



cobalt

awareness . learning . dialogue

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the **Conference "Industry's and Society's needs for the sustainable use of raw materials in Europe: Exploring solutions for future action"**, which will take place on **28 – 29 November 2013 in Brussels** at the [Bedford Hotel and Congress Centre](#).

The conference will bring together EU and national representatives from industry, civil society, public authorities, research and geological surveys **to explore and discuss opportunities and strengths related to sustainable raw materials supply and use in Europe**.

More specifically, it will look at potential solutions along the value chain from extraction to consumption and recycling at end of product life. The conference will also identify how industry, and in particular the manufacturing sector, can be best supported to meet the challenge of changing global material demands in ways which also deliver on social and environmental needs in relation to raw material use.

The conference is the opening conference of the FP7 project **COBALT** that is funded by the European Commission (www.cobalt-fp7.eu) and runs from 2013 to 2015. The conference results will be taken forward to shape the further work of the project, and will inform future policy and research debates, including the work of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials.

A high-level expert from the European Commission working on the EIP will open the conference. Individual sessions are informed by a series of keynote speakers, including high-level representatives from McKinsey Global Institute, Eurometaux, Friends of the Earth Europe, the International Resource Panel, UNIDO, an EU Member State Ministry and others.

The conference will comprise:

1. Insights into different stakeholder perspectives;
2. Expert views on the challenges of global trends in raw materials use;
3. An update on the work of the European Innovation Partnership;
4. Expert presentations on the potential responses and opportunities to changing global markets and resource scarcity, on industry best practices, research potentials and ways to meet societal needs; and
5. Interactive Working Groups for gathering your views.

An important aim of this conference is to **offer networking opportunities and foster debate among up to 200 participants from all over Europe**. Through your participation, you can help developing issues to be explored further by the project, and be fed into to the raw materials policy debate.

This Interactive exchange will take place in **working groups** covering the following topics:

- EU raw materials policy framework – options for further development
- Changing international material use patterns – identifying opportunities
- Business and sustainable raw material use – learning from best practice
- Consumption needs of manufacturing industry and EU citizens – towards common ground
- Skills for sustainable raw materials management – where we stand and what we need.

Conference admission is free of charge and we very much hope that you are interested to participate. For registration to the conference, **please fill in and submit the [online form](#) until 15 November 2013.**

You will receive a confirmation within a few days of your registration, together with travel and other practical information. If we receive more applications than there is conference capacity, we may have to limit participation. Upon confirmation of your registration, we advise you to contact one of the [suggested hotels](#) and to book your room as soon as possible, due to high demand in Brussels during this time.

We very much look forward seeing you this November in Brussels!

Kind regards,

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on behalf of the COBALT Project Team
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