*, 2) *Fostering sustainable supply of raw materials from European sources* and 3) *Boosting resource efficiency and promoting recycling*.

In 2008, after the approval of the Initiative, the Raw Materials Supply Group (RMSG), an expert group formed by industry, environmental NGO's, trade unions, Member States, candidate countries and the Commission shall be to provide advice and expertise to the Commission services in relation to the preparation of policy initiative in the field of sustainable security of supply. The **RMSG has two main areas of work**: the identification of critical raw materials and the exchange of best practices in the area of land use planning and administrative conditions for exploration and extraction. Two Ad Hoc Working Groups issued from the RMSG:

- **Ad Hoc Working Group on Critical Raw Materials** (AHWG1), launched in 2009 and involved in all Pillars.
- **Ad Hoc Working Group on Exchange of Best Practices** on policy and legal framework, information framework, land-use planning and permitting (AHWG2), launched in 2009 and involved just in the II Pillar.

Ad Hoc Working Group on Criticality:

The first Report on the Criticality of Raw Materials was published in 2010. For the first time a list of the Critical Raw Materials was included and was published in the Annex. **In 2011, the Commission adopted officially the List of 14 Critical Raw Material** (COM 2011/25 Final) and it also undertook to review and update the list at least every three years.

The main target of the Report and the list is to assure access of Raw Materials to the European Union from European sources and from external sources. **This list serves notably as a supporting element when negotiating trade agreements, challenging trade distortion measures or promoting research and innovation.**

The publication of the list **has contributed to the implementation of the EU industrial policy and has strengthened the European industrial competitiveness**, in line with the Commission's aspiration of raising industry's contribution to GDP to as much as 20% by 2020.

The methodology used to define these 14 **Critical Raw Materials** was essentially **based on two main criteria: on high supply-risk and high economic importance**. Afterward, the AHWG identified the critical raw materials according to the different industrial sectors (i.e. automotive, construction...)

The first review of the list will be published this year and will be presented by the European Commission during this Conference on Raw Materials which will take place in Athens on June 20th. There are **3 main aspects that can be underlined regarding this review**: 1) The new list has used a **comparable methodology** as the one used in 2010, 2.) It has **widening the scope** of raw materials analysed (54 non-energy, non-food materials were analysed against 41 in 2010), 3) It has **refined the analysis** and using additional data (i.e. it has divided rare earths into 'heavy' and 'light' categories).

The issue of the **Critical Raw Materials List is officially in the Agenda of the European Council on Competitiveness** which will take place on May 26th. It is planned that Member States would discuss about the review of the list of Critical Raw Materials.





Raw Materials

Ad Hoc Working Group on Exchange of Best practices on policy and legal framework, information framework, land-use planning and permitting:

This Ad Hoc Working Group created in 2009 is composed by Members States, industries, research and academia, the European Commission. The first Report of the Group *'Improving Framework conditions for extracting minerals for the EU' (Exchanging Best Practice on Land Use Planning, Permitting and Geological knowledge sharing)* was published on July 2010, just after the Conference on Raw Materials in Madrid, on June 2010. The report outlines a number of operational recommendations for follow-up and support as a **National and Sustainable Mineral Policy, a Minerals Planning Policy** (as a key component of the national minerals policy), a **Land Use policy and to use codes of practice** to achieve technical, social and environmental excellence and **to develop better networking** between national Geological Surveys of Member States to improve the knowledge base of mineral deposits in the EU.

This report established the basis for the development of the II Pillar and for the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials. Activities related to the RMI II Pillar are Activities related to the RMI 2nd pillar are closely linked to the **EIP on Raw Materials** (EIP) and are well described in the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) within the **Priority Area: Improving Europe's raw materials framework conditions**. The aim of the Priority Area is to facilitate the exchange of best practice among Member States in order to improve the sustainable and safe supply of raw materials to the EU economy and society. This Priority Area is covering the following EIP target: *Framework conditions for primary raw materials that would provide a stable and competitive supply from EU sources and will facilitate public acceptance*. The Priority Area has three action areas: 1) Minerals Policy Framework, 2) Access to Mineral Potential in the EU and 3) Public Awareness, Acceptance and Trust.

