



## Press release

# EU - Latin America and the Caribbean policy dialogue: Identification of strategic and critical raw material resources

The first "European Union (EU) - Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) policy dialogue on the identification of strategic and critical raw material resources" took place on 2 November 2022 in Santiago de Chile with the objective of analysing the strategic and critical raw materials needed for the transition to clean energy and the digital transition in LAC. During the meeting, the role of Geological Surveys in the value chain of raw materials and the relevance of geoscientific information for raw material policies were highlighted.

This European Union (EU) initiative establishes a formal dialogue between representatives of EuroGeoSurveys (EGS), the organisation representing 37 Geological Surveys in Europe, and the Asociación de Servicios de Geología y Minería Iberoamericanos (ASGMI), the organisation representing the Geological Surveys of Spain, Portugal and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Representatives of organisations relevant to the sector, such as the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (DG JRC); the European Space Agency; the Mining Ministries of the Americas (CAMMA); the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL); the European Institute of Innovation and Technology EIT Raw Materials; and the European Technology Platform on Sustainable Mineral Resources (ETP-SMR) also participated in the meeting.

Mr Eduardo Zappettini, ASGMI's Vice President and President of the Argentina Geological & Mining Survey (SEGEMAR), and Mr Ralph Watzel, President of EGS (during the period 2021-2022) and also Director of the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe, BGR); opened the session as the highest representatives of the Geological Surveys of both regions. During their interventions, they presented their organisations, their structure and the work carried out by both international associations to promote sustainable and responsible mining with the environment and society and favour resilient supply chains of the mining sector to move towards a higher degree of safety and sustainability.

### Identification of raw materials in the EU and LAC

The first part of the policy dialogue focused on the technical aspects and the exchange of experiences and best practices by analysing raw materials.

At the regional level, ASGMI presented the activities and lines of work carried out by the association in LAC to map the potential of raw materials in the region. Martin Gozalvez, Coordinator of ASGMI's Metallogeny Group, highlighted the recent completion of the Central American and Caribbean metallogenic map, the progress made for the South American metallogenic map and the start of the mapping of critical minerals in LAC. Fredy Guzman,



General Coordinator of ASGMI's Expert Group on Mining Environmental Liabilities, shared the achievements to date, highlighting the Manuals for the inventory of abandoned or paralysed mines and the glossary for the management of environmental liabilities.

Dr Daniel Oliveira, President of the EGS Mineral Resources Expert Group (MREG), then presented the activities carried out by MREG, including major projects, initiatives and the mapping of critical minerals in Europe. He highlighted the MREG's support for European policies and directives and the collaboration with the European Commission (EC) in preparing the information that the EC provides on the list of fundamental raw materials for the EU 2020 and its subsequent updates in the context of the SCRREEN2 project. Finally, Dr Javier González, Coordinator of the Research Group on Applied Geology of Marine Resources and Extreme Environments of the Spanish Geological and Mining Institute – CSIC, presented a metallogenic study of underwater mineral resources.

The first part of the political dialogue concluded with a round of interventions in which participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay exchanged knowledge and the state of the art of critical raw materials in their countries.

### Geological Surveys in the value chain of raw materials

During the second part of the meeting, the participants discussed the importance of the available geoscientific information and the role that Geological Surveys play in the value chain, thus analysing the current gaps in databases and available information. The Geological Surveys of both regions shared ideas and experiences to understand that how geoscientific data is presented to the general public influences the management of this geoscientific information and has an impact on the development of mining activities and the generation of value in the mining sector and the mining supply chain, so geoscientific data must be available, updated and harmonised. Jørgen Tøllstrup, the coordinator of the EuroGeoSurveys (EGS) European Geological Data Infrastructure (EGDI), which provides access to pan-European and national Geological Surveys and data from EGS member Geological Surveys, presented the evolution and methodology of this accessible and open infrastructure that offers more than 800 layers of spatial information that cover a wide range of geoscientific topics, as well as reports, and a database for 3D geological models that are the result of projects in which that EGS members are involved or have participated. An initiative that can serve as an inspirational model for realising a similar system in the LAC.

To conclude the session, there was consensus on the need for the LAC Geological Surveys to work towards a common objective in which the countries of the region share information to obtain the necessary support from the governments of other regions, together with reinforced cooperation with the EU.

### Strengthening cooperation and partnership between the EU and LAC

This policy dialogue took place before the “[EU-Latin America Raw Materials Convention 2022](#)” (3 - 4 November) in the Chilean capital, which contributed to strengthening relations between the EU and LAC geoscientific community. The creation of this community of experts facilitates



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ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF **STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL**  
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the transparent exchange of knowledge and best practices. It reinforces the Diplomatic Dialogues on raw materials that the EU has been conducting in LAC since 2014.

EU cooperation with LAC to share and promote new policies in the field of raw materials will continue during the second "EU - Latin America and the Caribbean Policy Dialogue on the identification of strategic and critical raw material resources", which will take place on 22 May 2023 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The participating Geological Surveys will share the results of the policy dialogues during a thematic session at the International Mining Exhibition "Arminera" taking place 22-24 May 2023 at Costa Salguero Exhibition Center, Buenos Aires, Argentina.