



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 8.6.2012
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 8.6.2012

on the signature of a Letter of Intent between the European Union and Greenland on co-operation in the area of mineral resources

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Whereas:

- (1) Minerals resources are vital for the EU's economy and crucial for industrial production and Greenland is of major importance to the EU raw material supply.
- (2) A co-operation with the EU would increase the development of the mineral sector in Greenland and contribute to achieve its sustainable economic development as foreseen in the EU-Greenland partnership.
- (3) The proposed Letter of Intent is in line with the EU policy on a broad raw materials strategy and in particular regarding the need to pursue the raw materials strategy in relation to third countries through bilateral and multilateral frameworks and dialogues.
- (4) The proposed Letter of Intent does not, nor is intended to, create any binding or legal obligations on either side under domestic or international law;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The Commission approves the Letter of Intent between the European Union and Greenland on co-operation in the area of mineral resources and authorises the Member responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship, and the Member responsible for Development, acting in their capacity as Vice-President and Member of the Commission, to sign it on behalf of the European Union.

Done at Brussels, 8.6.2012

For the Commission

ANNEX

Letter of Intent on co-operation in the area of mineral resources between the European Union and Greenland

Both Greenland and the European Union recognise the importance of mineral resources as indispensable inputs to industrial production and underline the importance of Greenland, due to its geostrategic and economic position, to the EU sustainable raw materials supply.

Both sides recognise that:

- the development of the mineral sector in Greenland is a potential lever for economic diversification in Greenland and increase the competitiveness of the Greenlandic economy;
- a dialogue between Greenland and the European Union could contribute to release the potential of the mineral resources sector as a lever for Greenland's sustainable development;
- in order for this potential to be mutually beneficial for Greenland and the European Union, it is necessary that mineral resources be exploited in fair competition conditions and put on the market whilst fully respecting internationally agreed rules on fair market access;
- such dialogue should cover the sustainable exploitation of mineral resources, in line with internationally agreed principles regarding market access as well as environmental and labour standards and in full respect of the respective rights of both sides to develop their own policies.
- Greenland has the potential to become a key partner of the European Union in its effort towards achieving the goal of becoming a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy;
- mineral resources are crucial to the competitiveness of many European industries especially in the area of green economy and key enabling technologies;
- downstream industries depend on a secure supply of these materials and any interruption of these flows entails major risks for our economies and societies at large;
- environmental and social impacts of mining are priority areas for both sides.

Both the Government of Greenland and the European Union believe that dialogue in the area of mineral resources can be mutually beneficial. **The dialogue will take place in the context of the Danish Act No 473 of 12 June 2009 on Greenland Self-Government.**

Both sides shall therefore explore ways to reinforce **their dialogue on mineral resources**, within the framework of the EU-Greenland partnership, as laid down in Council Decision 2006/526/EC of 17 July 2006 on relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other.

Both sides acknowledge that future mineral resources cooperation will necessitate appropriate financial resources to be agreed upon.

Possible areas for dialogue are:

- Geological knowledge
- Analysis of infrastructure and investment needs related to the exploitation of mineral resources
- Competence building
- Environmental issues related to mining and social impacts of mining

The dialogue should contribute to the achievement of the goal of the sustainable development of Greenland as defined in the EU-Greenland partnership. It aims at promoting mutual understanding and enhancing bilateral co-operation and the exchange of information on policies related to mineral resources, including exploration and exploitation, amongst others through increased communication between both sides.

Meetings will be organised when appropriate, possibly once a year.

To that purpose, Greenland and the European Commission will communicate to each other the relevant contact points at senior official and technical level, who shall be in charge of coordinating the dialogue. On the side of Greenland, the dialogue will involve the Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum. On the side of the European Commission, the Directorate General of Enterprise and Industry and the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid will be responsible for coordinating the dialogue.

Other partners, including those from the administration or other stakeholders may be involved in the dialogue, where relevant and appropriate. Events and other actions organised in the context of the dialogue shall be arranged jointly and on the basis of mutual agreement.

This Letter of Intent is not intended to create any legal or financial obligations under domestic or international law.

For the European Union



Antonio Tajani
Vice-President
Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship



Andris Piebalgs
Commissioner for Development

For the Government of Greenland



Kuupik Kleist,
Premier