At the beginning of 2014, there was a reactivation of the AHWG. The composition of the AHWG remained the same as the AHWG of 2010 with the exception of the inclusion of representatives of regions (Lombardia-IT, Andalusia-ES, Flanders-BE). The main objective of this reactivation was to review, follow-up and improve the recommendations of the first report. For that to be possible, the AHWG analysed the following two reports:

- **Report on National Minerals Policy Indicators** – Framework Conditions for the Sustainable Supply of Raw Materials in the European Union (Indicators report): Legal framework (indicators 1 -3); Information framework (indicators 4-5); Land-use planning (indicators 6-9), and Authorisation and permitting (indicators 10-20)
- **Study on the Evaluation and Exchange of Good Practices** for the Sustainable Supply of Raw Materials in the European Union (Good practice report): The cases are organised in five categories: Policy and Legislative Framework, Information and Knowledge Base, Governance, Land-Use Planning and Permits and Authorisation.

The results of this discussion are reflected in **the AHWG Second Report, 'Recommendations at the framework conditions for mining in the European Union'** and will be presented by the European Commission during the Greek Conference on Raw Materials.





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Programme

DRAFT AGENDA AS PER 7/5/2014

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

18:30 Registration and Welcome Cocktails
Hilton Athens Hotel, Thaleia 3 & 4 Room

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

08:30 REGISTRATION

09:15 PLENARY SESSION – BANQUET ROOM

WELCOME SPEECHES

H.E. **Antonis Samaras**, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

European Commissioner

✓ **Dr. Yannis Maniatis**, Minister of Energy, Environment and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic

✓ **Mr. Henri Malosse**, President of the European Economic and Social Committee

✓ **Mr. Mark Rachovides**, President, Euromines

✓ **Mr. Daniel Reuss**, President, Industrial Minerals Association Europe (IMA)

PROGRESS OF THE RAW MATERIALS INITIATIVE: CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS AND EVALUATION AND EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS WITHIN THE EU

KEYNOTE SPEECH

✓ **Mr. Gwenole Cozigou**, Director, Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry, European Commission

✓ **Mr. Paul Wright**, CEO, Eldorado Gold Corporation

Mr. Ulysses Kyriakopoulos, Chairman, S&B Industrial Minerals

✓ **Mr. Philippe Gothier**, APG Services and Development

PARALLEL SESSIONS

11:30 SESSION A- CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS – BANQUET ROOM

AVAILABILITY OF THE CRM IN THE EU

✓ Chair: **Mr. Mattia Pellegrini**, EC DG Enterprise

KEYNOTE SPEECH

✓ **Mr. Josef Zboril**, European Economic and Social Committee

IS THE EU PRIMARY AND SECONDARY METALS AND MINERALS INDUSTRY PREPARED TO PRODUCE CRM FROM THE EU?

✓ **Mr. Athanasios Kefalas**, Vice President, Greek Mining Association

Mr. Constantinos Bobis, Chairman BoD and CEO, Larco S.A.

✓ **Mr. Michail Tsoukatos**, Director for Development, Grecian Magnesite

✓ **Mr. Philippe Gothier**, APG Services and Development

Mr. Eberhard Gschwindt, European Investment Bank

Moderator: **Mrs. Corina Hebestreit**, Director, Euromines

Conclusion Remarks from the Session on Critical Raw Materials

✓ CONFIRMED



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Programme

11:30 **SESSION B – 2ND MINERALS POLICY, LAND-PLANNING AND PERMITTING – MC2 ROOM**

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE 2ND PILLAR OF THE RMI

✓ Chair: **Mr. Slavko Solar**, Policy Officer, Mining and Minerals, Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry, European Commission

Ad – Hoc WG ON EXCHANGING BEST PRACTISES

- ✓ **Mr. Serge Schmidt**, Managing Director, Halyps Cement
- ✓ **Mr. Roman Stiftner**, Director, Austrian Mining and Steel Association
- ✓ **Mrs. Fatima Nunes**, Vice President, Aniet

✓ Moderator: **Mrs. Michelle Wyart-Remy**, Secretary General, Industrial Minerals Association Europe

Conclusion Remarks from the Session on Minerals Policy, Land-planning and Permitting

PLENARY | BANQUET ROOM

Conclusions and Adoption of the Athens Declaration

13:00 Lunch - Including press conference

CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION ON INDUSTRIAL CHANGE (CCMI/EESC) CONFERENCE BANQUET ROOM

14.30 **SESSION C – CCMI ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

WHY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS TO INTEGRATE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WEALTH?

