

REMIX
(December 11th 2018, Fundão)

15:05-17:00 (with Coffee served during the session)

Peer review workshop

Round 1: What is/are the question(s)/behind the questions posed by the region?

Round 2: Policy suggestions for how this new question could be addressed

Round 3: Lessons to take home for each region/country at each table

17:00-18:00

Synthesis presentation from groups and discussions

Workshop de revisão por pares

Grupo 1: Qual é / são a questão (s) / por trás das questões colocadas pela região?

Grupo 2: Sugestões de política para como essa nova questão poderia ser abordada

Grupo 3: Lições para levar para casa para cada região / país em cada mesa

REFLECTION ON THE MINING SECTOR AND SUGGESTIONS ON SECTORAL POLICIES

Introduction

Except for very particular issues that a region may have, mostly for reasons of geology, the questions that can be put at the level of the mining sector are the same as in all regions of the country. So the reflection I put forward was thought at national level, but it is applicable at the regional level.

As is known, the level of development of mining activity in recent decades, have periods of "high or low" exploration or exploitation activity, resulting from requests of the consumer market or of the international demand for metallic raw materials. Normally in the EU to meet that demand, the production companies are still operating outside of any regional, national or community sector strategy, and sometimes they do it in a partial conflict with some legal constraints, given the lack of quality and rigidity of the instruments of land use planning or because of the excessive bureaucratic requirements of environmental legislation supported by the transposition of EU directives.

It is within this framework that the regulatory authorities should plan and consolidate a consistent technical and scientific activity with national or community predefined goals, and should be based on the identification, knowledge, protection and

management of resources identified, bearing in mind the three pillars of sustainability, in an industrial, regional and national perspective. A strategy for sensitizing local public opinion to the different phases of mining projects should be also studied and assessed for their effectiveness in practical terms.

Now I will take a summary approach to the Subsector of Metallic Minerals

This is a sector of high added value resources that had a large increase since 2004 and that, despite the financial crisis of 2008, has remained very dynamic around the world, by virtue of the development of many countries, particularly China and India. The price of metallic raw materials is directly dependent on a global scale financial market which is reflected also in the value of the companies engaged in the exploration and exploitation of these resources.

There are two types of companies engaged in the exploration of metallic ores, the junior companies that are financed mainly on the stock exchange, and mining production companies, which have the exploration as a complementary of the productive activity, in order to extend the lifetime of the mine in which they operate.

Mining companies with mines in operation have multivalent technical teams who respond to most of their needs and already

have the practice of collaboration with research entities who develop projects of its interest.

The junior companies are usually more focused on geology and have reduced technical staff, and hire outside experts whenever they need to develop work that is not their basic working day-to-day.

Moreover almost all companies have targeted their exploration areas where there is already significant geological information, making no effort to invest in areas where this information is lacking or very limited.

Based on this business reality, **the role of the EU and National authorities**, passes through the development of three activities that are complementary: (Knowledge, Services, and Public)

The Knowledge:

- Deepening the knowledge of areas with little information;
- Revaluation of areas already studied in the light of the identification of new features so far ignored;
- Development of new techniques for exploration and exploitation;
- Research in the area of recovery of minerals;
- Further studies in the abandoned mining sites and their heaps;

The Services:

- Develop expertise and response to requests from companies in technical fields, like mining-geological mapping, petrologic and mineralogical analysis, chemical analysis, technological tests, geophysical methods, recovery of ores, etc.

The Public:

Implement a strategy for sensitizing local public opinion to the different phases of mining projects, in order to highlight all the positive aspects that the mining sector can bring to the local persons and region, and report on the solutions adopted to minimize the negative aspects;

To conclude, should be borne in mind that the effort to develop to meet the needs of economic activity, should also be framed in a broader strategy for the entire industry which among other measures may pass through policies like:

- Financing deeper knowledge of the mineral potential of the territories.
- Establishment of a national database aggregating all the information that exists, with free access to all stakeholders.
- Creation of EU funding programs for the development of specialized actions and activities.

- Establishment of a specialized Exchange for European mining projects.
- Provide specialized information to public opinion.

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