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Urban Mining: Unlocking Secondary Resources for a Circular Economy

Breakfast Debate - European Parliament
Brussels - 4 June 2025



01

Welcome & Opening Remarks

08:00 – 08:30

Moderator: Rudi Ruggeri - Italian National Council of Geologists (CNG)

- **Legislative perspectives and future European Parliament initiatives on circular economy and critical raw materials**
Susana Solís Pérez, Member of the European Parliament, ENVI Committee
- **Secondary raw materials in upcoming legislative proposals on the circular economy**
Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, European Commission DG ENVI (tbc)
- **The role of geoscience in supporting urban mining and circular economy strategies at the local level**
David Govoni, President, European Federation of Geologists
- **How RemTech Expo fosters innovation and collaboration in sustainable resource management**
Silvia Paparella, General Manager, RemTech Expo - Environmental Technological Hub



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02

Roundtable: "Urban mining: Challenges and Opportunities for Local Sustainability"

08:30 – 09:20 **Moderator:** Rudi Ruggeri - Italian National Council of Geologists (CNG)

Roundtable participants:

- Christian Burlet, Geologist, Geological Survey of Belgium
- Marco Falconi, RemTech Europe Scientific Coordinator and IMPEL Chair
- Nino Tarantino, Government Sub-Commissioner for Land Reclamation – Italy and member of the European IMPEL Network
- Marta Cerati, Atlantic Copper
- Luis Esquivias, Professor, University of Seville, FIC-Fighters project member

03

Closing Remarks & Call to Action

09:20 – 09:30 **Summary of discussion:** Anita Stein, Interim Executive Director, European Federation of Geologists

Final declarations:

- Susana Solís Pérez, Member of the European Parliament
- David Govoni, President, European Federation of Geologists
- Silvia Paparella, General Manager, RemTech Expo - Environmental Technological Hub

Event partners

- European Federation of Geologists (EFG): <https://eurogeologists.eu/>
- RemTech Expo: <https://remtechexpo.com/>
- Geological Survey of Belgium: <https://gsb.naturalsciences.be/>
- Geologica Belgica Luxemburgia (GBLsp): <https://geologicabelgica.be/>
- Horizon Europe FIC-Fighters project: <https://fic-fighters.eu/>

Event description

Urban mining is emerging as a crucial strategy for sustainable resource management, helping to reduce dependency on primary raw materials while promoting circular economy principles. This event, co-organised by the **European Federation of Geologists (EFG)**, **RemTech Expo**, the Geological Survey of Belgium, Geologica Belgica Luxemburga (GBLsp) and the Horizon Europe FIC-Fighters project, will bring together experts from policy, industry, and geoscience to explore how urban mining can support Europe's transition to a more resilient and resource-efficient economy.

Geologists play a fundamental role in identifying, mapping, and assessing secondary raw material sources within urban environments. From construction and demolition waste to electronic waste and industrial by-products, the extraction and recovery of valuable materials from anthropogenic sources can significantly reduce the environmental footprint of resource exploitation. However, realising the full potential of urban mining requires coordinated action across multiple sectors, including innovative technologies, supportive policies, and financial incentives at the local, national, and EU levels.

Hosted by Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Susana Solís Pérez, this breakfast debate will feature a high-level **interactive roundtable discussion** with representatives from the **European Commission, European Parliament, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), industry leaders, geoscience experts, and NGO representatives**. Together, they will address key challenges and opportunities related to urban mining, including:

- The role of geologists in mapping and assessing secondary raw materials
- The latest technological advancements in material recovery and processing
- Policy instruments and financial incentives to support urban mining projects
- EU regulatory frameworks and future legislative developments
- Successful case studies showcasing urban mining initiatives in Europe

Participants will gain insights into how different stakeholders can collaborate to **unlock the potential of urban mining** and drive investment in secondary raw material recovery. The event will also highlight the importance of recognising geologists' expertise in resource management and sustainability, reinforcing their role in shaping the circular economy.

Please note that this event is by invitation and only registered participants can be accepted. For capacity reasons, everyone is required to register for the event, even those who already have an European Parliament badge. Light breakfast will be served.

To express your interest in participating in this event, please reach out to events_at_eurogeologists.eu.