✓ Chair: **Mr. Dumitru Fornea**, CCMI

- ✓ **Mr Gerasimos Damoulakis**, Mayor of the Island of Milos, Greece
- ✓ **Mr Raymond Van Ermen**, Executive Director from European Partners for the Environment (EPE)
- ✓ **Mr. Athanasios Koukoulis**, President of the Federation of Miners

Discussion Panel with interventions from other Member States representatives on a largely accepted land-use

Conclusion Remarks from the Session on the second Pillar of the Raw Materials Initiative

16.30 Discussion, Q and A

19.00 **CLOSING RECEPTION AT BENAKI MUSEUM - MAIN BUILDING (BY INVITATION ONLY)**

✓ CONFIRMED



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How to Register

All participants must register in advance. Please register the latest by June 10. The registration fee for the conference is 250 Euros (including VAT).

- Attendance at the Conference
- Conference material
- Coffee breaks and lunch
- Participation at the conference reception June 19th

Please register with the enclosed bulletin and send it with the payment document by email to

**Raw Materials High Level Conference
Secretary**
**9 Karneadou street Athens 10675
Greece**
Phone number +30210 7289000
Fax +30210 7295978
Email: info@rawmaterials2014.com

Deadline for registration is June 10. Registrations forms without payment document will not be accepted.

Venue: Megaron - The Athens Concert Hall



Address:
Vassilisis Sophias & Kokkali
Athens 115 21

Box office:
+30 210 7282333

Fax:
+30 210 7290174

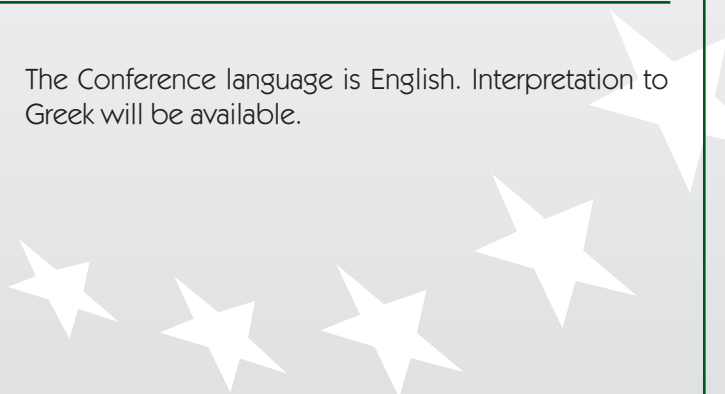
Web
www.megaron.gr

Conference Language

The Conference language is English. Interpretation to Greek will be available.

Web site

All the updated information about the "Raw Materials High Level Conference" is available on the official web site: **www.rawmaterials2014.com**





Raw Materials High Level Conference

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Conference Participation Form

The following members from our Company/Organization will attend the **"Raw Materials High Level Conference 2014"**

Mr ☐ Mrs ☐

FIRST NAME..... SURNAME.....

JOB TITLE..... COMPANY.....

E-MAIL.....

TELEPHONE N°..... MOBILE PHONE.....

PARTICIPATION FEE

For 1 Delegate 250€ + 23%VAT

Participation fee includes: attendance at the Conference | Conference material | Participation at coffee breaks and lunch | participation at the conference reception June 19th

METHODS OF PAYMENT

☐ 1. By Bank Transfer to Alpha Bank

Account Number: 124 002320001788, Symeon G. Tsomokos SA

IBAN: GR8901 401240 124 0023 2000 1788, SWIF BIC: CRBAGRAA

Please include the delegate name in the transmission details and then fax / email the deposit slip along with the registration form.

☐ 2. By Credit Card

☐ VISA

☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

☐ MASTERCARD

☐ DINERS

Card Number..... Expiry Date.....

Cardholder's Signature..... Date.....

INVOICE DETAILS

Company/Organization:.....

Profession:.....

Address:.....

Tel.:..... Fax:.....

Tax Register Number..... Revenue Office:.....

Person responsible for payment:.....

- Please send email info@rawmaterials2014.com this registration form until Tuesday June 10, 2014.
- Should you be unable to attend the conference, please notify us in writing until Friday, June 13, 2014.
- NO refunds will be provided for cancellations made after Friday, June 13, 2014.
- Should you need more information, please contact Ms. Maria Panagiotou, Telephone number +30 210 72 89 000, Email: info@rawmaterials2014.com



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Accommodation

ACCOMMODATION CONFERENCE FORM

The organization committee of the "Raw Materials High Level Conference" recommend the following hotels which are walking distance to the Conference Venue. Please note because of the high season make your booking as soon as possible. In case you need further help, we'll do our utmost to assist you. Please see below special rates for conference participants.

