Reconciling biodiversity protection and extractive activities

9 November 2017

Le Plaza Hotel (Boulevard Adolphe Max 118-126, 1000 Bruxelles)

The conference shall provide input for implementing the measure of the 'Action Plan for nature, people and the economy' aiming at complementing the Commission guidance on non-energy mineral extractive industry and Natura2000.

8:00-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:30 Networking with coffee

9:30-9:35 Welcome and introduction by Mr Humberto Delgado, Director DG Environment Natural Capital, European Commission

9:35-9:55 Key note speech (Prof. Mahy, University of Liege)

9:55-11:25 Session I: Extractive permits within Natura2000 sites

Chaired by Mr Humberto Delgado, Director DG Environment Natural Capital, EC

The session will explain challenges related to extractive permits within the Natura2000 network from perspectives on national authorities and NGOs. It will also share experience from projects aiming at reconciling economic, environmental and social tensions.

Challenges and needs related to extraction permits within Natura2000 sites (Paula Castanheira Dinis, Portuguese General Directorate for Energy and Geology)

Challenges and needs related to environmental permits within Natura2000 sites – (French national authority for environmental permits (TBC))

Reconciling environmental and social challenges related to permits (Ms Laura Lauri, coordinator of the MIREU consortium)

Mineral permitting & Natura 2000: good practice considerations from a Swedish, civil society perspective (Dr. Hakan Tarras-Wahlberg, board of Georange)

Interactive Session – Q&A

11:25-11:55 Coffee break
11:55-12:15  International perspective for reconciling biodiversity and extractive activities (Prof. Peter Erskine, University of Queensland, Centre for Mined Land rehabilitation, Program Leader-Ecological Assessment, Restoration and Resilience)

12:15-13:30  Session II: Respecting biodiversity during extraction operations

Chair by Ms Inka Gnittke (Head of Division N I 2: Protected areas, Natura 2000 Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety)

The session will present best practices for protecting biodiversity during extraction operations. It shall demonstrate that modern approaches can have a positive impact on biodiversity around extraction sites.

Best practice: European Network for Sustainable Mining and Quarrying - Ms Christine Marlet, Eurogypsum

Best practice: voluntary sustainable mining standard and Natura2000, Mr Eero Yrjo-Kosinen, executive director GreenBudgetEurope

Biodiversity Management System Ciments Calcia-GSM and partnership with IUCN France, Ms Elodie Russier-Decoster, business and biodiversity project leader, IUCN France

Dynamic management of biodiversity in the framework of extraction plans: the Life in Quarries project, Mr Benoit Lussis, Environmental Adviser in the Belgian Extractive Industry Association FEDIEX and Chair of the UEPG Biodiversity Task Force)

Interactive Session – Q&A

13:30-14:30  Buffet Lunch

14:30-15:45  Session III: Biodiversity during after-mining land rehabilitation

Chair by Ms Maria Karus, Head of Mineral Resources Bureau, Estonian Environment Board

The session will present best practices for protecting biodiversity after stopping extractive operations. It should raise awareness to the fact that modern after-mining approaches can improve biodiversity in comparison with pre-extraction and can improve social well-being of local communities around mining sites.

Best practice from industry (Dr Carolyn Jewell, HeidelbergCement. Biodiversity Senior Manager, Global Environmental Sustainability)

From Pit to Paradise: Eden Project, Cornwall, UK (Mr Dan Ryan, Eden Project)

Best practices, trends in after-mining land rehabilitation from financial, research and practical perspectives (Prof. Dr. Michael Rademacher, TH Bingen, University of Applied Sciences)
Optimal restoration of post-mining land from the perspective of environmental NGO (Dr. Klára Řehounková, SER Europe & University of South Bohemia)

Interactive Session – Q&A

15:45-16:15 Coffee break

16:15-17:45 Session IV: Discussion on measure of an Action Plan for nature, people and the economy
"Identify with Member States and other stakeholders best practices on investment for extractive operations and for land rehabilitation and restoration by non-energy mineral extractive industry, in order to complement the existing guidance on non-energy mineral extractive industry (2018)"

Chaired by Mr Gwenole Cozigou, Industrial Transformation and Advanced Value Chains, Director (DG GROW), EC

The session is a kick-off discussion before launching the implementation of the above measure of the Actin Plan. Building on experience from three previous sessions, the session will discusses and make recommendations how to complement the guidance in the most efficient way.

Panel Discussion
Finnish National authority for environmental permits (TBC)
Austrian authority for extraction permits (TBC)
Birdslife (Mr Boris Barov)
IMA-Europe (Dr. Aurela Shtiza)
European Commission, DG Environment D3, Nature Protection unit (NN)

Interactive Session – Q&A

17:45-17:50 Closure - Mr Gwenole Cozigou, Industrial Transformation and Advanced Value Chains, Director, DG GROW, EC