The Euromines Guidelines for Sustainable Development

European association for mining industries, metal ores and industrial minerals
Sustainable Development Guidelines

The fundamental principle of sustainable development is to serve the essential needs of mankind at present while at the same time protecting and ensuring the needs of future generations. Economic, environmental and social concerns constitute the three basic pillars of the sustainable development principle.

- The extractive industry contributes to sustainable development by integrating economic growth with environmental protection, social progress and effective governance.

- Euromines' members have set forth and adhere to a series of guidelines for sustainable development in the European mining sector. These guidelines are based on the precept that access to and use of minerals and metals are essential to a sustainable society, to society’s well-being and to economic development.
Minerals and Metals

- Minerals are the basis of many industrial process products, many of which can be reused or recycled after use.

- Access to and use of minerals and metals are essential to a sustainable society, to society’s well-being and to economic development.
The European Mining Industry

- Members of the European mining industry shall conduct their activities according to principles which promote sustainable development.

- The European mining industry shall promote society’s recognition that access to and use of mineral resources is integral to sustainable development for present and future generations.

- Members shall implement risk management strategies based on valid data and sound science.
The economic aspect

- Members shall conduct their activities to ensure their long-term viability.

- Members must remain viable if they are to develop and meet the demands and expectations of modern society for minerals and metals.
The economic aspect -2-

- Members shall conduct their affairs in a properly accountable manner with respect to all financial matters, and the environmental and social aspects of their operations.
The environmental aspect

- Industrial minerals and metal ores can only be extracted from their naturally occurring geological locations.

- Mining activities invariably have some effect on the environment and the minimisation of any such effect shall be integral to the conduct of mining activities.
The environmental aspect -2-

- Members shall seek continual improvement of environmental performance on the basis of sound science and technical and economic feasibility.

- Environmental protection will be considered throughout the life of a mine from exploration to mine closure.

- Environmental protection must be reached by developing, establishing and implementing good environmental practices.
The environmental aspect -3-

- Members shall facilitate and encourage the promotion of safe use, recycling and disposal of products through an understanding of their life cycles.

- Environmental protection promotes the conservation of biodiversity and integrated approaches to land use planning.
The social aspect

- Members shall seek continual improvement of good, safe and positive working conditions taking all protection measures necessary.

- Members shall identify and minimise potential risks associated with mining and shall adopt suitable preventative measures to reduce such risks.

- Members shall respect human rights, cultures, customs and values of people affected by their activities.
The social aspect -2-

- Members shall adhere to ethical business practices in all operations and sound systems of governance.

- Members shall be constructive partners to advance the social, economic and institutional development of the communities in which they operate.

- Members shall implement an effective and transparent dialogue, communication and verified reporting arrangements with their stakeholders.