



COBALT Opening Conference: Short summary of Working Group results

This document outlines the main results of the working groups 1, 2 and 3 ⁽¹⁾ at the COBALT Opening Conference. Conference participants have been invited to join one of the working groups and bring in their experiences and expertise to debate with their colleagues in an informal setting. Each working group has been introduced by expert views on the respective topic and facilitated by COBALT team members. The results of Working group 1, 2 and 3 are outlined below.

Working Group 1: Complementing the policy framework – how to successfully implement the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on raw materials

Working Group 1 explored prospective steps for a range of diverse EIP Strategic Implementation Plan action areas (outlined below). Participants in this working group (i) prioritized individual actions in the respective action areas, (ii) identified most important next implementation steps, and (iii) specified concrete roles of different stakeholders therein. Background information on the SIP and its action areas ⁽²⁾ have been provided in a short presentation by Mr Slavko Solar (DG Enterprise and Industry) and by printouts of the original SIP parts.

Action area n. I.1: Improving R&D&I coordination in the EU		
1 st ranked action: “3) Collaboration between Industry and Academia” ⁽³⁾		
	Implementation Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative-focused projects (CFPs) in the European Commission 8th Framework Programme “Horizon 2020” • R&D&I partnering events organized in small WGs
	Stakeholder roles	<i>Not specified</i>
		<i>Not specified</i>
Action area n. I.3: Innovative extraction of raw materials		
1 st ranked action: “1) Automated and 3) Alternative mining” ⁽⁴⁾		
<i>Implementation steps and stakeholder roles same as defined for actions above</i>		

Action area n. II.1: Minerals Policy Framework		
1 st ranked action: “2) fitness check on EU policies on the non-energy extractive industries and development of a minerals policy scoreboard” ⁽⁵⁾		
	Implementation Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platform to facilitate data collection on effects • Recommendations on how to address cumulative effects of EU policies and legislation

¹ Due to lack of participants for working group 4 and 5, participants have been asked to join working group 2 and 3.

² The international cooperation pillar has not been addressed due to a decreased number of participants.

³ European Innovation Partnership Strategic Implementation plan Part II, p. 6

⁴ The table discussion group merged two of the five proposed actions of the SIP due to their equal weight in importance; European Innovation Partnership Strategic Implementation plan Part II, p. 10

⁵ European Innovation Partnership Strategic Implementation plan Part II, p. 25



	Stakeholder roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Commission and Member States carry out assessment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry provides input on impacts/effects of policies
Action area n. II.3: Public Awareness, Acceptance and Trust		
1 st ranked action: "2) Promote early and open communication with neighbours and local communities" (6)		
	Implementation Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmonized / integrated permitting for extraction industry Identify and train trust builders and community gains
	Stakeholder roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities should lead consultations

Action area n. II.5: Optimised waste flows for increased recycling		
1 st ranked action: "1) Qualitative targets in EU legislation" (7)		
	Implementation Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design standards for eco-design Bill of materials
	Stakeholder roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturers need to declare what materials are in products Manufacturers and regulators need to agree on design standards

Working Group 2: Opportunities and existing best practice: sustainable raw materials management along value-chains

In this working group four cases of sustainable raw materials management along different value-chain stages were presented and discussed in relation to

- i. drivers and enabling framework conditions to achieve best practice;
- ii. necessary policy support for industry / business to be enabled to adopt best practices.

1. Sustainable Process Industry through Resource and Energy Efficiency, SPIRE (Presenters: Michelle Wyart-Remy and Aurela Shtiza, IMA Europe)

An international non-profit association, A.SPIRE was formed in 2012 to support and represent the private sector in the Sustainable Process Industry through Resource and Energy Efficiency (SPIRE) Public-Private Partnership (PPP). To be launched as part of the Horizon2020 framework programme, SPIRE aims at fostering innovation in resource and energy efficiency in the process industries. This shall be done by developing the enabling technologies and solutions along the value chain that are required to reach long term sustainability for Europe and thus contributing adapted solutions to

- fostering growth and employment, increasing Europe’ global competitiveness,
- rejuvenating the European process industry
- reducing resource & energy inefficiency and the environmental impact of industrial activities.

⁶ European Innovation Partnership Strategic Implementation plan Part II, p. 30

⁷ European Innovation Partnership Strategic Implementation plan Part II, p. 34



Thereby, SPIRE strives to help achieving the European objectives of 'Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive growth', as put forward in the European Commission's Europe 2020 strategy.

