



STRADE Newsletter – 02/2018

April 2018

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STRADE meetings in 2018

STRADE workshop in Colombia in March 2018

In collaboration with the EU Delegation in Colombia, STRADE hosted a workshop titled ‘The European Union and Colombia: strategic partners in responsible gold mining’ in Bogota on 14-15 March 2018. Over 180 participants attended the workshop, representing public institutions, the private sector, trade unions and industry associations, ASM organisations, academia, civil society, and multilateral organisations.

The workshop strove to launch a dialogue on sustainable mineral supply among Colombian mining-sector stakeholders and to gather insights on collaboration and accompanying measures for the future implementation of the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation. Additionally, by providing a space for reflection on other current Latin American and especially Colombian issues and priorities for the sector – including attraction of responsible investments, labour rights, risk management and



prior consultations’ (FPIC) dynamics – the workshop aimed to feed into the discussion

about a sustainable win-win cooperation between the European Union and Latin America, outlining opportunities for common action.

The main potential areas for joint action with the EU according to the priorities discussed include: a) Export facilitation and related capacity building; b) awareness-raising measures for better social acceptance of mining; c) regional and local governance capacity building; d) aligning national with local level land use planning; e) support to productive reconversion (alternatives to mining/ post mining) or harmonization of mining and other parallel economic activities; f) access to appropriate technologies; g) community engagement, mediation, creation of dialogue spaces; h) women-oriented cooperation initiatives (women as advocates for change); and i) access to (simplified) information, notably on Due Diligence and Certification schemes.

The discussion specifically called for reciprocal EU-Latin America partnership engagements within some of the topics mentioned above, for instance in export promotion, community engagement and access to ap-



propriate technologies. The high social and environmental standards in the EU mining

sector are the most highly valued by Latin American stakeholders, who often point to the exchange of experiences (best practices) and capacity building as natural formats of cooperation when it comes to the EU as a donor or partner.

Upcoming meetings

With the STRADE project in its final year, the team will convene in Antwerp for its last Advisory Board meeting at the end of April 2018.

Planning for STRADE's **final conference** is underway. It is planned to be held in Brussels in September or October 2018 to allow time for the project team to incorporate input from the conference into the final reports due in November.

Eight new publications

In 2018 the STRADE project has so far published four Policy Briefs (PB), one Concept Note and two Reports. A final Policy Brief submitted in November 2017 has been recently approved by the Commission for publication. The following is a summary of these publications.

ASM and the EU (PB 09/2017)

“The artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector and its importance for EU cooperation with resource-rich developing and emerging countries” ([PB 09/2017](#)) by Johanna Carstens from Projekt-Consult, drafted in November 2017, presents important information about ASM, highlighting the sector's importance for employment and rural development and the opportunities and challenges ASM faces. ASM is overall seen to be poverty-driven, and, as such, is associated with humanitarian and social issues that promote using a more holistic approach to integrating ASM into long-term rural development programmes. The Brief covers specific EU-funded programmes at the end of SYSMIN as well as other EU and Member State programmes. This research on ASM is important for STRADE to incorporate in its overall view of resource dialogues for the EU and Member States.

The EU's role in business conduct abroad (PB 01/2018)

The first PB of 2018, “Holding European businesses responsible – what role for the EU and Member States to govern business conduct in third countries?” ([PB 01/2018](#)), by Cara-Sophie Scherf, Nele Kampffmeyer and Andreas Hermann from Oeko-Institut (January 2018), looks at the EU's role in ensuring responsible interactions of businesses domiciled under Member State jurisdiction. The potential effects of selected instruments are analysed for their impact on mining-connected companies, including reporting requirements, national binding due diligence requirements, judicial mechanisms for access to remedy and other grievance mechanisms. The PB concludes with various suggestions for EU instruments and regulations on how to better govern business conduct.

China's mineral sector and the Belt & Road Initiative (PB 02/2018)

[Policy Brief 02/2018](#) “China's mineral sector and the Belt & Road Initiative” by Masuma Farooki (March 2018) summarises the presentations, discussions and outcomes of the STRADE workshops held with Chinese stakeholders in Beijing in September 2017. As the Belt and Road Initiative has begun to gather pace, it indicates how China's approach to international raw material engagements has evolved. Its ambitions to be a major owner of international mining assets seem to have diminished.

China and responsible sourcing (PB 03/2018)

[Policy Brief 03/2018](#), “China's approach towards responsible sourcing” by Peter Dolega and Doris Schueler (March 2018) from Oeko-Institut, presents outcomes of discussions from the STRADE conference in China, in particular concentrating on China's environmental paradigm shift as part of an approach toward responsible mining. Overall, China has indicated that it is prepared to accept and encourage responsible supply chain management and can rapidly transform itself to meet new standards, making it an important

part of international discussions. Including China in dialogues, despite the existing barriers and differences, is critical to maintaining connections between the continents and promoting responsible sourcing.

Africa and the EU (PB 04/2018)

The latest [PB 04/2018](#), “Africa & the European Union – renewing sustainable partnerships in the extractives sector”, by Masuma Farooki and Paul Jourdan (March 2018), summarises the discussions and conclusions coming out of the STRADE workshop in South Africa held in autumn 2017. Against the backdrop of Africa’s colonial heritage, the PB presents the theme of renewing sustainable partnerships between the continents. Participants in the workshops addressed the few Africa-EU projects that currently exist and areas that future projects could address. Dialogue as a two-way concept is also discussed as a major theme. Additionally, the PB discusses converting African visions into strategies, enhancing links from the mineral sector, addressing the knowledge and skills gaps, key mineral feedstocks for African development, mitigating specific mining impacts, and ASM. Specific recommendations are summarized, concluding that true dialogue is necessary.

Concept for data and knowledge information system (January 2018)

The “[Concept](#) for a data and knowledge information system on mineral mining and trade and related environmental and socio-economic issues 1.0”, by Stefanie Degreif, Andreas Manhart, Peter Dolega and Doris Schueler (January 2018), presents various approaches to provide information on minerals, mining, trade and other issues related to the three pillars of sustainability more easily accessible for policy-makers, analysts and decision-makers from industry, civil society organisations and academia. The concept is split into two main parts discussing I) raw material profiles, and II) country profiles. An Annex provides background information and reviews of existing data sources. Samples of the two Parts and Annex are provided (Part I for iron ore and Part II for Brazil, with specific

points discussed in the Annex along with sources).

Report on non-EU engagements (Report 01/2018)

The [report 01/2018](#) *Non-European Country Engagement with Resource-Rich Developing Countries*, by Masuma Farooki from SNL Financial (19 January 2018), reviews engagements in the raw materials mining and mineral development sectors between non-EU and resource-rich developing countries, in particular linked to Australia, Canada, China and Japan. The EU could support institutional capacity-building in raw material producing countries through various funding options. The EU should also consider providing better support for responsible mining practices by EU companies operating abroad. By considering the existing instruments, the EU could significantly contribute to minerals and development agendas.

Report on promoting investor interest (Report 02/2018)

The second report ([Report 02/2018](#)), *Promoting Investor Interest in the EU Mining Sector*, by Chris Hinde and Masuma Farooki from SNL Financial (28 March 2018) presents STRADE’s recommendations to the EU to act as facilitator for those Member States interested in promoting mineral activity, to generate greater international investor interest. Several areas are addressed: targeted engagement with international exploration and mining companies; creating and improving social acceptance of mining amongst EU citizens; and engaging with EU parliamentarians on the high socio-environmental standards currently observed in the EU mining sector.

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