



## STRADE Newsletter – 01/2017

January 2017

- **STRADE: Past, present and future**
- **Conferences and events**
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### STRADE: Past, present and future

Over STRADE's first year, the project team collected and reflected on information related to raw materials and sustainability, pulling together the analyses into [nine policy briefs](#). These briefs documented and explored in detail the project's three main pillars:

- Strengthening the European raw-materials sector: Policy Briefs [03](#) and [08/2016](#), addressing EU mineral exploration expenditure budgets and cost competitiveness of mining operations in the EU;
- A European cooperation strategy with resource-rich countries: Policy Briefs [01](#), [02](#), and [06/2016](#), addressing EU engagements with third countries, especially raw-materials-producing countries;
- Internationally sustainable raw-material production & supply: Policy Briefs [04](#), [05](#), [07](#) and [09/2016](#), addressing environmental and socio-economic challenges, principles and criteria in the non-fuel mining sector.

Among these papers, STRADE partners from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, and from DMT Kai Batla in South Africa collaborated to present an **African perspective** of the European Union's approach to raw materials engagements ([Policy Brief 06/2016](#)).

The STRADE team is currently starting work on its idea for an **International Resource Governance Alliance**. Over the course of

the year STRADE will publish several policy briefs presenting the conceptual foundations and the EU's role in such an alliance between governments, industry and civil society key players, and the EU's role.

For the **upcoming year 2017**, STRADE will gradually wind down its fact-finding research and move towards defining an agenda for discourse and recommendations for the EU. **Policy Briefs** are foreseen in several areas, among others to propose:

- policy recommendations for key elements for aligning cooperation between the EU and developing countries that have EU raw-material policies;
- policy recommendations for an EU strategy for cooperation with resource-rich developing countries;
- an operational design of due diligence schemes for effective implementation of sustainability criteria and their mainstreaming into EU policy; and
- policy recommendations for EU support for exploration, investment and technology supplier sectors.

### Conferences and events

STRADE is planning many events throughout 2017 to present findings and discuss aspects from all three STRADE pillars. While many events will occur in Brussels or other European cities, several will be held outside the EU.

Planning is currently under way for hosting workshops in China and perhaps another one later in South Africa.

## Policy Briefs from autumn 2016

Five Policy Briefs have been published since October 2016. Of these, three address sustainable raw material production and supply. [Policy Brief 05/2016](#) comprehensively outlines the socio-economic challenges and opportunities presented by non-fuel mining and policy and the industry strategies to improve the socio-economic performance of mining activities. The starting point are opportunities and barriers to broader economic development followed by the review of the most relevant challenges such as impacts on communities, conflict minerals, human right abuses and hotspots in artisanal small-scale mining.

This was followed up with [Policy Brief 09/2016](#) investigating the mining sector's voluntary initiatives and the related principles and criteria for socio-economic sustainability, while similarly [Policy Brief 07/2016](#) looks into the initiatives for environmental sustainability. Together, these two last Policy Briefs comprehensively review the most relevant responsible mining initiatives in the ore mining sector to conclude that existing initiatives broadly address the relevant environmental and socio-economic issues. However, the landscape is very scattered without globally-accepted minimum guidelines. Successful and broad implementation of these responsible mining schemes is critical.

In November, STRADE partners from South Africa contributed [Policy Brief 06/2016](#), which presents a review of responses and proposals for the European Union's approach to raw materials. At the forefront, the authors conclude that the EU should position itself as a development partner in Africa instead of interacting with Africa merely as a raw materials source.

Lastly, [Policy Brief 08/2016](#) investigates the cost competitiveness of mines located in the EU. In general for operating mines in the EU28, mining operations were seen to be competitive; labour costs were the only consistently weak area for cost competitiveness.

For more in-depth summaries, see blogs about the individual Policy Briefs on STRADE's goxi page (<http://goxi.org/profile/STRADEProject/>), where you are welcome to make comments.

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