BENTONITE

BORATES

CALCIUM CARBONATE

DIATOMITE

FELDSPAR

KAOLIN

LIME

MICA

PLASTIC CLAYS

SEPIOLITE

SILICA

TALC

IMA Europe

IMA-Europe Annual Report 2020–21

Industrial Minerals Europe – your world is made of them

About IMA-Europe

IMA-Europe is an umbrella organisation that brings together several European associations specific to individual minerals.

IMA-Europe provides sector-based representation for industrial minerals. The association is mainly focused on providing representation at European Union (EU) institutional level and coordinates communication with national and international authorities.

IMA-Europe is involved in all non-commercial issues relating to the properties of minerals and their safe use, from extraction and processing to end-use applications. Health and safety at the workplace, environmental protection, product safety, and awareness about the importance of industrial minerals for society are at the core of IMA-Europe's priorities.

IMA-Europe ensures that the industrial minerals industry benefits from sharing non-sensitive information and plays a supporting role in promoting best practices.

IMA Europe

Foreword

Dr Roger Doome, Director General IMA-Europe

A new decade, a new world, new challenges ahead. Much has changed since I last wrote this foreword, a global pandemic has altered the way we work, travel and communicate with each other, accelerating positive health and technological trends but also worrisome ones such as access to raw materials and affordable energies.

For those who live in Europe, recent history has lured us with an apparent sense of security and prosperity and made us forget that peaceful times are not the norm. Among the many things I learned in the past two years, I would like to highlight that our prosperity and security are interlinked. This is why each company and sector must contribute to the European recovery by strengthening our supply lines, accelerating innovation, and diminishing our over-reliance on conflict-ridden imports from autocratic corners of the world.

We, the industrial mineral sector, will be at the front line. Minerals are incredibly versatile and are the cornerstone of many products and industrial value chains. From the coffee mug, you are holding while reading this report to the paper or screen you are using. Well… minerals are there.

Modern life would simply not be possible without the raw materials we provide, so if we are serious about transitioning to a low carbon, resource-efficient and socially inclusive economy, we must count on industrial minerals as one of the critical building blocks of this transition.

This report provides a brief overview of our sector and the wide range of initiatives we coordinated or participated in 2020–21. After you read it, I hope that you understand our industry better and perhaps realise how much we are doing to ignite this decade for the best

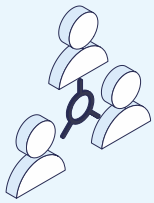
Catherine Delfaux, President IMA-Europe

Despite these strange times we are facing worldwide and the frenetic activities of the European institutions, I am proud of the results achieved by IMA-Europe during my last two years as President. The association continued advancing with projects and initiatives efficiently and reactively, aiming to increase the health and safety of our workers, the sustainability of our sites and multiplying the links with other industries and policymakers. This pandemic has demonstrated the resilience of the industrial minerals sector and our vital contribution to society and the broader economy. Let's continue strengthening our foundation and showcasing our achievements, as it is only during turbulent times that we genuinely improve.

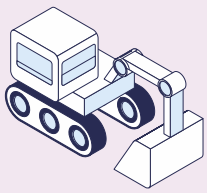
Catherine Delfaux

CEO Provençale SA
President of IMA-Europe in 2018–2021

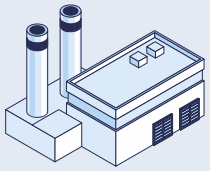
Key facts and figures



250
member companies

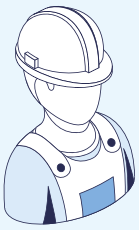


685
mines and quarries

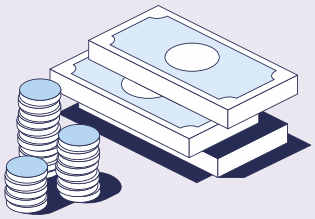


750
processing plants

180 million tonnes
of minerals produced per year



42,500 people
employed in 28 European countries (30 million jobs in downstream industries)



€14 billion
contribution to the European economy

Main markets for industrial minerals in Europe

- **20%** Construction materials
- **18%** Glass, ceramic and bricks
- **16%** Paper and plastics
- **13%** Foundry/metallurgy
- **10%** Civil engineering and roads
- **6%** Flue gas desulphurisation
- **6%** Other
- **5%** Agriculture
- **3%** Paints
- **3%** Food and feed

Industrial minerals are also increasingly essential to high-tech sectors through the production of wiring and fibre-optic cables, as well as environmentally friendly products and technologies such as wind turbines and photovoltaic panels.

Industrial Minerals:

Nature's most popular raw materials

Society uses industrial minerals, either in a processed or natural state, to make building materials, ceramics, detergents, electronics, filtration, glass, medications and medical devices, paints, paper and plastics, and many more industrial and domestic products.

