Water Issues from a European Perspective

Actions towards 'good status'

SveMin’s Environment Conference
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Outline

≡ Introduction to Euromines
≡ Actions across Europe towards 'good status' water bodies
≡ Implications for Sweden
Who is Euromines?

European Association of Mining Industries

Euromines – who we are

• Recognized representative of the European mining industry;

• Service provider to its members with regard to EU policy;

• Network for cooperation and for the exchange of information throughout the sector within Europe;

• Link to contacts with the mining community throughout the world.
Euromines Representativeness

European Association of Mining Industries, Metal Ores & Industrial Minerals

Euromines Environmental Priorities (2015)

- EU Circular Economy Package
  - EU Product Environmental Footprint Pilot Project

- EU Best Available Techniques for Mine Waste Management

- Fitness Check of Natura 2000 Directives

- The Cross Sector Biodiversity Initiative (www.csbi.org.uk)

- United Nations Minamata Treaty on Mercury
Our Key Messages

RESOURCES
- We strongly believe that Europe has viable mineral resources

DEMAND
- The demand for raw materials is continuously increasing

STANDARDS
- Maintain an enabling environment which provides highest standards, excellency and leadership of the European extractive industry

Actions towards 'good status'

European Association of Mining Industries
COM(2015) 120 final
Actions towards 'good status'

- Half of EU surface waters are not in good ecological status
  - Changes to hydromorphology are among the main factors

- Member States have planned their measures without considering the current status of water bodies

- Member States' have not used all EU funding possibilities
  - E.g., EU Rural Development Fund, EU Cohesion Fund, LIFE, Horizon2020

- Recommendations encourage Green Growth through agriculture, aquaculture, energy production, transport development & tourism

But what about mining?

- Four Member States reported quarry de-watering as a significant pressure on both surface and ground water bodies

- Two Finnish groundwater bodies are at risk due to abstraction for peat mining

- Swedish mining qualitatively connected with the sources of oil products in surface water
Swedish progress fairly typical of EU Member States

- **Hydromorphological pressures** dominate in the North (e.g., hydropower)
  - designation of heavily modified water bodies (HMWB) is ongoing
  - building fish passes where roads or railroads pass over rivers
  - Restoration of rivers affected by timber rafting

- The most widespread problem is **mercury** in surface waters

- National focus on **phosphorus** pollution & site remediation
  - more than 6000 sites addressed (some passively)

- Mostly administrative measures to establish better baseline
  - Monitoring not yet fully in place

- Administration seen by European Commission as complicated

Judgement C-461/13

- Basically, there is deterioration of a surface water body as soon as the status of at least one of the quality elements is lowered

- In such cases, Member States must refuse authorisation or apply an Article 4§7 exemption

- **EU Guidance exists:**
  - Nº 4 –Designation of HMWBs
  - Nº 13 - Classification of Status & Potential
  - Nº 20 – Article 4§7 Exemptions
Thank you for your kind attention

In case of any questions please contact:

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