

PRESS RELEASE

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European kaolin and plastic clays producers join forces

The European producers of kaolin and of plastic clays have decided to join forces to achieve a better representation of their interests in Brussels. On 1 January 2004, their respective associations – the European Kaolin Association (EKA) and the European Association of fine ceramics and refractory clays producers (Euro ARGILLA) members of IMA-Europe, the European Industrial Minerals Association – have merged into the European Kaolin and Plastic Clays Association, **KPC-Europe**.

The members of KPC-Europe are the German Bundesverband Keramische Rohstoffe e.V. (BKR), the French Syndicat national des producteurs de matières premières pour la céramique et la verrerie (SNPMPCV), AKW, Imerys, Caolines de Vimianzo, Denain-Anzin Minéraux, Gebrüder Dornier, Goonvean, Société Kaolinière Armoricaine, WBB Minerals, Lasselsberger, Sedleky Kaolin, Adelino Duarte da Mota, Euroarce, WBB España and Argillis.

Ron Shuttleworth, KPC-Europe's President and former managing director of WBB Minerals, says "it made sense to fully merge both associations because the issues and opportunities they face are very similar. At the beginning of 2003, we already successfully merged their technical committees, which face a growing workload due to the increase in European legislation. The merge will not only allow for more efficiency but also ensure a better representation at EU level."

Olivier Vandermarcq, KPC-Europe's Vice-President and Strategy and Development manager at IMERYS, says "the joining-up of all members in a single association will give it great new impetus and I look forward to playing an active part in its future achievements."

Christophe Sykes, KPC-Europe's Secretary General and Scientific Officer at IMA-Europe, is confident that the merger will reinforce the representation of the kaolin and plastic clays producers at European level and that the Association will rapidly attract new members.

KPC-Europe's main fields of activity

The Association is very active in the fields health, safety and the environment as well as in product legislation. As regards the environmental field, KPC-Europe contributes to the drafting of the Reference Document on Best Available Techniques (BAT) for the management of tailings and waste-rock in mining activities. It is also involved and contribute to the parliamentary debate on the Commission's proposals for a Directive on the management of waste from the extractive industries and on the protection of groundwater. Furthermore, KPC-Europe launched an initiative to harmonise safety data sheets so that customers have access to consistent and comparable health and safety information, regardless of the supplier. With regard to product legislation, the Association organised the registration of kaolin in view of renewing its authorisation for use as additive in animal nutrition.

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