

Workshop on Mining and Green growth in the EECCA region

19 April 2019, Paris, France

Cocktail Reception on 18 April 2019

The Secretariat will organise a cocktail reception in the evening before (on 18 April at 17:30 at the Room George Marshall in Chateau la Muette on the OECD premises).

All the participants are cordially invited.

Please contact Mr. Guy Halpern, Green Growth and Global Relations division, Environment Directorate at guy.halpern@oecd.org for any further information

Workshop on Mining and Green growth in the EECCA region

**Meeting venue: Room CC18, the Conference Centre, OECD Headquarters
(2, rue André-Pascal, Paris, France)**

Moderator: Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, Environment Directorate, OECD

This workshop aims to facilitate experience sharing between OECD and EECCA countries with significant mining jurisdictions around the question of environmental performance. The overarching theme is how policies can support the mining sector in improving its environmental performance, while being able to supply the metals needed for the green economy. Although each session will have kick-off interveners, all participants are encouraged to actively participate as equals to make the most of the day, and support lively and insightful discussions.

Friday 19 April 2019

09:15-09:50

1. Welcome, introductions, and adoption of the Agenda

Opening remarks from the moderator, introduction of workshop participants and the adoption of the agenda

- Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate

Kick-off intervention based on the OECD background paper “Mining, the environment, and green growth in the EECCA region” to set the scene for the day’s discussions

- Mr. Guy Halpern, Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate

09:50-11:00

2. Country experiences from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA)

Representatives of governments from the EECCA region will discuss the mining sector in their respective countries, the current state of environmental impact, and what they see as the greatest challenges going forward.

Kick-off interventions:

- Dr. Irina Ghaplanyan, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Nature Protection, Republic of Armenia
- Mr. Kakha Kuchava, Member of the Georgian Parliament and Chairman of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee, Georgia
- Mr. Sabit Nurlybay, Vice Minister of Energy, Republic of Kazakhstan
- Mr. Victor Gălușcă, Head of Protection Soil and Subsoil Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Development and Environment, Republic of Moldova

- Ms. Olga Polunina, Legal Approximation Expert, Reform Support Team, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ukraine

Questions for discussion:

- What are the specific challenges faced by countries in the EECCA region around the mining sector, green growth, and environmental protection?
- What are the priorities for the respective countries with regard to environmental performance and the mining sector?
- Does the legacy of Soviet-era mining practices continue to impact the mining sector today?

11:00-11:20

Coffee Break

11:20-12:30

3. **What are the major challenges and opportunities in transitioning to a more sustainable mining paradigm?**

The mining sector has characteristics including non-renewability, remote locations, energy intensive production, long project lifecycles, and high transportation costs that complicate the transition to a greener environmental paradigm. This session will discuss key challenges in the transition and where policy intervention can be most effective.

Kick-off interventions:

- Mr. Jonas Liimatta, Head of the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment of the Oulu Region in northern Finland
- Mr. Andres Sanabria, Policy Analyst, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

Questions for discussion:

- What are the key challenges facing the mining industry in improving its environmental performance?
- How are mining dependent regions approaching these challenges?
- Where are the most effective areas for government support and intervention?

12:30-14:00

Lunch Break

14:00-15:30

4. **Policies to support innovation and new technology deployment in the mining sector**

Technological innovation is changing the mining sector and opening opportunities for improved environmental performance and productivity. These technology areas include automation, remote sensing, electrification and renewable energy. However, adoption of these technologies is uneven across the countries from the EECCA region. This session will discuss how policies and regulatory practices can support the uptake of new technology in the mining sector.

Kick-off interventions:

- Mr. Ilari Havukainen, Coordinator, REMIX Project (Smart and Green Mining Regions of EU)
- Mr. Arman Kashkinbekov, Deputy Chairman of the Board, International Centre for Green Technologies and Investment Projects (Kazakhstan)
- Ms. Marit Hjort, Policy Analyst, Environment Health and Safety Division, Environment Directorate, OECD

Questions for discussion:

- What are the barriers to mining companies developing or adopting new technologies to improve environmental performance?
 - What policies and tools can governments deploy to support innovation at either the industry or firm level and overcome barriers to technology deployment?
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15:30-16:00

Coffee Break

16:00-17:00

5. Tailings management, orphaned mine sites, and future proofing

Mining operations are most closely regulated during their operational phase. After mine closure, close monitoring of mine sites and associated tailings tends to decline. Compounding that issue are orphaned mine sites, where no commercial entity is responsible for their maintenance. At the same time, mine waste has the potential to be reprocessed economically, resulting in benefits to the environment, local community, and investors.

Kick-off intervention:

- Ms. Claudia Kamke, Environmental Affairs Officer, Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Questions for discussion:

- What policy tools can governments use to ensure the integrity of tailing sites and avoid disasters beyond the active life of the mine?
 - How can regulation encourage the reprocessing of closed mining sites in ways that is both economically and environmentally productive?
 - How can mining jurisdictions with significant numbers of environmentally damaging orphaned mine sites approach their rehabilitation?
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17:00-17:30

6. Conclusion of the workshop

The moderator will sum up the outcomes of the day's discussions, and participants will discuss research needs and next potential steps for collaboration.

END OF THE WORKSHOP
