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PRESS RELEASE

ERG's Metalkol site awarded The Copper Mark, becoming the first ever tailings processing operation to achieve the standard

Kolwezi, 24 February 2026 – La Compagnie de Traitement des Rejets de Kingamyambo S.A. (**Metalkol SA** or **Metalkol**), a subsidiary of Eurasian Resources Group (ERG), a global metals and mining company, is pleased to announce that the Metalkol site was recently awarded [The Copper Mark](#), becoming the first ever mining tailings processing operation to achieve this recognition.

The award confirms that Metalkol's operations meet internationally recognised Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards for responsible copper production. As one of the world's largest standalone cobalt suppliers, Metalkol also produces this critical mineral under the same standards.

The Copper Mark is a leading voluntary third-party assurance framework that verifies responsible production practices across the copper, molybdenum, nickel, and zinc industries. It provides external validation of a site's performance and aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the ILO Conventions, the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management (GISTM), the OECD Minerals Guidance and ICMM Principles.

Located in Lualaba Province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Metalkol is a leading copper and cobalt producer specialising in the processing of historic mining tailings. Its operations support the sustainable recovery of minerals from the Musonoi River Basin and Kingamyambo, contributing to progressive environmental restoration and the economic and social development of local communities.

The framework evaluated Metalkol against 33 ESG criteria, including but not limited to:

- environmental management including climate risk mitigation and tailings management;
- governance, business integrity and transparency;
- human rights, health and safety labour practices and working conditions; and
- transparent engagement with stakeholders, including communities.

This achievement forms part of a continuous performance improvement cycle with periodic reassessments. Valid for three years, it requires regular performance monitoring to ensure continued progress.

Davron Vakhobov, CEO of ERG Africa, commented: *"Obtaining The Copper Mark at Metalkol reflects our commitment to operating responsibly and transparently. For ERG Africa, producing copper and cobalt in accordance with global best practices is based on three essential principles:*

responsibility, traceability and credibility at origin. This means focusing not only on where minerals come from, but also on how they are produced. Combined with recognised standards, independent audits and a continuous improvement approach, these elements are essential to strengthening trust throughout the value chain.”

Leonid Tuzenko, ERG’s Head of Copper and Cobalt Sales, added: *“Despite the challenging conditions in the cobalt market in 2024/25, achieving The Copper Mark for Metalkol site demonstrates ERG’s long-term commitment to supporting our key customers across the entire value chain, including global battery manufacturers and electric vehicle producers, by providing them with responsibly and sustainably produced cobalt. The Copper Mark also helps to streamline ESG-related due diligence for customers in our established copper markets, including China, the Middle East, and Europe, while strengthening our access to the US market.”*

“This is the first tailings processing operation to earn The Copper Mark. Metalkol’s achievement underlines how our assurance framework can be successfully applied at diverse sites across the value chain,” said Michèle Brühlhart, Executive Director of The Copper Mark.

The award provides tangible recognition of the practices implemented on Metalkol site and helps align operational performance with the expectations of financing partners, customers and end users. It also demonstrates ERG Africa’s ongoing commitment to transparency and continuous improvement, while reinforcing the DRC’s role in global critical metals supply chains through the sector’s growing alignment with international standards.

Read the commitment letter [here](#).

Read the final assurance report [here](#).

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About ERG:

Eurasian Resources Group (ERG) is a leading diversified natural resources group headquartered in Luxembourg, with integrated mining, processing, energy, logistics, and marketing operations. The Group has around 67,000 employees and sells products in more than 40 countries. The Group’s main shareholder (40% stake) is the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ERG is one of the world’s largest producers of cobalt and ferrochrome and is a large international supplier of copper and iron ore. In Eurasia, it is a leading supplier of alumina and is the only producer of high-grade aluminium in Kazakhstan.

Overall, in Kazakhstan, the Group operates many of the country’s leading production entities, including Kazchrome, Sokolov-Sarbai Iron Ore Mining Production Association (SSGPO), Kazakhstan Aluminium Smelter, Aluminium of Kazakhstan, Eurasian Energy Corporation, and others. The Group is a key power supplier and a large railway operator in Central Asia.

ERG Africa also forms a core part of the Group’s international asset portfolio. ERG Africa is represented in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by its principal entities – Metalkol, Frontier, Boss Mining and COMIDE. In the DRC, Frontier is the cornerstone of the Group’s copper

business and Metalkol is a major tailings reprocessing operation, which has become one of the world's largest producers of cobalt and a major producer of copper. The Group also has a copper and cobalt business in Zambia and development projects in South Africa and Zimbabwe which are focused on other minerals and products. In addition, the Group has its own supply chain on the continent through its logistics company SABOT.

In Brazil, ERG is developing BAMIN, an integrated mining and logistics project in the State of Bahia, which comprises the Pedra de Ferro high-grade iron ore mine, the Porto Sul deep-water port and the associated stretch of the new FIOLE broad-gauge railway.

About the Copper Mark:

The Copper Mark is the leading assurance framework promoting responsible practices across the copper, molybdenum, nickel and zinc value chains. The Copper Mark assurance framework is available to all producers of the covered metals, including mines, smelters, refineries and metal manufacturers. Globally, more than 100 sites have completed the Copper Mark's assurance process.