

## STATUS REPORT ABOUT RAW MATERIALS POLICY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

### I. Basic facts

Czech Republic has 10,5 mil. inhabitants and area of 79000 km<sup>2</sup> that means the density of population is 134 inh./km<sup>2</sup>. That generates problems to open new mine due to proximity of settlement quite everywhere. Czech Republic has historical advantage that majority of RM deposits has legal protection (Protected Deposit Area) very long time already. Every Land Use Plan is obliged to take into account that protection. Difficult discussions were held, when ecological organizations tried to establish new areas of Natura2000 anywhere they found special beetle or plant. We had one specialist in our department that worked full-timely on that matter more than two years.



Previous Czech RM Policy was approved in 1999 and checked in 2004. Many changes on global RM market and in technological progress has become from those times. Our department tried many times to modernize RM Policy, but it was politically infeasible to approve our RM sector needs or the politically acceptable changes would damage RM Policy very hard. Secondary RM Policy has been achieved independent and

approved in 2012. Works on recently approved version of RM Policy started in the beginning of 2015. It was preceded by six Roundtables about question of all areas related to the raw materials. Unfortunately, NGO and environmentalist didn't participate on those Roundtables even though they were personally invited. Process of Strategy Environmental Assessment was in progress nearly one complete year and RM Policy was finally approved in the middle of 2017 by the Government. Due to this fact, RM Policy is not translated to English language yet. Following text is brief extract of the most important ideas.

## **II. Raw Materials Policy**

### Main motto of the Raw Materials Policy of the Czech Republic is:

Effective and sustainable assurance and usage of ore, non-ore, energetic, construction, even untraditional and high-tech raw materials for the welfare of population and competitive national economy of the Czech Republic.

### Main proclamation of the Raw Materials Policy of the Czech Republic is:

Czech State as the owner of raw materials wealth clearly declare by the Raw Materials Policy that assurance of sufficiency of raw materials for domestic economy considers as one of its priorities. Czech State has interest on further refinement of knowledge about its raw materials potential and on consistent protection of Raw materials deposits. Czech State supports the area of science and research foremost in segment of material-saving technologies, new modern or non-destructive mining methods, searching for new types of raw materials and new modern usage of classic raw materials.

### Base for modernization:

- completion of privatization of mining sector
- involvement of the Czech Republic into EU
- principal systemic changes on global market of raw materials
- all-European emphasis on energetic and raw materials security
- issuing of strategic material Raw Materials Initiative by European Commission
- shift of interest to non-traditional raw materials or non-traditional usage of classic materials
- growth of importance of wide spectrum of ecological criteria

First part of Raw Materials Policy is about assurance of raw materials needs for state. It summarizes current state of mining and defines perspectives for of utilization of domestic raw materials. It contains statistical data nearly 30 years. From those data and other influences arise trends the future.

Second part establishes important objectives and priorities like security of assurance of raw materials, effective and sustainable mining, effective raw materials diplomacy, support of science and research etc.

Third part establishes tools and task for realization of Raw Materials Policy and sets definite tasks in near or farther future in areas like legislative instruments, instruments of operation of state administration, studies and analysis, economical tools, raw materials diplomacy, information technologies, public relation etc.

Raw Materials Policy is supposed to be valid for next 15 years, of course with periodic updates. This is why the document establishes general trends and goals mainly and definite task are designated for 3 to 5 years period only. The main idea of modernization of Raw Materials Policy is the shift of interest from classical to

modern raw materials. Correctness of this idea was verified even during the final stage of approval procedure of this document by the case of lithium deposits in North-West Bohemia mountain.

### **III. Stakeholder Group and their activities**

Origin of Stakeholder Group comes from Roundtables antecedent to works on modernization of Raw Materials Policy. Of course, the Stakeholder Group was narrowed and modified for the need of REMIX project. Currently the Group is composed by:

Regional Government of Stredočesky (Central Bohemia) Region

Regional Government of Ústecký (North-West Bohemia) Region

Union of Czech Towns and Municipalities

Czech Mining Authority

Mining Union of the Czech Republic

Association Czech Mining Technologies

company Vrsanská Uhelná

company GEMEC

Main activity in REMIX is to establish personal contacts with Stakeholders from other countries of the project, get to know issues of other regions and take advantage from their experience. All this activities will be connected to the application of tasks arising from Raw Materials Policy.

### **IV. Objectives prepared for implementation and consecutive improvement of the Raw Materials Policy**

Most important tasks that arise from Raw Materials Policy:

- review of archive data about modern raw materials
- creation of regional Raw Materials Policies interconnected to Land Use Plans
- assure and currently update the regional raw materials information system for needs of regional authorities
- strengthen the role of State in assessment of priorities for detailed geological exploration and of next utilization of raw materials
- support the green mining, economical exploitation of sources, material-saving technologies, recycling
- simplify the process of EIA, SEA, especially unite national and EU rules (Czech are harder)
- continue of state supervision over Czech commodity market
- coordinate cooperation between Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Czech Geological Survey in tasks related to Raw Materials Diplomacy
- support universities and technical high schools specialized in raw materials and mining areas
- support to medialize Raw Materials Policy

## **V. Ongoing other activities related to Raw Materials Policy**

Ministry of Industry and Trade utilizes projects from Czech Government program BETA 2 of research for purposes of state authorities. There are projects like to interface Czech and world-wide evaluation of raw materials deposits, to establish methodology for writing-off of remained small rests of brown coal deposits that are not economically mine already, etc. Advance of the process of modernization of Raw Materials Policy was presented on meetings of the Mining Union of the Czech Republic (twice per year) and will continue. Preparation and recent activities of REMIX project is also presented on those meetings.

## **VI. Themes for Peer Review Discussion**

- your experience with the process of Raw Materials Policy preparation and approval
- participation of Local Municipalities in the process of Mining Concessions allowance/issuing.
- role of the State in mining industry (ownership of RM deposits, priority right of mining, etc.)
- relations between Local Municipalities and mining companies including cross-border mining
- relations between Local Municipalities and NGOs in the area of mining industry
- your outlook on coal mining future in Europe