Minerals Policy in Austria in the Framework of EU Legislation

L. Weber, Vienna, Austria
World Mining Production 1984-2004

In Mio t, excl. construction materials

TAIEX-Meeting Tallinn 2006
World Mining Production 1984-2004
World versus Asia/Europe

In Mio t, excl. construction materials

TAIEX-Meeting Tallinn 2006
World Mining Production 1984-2004
World versus Asia/Europe

In Mio t, excl. construction materials

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World Mining Production 1984-2004
World versus Asia/Europe/EU(25)

In Mio t, excl. construction materials

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World Mining Production 1984-2004
by developing status of producer countries

In Mio t, excl. construction materials


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World Mining Production 1996-2004 by political stability of producer countries

In Mio t, excl. construction materials


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Share of EU / World Production (in %) (1990 / 2004)

Iron ore, steel alloys, base metals

Source: WEBER, L. & ZSAK, G: WORLD MINING DATA 2006

TAIEX-Meeting Tallinn 2006
Share of EU / World Production (in %) (1990 / 2004)

precious metals, industrial minerals, energy fuels

Source: WEBER, L. & ZSAK, G: WORLD MINING DATA 2006

TAIEX-Meeting Tallinn 2006
The target of the Lisbon strategy for the European Union to become "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy in the world by 2010, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion" has been too ambitious...
External events since 2000 have not helped achieving the objectives but the European Union and its Members States have clearly themselves contributed to slow progress by failing to act on much of the Lisbon strategy with sufficient urgency. **This disappointing delivery is due to an overloaded agenda, poor coordination and conflicting priorities….**
Facing the challenge
The Lisbon strategy for growth and Employment…
(November 2004)

five areas of policy:

• Knowledge society
• Internal market
• Business climate
• Labour market
• Environmental sustainability
Facing the challenge...

- **knowledge society**: increasing Europe’s attractiveness for researchers and scientists, making R & D a top priority and promoting the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);

- **the internal market**: completion of the internal market for the free movement of goods and capital, and urgent action to create a single market for services;
• the business climate: reducing the total administrative burden; improving the quality of legislation; facilitating the rapid start-up of new enterprises; and creating an environment more supportive to businesses;

• the labour market: rapid delivery on the recommendations of the European Employment Taskforce; developing strategies for lifelong leaning and active ageing; and underpinning partnerships for growth and employment;
Facing the challenge...

- **environmental sustainability**: spreading eco-innovations and building leadership in eco-industry; pursuing policies which lead to long-term and sustained improvements in productivity through eco-efficiency.
Facing the challenge…

The Lisbon strategy calls for:

addressing climate change: rapidly ratifying the Kyoto Protocol (2002), showing progress in delivering Kyoto targets (by 2005), meeting the target of 12% of primary energy needs and 22% of gross electricity consumption from renewable energy sources;
Facing the challenge…

decoupling economic growth from resource use: tackling rising volumes of traffic, congestion, noise and pollution with full internalisation of social and environmental costs, developing a Community framework for pricing of transport infrastructure (eurovignette), ensuring a sustainable use of natural resources and level of waste;

defining a new regulatory framework: adopting the energy taxation directive (2002), environmental liability (2004), sixth environmental action programme.
EU- Directives / Regulations affecting mining

- Conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC)
- Conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC)
- Environmental impact assessment
- Seveso II (96/82/EC)
- Ambient air quality assessment and management (96/62/EC)
  incl. (BREF Best available Techniques of Tailings and Waste Rock in Mining Activities)
- REACH (Regulation)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EU-Directive / Regulation</th>
<th>transponed in National Law</th>
<th>Nature Protection Laws of the Provinces</th>
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<td>Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungsgesetz UVP-G 2000</td>
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EU- Directives / Regulations affecting mining

EU-Directive / Regulation transposed in National Law

Mine Waste Directive to be done

BREF Best available technique WG active...
of Tailings and Waste Rock in Mining Activities

REACH (Regulation)
Problems…

Minerals Planning Policies and Supply Practices in Europe

Commissioned by the European Commission Enterprise Directorate General under Contract n° ETD/FIF 2003 0781

