1st COBALT Regional Civil Society - Industry Dialogue

Sustainable raw materials management and circular economy in the Iberian Peninsula:

The role of industry and consumers in optimizing the raw materials value chain

Madrid, 12 June 2014

Event Summary Paper

This document outlines the key findings of the first Regional Civil-Society-Industry Dialogue of the COBALT project on "Sustainable raw materials management and circular economy in the Iberian Peninsula: The role of industry and consumers in optimizing the raw materials value chain", which took place in Madrid on June 12th 2014. The Dialogue comprised **three sessions:** keynote introductions from policymaking, industry and civil society representatives; innovative case studies, and exchange on future pathways for stakeholder collaboration.

Introduction to the project and workshop objectives & Overview on education related to mineral raw materials in the EU

Andreas Endl from the Institute for Managing Sustainability, Vienna University of Economics and Business in Austria (project coordinator), provided a short overview of the COBALT project and its objectives. Elena Palacios from TYPSA Environmental Consultancy Division in Spain summarised the aims of the COBALT Dialogues, introduced concepts at the core of the discussion, such as circular economy, and presented stakeholder perceptions on benefits and drivers for collaboration. Anders Sand from Luleå University of Technology in Sweden, shortly presented the results of the COBALT study aimed at supporting academia, industry and public agencies in tackling skill shortages related to the raw materials value chain.

Session 1: Framing the dialogue – key insights and takeaways

Welcome: Carolina Rodríguez. EIP on Raw Materials Sherpa, Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, Spain

- Spain as a Member State participates in the design and implementation of EU framework policies related to Circular Economy, *i.e.* Spain takes an active role in the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Raw Materials within the framework of the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative "Innovation Union", as well as the Raw Materials Initiative to foster research and innovation.
- Spain is leading several of the commitments, in particular on mining issues, presented for the EIP on Raw Materials, and works together with Portugal in many of them.
- Civil Society Organisations still require a stronger representation in EU decision making fora.

KEYNOTE: TERESA BARRÉS. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT, SPAIN

- In Spain, several *challenges* have to be tackled along the value chain, particularly in **recycling**: increasing **complexity of products**; **lack of information** on the presence of critical raw materials or on how they may be recovered; the **need to improve some products' design** as short lifespan makes repairing or dismantling difficult or uneconomic; etc. Most prominently, **low collection rates** of some end-of-life products (**WEEE**) represent a major challenge due to **low incentives to recycle critical materials** in small amounts.
- However there are also several *opportunities* to make the most of: **market value** of waste should be strengthened; **recovery of waste and use of recovered materials** should be encouraged as a key instrument to promote **decent jobs**.

KEYNOTE: LICINIA GAMITO. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND MANAGEMENT AND ENERGY, PORTUGAL

- Portugal, and particularly DGEG, has also accompanied the building procedure of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP), mobilising stakeholders from several areas and launching a **Portuguese Partnership for Mineral Resources**.
- As a key tool to foster sustainability in mining, since 2012, Portugal is implementing a **new policy** that uses deductions of up to 25% of exploitation royalties from mining companies that invest locally/regionally in social responsibility and environmental programs, mining heritage projects and R&D projects focused on mineral optimisation of metal recovery.

KEYNOTE: RICARDO VEIGA. SOMINCOR, PORTUGAL

- **The application of innovative new technologies** at existing sites enables 4.5 times more efficient processes to obtain copper and by-products such as zinc concentrate.
- Mining activity contributes to keep **low employment rates** and **high average salaries** in the region, and locally supports social and environmental initiatives in Baixo Alentejo Region.
- Somincor is involved in several EIP commitments, including one for collaboration and dissemination of best mining practices in Africa and Latin America (*Kanandu*) and another for the development of innovative technologies in metallic mining (*PolymetOre*).

KEYNOTE: BELÉN RAMOS. USERS AND CONSUMERS ORGANISATION. OCU, SPAIN

- There is a strong consumer demand for **more product information** related to sustainability (e.g. product lifespan, environmental impact in production processes, recyclability).
- **Waste has no value** in current management (i.e. functionality of WEEE devices is not checked at collection points; lack of information on special collection systems for re-use; low quality standards in collection processes; etc.)
- Spain has to **improve waste collection rates** (e.g. only 53% of consumers surveyed take care of WEEE).

