



Best use of EU's indigenous coal

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● **2nd Strategic Energy Review – Securing our energy future (SER II)**

- Political agenda for energy for the short/medium term
- Main theme of SER II:

EU Energy Security and Solidarity Action Plan

- » External relations
- » Emergency oil stocks, gas crises mechanisms
- » Energy efficiency
- » Indigenous energy sources

Making the best use of the EU's indigenous energy resources

- Clear objective for renewables, the EU's greatest potential source of indigenous energy
- Role of coal in the domestic energy supply as an important alternative to oil and gas
- Technology is crucial; next step in the Strategic Energy Technology Plan to be a Communication on Financing Low Carbon Technologies; including ways to support large scale demonstrations at EU level like CCS
- Long-term use of coal requires highly-efficient plants and wide availability of CCS
- **COM calls to promote the environmentally-compatible development of the EU's fossil fuel resources and to encourage the Berlin Fossil Fuel Forum to develop a set of recommendations regarding the actions necessary.**

● The role of coal for energy supply

- Coal is a large contributor to EU energy supply with a share of around 18 % in the EU-27 total energy consumption
- One third of power generation in the EU is based on coal – 30 % of hard coal is used for steel production and other industrial processes
- EU is the third biggest consumer of coal worldwide – rapid increase in global demand for coal
- EU coal production 155 Mt hard coal and 438 Mt lignite in 2007
- 60 % of EU coal consumption is derived from indigenous production
- Increasing dependence on imports of hard coal coming from Russia, South Africa, Colombia and other countries.



Role of coal for the economical and social development

- Contribution of coal to the “Lisbon Strategy” towards more competitiveness and employment
- EU coal mining sector accounts for more than 280 000 employees – in the whole coal-value chain and coal-related suppliers and businesses the employment is much higher
- Coal is a major component of many regional economies and regional policies

● Advantages and problems of coal

- + coal is a domestic fuel at a significant share
- + coal is an abundant energy source which is globally available
- + coal price is comparably stable and affordable for electricity production
- + can be stored easily in large quantities
- + well understood conversion process
- + can provide flexibility in the management of electricity systems

■ coal is the most carbon intensive fuel
■ other environmental concerns

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- **Main factors affecting the availability and affordability of coal resources**
 - Transparency of Europe's coal inventory
 - Regulatory framework related to access to land and environmental impacts
 - Public Acceptance
 - Research and Innovation
 - Availability of skilled workforce

● **Transparent and coherent EU coal inventory**

- Lack of harmonized rules for assessing coal reserves and resources across MS reduces EU wide transparency and knowledge
- Undermines efforts to develop projects aiming at reducing the external dependence of coal supply

Possible solutions may include


- Analysing differences in reserve and resource classification in the MS to obtain an EU-wide compatible system taking into account all characteristics of coal
- Exploring the possibilities of establishing an EU map of important coal basins
- Encouraging further exchange and sharing of experience and better networking between geological surveys or related institutions

● **Regulatory framework related to access to land and environmental impacts**

- Access to land is a key requirement and is crucial for securing the coal supply and to replace depleted mines

Important framework conditions for access to land are

- » Land use planning
- » Permission procedures
- » Natura 2000
- Impacts on the availability and affordability of coal resources

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- **Possible actions to improve the regulatory framework related to access to land by**
 - “Better regulation” with less administrative burdens in environmental approval procedures
 - Developing a guidance document that provides clarity on how to reconcile mining activities in or near Natura 2000 areas and species with environmental protection

● Possible actions to improve acceptance by

- Improving public awareness for the importance of coal mining and utilisation in order to secure the energy supply and to meet economic and social needs in Europe
- Promoting more effective dialogue between public, authorities, local communities, NGO's and industry
- Encouraging information and communication campaigns on the implications and questions of new projects and technologies
- Taking into account who conveys the message and which different audiences are interested

● Possible actions to improve Research and Innovation by

- Promoting R&D on innovative and environmentally friendly exploration, mining and conversion technologies including unconventional uses of coal through MS and Community instruments such as RFCS
- Encouraging further exchange and sharing of information and experience on coal-related R& D and cooperation between governments, universities and research institutes and industry
- Promoting activities for EU clusters and competence centres on mineral resources and their utilisation

● Possible actions to improve the availability of skilled workforce

- Encouraging more collaboration on mining related-educational programmes between universities, geological surveys and industry
- Improving the teaching and research capacities for mining- related engineering at European universities and research institutes
- Promoting skills in innovative mining and processing technologies and resources efficiency
- Attracting students to mining-related degrees and making the coal industry more promising for graduates and skilled workforce