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Press Release

IMA-Europe adopts a Sustainable Development Charter

The European Industrial Minerals Association (IMA-Europe) has recently issued a Charter which sets out the sector's commitment to sustainable development in eight guiding principles. The Charter was launched at IMA-Europe's 10th Anniversary Conference (European Parliament, Brussels, 13 May 2004).

The industrial minerals industry, which produces essential materials for society, readily acknowledges its role in the achievement of sustainable development. To take their sector forward in a sustainable way, the members of IMA-Europe have agreed to work actively towards continuous improvement in economic, environmental and social performance.

One of the commitments set out in the Charter is to the yearly reporting of sustainable development indicators (SDI). The SDIs have been developed under the auspices of the DG Enterprise's Raw Material Supply Group (composed of Member State representatives, European Commission officials, industry and NGOs) following the Commission's Communication on promoting sustainable development in the European non-energy extractive industry¹.

"The industrial minerals producers took an active part in the first voluntary reporting exercise for the year 2001²" says Claude Stenneler, the recently elected President of IMA-Europe. *"We hope that the second data collection for 2002 and 2003 currently underway will provide an even more comprehensive overview of our industry"*.

The 8 principles:

1. Integrating sustainable development considerations within member companies' decision-making processes.
2. Implementing ethical business practices and sound systems of governance.
3. Facilitating and encouraging responsible product and process design, use, re-use, recycling and disposal of their products.
4. Supporting the development and implementation of sound, scientifically based approaches to land use planning and conservation of biodiversity.
5. Seeking continual improvement in health and safety and environmental performance.
6. Providing regular monitoring reports that verify progress on environmental, social, health and safety objectives including the sustainable development indicators contained in the European Commission's voluntary scheme for the extractive industry.
7. Working with stakeholders including customers, suppliers, contractors, unions, NGOs and governments, towards achieving a balance of interests.
8. Contributing to the social, economic and institutional development of the communities in which member companies operate.

¹ COM(2000)265

² <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/steel/non-energy-extractive-industry/final-report-wg-sdi.pdf>



A word about IMA-Europe

The Industrial Minerals Association (IMA–Europe) was founded in December 1993 to represent the industrial minerals industry in Europe and to defend its interests. IMA-Europe is an umbrella organisation, bringing together European associations representing specific industrial minerals, such as calcium carbonate (GCC, PCC & dolomite), bentonite, borates, diatomite, kaolin and plastic clays, feldspar, silica and talc. These are represented by their respective associations: CCA-Europe, EUBA, EBA, IDPA, KPC-Europe, EUROFEL, EUROSIL and EUROTALC. IMA-Europe’s current membership stands at more than 180 member companies and national federations.

IMA-Europe's Mission

- ◆ To promote the interests of the EU industrial minerals industry on all non-commercial issues.
- ◆ To provide its members with a single voice and competent assistance to address the complex legislative framework.
- ◆ To help the industrial minerals industry to speak with one voice on sound scientifically and technically based dossiers.
- ◆ To manage horizontal issues, i.e. sectoral issues of common concern to several member associations. These are related to the sustainable development of our industry, including health and safety, environmental protection, as well as communication, image improvement and the large flow of end-use product legislation (e.g. food and feed additives, food contact, cosmetics, etc.).

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