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Press Release

Eurometaux and Euroalliances welcome the European Parliament's ITRE Committee Vote on "An Effective Raw Materials Strategy for Europe"

The European Non-Ferrous Metals industry welcomes the vote of the EP ITRE Committee on the amendments to the report tabled by MEP R. Bütikofer on the February 2011 Communication, and supports the call for swift and concrete implementation of the objectives and actions identified. In the meantime, the authorities of some European major ports are contemplating a relaxation of controls, while the reduction of illegal shipments is a cornerstone of the move towards a circular and resource-efficient society.

Eurometaux and Euroalliances strongly support the EP ITRE Committee's call for a short-term - but also long-term - understanding of the raw materials flows, uses, potential shortages, and criticality. The definition of a roadmap on raw materials should contribute to the adoption and implementation of suitable measures whereby to address the challenges identified.

Eurometaux and Euroalliances believe that both access to primary and secondary raw materials from EU sources and on international markets are important and complementary and that resource efficiency and recycling, notably through innovation, deserve increased attention. The ITRE Report rightly supports measures on these different aspects, including increased support for innovation, support for trained personnel, and for free and fair market access. The setting-up of a European Innovation Partnership on raw materials would be instrumental in addressing a number of issues.

Eurometaux and Euroalliances also welcome the ITRE Committee's strong support for boosting recycling by means of various measures, including innovation (European Innovation Partnership), combating illegal waste shipments, an international certification scheme for recycling facilities, a gradual landfill ban for household waste, and urban mining projects.

Eurometaux and Euroalliances strongly believe that securing EU leadership in technologies and maintaining its industrial competitiveness will require swift implementation of the objectives and actions identified, and that all stakeholders concerned should be further associated with the work on sustainable access to raw materials and in the design and implementation of the European Innovation Partnership on raw materials.

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