So what are they? Industrial minerals are defined as minerals that are not sources of metals, fuel, or gemstones. The most widely-used industrial minerals include barite, bentonite, calcium carbonate, clays, diatomite, dolomite, kaolin, limestone, silica and talc.

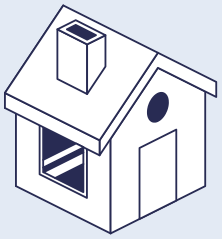
Industrial minerals are incredibly versatile; most have at least two, sometimes many more, applications and span multiple markets. Let's take a look at some of them:

Smartphones contain up to 50% minerals:

- **cover** – calcium carbonate, mica and talc
- **battery** – calcium carbonate, silica and clays
- **reinforced steel** – silica, andalusite and lime
- **glass** – 47g of silica sand

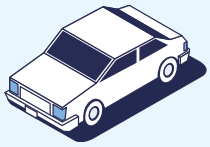
Glass contains up to 100% minerals:

- silica
- dolomite
- calcium carbonate
- lime
- feldspar
- borates



Houses

- contain up to 150 tonnes of minerals

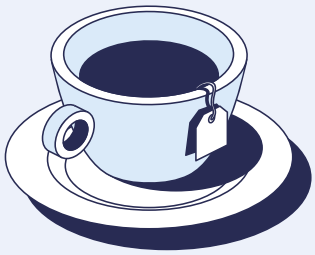


Cars

- contain up to 150kg of minerals

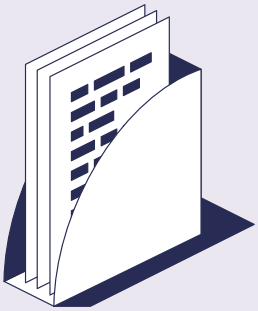
Paint contains up to 50% minerals:

- calcium carbonate
- quartz
- cristobalite
- plastic clays
- talc
- bentonite
- diatomite
- mica
- wollastonite



Ceramics contains up to 100% minerals:

- feldspar
- clay
- kaolin
- lime
- talc
- silica



Paper contains up to 50% minerals:

- calcium carbonate
- talc
- kaolin
- bentonite

Health and safety as a core value

No bargaining on health and safety

As a sector that represents heavy industry and operates in challenging settings, health and safety are our absolute priorities. For many years, our members have agreed that this is an entirely non-competitive sphere and that safe working conditions for employees are critical for the minerals industry.

Our data helps policymakers

Health and safety are not absolutes, and one can never say that they have been totally 'achieved'. Instead, improving health and safety represents an ongoing journey. That is why we share information across the industry and with European Institutions, agencies and national governments to find new and better ways to ensure the health and safety of our workers, customers and communities.

Positive results

The industrial minerals industry has significantly improved health and safety over the past decade. However, we know there is always more to do, which is why we have set ourselves a Zero Injury Target for safety across the industry and continue to invest heavily in projects to protect workers from occupational health hazards. It is also why as an industry, we go beyond legal requirements on health and safety and continue developing and implementing voluntary codes of conduct to address specific issues. It is also why as an industry we go beyond legal requirements on health and safety, and continue to develop and implement voluntary codes of conduct to address specific issues.

SAFESILICA

Safe Silica is a project designed to enhance awareness of crystalline silica and manage its risks in industrial workplaces.

Silica is a mineral made up of oxygen and silicon, two of the most common elements on the planet. It exists in several forms, although by far the most common is crystalline silica. Crystalline silica is so abundant that it makes up over 12% of the earth's crust, making it the second most common mineral on the planet.

Crystalline silica comes in the forms of cristobalite, quartz and tridymite. Quartz is the most common of the three, being transformed into cristobalite when heated at high temperatures (over 1.450°C). Crystalline silica is an extremely useful mineral present in thousands of raw materials and almost all quarried materials, including clays, gravel, metallic ores and even sand. It is hard, chemically inert, and has a high melting point: qualities that make it a valuable resource for many industrial and manufacturing processes.

In everyday contexts, crystalline silica is safe. It is inert, meaning that it does not react with any chemicals and is not harmful to health. However, dust particles are produced when rocks containing crystalline silica are cut, crushed, drilled, ground or used in similar industrial processes. Some of these particles are very fine and are known as respirable crystalline silica or RCS. If high quantities of this very fine RCS dust are inhaled regularly over many years, the cumulative effects can potentially cause a lung disease known as silicosis, followed in severe cases by lung cancer. That is why the European Union has recently updated the Directive on Carcinogens and Mutagens in the Workplace to implement a legal RCS occupational exposure limit of 0.1 mg/m3 in industrial workplaces (more commonly written as 100 µg/m3).

The only locations where these levels come close to being reached is in the direct vicinity of industrial processes – typically within 1–10 metres. Outside this immediate radius, RCS disperses very rapidly, reducing concentrations to background or near-background levels.

