



## *Press Release*

30 June 2004

### **IMA-Europe's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference: a successful milestone**

On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2004, IMA-Europe, the Industrial Minerals Association–Europe, held its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference at the European Parliament (Brussels) under the patronage of Mrs Marjo Matikainen-Kallström, Member of the European Parliament (MEP).

The conference, entitled “Industrial Minerals: Growing with Europe”, marked a milestone in IMA’s successful history. On this occasion, Mr André Talmon, IMA-Europe’s President, introduced IMA’s new Sustainable Development Charter. He also acknowledged the industrial minerals sector’s commitment to the collection of sustainable development indicators (SDI) for the extractive industry and the first SDI report<sup>1</sup> for 2001 was given to the participants.

In her introductory speech on IMA-Europe’s 10 years of success, Dr Michelle Wyart-Remy, IMA Secretary General, pointed out that “the success of an industry federation such as IMA-Europe depends on its ability to adapt to change. However, it has become increasingly difficult to face the exponential growth in new legislative proposals and provide adequate and timely technical inputs.”

The morning session was dedicated to the sector’s economic role. Key note speaker Patrick Hennessy, Director at the European Commission’s Enterprise Directorate General, clearly stated that the non-energy extractive industry’s competitiveness is taken into account in the EC’s industrial policy. More so, DG Enterprise is working towards identifying policies and actions that could enhance the competitiveness of our sector. The contribution of industrial minerals to the EU economy was well illustrated by Mike O’Driscoll, Chief Editor of the Industrial Minerals Magazine. The audience also greatly appreciated the case study developed by Mr Salmona, Executive Vice-President of Imerys Specialty Minerals. This leading company has been quite successful in resisting many economic downturns while remaining both profitable and innovative.

The afternoon session reviewed recent legislative developments, i.e. the Commission Proposal for a Mining Waste Directive, the New Chemicals Policy (REACH) and Social Dialogue. These topics were addressed respectively by Mr Timo Mäkelä, Director at DG Environment, Dr Elly Plooi van Gorsel, MEP and Rapporteur for REACH on the Industry Committee, Mr J-P. Klapuch, Deputy Secretary General of EMCEF (European Federation of Workers from the Mining, Chemicals and Energy Sector) and Mr J. Morin, Head of Unit of DG Employment & Social Affairs.

The Conference ended with a most pleasant gala dinner held at the Château de Ruisbroek, welcoming as its guest speaker Mr Karel van Miert, former EC Commissioner for Competition Policy. Mr Van Miert gave a lively speech on his vision of the recent EU enlargement process.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a report from the Raw Materials Supply Group (RMSG), a stakeholder group, chaired by Directorate-General for Enterprise, European Commission (EC).

## **IMA Annual General Assembly meeting of 14 May & Change of Presidency**

IMA's Annual General Assembly meeting took place in Brussels on 14 May 2004. The outgoing President, Mr André Talmon, reported that the past year had been characterised by an extraordinary increase of IMA's activities, due to the vast number of new legislative initiatives in the field of sustainable development. Several other new concepts had also been integrated in IMA's work programme, such as the European sectorial social dialogue, the working practices of the European Parliament, notification procedures, etc. The Awareness campaign on industrial minerals had been taken one step further with the development of an interactive CD ROM.

Then, Mr Talmon officially passed on the Presidency to Mr Claude Stenneler, Vice-President Strategy & Development of Luzenac Group, who was unanimously elected by the General Assembly as the new President of IMA-Europe. Mr Stenneler thanked the outgoing President for his dedication over the past two years and pointed out that under Mr Talmon's Presidency, IMA had moved to a new political dimension. Initially, Mr Stenneler will focus on the reorganisation of the IMA Committees to cope effectively with the growing workload. He would also pursue Mr Talmon's initiative to involve the CEOs through the Industrial Minerals Chief Executives Council (IMCEC).

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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 & plastic clays, feldspar, silica and talc. These are respectively represented by their associations, being CCA-Europe, EUBA, EBA, IDPA, KPC-Europe, EUROFEL, EUROSIL and EUROTALC. Through these associations, 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. sectorial 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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