



# 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.



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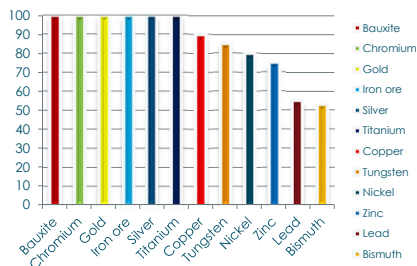
[www.euromines.org](http://www.euromines.org)



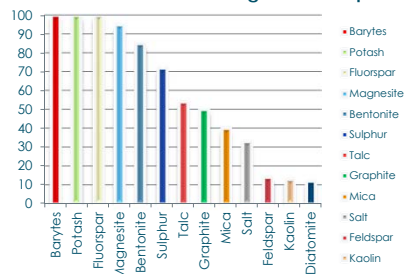
## Euromines Representativeness



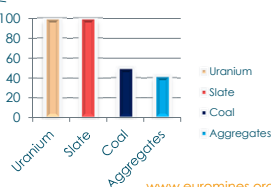
in Metals Mining in % of EU production



in Industrial Minerals Mining in % of EU production



in other Minerals Mining in % of EU production



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## 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](http://www.csbi.org.uk))
- ≡ United Nations Minamata Treaty on **Mercury**

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## 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*



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## Actions towards 'good status'



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## 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 **phosphorous** 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

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## 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:
  - = N° 4 –Designation of HMWBs
  - = N° 13 - Classification of Status & Potential
  - = N° 20 – Article 4§7 Exemptions



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Thank you for your kind attention

In case of any questions please contact:  
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