Thankfully, crystalline silica-related diseases can be prevented by applying good practices in the workplace, ensuring – and going beyond – regulatory compliance. Effective control of those industrial processes also helps to ensure that any release of dust into the surrounding environment is kept to a minimum. The NEPSI social dialogue agreement initiated more than ten years ago by IMA-Europe provides relevant good practices for various industries.

www.safesilica.eu

“Protecting workers' health and preventing diseases such as silicosis is of paramount importance. That is why governments, unions and those industries where RCS dust exposure poses a risk are working to implement measures to protect workers.

Visit the website:

nepSi$_2$

Crytalline Silica / Silice cristalline

NEPSI is the first European multi-sectoral social dialogue agreement of its kind and covers the safety of more than two million employees from 19 industry sectors.

In 2006, IMA-Europe brought together a wide range of industrial sectors and labour unions concerned by occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS). Together they founded NEPSI (the European Network on Silica) to implement good practices in the field and reduce exposure to RCS.

At the cornerstone of the agreement is a risk-assessment procedure to help determine which measures and good practices are required to improve protection for workers. To this end, a set of detailed task sheets corresponding to the specific industrial settings encountered by the signatory industries was drafted and compiled into a good practice guide annexed to the agreement. This also provides recommendations on dust monitoring, health surveillance and training.

In 2018, information relating to exposure to RCS generated by a work process was included in the European *Carcinogens and Mutagens at Work Directive (Directive 2017/2398)* with a binding occupational exposure limit value of 0.1 mg/m3. In the Directive, the European Commission recognises that NEPSI good practices are valuable and necessary instruments to complement regulatory measures and support the effective implementation of limit values.

In 2019 the European Commission granted a substantial budget to update the good practice guide and develop guidance and training tools for new generations of workers and micro and small enterprises. These tools are now available on the revamped NEPSI website.

www.nepsi.eu

THE SIGNATORIES REPRESENT:

8,800
industrial sites across the EU

362,500
employees

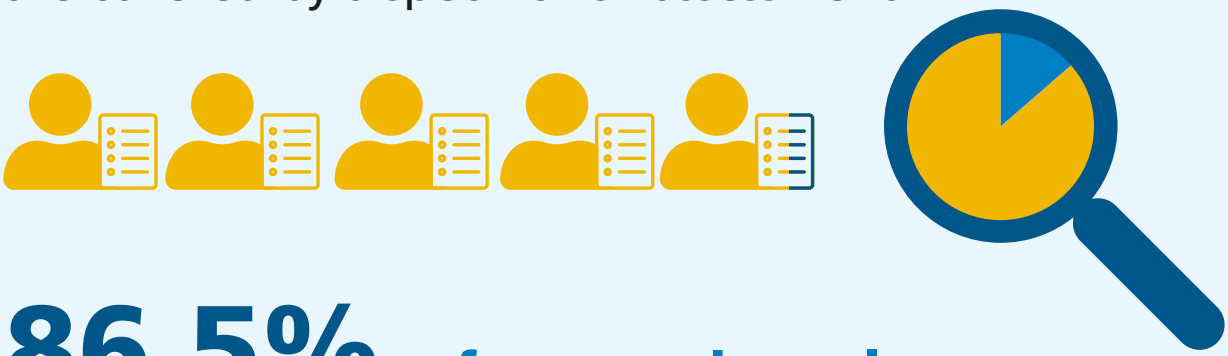
Visit the website:

43% **of all employees**

are at risk of exposure to RCS and are followed by health surveillance for silicosis when required

97% **of exposed employees**

are covered by a specific risk assessment



86.5% **of exposed employees**

are covered by specific exposure monitoring

In addition to the new guide, the University of Utrecht's **Institute of Risk Assessments (IRAS)** has helped develop a new methodology to measure RCS at sites according to best standards.

In 2020, NEPSI signatories reported on the key performance indicators (KPIs) they use to measure the implementation of NEPSI measures, all of which show improvement. The improved KPIs are the results of continuous work by the NEPSI partners and demonstrate that the signatories continue to strengthen their commitments to good practices in order to protect their employees and minimise exposure to respirable crystalline silica (scan the QR code bottom right).

> NEPSI is still going strong after 15 years. Its signatories are committed to continuing to implement measures to manage respirable crystalline silica safely and to ensure full compliance with the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive and all local regulations.

Visit the website:

ZERO INJURY TARGET

awareness▪prevention▪exchange

Ensuring healthy and safe working conditions for employees is one of the most critical issues for the minerals industry. The sector has put a significant amount of energy and effort into improving safety at work. Despite this, we still have more to do.

