

Brussels, March 2019

PDAC, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's annual convention, is the world's leading event for the mining and exploration industry. PDAC 2020 was held from March 1 – 4 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. With over 1,100 exhibitors and 25,000 plus attendees from 132 countries, the different sessions, presentations, and networking provided the right platform for sharing insights on several issues in exploration and mining. PDAC was one of the few major events not cancelled or rescheduled due to the COVID-19 outbreak, though registration numbers were down when compared to previous years.

During the convention, **EGS shared the booth with the European Commission (7123N)** where the EU also hosted European Commission representatives, projects from H2020 (the EU research programme for research and innovation), EU countries, small and medium-sized enterprises and EU geological surveys.

EGS took part in the networking breakfast organised by the European Commission. The title of the networking breakfast was **European Union for a sustainable future: Opportunities in the EU's exploration and mining sectors**. Dr. Slavko Solar, Secretary General of EuroGeoSurveys presented Minerals and EuroGeoSurveys, during the session. Also, 6 EGS members from EU member states Geological Surveys presented their country's mineral endowment during the session.



EGS attended the 2020 **International Meeting of Geological Survey Organizations**. The meeting had presentations about global collaborations and the future of the International Consortium of Geological Surveys were discussed. This particular meeting was held at PDAC as the 36th International Geological Congress in India got re-scheduled.

Dr. Slavko Solar had a discussion with Mr. Roman Opimakh, Director General of the State Service for Geology and Subsoil of Ukraine (SGSSU) about strengthening future cooperation between EGS and SGSSU.

While at PDAC, EGS listened to dozens of speakers and caught up with many of EGS members and colleagues to glean insights into current events and predictions for the global mining sector. Chiefly as the EU aims to contribute to a secure, sustainable and responsible raw materials supply (from EU and non-EU countries) for EU industrial value chains. At the same time, to promote EU mining technologies and services, as well as responsible and sustainable mining.

Background message from the EU:

The shift to the climate-neutral economy will increase the global demand for non-energy raw materials more than ever. This demand exceeds what recycling can offer and we need to secure a primary supply from both EU and non-EU countries. Given the growing strategic importance of raw materials for the EU manufacturing industry, the Commission is taking actions under the EU raw materials initiative (RMI) for a secure, sustainable, responsible and affordable supply.

Raw materials, in particular scarce critical raw materials, keep European industrial value chains competitive for sectors such as automotive, machinery, electrical engineering, ICT, and defence. Raw materials' availability is a prerequisite for the transition to a climate-neutral economy with e-mobility and renewable energy. We are currently preparing an updated assessment of critical raw materials for the EU and will publish it this year.

For more information visit: <http://www.eurogeosurveys.org/>

The official photos of the booth and events are available here: <https://bit.ly/2wY259J>

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