HOTEL INFORMATION

	HOTEL	CATEGORY	Single Room	Double Room	ADDRESS
	Hilton Athens	*****	159€	159€	46 Vassilissis Sofias Avenue, Athens, 11528, Greece Tel: 0030 210 7281000 www.hiltonathens.gr
	Divani Caravel	*****	130€	130€	2 Vas. Alexandrou Ave, Athens, 16121, Greece Tel: 0030 210 7281000 www.divanis.com/caravel
	Airotel Alexandros	****	78€	87€	8, Timoleonos Vassou, Athens, 11521, Greece Tel: 0030 210 7281000 www.airotel.gr/hotel/alexandros

Prices include continental breakfast

HOTEL RESERVATION

Please make your reservation directly through the following booking codes.

HILTON → http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/A/ATHHITW-GEUMA-20140615/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

DIVANI CARAVEL → https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g_login.cfm?hotelID=13101&languageId=1 → **Attendee Code: mini14**

AIROTEL ALEXANDROS → <http://www.airotel.gr/hotel/alexandros> → Book Now – **Code: EUMINE**

CANCELLATION POLICY

HILTON HOTEL - In case of early check out the Hotel reserves the right to charge the amount corresponding to the total of your reservation. In case of No-shows the total number of cancelled guestrooms will be charged at full amount for the full duration of the agreed stay. In case of cancellation, 30 days before the booking date there are no charges. When canceled 30 days after, there are full cancellation charges.

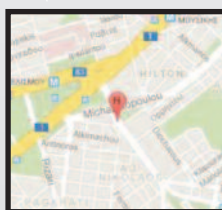
DIVANI HOTEL - One-night cancellation fee will be charged for each room canceled if not done one day before the arrival of customers. In case of non-show fee will be charged a one-night. The above policy will be referenced in the www.divanis.com

AIROTEL HOTEL - In case of cancellation less than 24 hours of arrival or non show will be 1 night charge

HOTEL'S LOCATION



HILTON HOTEL www.hiltonathens.gr



DIVANI CARAVEL www.divanis.com



AIROTEL ALEXANDROS www.airotel.gr



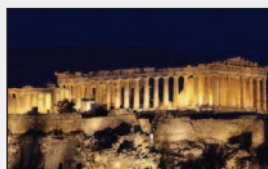
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Top 10 Attractions

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION THE CITY OF ATHENS

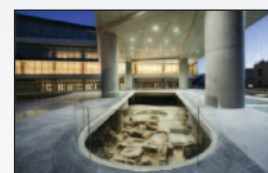


The Acropolis

The sacred rock of the **Acropolis** and its most recognized monument, the **Parthenon**, have withstood the test of time. Natives have often commented on its commanding presence that is instilled in their daily life. But nothing compares to witnessing its grandeur up close and in person. **The archeological park**, known as the **Unification of Archaeological Sites**, (4.7 km or 3 miles wide) that surrounds the Acropolis, encompasses some of the world's most ancient treasures.

The New Acropolis Museum

Years in the making, this museum and its creative use of natural Greek light is **the new gem of Athens** and has been **heralded as a masterpiece** in itself. The permanent collections present finds and artifacts from the sacred hill of the Acropolis, while smaller «vignette» temporary exhibits offer insight on the whole. The cafe and museum shops are quite popular and are a must to visit as well.



Greek Parliament

The Greek Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Every vacation portfolio should not be without a photo alongside the tall, commanding **Presidential Guards**, known as *evzones* or *tsoliades*. Worth the wait is to witness the changing of the guards, a ten-minute ceremonial procedure that takes place every hour on the hour. The *foustanela* or skirt that is part of their uniform is made up of 400 pleats, each one symbolizing a year that Greece was under Turkish rule.

Panathenaic Stadium

This must-see monument opposite **Zappeion Gardens** on Vassilis Konstantinou Avenue is the stadium that hosted the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. The stadium, first built in 330 B.C., is made of white marble from the mountain Penteli and has a seating capacity of 45,000 for the concerts and events.



Lycabettus Hill

At a height of 277 metres (approximately 1,000) feet **Lycabettus Hill** is perhaps the best spot in which to get an aerial view of the city. Visible from here is the Acropolis, the port of Piraeus, and the island of Aigina. If a mini-trek up is not appealing, take the cable car to the top (and back down). **The entrance is on the corner of Aristippou and Ploutarchou streets.** If you decide to walk down the forest path you will encounter **Dexameni Square** in Kolonaki, where you can grab a bite to eat.