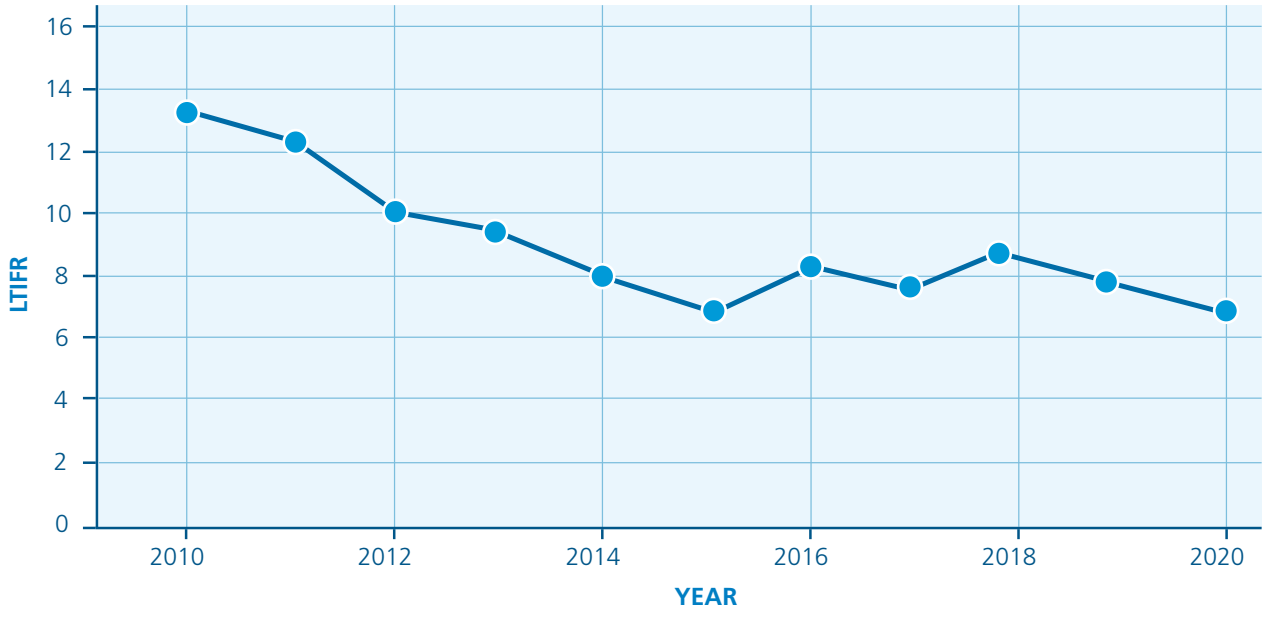
Since 2010, IMA-Europe has implemented the Zero Injury Target strategy based on the following four pillars:

1. Obtaining commitments from member company leaders
2. Reinforcing data collection across the industry
3. Identifying learnings and sharing them across companies
4. Organising the IMA-Europe Safety Awards to further embed the culture of safety across our membership base

Since the strategy's launch, we have witnessed strong positive results, with the number of accidents halving over the period 2010–2020. 2020 has seen the fewest incidents recorded so far, confirming that safety is at the top of the agenda across our membership. However, figures are still too high, and we will continue on the journey by developing and sharing best practices across the sector.

IMA-Europe accident statistics 2010–2020

Based on lost-time incidents frequency rate (LTIFR)



DO IT YOURSELF WITHOUT DUST

DIY shops sell many products that contain crystalline silica (e.g. bricks, cement, ceramics, mortar and tiles). Unlike industrial workers, many consumers are unaware that regular inhalation of dust containing crystalline silica over many years can lead to lung diseases.

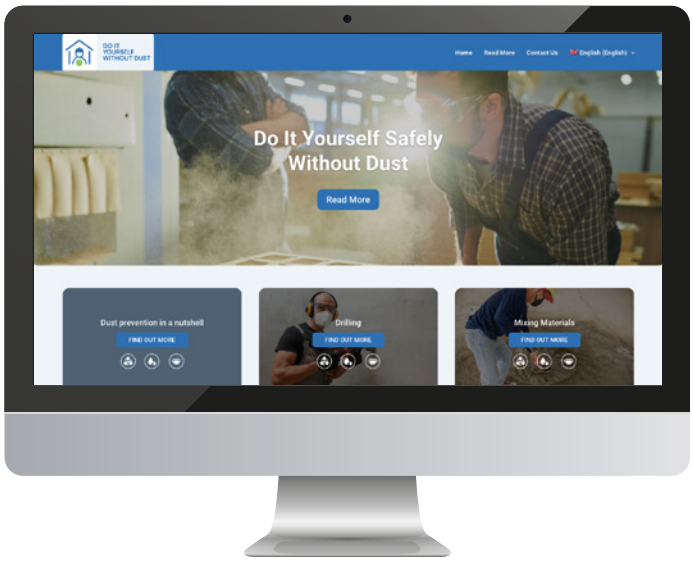
Even though the current state of knowledge indicates that consumers/citizens are not exposed to dust during DIY activities for long enough or at high enough levels to cause diseases, IMA-Europe believes it is always good practice to avoid breathing dust in general, and consumers can achieve this though very simple measures.

