

National Minerals Policy Practices: key to minerals supply in Europe

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Presentation

- Introduction
 - Importance of mineral resources
- EU study 2004
- Policy elements
- Conclusions



The background of the slide features a faint, light-colored world map with latitude and longitude lines. On the right side, there is a prominent wireframe globe, which is a sphere composed of a grid of intersecting lines. The overall color palette is muted, consisting of various shades of purple and grey.

Mineral policies tended to be reviewed following supply crises or ...

Time for policy review ?

EU study – general remarks

- “Minerals Planning Policies and Supply Practices in Europe”
- Ongoing process (1994 / 2004)



Country reports

- Extent of the report
 - Reviews
- The main sources of information were the country reports of 26 European countries that are appendix of the study.

Analysis of the study

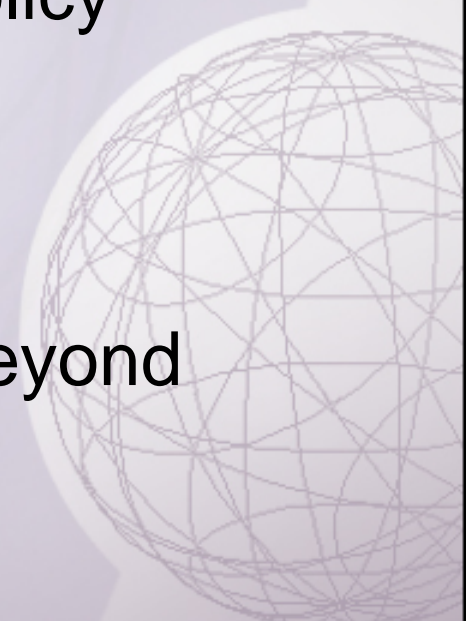
- One of the major findings is that almost no written down national minerals policies exist in Europe. Mineral policy elements are dispersed in various acts and documents; potentially in conflict with other land use sectors.
- Experience shows where no policy decisions are taken at national level, the implementation of policies at lower level is either difficult or missing.

National mineral policy

- The *objective of national mineral policy* should be the creation of the political, legal and administrative framework for the mineral supply to the national economy with regard to the demand,
- Mineral supply for present and future generation,
- National mineral policy cover the aspects that are relevant to country in question,
- Based on sustainable development principles (COMM 2000/265 Promotion ...).

Framework

- In most Member States governments do not consider minerals to be a priority area.
- Formal stand alone national mineral policy
 - In European Union
 - In countries attracting mineral investment
- National mineral policy should go far beyond mining and minerals legislation.



Essential mineral policy elements

- (a) Responsible use of minerals
- (b) Recycling of minerals and mineral based products
- (c) Substitution of minerals with renewable materials
- (d) Long term access to mineral deposits
- (e) Responsible exploitation of mineral deposits
- (f) Development of more efficient and environmentally friendly extraction and processing methods
- (g) Minimization of social and ecological impacts of mineral extraction and
- (h) Long term strategies to compensate future generations for the depletion of non-renewable resources

Responsible use of minerals

- Responsible ?
- Consumption side
- Material and energy efficient, cost effective, waste and emissions

- Instruments
- Denmark, Austria



Recycling of minerals and mineral based products

- Metal recycling
- Construction materials

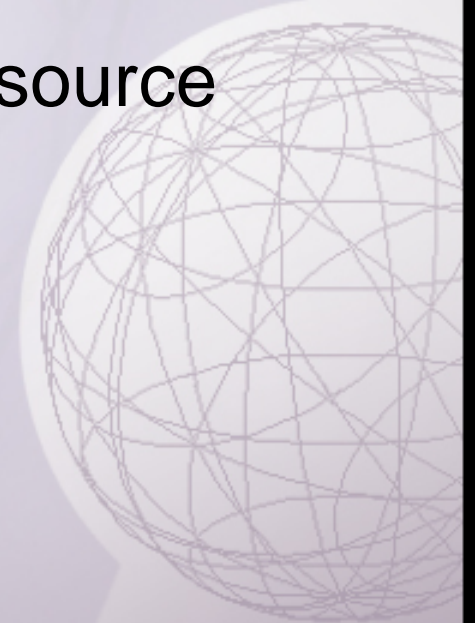
- Linking resource and waste sectors
 - Material flow analysis (MFA)

- Netherlands, UK



Substitution of minerals with (renewable) materials

- Mercury substitution
- Public perception
 - Non renewable versus renewable resource
 - Minerals, mining,...
- Construction



Long term access to mineral deposits

- Change of political climate
 - After bipolar era
 - Sustainability (strong)
- Industry interest
- Land use planning, environmental protection
- Mineral information



Responsible exploitation of mineral deposits

- Reserves and resources
- Technical
- Environmental
- Economic
- Social
- Not only on market conditions



Development of more efficient and environmentally friendly extraction and processing methods

- EMAS
- BAT
- ISO
- Reporting
- Research and Development



Minimization of social and ecological impacts of mineral extraction

- Partnership
 - Industry with NGOs and others
- Material Flow
- Engaging communities
 - Local mineral councils



Long term strategies to compensate future generations

- Capital theory
 - Natural capital transformation
- Clear track
 - Tool development
- After mining area development, growth



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Proposed elements are:

To make the difference!

Conclusions

- Mineral policy reflects goal and objectives of society
- Change of policy emphasis over time
- Proposed policy elements for production and consumption side