



**Brussels** - From 6-8 May 2013, the European Mineral Day 2013 Partners organised a much appreciated and well-visited exhibition in the European Parliament with the aim of enhancing the understanding on mineral raw materials. This exhibition, hosted by Prof. Vladko PANAYOTOV MEP with the support of MEPs Rübzig, Leinen, Szymanski and Helmer, illustrated how mineral raw materials contribute to innovation and resource efficiency through the whole value chain; from extraction, processing and transformation, to usage and recycling.

On Tuesday, 7 May (18h30-20h00), the Exhibition was officially inaugurated by the European Commission followed by a Cocktail Reception.

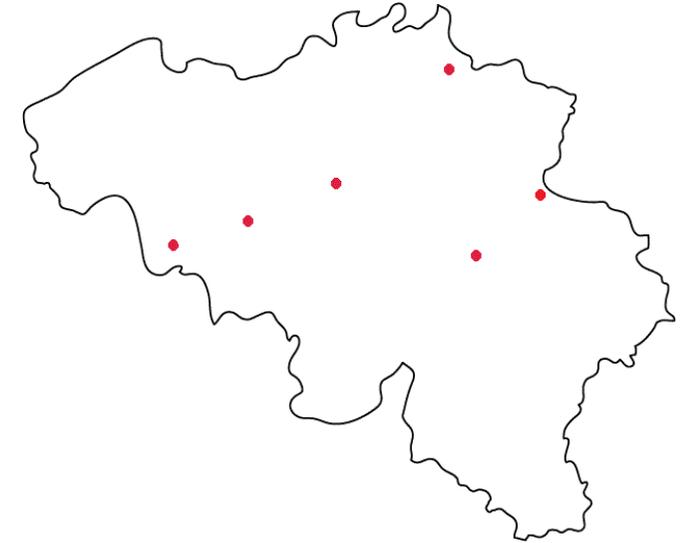
On Monday, 13 May, MEP Paul RÜBIG hosted a high level dinner in the European Parliament on the European Minerals Day 2013. The event received the support of the European Commission and evolved around the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials (EIP RM). The event was attended by MEPs Leinen, Prof Panayotov, Prodi and Kelly. These events announced the European Minerals Day open door events of 24-26 May.

**Dessel** - On 6 May, Sibelco organised for its Dessel staff a guided walk on integrating "Biodiversity" in the Sibelco Benelux Dessel area. Sibelco Benelux is working strongly on this item and the entrance of the Dessel plant has been fully planted in a "biodivers" way.

**Deux-Acres & Gaurain-Ramecroix** - Holcim welcomed children from local schools to visit its quarries "Carrière de l'Ermitage" and "Carrière du Milieu".

**Lixhe** - A major project - widening of the canal wall along the plant has been initiated to present Imerys Minéraux Belgique and more specifically the Lixhe site to communities. Many stakeholders were engaged and collaborated together to complete this project (the Walloon region, the town of Visé, AMEX, SOFICO, etc.). One or more representatives of each party in the community have been invited. The site presented itself to those people mostly never visiting there. The day started at 10am with the reception of participants, and followed by a presentation of Imerys group. A corporate presentation film was also spread. Then Lixhe site was presented, including raw materials, finished products but also the final applications. A guided site visit was conducted, followed with a lunch. For the participants, it was a very good initiative that allowed them to know Imerys Lixhe and have a better view of the challenge of the new dock boat project and financing. The site has welcomed 9 persons on the first day and will keep the door open to interested parties periodically.

**Moha** - On 22 May p.m., Carmeuse welcomed 22 participants of the European Natural Park days to a guided visit of the rehabilitated Valleche site. The aim was to show the biodiversity of the rehabilitated lime stone quarry. The participants were delighted to discover how quarries can be a source for a rich biodiversity.



The European Minerals Day 2013 welcomed more than 30.000 visitors to more than 170 events at 113 sites in 24 countries.

Total visitors: 770  
Open door days: 3  
School projects: 2

Themes: biodiversity, resource efficiency, innovation, minerals' applications

Partners: European Commission, Members of European Parliament, IMA-Europe, CEMBUREAU, EUSalt, Eurometaux, Euromines, ETP SMR (European Technology Platform for Sustainable Mineral Resources), EuroGeoSurveys, IndustriAll, Walloon Region, town of Visé, European National Park Days.

Number of articles:  
Web publications:  
Image library: <http://www.ima-europe.eu/library/media/gallery/european-minerals-day-exhibition>  
EMD Facebook page

The European Minerals Day was initiated in 2007. This pan-European awareness raising and educational event takes place every two years. It aims to increase public understanding of the importance of minerals in daily life and promote biodiversity conservation and enhancement. Mineral raw materials producers show how the sector contributes to a sustainable European economy by illustrating their role in resource efficiency, innovation and regional development.

Companies invite the local communities to take part in open days and school projects - while their European trade associations ensure the coordination, support and visibility at European level.

Lead: IMA-Europe  
Partners: CEMBUREAU, EUSalt, Eurometaux, Euromines, ETP SMR, EuroGeoSurveys  
With the support of the European Commission, IndustriAll (trade union), ELO, Association of Geologists, IUCN, UEPG, Cerame-Unie, and Members of European Parliament.