Therefore, taking a proactive approach, a task force of IMA-Europe air quality experts has developed a list of good practices on reducing dust during common DIY activities. The list is available in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish on a dedicated website that provides general dust prevention advice alongside visual good practices sheets, with a list of dos and don'ts for common DIY activities such as cutting, drilling, and sawing.

We hope this very concise guidance, which raw materials producers have drawn up, will help DIY stores better inform their customers.

www.diywithoutdust.eu

> **Occasional DIY activities are unlikely to expose people to significant dust levels for a sufficient period of time to have an adverse health effect. However, reducing dust as much as possible during DIY works is a sensible precaution. We hope that this very concise guidance drawn up by raw materials producers will help DIY stores better inform their customers.**



Visit the website:

Contributing to resource optimisation and the circular economy

Sustainable supply

As an industry, our key driver is to secure a sustainable supply of minerals to ensure that European citizens can maintain access to the things they rely on every day, including building materials and critical infrastructure.

Our pillars

Sustainability means several things to our sector. First, it means being environmentally sustainable and ensuring that we positively contribute to European ecosystems over the long term. Second, it involves extracting and processing industrial minerals economically and ensuring that they continue to be sourced in Europe on terms that are competitive with other parts of the world. Third, it means partnering with workers, communities and policymakers to deliver the best possible health and safety standards while limiting negative impacts and disruptions.

Our goals

To provide circular economy solutions for minerals that contribute to all life cycle stages, as well as to sustainability, durability, synergies of primary and secondary raw materials, plus life extension of products and applications.

FineFuture

FineFuture aims to increase the supply of critical raw materials (CRMs) in Europe for rapidly developing industrial sectors like energy storage systems and industrial robotics.

This EU funded project (No. 821265) focuses on creating new scientific knowledge that will enable the development of ground-breaking technologies to exploit fine particle fractions. The key objectives of FineFuture are to:

- Improve the recovery of valuable ultrafine particles in primary and secondary resources.
- Help increase the supply of critical raw materials in Europe, particularly copper, kaolin, nickel, magnesite, phosphorus and rare earth elements.
- Assess technology transfer to other raw material particle-based processes within the circular economy objectives.
- Generate additional value from resources and improve competitiveness through higher energy efficiencies, thereby delivering multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

FineFuture is a consortium of 16 partners led by Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden Rossendorf (HZDR), and IMA-Europe is in charge of the communication and dissemination work package. Since its launch in 2019, the consortium has been very active, and has published 26 peer-review papers, with 7 more publications in the review and final publication stages.

Learn more about how FineFuture is facilitating the conversion of fine particles from waste to valuable materials. Please visit the project's website and follow us on LinkedIn.

www.finefuture-h2020.eu

> **FineFuture is an EU funded project that is creating new scientific knowledge to enable the development of groundbreaking technologies to exploit fine particle fractions. Separating very fine particles is essential for maximising the value of multiple mineral resources (e.g. kaolin, talc and magnesite) and will help secure both global sales by European companies and the production of Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) within Europe.**

Visit the website:

PROCESSES4PLANET

After finalising and presenting its 2050 vision, SPIRE, the Sustainable Processing Industries for Resource and Energy Efficiency (since renamed Processes4Planet or P4Planet), has developed a roadmap reflecting this vision and linking its objectives with HorizonEurope funding discussions.

The agreed priority areas for 2050 are:

- Energy mix
- Electrification
- Hydrogen
- CCU and CO2 resource and process efficiency
- Industrial-urban symbiosis
- Digital

The European Commission has linked these partnership roadmaps closely with the Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas agreed with the Member States and industry under the Horizon Europe R&I Partnership. The low-carbon industrial technologies roadmap is the first of the common industrial technology roadmaps to get underway. Its goals are closely aligned with the P4Planet Roadmap, which recognises that many challenges common to several sectors can be addressed through cross-sectoral collaboration. IMA-Europe is a full member of SPIRE/P4Planet as it represents the vision and objectives of one of its ten sectors: cement, ceramics, chemicals, engineering, fuels, minerals, non-ferrous, pulp and paper, steel, and water.

Spire1 was operational from 2013 to 2020 and had a budget of €600 million. Spire2, renamed Processes4Planet, will run from 2021 to 2030 with a budget of €1.3 billion allocated from the EU. The budget increase demonstrates the EU's commitment to supporting the transition towards the green deal objectives, including carbon neutrality, circular solutions for these process-industry sectors, and the innovation and upscaling of solutions cross-sectorally.

