



Enterprise Directorate-General

Commission Raw Materials Initiative

OECD-UNEP Conference on Resource Efficiency

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Hans S. Pietersen

Policy Officer

Steel, Non ferrous metals and minerals

Hans-Sierd.Pietersen@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/steel/index_en.htm



Competitiveness Council of May 2007

- *“to develop a coherent political approach with regard to raw materials supplies for industry, including all relevant areas of policy (foreign affairs, trade, environment, research and development and innovation policy) and*
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- *to identify appropriate measures for cost-effective, reliable and environmentally friendly access to and exploitation of natural resources, secondary raw materials and recyclable waste, especially concerning third-country markets”.*



G8 Declaration June 2007

- *“Raw materials are a key factor for sustainable growth in industrialized, emerging and developing countries”*
- *“Free, transparent and open markets are fundamental to global growth, stability and sustainable development”*
- *“Increased transparency in the extractive sector is of crucial importance for achieving accountability, good governance and sustainable economic growth worldwide”*



Commission response

- Commission adopted “Staff working document” in June 2007 on critical factors affecting the extractive industry **in Europe**, showing large dependence on imports from third countries, e.g. some industrial minerals, many (“high tech”) metals, see:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/steel/docs/sec_2007_771_en.pdf
- Press conference Vice-President G. Verheugen, 5 June 2007: announcement of a Commission Raw Materials Initiative.



EU dependency on the import of metal ores (2003)

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|----------------|------|
| Antimony ore | 100% | Rutile | 100% |
| Beryllium ore | 100% | Vanadium ore | 100% |
| Boron | 100% | Phosphate rock | 92% |
| Cobalt | 100% | Nickel | 86% |
| Molybdenum | 100% | Iron ore | 83% |
| Niobium ore | 100% | Bauxite | 80% |
| PGM ores | 100% | Zinc ore | 80% |
| Rare Earth ores | 100% | Tungsten ore | 76% |
| Rhenium ore | 100% | Lead Ore | 76% |
| Tantalum ore | 100% | Copper Ore | 74% |
| Ilmenite | 100% | Chromium ore | 53% |



Key Challenges

Increase the sustainable supply of raw materials from **European sources**



N.B. includes primary and secondary raw materials & recyclable waste

Ensure sustainable and more transparent **supply from third countries**

Encourage capacity building in **developing countries**

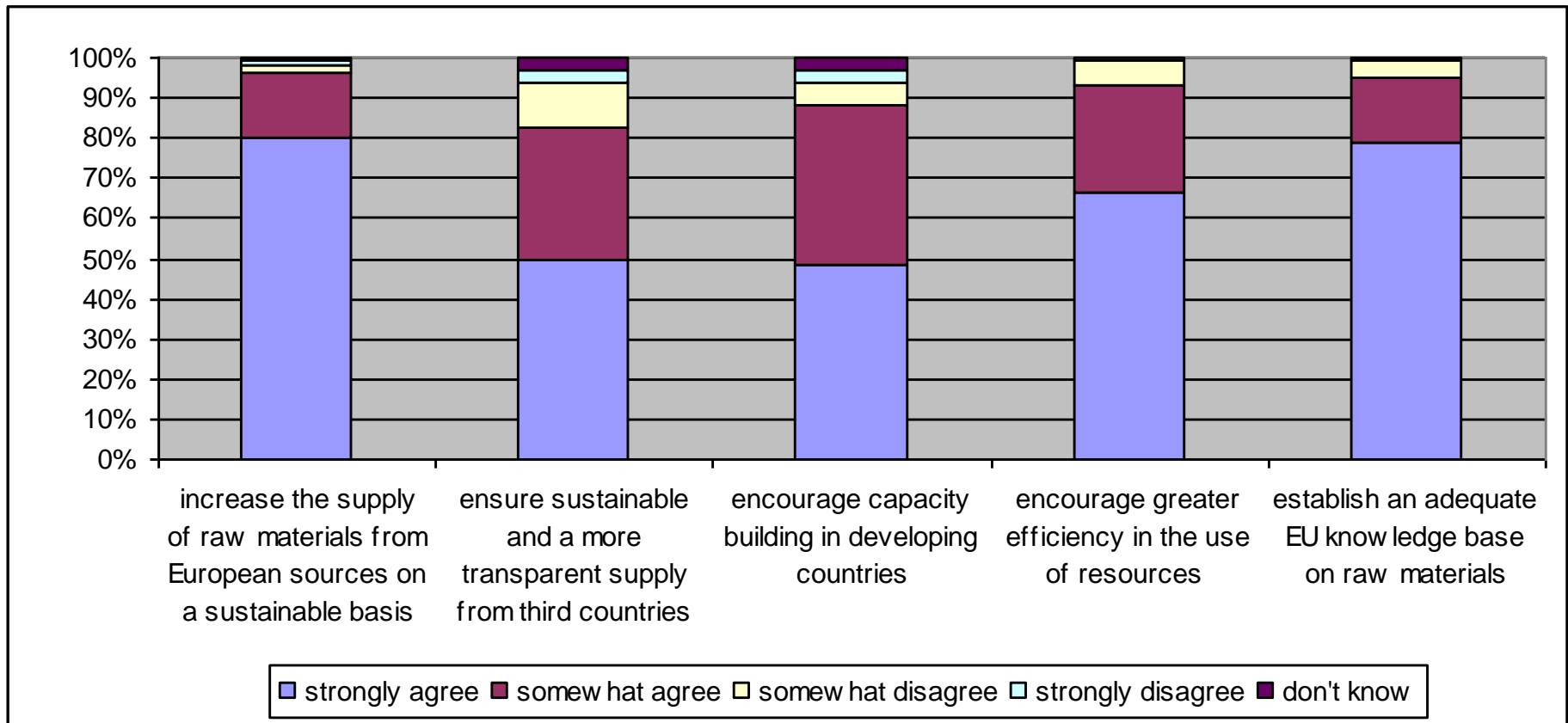
Encourage greater **efficiency in the use of resources**



Establish an adequate EU **Knowledge Base** on raw materials



Results Public Consultation Key Challenges





Next steps?

- Commission interservice group: Enterprise, Trade, Environment, Development, RTD, Employment, Foreign relations (RELEX)
- Continued stakeholder consultation (Raw Materials Supply Group, UNECA, EIB, Worldbank, UNEP/OECD, ...)
- Immediate objective: **political document (Communication)** to be sent to the **Council of Ministers** (and the **European Parliament**)
- Expectations:
 - To raise the **political awareness**: so far this has been very much focused on the energy side with significantly less attention being paid to **non-energy aspects** (which may also prove to be critical)
 - To provide a **coherent** reply (in line with existing EC policies*), as requested by the Council, because the issue is **multi-faceted**
 - To provide possible **recommendations** or **lines of action** rather than new specific regulations

* = e.g. Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Communication on the Competitiveness of the Metals Industries, Communication on the Sustainable Production and Consumption and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan (in prep)