



The Limassol Declaration

taken by the participants of the international conference

**'Regions in the forefront:
Raw Materials & Tourism 2012'**



October 2012

This declaration constitutes a response from the European extractive industry, governmental institutions, geological surveys and academia across Europe. It emphasizes the responsibility in terms of future needs for a common agenda of comprehensive regional policies that will include simultaneous sustainable development of the extractive sector and tourism.

This declaration is supported by Mr Sofoclis Aletraris, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment of Cyprus and by Mr Neoklis Sylikiotis, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Cyprus.

The conference participants focused their attention on issues, which should be considered in the Member States' mineral strategies, land use policies and regional policies. The participants believe that:

- As well as direct wealth creation from mining and value-adding to mineral products, the minerals sector has a much broader impact on society through employment in services and infrastructure expansion. The use of raw materials underpins the infrastructure development that is crucially important for the growing tourist industry in Europe.

- Tourism and extractive industries should co-exist to foster much-needed regional infrastructure and economic prosperity. If the EU policy makers, Member States Governments and industry can continue to respond to this demand, these sectors will be key drivers of the regional economies in Europe.
- Mine closure provides socio-economic development opportunities. Sustainable mine closure is the bridge to transfer capital from mining to generations to come in the frame of sustainable development.
- Around the world there are many operating and/or rehabilitated mines that are cultural world- heritage sites and tourist attractions.
- If the local communities are involved proactively in the industry's projects, they will be able to contribute to the sustainable development of future generations.
- In active mining regions in Europe, the extractive industry can have a strong impact on the development of the area by providing growth, prosperity and by creating well-appreciated jobs, which lead to increased tax revenues and further diversification of regional economies.
- The extractive industry can play a central role in economic and community development by acting as a catalyst for positive change in areas that may otherwise have little, if any, opportunities for economic and social development.
- The land-use planning is about choices between different options. To avoid conflict and achieve 'win-win' outcomes, transparent and inclusive planning processes are essential. The need to find the optimum balance between the protection of important ecosystems and socio-economic development requires integrated and joint solutions.
- The preparation of cross-sectoral strategic land-use plans is necessary. This approach gives important land uses, such as transport corridors, resource extraction, tourism, agriculture, water-supply, electricity generation etc. an equal "seat at the table", when planning future land use.