> **Processes4Planet will contribute to circularity alongside extensive decarbonisation of European process industries, with a strong focus on competitiveness. By taking a cross-sectoral approach, it will develop and deploy the innovations needed for a profound transformation of the process industries covering ten sectors (cement, ceramics, chemicals, engineering, fuels, minerals, non-ferrous, pulp and paper, steel, and water) to achieve the EU Green Deal targets by 2050.**

Innovation is our nature

Innovation

All minerals companies have innovation in their DNA. Maintaining existing applications while developing and delivering new solutions in response to societal challenges are potent drivers for innovation in the minerals sector.

Our pillars

Minerals have multifaceted applications that are fine-tuned to the needs of specific uses. Within IMA-Europe, innovation focuses primarily on circular economy solutions and enhancing opportunities for resource optimisation across all minerals. A second innovation pillar is reducing process emissions where they have a negative impact, or harnessing them to increase efficiency. The third pillar relates to the minerals sector's contribution to the greening of the energy mix used in its operations. Innovation goals are progressed both at the individual company level and within the value chain of associated stakeholders.

Our goals

IMA-Europe's role is to inform members of funding opportunities and boost cross-sectoral innovation. Under Horizon Europe, multiple funding opportunities have matured and are available to industry stakeholders and consortiums.

Skills Alliance for Industrial Symbiosis (SPIRE-SAIS) is a consortium of 24 partners covering the eight sectors of SPIRE (cement, ceramics, chemicals, engineering, minerals, non-ferrous, steel, and water). IMA-Europe and Mota Ceramic Solutions are partners on behalf of the minerals sector. SAIS successfully applied for project funding under the Erasmus+ fund. Its main objective is to develop a blueprint to address short-term and ongoing skills gaps relating to cross-sectoral industrial symbiosis (IS) and energy efficiency.

SAIS will formulate a consolidated approach to addressing the overarching skills demands and challenges of these industry sectors. Its main focus is on the people and skills necessary to achieve industrial symbioses and deliver energy efficiency. It is developing concrete and practical strategies and programmes (including modules and tools) to anticipate and respond to skills demands. Learn more about SAIS at the project's website.

www.spire2030.eu

Visit the website:

CORALIS

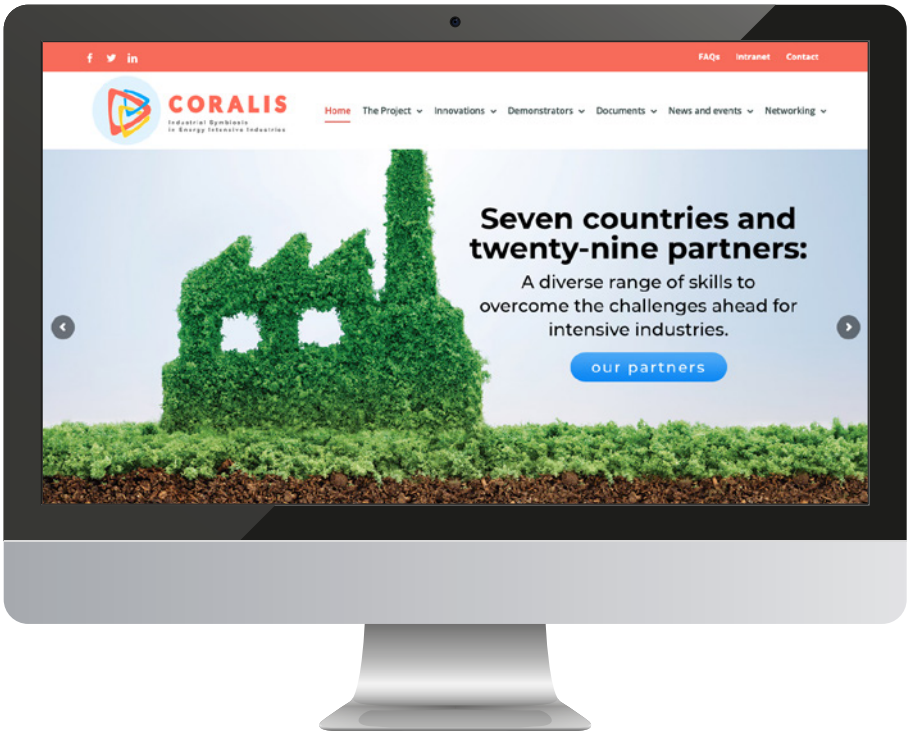
Industrial Symbiosis
in Energy Intensive Industries

CORALIS (Creation of new value chain Relations through novel Approaches facilitating Long-term Industrial Symbiosis) is a new initiative coordinated by CIRCE in Spain. It is a demonstration project for the generation of real experiences on the deployment of IS solutions and the overcoming of the barriers faced by these initiatives. Identification and deployment of enabling technologies is the main driver behind selecting and executing symbiotic relationships in the three industrial parks where the demonstrations will take place. As such, technological innovations are one of the main pillars of CORALIS.

