



**Speech of
Efthimios O. Vidalis
Chairman of
Greek Mining Enterprises Association**

**3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on
Sustainable Development Indicators in
the Minerals Industry
17-20 June 2007, Milos island - Greece**



The Mining Industry in today's world

These are...

- ▶ exciting
- ▶ challenging
- ▶ critical

...times for the Mining sector

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The Mining Industry in today's world

Must demonstrate that it is:

- ▶ Important
- ▶ Responsible
- ▶ Safe

Committed to Sustainable Development



Minerals are an integral part of everyday life

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A CAR contains up to 100-150 kg of minerals and more than a ton of metals



50% of PAINT is made of minerals



GLASS contains up to 100% minerals

A family HOUSE contains up to 400 tonnes of minerals and depending on design many tonnes of metals



CERAMICS contain up to 100% minerals



Minerals are an integral part of everyday life

- ▶ **70% of European manufacturing industry depends on extracted substances**
- ▶ **Sustainable growth of Europe will heavily depend on locally extracted substances**
- ▶ **Environmental challenges should not be exported**

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The Mining Industry is bound to SD

- ▶ By its very nature is closely interlinked with managing perpetuity
- ▶ Extractive activity close to the reserves is interlinked with the sustainable development of local communities
- ▶ Europe leads in land reclamation practices which are mostly state of the art
- ▶ H&S records continuously improve

“Social license” to operate is a necessity



What the Mining Industry needs

- ▶ **Timely and efficient access to reserves**
- ▶ **Better regulation**
- ▶ **More self-regulation**
- ▶ **Balanced approach towards development and environment**
- ▶ **Enhanced social acceptability**



The role of industry associations

- ▶ Obtain commitments from member companies
- ▶ Coordinate and monitor industry efforts
- ▶ Develop common standards of measurement and reporting
- ▶ Promote good practices
- ▶ Promote dialogue with all stakeholders



The case of GMEA

It represents an important sector of Greece...

- Based on Greece's rich mineral wealth
- Exports oriented and extrovert
- Important contributor to regional development

...facing many challenges...

- Increasing international competition
- Complicated & bureaucratic legal framework
- Emotional social sensitivity



The case of GMEA

...committed to

- Promoting constructive and responsible dialogue with regulators and community
- Enhancing public awareness about the importance of the sector
- Adopting and effectively implementing its own Code of Sustainable Development Principles



GMEA's Code of Sustainable Development Principles (1)

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- ▶ Includes 10 principles
- ▶ In line with similar industry codes
- ▶ Has been collectively developed
- ▶ Was approved by the BoD of member companies
- ▶ Is accompanied with measures for monitoring its applications



GMEA's Code of Sustainable Development Principles (2)

Member companies have also committed to:

- ▶ Provide annually necessary data for a set of SD indicators collectively developed and agreed upon
- ▶ Report at least one good practice per company in GMEA's annual report
- ▶ Regularly report safety performance on the basis of agreed common standards of measurement

The first reporting examples are included in this year's GMEA annual report



Σύνδεσμος Μεταλλευτικών Επιχειρήσεων
Greek Mining Enterprises Association

Σας ευχαριστώ
Thank you

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