Ancient Agora, Monastiraki

Its befitting that this monument the center of commercial and business life in ancient times would later give rise to the buzzing shopping district that surrounds it today. Of course, Monastiraki does not compare to the milieu of the Ancient Agora, but it still continues to inspire those who live, work and visit the area



Plaka

With its undisputable charm, this area is one of the most frequented by visitors and natives alike. Plaka's winding pathways carry thousands of years of history. Walk amongst the buildings whose facades are dressed in 19th century neoclassical design and architecture. Dine at one or several of its restaurants. And explore the ancient monuments, contemporary museums and traditional souvenir shops throughout.

The Attica Coastline

Athens is surrounded by pristine beaches, where you can swim for many months during the year. **Visit a beach in Athens and you are likely to feel like you're on a Greek island**, as you are greeted with stretches of crystal sands, fine pebbles and blue, clean waters. The tram and bus take you to nearby, organized beaches (some offer water sports) in Faliro, Alimo, Kalamaki, Glyfada, Schinia and Varkiza in less than an hour. Ideal for the whole family is a walk on the **Flisvos Marina** promenades a great destination for all ages, at any time of year.



Temple of Poseidon-Cape Sounion

Take a road trip to the southernmost tip of Attica for a breathtaking drive along the coastal highway and you are rewarded with a visit to one of the most fascinating temples in ancient history. It is no wonder that the ancient Greeks built the temple to their sea god Poseidon here in Sounion. Situated on a plateau on the top of a cliff it welcomes ships and sailors even today.



Transport Information



Getting from the airport to the city center couldn't be easier and the airport information desk will help; you're faced with a couple of choices:

Buses, 3 choices, depending on your destination;

E94 connects you with the nearest metro station at Ethniki Amina. This service is only suitable for daytime arrivals as the Metro stops running at midnight.

E95 Airport Express, connects Syntagma Square with the airport via Vas. Sofias Avenue, Mesogion Avenue and Attiki Odos.

E96 Airport Express, connects the port of Piraeus with the airport via Posidonos Avenue, Varis-Varkizas, and Varis-Koropiou.

Both the E95 and E96 run generally every 20 minutes during the day and every 40 minutes after midnight.

By Metro, line 3 (the "Blue Line") will take you to Syntagma Square and Monastiraki. From Monastiraki you can change trains to get to Piraeus. The cost of a ticket from the airport is 8,00 per person. [ATHENS METRO MAP]

The easiest method is **by Taxi**, either by joining the queue at the airport Taxi rank or by prearranging for a dedicated taxi to be waiting for your arrival, at whatever time that might be. The cost should be about € 30 to the city centre, slightly more if you don't like queuing.



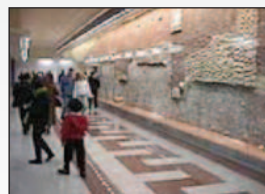
Metro

It took 2000 years but Athens finally has a metro, even if there is nowhere you need to go with the new metro, it is worth

visiting it and even taking a ride a few stops. As you may have heard, work on the metro was slow because of all the antiquities they discovered. Every time they dug a new hole they would find a grave, or a wall or an urn and everyone would have to put down their picks and shovels and call in the archaeologists who would do their digging with tweezers and toothbrushes, which is a little bit slower. So the main

problem was not having to dig through rock, but having to sift through history.

The time spent was worth it because **Syntagma** is more than a metro station, it's a museum. **Syntagma Square** station is the crowning achievement in the marriage between high-tech transport and archaeology. In the entrance are photos of Athens from 100 years ago when it really was one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.



You walk down some marble steps and find yourself in a modern universe. The tickets are sold on your right or by machines that for now only take

coins, the escalators take you down to the lower lobby and the trains. But don't go down right away. There is much to see. To the right, on the balcony that surrounds the lower lobby encased in glass is the stratified excavation where you can see artifacts from different periods of Athenian civilization from Byzantine through Roman to classical Greek, and pre-historic. There is a grave, cisterns, portion of a wall, an ancient road, clay drainage pipes and more.

Around the corner in glass display cases are ancient pots, columns and many of the artifacts that were found while digging the station. The lobby is a museum and while many people make their way through the station with the determination of seasoned commuters, many people wander around examining the exhibits.



The trains themselves are not the super-high-tech streamlined ones; in fact they look like ordinary old trains, only newer, cleaner, smoother and faster.

They are fully automated and a woman's voice tells you which stop is coming next and to get out of the way if you don't want to hurtle through the tunnels of Athens with half of you hanging out the subway door.

One thing to remember is that the metro stops running at midnight, which might be a little early if you are out enjoying the Athens nightlife, so be sure to read our Taxi Tips.