However, it will be complemented by the managerial and economic perspective of IS, which will inform the industrial symbiosis readiness level and feed into the overall feasibility of the IS solution. IMA-Europe's role in the project will consist of dissemination and event attendance support and reaching out to IMA-Europe member companies with two dedicated minerals events.

Learn more about CORALIS at the project's website.

www.coralis-h2020.eu



Visit the website:

A new industrial strategy for Europe

In May 2021, Executive Vice-Presidents Margrethe Vestager, Valdis Dombrovskis and EU Commissioner Thierry Breton set out the European Commission's updates to the 2020 Industrial Strategy, with a focus on building a more robust Single Market for Europe's recovery. These updates were in response to the COVID-19 crisis and recognised that while the impact of the crisis had varied across different ecosystems and companies, three critical issues could be identified:

1. Borders restricting the free movement of people, goods and services;
2. Interrupted global supply chains affecting the availability of essential products;
3. Disruption of demand.

The European Commission has identified two fundamental axes of action. The first will ensure the availability and free movement of people, goods and services in the context of possible future crises. The second will establish an annual monitoring of the Single Market in 14 industrial ecosystems (aerospace and defence, **agri-food**, **construction**, cultural and creative culture industries, digital industries, electronics, **energy-intensive industries**, health, proximity and social economy, **renewables**, retail, textile, **mobility transport and automotive**, and tourism). The areas highlighted In bold are some of the ecosystems which link directly to the minerals sector.

To partially address the current dependence on raw materials, the Single Market could be reinforced by improving the circular economy and the mobility of recycling materials. Industry alliances such as the European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA), the European Battery Alliance, and the European Clean Hydrogen Alliance are existing structures that will provide systemic solutions to address the EU strategic autonomy for critical raw materials.

IMA-Europe is following up on the activities of the energy-intensive ecosystem and the construction ecosystem. In addition, the Association has joined the European 2050 Construction Alliance, which comprises 48 EU industry associations representing the interests of various construction products such as aggregates, aluminium, asphalt, calcium silicate producers, cement, expanded clay, gypsum, glass, insulation materials, lime, mortars, pre-cast, pipes and fittings and PVC.

Industrial minerals and carbon neutrality

A 2050 framework on climate neutrality for industrial minerals

IMA-Europe welcomes the European Commission's climate and energy-related proposals under the "Fit for 55" climate package. Composed of 12 initiatives directly impacting climate and energy[1], Fit for 55 aims to transform society by adapting industrial and economic behaviour that is aligned with faster and more ambitious net-zero timelines. Specifically, its goal is to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. IMA-Europe is contributing to a robust and predictable European climate framework as a pillar of the industrial decarbonisation process envisaged up to 2050.

Our approach

Fit for 55 must address how Europe will secure the larger quantities of raw materials that its climate targets require in terms of the construction products needed to deliver better infrastructure for improved mobility. Only competitive and profitable companies will develop technological solutions, sustain jobs and generate wealth. Therefore, a strong economic pillar is a prerequisite for Fit for 55, as this will provide the industrial support for a low carbon economy and is the only way to ensure that the green transition does not lead to deindustrialisation and job losses within European companies. Within this context, minerals industries will require a level playing field with major CO2 emitters outside Europe.

1 Including EU Emission Trading System (EU ETS), Energy Taxation Directive (ETD), Carbon Borden Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), Renewable Energy Directive (RED II), Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR), Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), FuelEU Maritime Regulation, ReFuelEU Aviation Regulation, Revised Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive, Regulation on CO2 Emission Standards for Cars and Vans, and Regulation Establishing a Social Climate Fund.

Industrial minerals and fit for 55

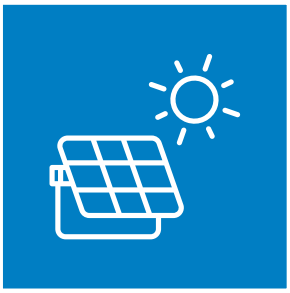
On 14 July 2021, the European Commission announced the "Fit for 55" package. Fit for 55 is the EC legislative tool by which the European Union will become a zero-carbon emitter by 2050, with a focus on achieving an intermediate 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Because of its cross-cutting impact, almost all sectors of the economy will be affected by Fit for 55, which calls for what is essentially an industrial transformation.

The European Green Deal announcement on 11 December 2020 was the first step in this direction, reaffirming the European Commission's objective to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The European Climate Law set the legal basis for achieving this goal. An intermediate 2030 target of reducing emissions by at least 55% (61% for the industry), rather than the previous 40% target, will determine the road to climate neutrality by 2050.

IMA-Europe has been active in this area in 2020 and 2021, and has participated in discussions through a range of channels, contributing to the overall legislative process. With the support of our experts, the Secretariat has submitted relevant position papers on key issues for the minerals sector.

Outside of Fit for 55 but also directly linked climate framework, IMA-Europe has been involved in a range of consultations and activities related to climate and energy, notably the Climate, Energy and Environmental Aid Guidelines (CEEAG); restoring sustainable carbon cycles; industrial emissions; and the certification of carbon removals, among others.

