

29 April 2010

Plenary Session 5 May 2010: Motion for a Resolution on the ban of use of cyanide

Dear Member of Parliament,

as the representative organisation of the European gold mining industry we would like to inform you that the European gold mining industry understands the public concern about the use of cyanide in the extractive industry and therefore is not opposed to a Resolution by the European Parliament.

However, the proposed ban of cyanide in the European Union is totally inappropriate for the following reasons:

- **the possible non-implementation or non-enforcement of EU legislation in one or two of the EU Member States cannot be the reason for jeopardising environmentally sound enterprises across the rest of the EU;**
- **the criticism about one of the techniques of extracting gold (heap leaching) from old tailings and waste heaps with cyanide cannot be the reason for jeopardising modern mining operations which operate with BAT and cyanide destruction technology which is environmentally safe;**
- **the banning of using cyanide in the gold mining industry in Europe would de facto close down all gold mines in Europe and would make Europe completely dependent on imports from countries which will not impose a ban. The development of even better BAT and alternatives will not be done in Europe.**

I therefore urge you not to support any ban on cyanide, but to rather call upon Commission and Member States **to ensure implementation of EU legislation and BAT and to ensure that inspections are carried out with the appropriate capacities and skills. There are mechanisms in place in the EU to ensure this and these should be called for.**

For your consideration we include a redrafted resolution.

On behalf of the modern European gold mining industry, I would like to thank you for your support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Corina Hebestreit".

Corina Hebestreit
Director