

GREENPEG Round Table Salamanca, 22.9.2022

Speakers, Guests, Topics, Questions, Polls/Discussion



Speakers

- Prof. Jan Bongaerts, Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg - Moderator
- Vicente Gutiérrez Peinador, Presidente de CONFEDEM (Confederación Nacional de Empresarios de la Minería y de la Metalurgia) <http://confedem.com/>
- Francisco Bellón, Presidente Ejecutivo de Berkeley <https://www.berkeleyenergia.com/>
- Beltran Ceballos, representante de SEOBirdlife, Sociedad Española de Ornitología, <https://seo.org/>
- Roberto Garcia Fernandez, Jefe Servicio de Minas, Junta de Castilla y León
- Manuel Vazquez Mora, Consejero Técnico de la Secretaria Genral de Industria y Minas, Junta de Andalucía

Guests

- Enrique Martínez, Director de Geología de Berkeley, <https://www.berkeleyenergia.com/>
- Agne Ahlenius (Director General y Consejero Delegado de SALORO) y Tomas Vecillas, (Director Facultativo de la Mina de Barruecopardo). <https://www.saloro.com/en/home/>
- Agustina Fernández, Prof. Depósitos Minerales, Departamento de Geología (Universidad de Salamanca)
- Ramon Cabrera

NYC:

- Decano de la Facultad de Ciencias (Universidad de Salamanca)
- Representante de la Sociedad Geológica de España
- Representante de ALIENTE, Alianza Energía y Territorio, <https://aliente.org/>
- Representante de la Sociedad Española de Mineralogía
- David Valls (Extremadura New Energies)

Topic 1: The GREEN DEAL and EU raw materials sourcing

A rapid energy and mobility transformation is regarded as key to successfully fight climate change. This requires a substantial increase in raw materials supply. With the GREEN DEAL the European Commission (EC) has published the most powerful agenda in this regard world-wide. This policy paper is based in the strategic role of raw materials, acknowledges the relevance of considering both, the protection of habitats as well as the dependencies in the security of raw materials supply and determines that it is essential to increase domestic production.

To implement the GREEN DEAL agenda the EC considers a tremendous increase of domestic mining. Not only in order to reduce supply risks but also to give best practice of a sustainable raw material sourcing, understanding the challenges that the expansion of mining activities within Europe will lead to social acceptance issues among the affected communities.

Topic 2: The price we are willing to pay

Raw materials sourcing is not only a matter of enabling new technologies for production and storage of renewable energy, it is also a matter to raise the living standard of the majority of people living on our planet. Even securing the basic needs will require a huge amount of raw materials. For many people basic needs are more important to improve their personal life conditions than climate change.

Topic 3: Do we have a common European interest?

The latest developments in Europe and the world with regard to war and peace, the importance of European politics and the meeting of social challenges show that we should actually strive for unity in the EU27 and in Europe. The reality is different. Likewise, quite a few societies are moving towards disintegration into many political movements and individual viewpoints.

Topic 4: NIMBY (Not In My BackYard), BANANA (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone)

Topic 5: Nuclear power as an option to reduce CO2 emissions

The goal of being climate neutral in the EU27 by 2050 seems more than questionable in the light of the current energy crisis. Nuclear power is considered a short-term energy source to drastically reduce CO2 emissions. Europe has its own uranium deposits and could exploit them. In Finland and the Czech Republic, for example, uranium is mined; in Spain there is a mining development for this.

Topic 6 Public benefit before self-interest

More and more large scale projects (mining, wind parks, solar parks, factories in the pharmaceutical and chemical industry) are not only criticized by those affected. In large parts of society, industry enjoys a rather bad reputation. Europe is suffering from deindustrialization. Unlike building sites, resource deposits are tied to specific locations.

Topic 7: Beneficiaries

Topic 8: Societal welfare and prosperity

Topic 9: Responsibility for nature and biodiversity

Industrial projects in the mining and renewable energy sectors may pose threats to nature and specifically to endangered or endemic species. Wind parks are found to kill birds and insects, mine waters becoming acidic damage aqueous biota and large-scale photovoltaic plants solar may cause birds to become dislocated or even burnt. Birds, bats and insects mistakenly take such plants for water bodies and, hence, some insects start laying eggs on them. Except for some of these issues, such as wind parks and birds, little attention is paid to these effects. Researchers, have also found out, however, that offshore wind parks function as sheltered spaces which are preferred by many marine species. In summary, it seems that our knowledge about these issues is still fragmentary.

Open discussion