



European Minerals Day – Launch Event
Prague, 14 May 2009

Speech by **Mr Tomas Hüner**
Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade



Dear Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a really big honor for me to have a speech here as a representative of the Czech Presidency, in the Official Launch of the European Minerals Day 2009 in the presence of European Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen, our excellent and honorable guest.

The mining industry is one of the most essential sectors for European economy (and also for the Czech economy), because – as you very well know – access to and affordability of mineral raw materials are crucial for the sound functioning of the EU economy. Sectors such as construction, chemicals, automotive, aerospace, pharmaceutical industry, machinery and equipment sectors, which provide a total value added of € 1 400 billion and employment for some 30 million people all depend on access to raw materials.

Therefore the Czech EU Presidency:

- Supports the Communication of the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council “The Raw Material Initiative – meeting our critical needs for growth and jobs in Europe”;
- Appeals to the national governments of EU Member States, to the European Commission and the European Parliament in the matter of the strategic importance of raw material resources and asks them to support steps leading to an increase of raw material supply security for the European continent;
- Appeals to national governments of EU Member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament, to create conditions for improving accessibility to local European sources, with the medium-term aim of reducing the import dependence of the European continent in individual commodities while respecting free trade principals and rules.
- Appeals to national governments of EU Member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament, to consider – in respect of “critically” high import dependencies in case of many commodities – the use of land for the extraction of local raw materials to be recognized a fully equal method to using land for other purposes – the mining industry should not be discriminated in matters related to access to land;
- Appeals to national governments of EU Member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament to support economic “raw material” diplomacy, i.e. mutually favourable relations with third world countries, having available interesting raw materials potential;
- Appeals to national governments of EU Members States to use projects of development assistance to a maximal level so as to establish mutually advantageous relations in the sector of raw materials and power supply industry;
- Appeals to the European Commission to invite to the special raw materials partnership our neighboring countries with significant raw material potential (namely Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine).



Last but not least I would like to wish a big success to the European Minerals Day.