

Eurasian Resources Group

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MEDIA RELEASE

Eurasian Resources Group Proud to Launch Its Clean Cobalt Framework at Metalkol RTR

Metalkol RTR is fundamental to the development of ERG's operations in the DRC and the driver for the Group's plans to increase its cobalt production by approximately four-fold in 2019

Eurasian Resources Group ("ERG" or "the Group"), a leading diversified natural resources group, is pleased to announce the launch of its Clean Cobalt Framework ("the Framework") at Metalkol RTR as part of ERG's commitment to ensure sustainable cobalt production.

At the heart of the ERG Clean Cobalt Framework is the pursuit of excellence in responsible production and harnessing opportunities to drive sustainability along the cobalt value chain, including via partnerships. The Framework will be launched at ERG's Metalkol RTR project which is set to become one of the most significant producers of clean cobalt globally and places the conversion of waste into viable commercial products at the centre of its business model. Progress against the Framework at Metalkol will be reported annually and third-party validation will be sought.

Through the Framework, ERG aims to set out its strategy for working in the DRC to address the potential challenges of meeting the soaring demand for cobalt. The ERG Clean Cobalt Framework aims to drive positive outcomes for people in the DRC and global society by pursuing **seven commitments**:

- Compliance with the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals
- · Our cobalt is free of child labour
- Our cobalt is traceable
- Our cobalt does not come from artisanal and small-scale mining
- We restore the environment
- We collaborate to support sustainable community development
- We support our industry towards more sustainable cobalt value chains

Commenting on the launch of the initiative, *Benedikt Sobotka, CEO of Eurasian Resources Group*, said: "As a founding member of the World Economic Forum's Global Battery Alliance, ERG is affirming its commitment to the production and sourcing of clean cobalt, to reach the highest international industry standards. We hope that this will encourage similar commitments from participants throughout the global value chain and ensure that any challenges associated with meeting increasing demand are appropriately managed, documented and dealt with."

The full Framework can be accessed through the following link: https://eurasianresources.lu/uploads/1/files/ERG%20Clean%20Cobalt%20Framework.pdf

The importance of clean cobalt:

A vital component of lithium-ion batteries that power electric vehicles and storage systems for renewable energy, cobalt is a key driver of the global transition to a low carbon economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It is estimated that the number of EVs worldwide will jump from 3.2 million in 2017 to 130 million in 2030 with cobalt demand increasing by as much as 47 times by that point.

More than 65% of cobalt's global supply comes from the DRC, a figure which is set to increase further and, while providing significant growth opportunities, this natural endowment comes with its own set of challenges including **risks associated with human rights infringements and unethical business practices.** Of particular concern is the use of child labour and the human rights issues associated with artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), a sector that accounts for between 20-25% of global cobalt production. ERG recognises the urgent need for metal suppliers to commit to ensuring that cobalt is produced and sourced responsibly and sustainably and to support the efforts of its customers.

<u>Information about ERG's partnerships supporting the Clean Cobalt Framework:</u>

Eurasian Resources Group is committed to supporting local communities in its areas of operation, including Metalkol RTR. Last year the Group pledged more than US\$1 million to support a three-year partnership with the Good Shepherd International Foundation in the Kolwezi area. This partnership is helping approximately 1,000 vulnerable children to access basic education and other services such as counselling, healthcare and access to referral systems for physical abuse.

This month, ERG announced its support for "Children Out of Mining–Northern Kolwezi", an initiative carried out by the international development organisation, Pact. The project aims to raise awareness and strengthen child protection norms through a range of tailored capacity-building interventions focused on tackling the risks children may face in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM).

For additional information please contact:

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About Eurasian Resources Group:

ERG is a leading diversified natural resources group with integrated mining, processing, energy, logistics and marketing operations. The Group operates in 15 countries across four continents and is represented by more than 85,000 people.

ERG represents one third of the metals and mining industry in the Republic of Kazakhstan and is a global leader in ferrochrome production by chrome content as well as a large supplier of iron ore, aluminium, alumina and steam coal. The Group also provides electric power distribution and railway operation services. ERG manages production entities in Kazakhstan that are among the nation's foremost enterprises, including Kazchrome, SSGPO, Kazakhstan Aluminium Smelter (KAS), Aluminium of Kazakhstan, Eurasian Energy Corporation, Shubarkol Komir, Transportation Group TransCom and the Pavlodar Machinery Plant.

ERG is also a principal cobalt and copper producer through its operations in Africa, including the Metalkol Roan Tailings Reclamation (RTR) project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a major tailings reprocessing operation currently under construction, as well as Boss Mining, Frontier Mine and Comide. Chambishi Metals, the Group's refinery in the Republic of Zambia, is a LME-registered cobalt metal and copper cathode producer.

The Group has further development projects in thermal coal, manganese, platinum, bauxite and fluorspar in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mali and Mozambique. ERG controls its own supply chain on the continent through its company Sabot, a North-South Corridor logistics specialist.

In the State of Bahia in Brazil, ERG is pioneering an integrated mining and logistics project comprising the Pedra de Ferro iron ore mine, the Porto Sul deep-water port and the associated new FIOL broad-gauge railway.