Drivers: SPIRE as a private-public partnership was created with the purpose of finding common avenues to work together, e.g. on consumer-public opinion issues and to improve access to EU funds.

Policy needs: The sectors / sector players were concerned about intellectual property rights issues and considered this affecting their readiness to scale up and diffuse eco-innovation by making their best practice developments available (for copying).

Another big constraints to progress in Raw Materials sustainable management is the concurrence between companies and the products they offer. In this sense, EIP is crucial as it represents a big step forward for knowledge sharing and committing the different participants. In this context, the discussants also saw a need to foster consumer information.

2. Metal recycling at ERAMET (Presenter: Bertrand Schutz, ERAMET)

ERAMET, a French mining, metallurgical and recycling company, works along the entire value chain from exploration and extraction to metallurgy, alloy transformation and recycling. One of the key barriers that ERAMET encounters in its secondary raw material management processes are illegal exports of spent recycling catalysts escaping the European markets - almost 25% of spent catalysts, which contain significant quantities of strategic/critical metals such as Nickel, Cobalt and Vanadium, are illegally exported to Asia or South America.

Policy needs: As the illegal exports are mainly due to a lack of level playing field with weak environmental standards in some Asian or South American countries (not performing quality recycling as asked for at European level, notably by EUROMETAUX), what is needed are

- More controls at borders– Waste Shipment Regulation 1013 – 2006 Amendment
- Certification of the end recycling plants ; this certification should be mandatory and the audits done by approved external auditors
- Creation of a European database of waste containing strategic metals
- Organisation of better monitoring of these waste flows, including improved transparency and enforcement of existing legislation.

3. Carpet development and leasing, Desso (Presenter: Marko van Bergen, Desso)

Desso is a key European player for carpet recycling and carpet development without use of bitumen layer. The business case for Desso consists in all carpet components being able to be reused and that increasingly the leasing of carpet (tiles) is becoming an economically viable business model – but in this context, contracts need to be made for more than 5 years.

DESSO controls the different elements present in the carpet life cycle, e.g. the bituminous compound of the carpet is taken out from the life cycle of the recycled carpets, as it is not stable and therefore they can't control what is being introduced in the production loop. DESSO sells it for asphalt purposes. Thereby, the production process is gradually changed from linear to circular.



Drivers: encompassed Effective ISO efficiency, positive carbon footprint, design for disassembly and going from ownership to use-leasing

Policy needs:

- Taxing “bads” instead of goods: don’t tax labour in recycling business
- Support sustainable research
- Ban incineration
- investment credits to foster this kind of production processes
- Establish eco-industrial sites with closed loop options and relevant infrastructure in place, e.g. “Silicon valley’s”
- Ecodesign for electronic devices is an issue, e.g. mobiles and need of components with rare earths coming from China. Here the question was raised what is the sense of doing things according to EU regulations and BAT if we don’t follow their principles when we exploit/bring materials from third countries? Why do we bring minerals that we can exploit here from other countries?

4. material and energy saving in household appliances, Electrolux (Presenter: Karl Edsjö, Electrolux)

Vacuum cleaner developed with high level sucking performance but reduced energy use (in terms of Watts, almost half as much energy as a conventional vacuum cleaner) and consisting of 70% post-consumer recycled plastic. The predecessor of this model was launched in 2008. Since then, different generations and different models have been produced and marketed worldwide. In New Zealand, it is the Nr 1 model on the vacuum cleaner market. In the meantime, competitors have caught up and state government was considering making such kind of energy performance mandatory.

Drivers:

- Customer awareness and certification as a means of consumer information and business case, e.g. on environmental footprint of vacuum cleaners and composition of recycled materials as recycling resonates well with environmentally aware customers
- A planned Directive for 2014 setting limits for watt amount for vacuum cleaners

Policy needs and ideas:

- Fostering extended product lives
- Adopting the Japanese example of setting dynamic standards depending on the market leaders (top-runner approach).

The ensuring group work outcome on key insights and key recommendations produced the following:

- A level playing field is needed for all players along the value-chain to foster up-take and diffusion of more sustainable raw materials management and not to encourage burden shifting
- New business models and greater consumer awareness are needed
- Interdisciplinary networking and matchmaking are important
- Making use of financial incentives to boost value chain collaboration