Department of Mining and Tunnelling
University of Leoben, Austria
November 2004
Issue Nr. 1:
*The limited knowledge of the importance of the non-energy extractive industry in Europe.*

It is recommended that a study group is established to address this issue and to come forward with a proposal how more complete and reliable data on the economic importance of the sector can be collected on an ongoing basis. The following data should be collected:

- Production
- Employees
- Revenue generated
- Land used for mineral extraction
- Land returned for other uses.
Issue Nr. 2:

*The lack of appreciation of the strategic importance non-energy minerals and in particular construction minerals (aggregates) for the development of Europe.*

It is recommended that at the European and national level more attention is given to the growing importance of industrial minerals and construction minerals (aggregates), including at the political and legislative level. Issues of particular importance are access to mineral deposits in areas of high industrial activity.
Issue Nr. 3:
*In most Member States non-energy minerals are allocated a low priority by the governments of the day.*

It is recommended that Member States examine how the sustainable supply with nonenergy minerals and in particular with construction minerals can be secured in the light of increasing demands.
Problem…

Issue Nr. 4:

*In most Member States access to mineral deposits is becoming more difficult.*

It is recommended that Geological Surveys become more actively involved in land use planning and as a matter of priority provide information on mineral deposits for land use data bases. It is also recommended that land use planning is done at two levels, namely the strategic long term level looking at the national level at time frames of several generations and at the operational level, where all details have to be considered. It is further recommended that minerals extraction areas are identified in land use planning systems and protected against other potential uses.
Issue Nr. 5: 

*The time required for authorization of mineral extraction tends to be very long and the outcome is often uncertain.*

It is recommended that attention is given to how the authorization process can be made more transparent and stream-lined. Attention should be given to the concept of “one stop- one shop” which is being applied successfully in Canada and based on the principle of parallel processing and intense cooperation between the authorities.
Issue Nr. 6: *The increasing environmental pressures on the non-energy extractive industries.*

It is recommended that in addition to the environmental initiatives at the EU-level initiatives which address the sustainable supply of Europe with natural resources and in particular mineral resources are also being considered.
### Mining in Austria / Contribution to EU25

#### 2004 Production and % of EU(25) Production

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>2004 (t)</th>
<th>% of EU(25) Production</th>
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<td>Iron</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tungsten</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 240</strong></td>
<td><strong>75.00</strong></td>
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<td>Gypsum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oil-Shale</td>
<td>248</td>
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Directives, mostly cost influencing
existing mines; future projects

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<th>SEV-II</th>
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+ Depending on location; ++ depending on size of operation; ? Not yet known or unclear
Directives, influencing applying procedure and costs…

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Minerals supply is primarily a matter of the minerals consuming industry…

The state should assist the industry in providing proper conditions in the forefield of the industry by providing

- general geological, geochemical, geophysical information
- a modern legal system
- a suitable fiscal system
- a proper land use policy considering mineral occurrences.
Austria’s Minerals Policy

IRIS: Layer Geology
Austria’s Minerals Policy

IRIS: Layer Geology
Layer Geochemistry (Ba)
Austria’s Minerals Policy

Aeromagnetic Survey

TAIEX-Meeting Tallinn 2006
Austria’s Minerals Policy

Federal Mining Law

Stimulation of prospection and exploration activities of the mining companies by tax reductions...

Consideration of mineral occurrences in land use planning
(Austrian Minerals Resources Plan)
Austria’s Minerals Policy

Sand and Gravel

Suitability Map Decision base for land use Planning…

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FAZIES</th>
<th>QUALITÄT</th>
<th>BEDEUTUNG</th>
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Conclusion

EU(25) is heavily depending on imports of minerals…

The economy is extremly vulnerable…

No visible support of EU to secure minerals supply…

Minerals supply by European Mining industry is affected by EU Legislation in
   restrictions of access (EIA, Natura 2000, Water Framework..
   raising costs due to environmental measures (MWD, REACH)

Imbalanced Competitivness compared with non EU producer countries
Conclusion

Member States are therefore well advised to pay more attention to

- create reliable statistical data…
- raise the acceptance of mining in the general public…
- raise importance of raw materials in land use planning…
- to secure identified resources for future use…
- provide transparent and streamlined authorization processes…