INTRA-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE: ROLE AND COMPETENCES OF STAKEHOLDERS

INTRA-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

Participants were asked to exchange with others in their own stakeholder group and to identify their group's key competencies and roles in relation to sustainable raw material management (in general, on mining / extraction or on recycling / re-use), and their role in driving a circular economy.

Key takeaways are summarised below:

Stakeholder group	Roles	Competencies
Industry (mining)	Improve process efficiency	▪ Ensuring provision of raw materials to society in a sustainable way ▪ Provide In-depth knowledge of local/regional economical, social and environmental aspects
Industry (recycling)	Foster the entrance of WEEE in an environmentally safe recycling circle	▪ Use of Best Available Technologies ▪ Guarantee traceability and transparency
CSOs	Drive sustainable development	▪ Awareness raising ▪ Lobbying
Policy makers	Lead multi-stakeholder dialogue	▪ Creation of a regulatory and administrative framework for a better business environment (common playground) ▪ Communication with citizens
Researchers	Inform and advise other stakeholders (by generating knowledge, innovation, developing new and better processes and promoting this knowledge; identifying new opportunities; ensuring that the steps taken towards circular economy by decision makers go in the right way, and react publicly if not)	▪ Technical knowledge ▪ State of the art education on sustainable raw material management through the value chain: mining, recycling, re-use, LCA, etc. ▪ Trustworthiness, independent information on technological competences on processes and their environmental impact ▪ Link to other stakeholders

Session 2: Learning from practical experiences – key insights and takeaways

RESEARCH CASE STUDY: PERE FULLANA, UNESCO CHAIR IN LIFE CYCLE AND CLIMATE CHANGE (ESCI-UPF)

- **Product Environmental Footprint** is the measure of the absolute environmental impact(s) over the full life cycle of a product (good or service) in a specified application.
- Environmental impacts should be addressed in an **integrated way** where participation of the different stakeholders is a cornerstone to practically implement Life Cycle Analysis into Life Cycle Management (e.g. **Product Panels**).
- Despite the existing standards to measure LCA and Carbon Footprint, different countries measure differently the environmental impact of products, therefore, **misleading consumer choices**.

CIVIL SOCIETY CASE STUDY: NATI YESARES, SOLIDANÇA

- **New business models in social economy** drive a sustainable use of resources and wastes, and effectively integrate people at risk of social exclusion.
- **Waste management is an opportunity to create jobs**, especially in current times of social, economic and environmental crisis, in which a reinvention of the development model is needed.
- Since 2006, 76 tons of **WEEE** have been successfully managed, 1.400 items recovered, 1 second hand shop established.
- **WEEE prevention** is done through innovative projects that offer a service for citizens with advice and repair **workshops**.

INDUSTRY CASE STUDY: JOSÉ LUIS FUENTES CANTILLANA. AITEMIN

- Certification can be a useful tool to set sustainable mining benchmarks and foster disclosure and transparency: it can **improve the public image** of the industry as well as stakeholder **confidence**, and can also potentially ease **access to resources**.
- *Stand4Mines* is a proposal for a European Standard that enables the voluntary certification of Sustainable Mining Management Systems, well suited for SMEs and periodically reviewed, based on economic, social and environmental pillars.
- CSOs are welcome to join *Stand4Mines* EIP commitment and to take part of the stakeholders' forum for standardization.

Session 3: Future avenues for collaboration

INTER-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE: PATHWAYS FOR COLLABORATION

Participants presented 2-3 recommendations for improving the collaboration between different stakeholders on sustainable raw material management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish a physical forum of stakeholders with periodical meetings (at least one per semester) so as to identify common interests between different stakeholders and achieve an understanding between different stakeholders values
2. Reach an agreement on a common shared view from different stakeholders and bring it up to a higher level (National/EU policy making)
3. Set feasible objectives for collaboration on a step by step basis
4. Implement pilot experiences
5. Foster the role of public research institutions as bridges amongst stakeholders for longlasting partnerships
6. Establish an e-learning platform for stakeholders
7. Celebrate "open days" (e.g. visit to a mine) in order to boost public understanding of the industry