Fit for 55 encompasses an ambitious climate change policy agenda that will collectively affect society and how businesses have operated until now. In this challenging context, Europe's industrial sectors must join forces to make their voices heard.



Solar cells contain up to 95% minerals

Turbine blades contain up to 95% minerals

Promoting and protecting biodiversity

Biodiversity in the industrial minerals sector:

The industrial minerals sector takes great care to minimise the environmental and visible impact of its open-cast mine and quarry operations and works in partnership with government, communities, NGOs and other stakeholders on biodiversity.

Our pillars

The sector aims to preserve and improve fauna and ecosystems on its sites before, during and after extraction. Mining integration mitigates and prevents possible negative impacts during mining while providing opportunities to enhance biodiversity. Compensation processes (whereby proactive steps are taken to offset environmental impact) create biotopes before and during mining by converting swamps and pools on sites to enhance their potential as habitats. Finally, restoration creates new biotopes and habitats when extraction ceases. Almost all land (99%) is returned to nature once industrial activity comes to an end.

Industrial minerals and biodiversity

> **The members of IMA-Europe, representing more than 750 sites and directly employing around 42.500 people, are aware that biodiversity is crucial to the future of humanity and work actively to enhance it.**

While mineral raw materials play a vital and valuable role in our daily lives by providing products that meet the needs of today's society, the way they are extracted from the earth has a potential impact on biodiversity. The minerals industry is well aware of its responsibility to support biodiversity and constantly works to conserve and enhance sites worldwide.

The sector takes great care to minimise the environmental and visible impact of its open-cast mine and quarry operations. Moreover, in terms of protecting nature, open surface mining often provides perfect conditions for unique habitat creation, especially for rare pioneer species, which thrive on the bare rocks and gravel of open-cast mines.

Enhancing biodiversity is part of the decision-making process at many sites and a foundation of land-restoration and water management policy. **Biodiversity is taken into account before, during and after extraction and, in some cases, extraction activity has led to the creation of new and enhanced natural habitats**. Many quarry operators solicit the help of biodiversity specialists and work in partnership with the local community, government, universities and other stakeholders.

IMA-Europe's mission, vision and values

MISSION

IMA-Europe is the decisive EU voice of industrial minerals producers and importers.

Our mission is to contribute to developing a thriving minerals industry at the heart of a sustainable Europe.

IMA-Europe helps the industrial minerals sector to continuously improve its performance and enhance its reputation by tackling issues relating to the properties and safe use of minerals, from their extraction and processing through to the entire value chain.

Competitiveness, health and safety at the workplace, environmental performance, product safety, and awareness about the importance of industrial minerals for society are at the core of IMA-Europe's priorities.

VISION

IMA-Europe aspires to become a reference in the European industrial associations' sector by representing its industries through science and facts-based communications with authorities and the broader value chain.

VALUES

Trustworthy

Our positions and advocacy actions are science-based, consistent and supported by facts and figures.

Efficient

We are goal-oriented, committed and we always seek to use resources wisely. We apply high-quality standards and respect deadlines.

Fair and non-discriminatory

All company members are treated in a fair and non-discriminatory way regardless notably of their size or geographical location.

Committed to well-being

We stimulate the safe and sustainable production and use of industrial minerals to improve the quality of life of all citizens in Europe and protect the environment.

IMA-Europe team

Ms Catherine Delfaux
President

Dr Roger Doome
Director General

Ms Florence Lumen
Director – Health & Safety

Dr Aurela Shtiza
Director – Industrial Affairs

Ms Celia Gryspeirt
Manager – Health & Safety

Ms Antigoni Effraimidou
Scientific Adviser – Health & Safety

Mr Juan Fernando López
Adviser – Climate & Energy

Mr Guillermo Gea
Manager – Environment & Energy

Mr Ignacio Gentiluomo
Communication Officer

Ms Marie-Charlotte Swinnen
Accountant

Ms Marie Klein
Office Assistant

@IMAEurope_eu

IMA-Europe

IMA-Europe comprises

The European Calcium Carbonate Association (CCA-Europe)

The European Borates Association (EBA)

The European Speciality Mineral Association (ESMA)

The European Bentonite Association (EUBA)

The European Lime Association (EuLA)

The European Association of Feldspar Producers (EUROFEL)

The European Association of Silica Producers (EUROSIL)

The Scientific Association of European Talc Producers (EUROTALC)

The International Diatomite Producers Association (IDPA)

The European Kaolin and Plastic Clays Association (KPC-Europe)

IMA Europe

IMA-Europe AISBL
Rue des Deux Eglises 26 box 2 (6° floor)
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

www.ima-europe.eu

secretariat@ima-europe.eu

Phone : +32 (0)2 210 44 10

Visit the website: