

Conclusions of ANIET's XIII Technical Seminars

It took place, on the 9th of November 2016, at the Oporto Congress Center of Alfândega, ANIET's (Associação Nacional da Indústria Extractiva e Transformadora) XIII Technical Seminars, organized by this association, which had more than two hundred participants.

From the reflections and exchange of views between all players and participants, we can highlight:

- The importance of the accomplishment of the Technical Seminars, which all over its several editions and in the attendance of its goals, have already imposed themselves as a privileged space in the exchange of information amongst the several players of this economic sector;
- The importance of the extractive industry in the national economy (particularly in the export sector) and the contribution that the urban rehabilitation may have in the revitalization of the internal aggregates, ornamental and industrial rocks market;
- It has been expressed the importance that the Portuguese Government recognizes to the Extractive Industry, meant to promote the binomial human resources versus natural resources. The Government proposes itself to encourage the sector's companies in a way that the business tissue associated to the Extractive Industry can be strengthened;
- The Extractive industry explores one natural resource intrinsically poor which obliges the work of the economical sustainability in its limits. The recent market evolution, which emphasizes a general tendency for the depreciation of quotation has as consequence the progressive raise of the mining projects over the last 50 years, this is, bigger mineral deposits. Portugal has a mineral diversified potential, naturally associated with the Geology of its territory, whose quantitative expression points to the possibility of the sector aspiring to duplicate the contribution to the GDP. To attend this goal it needs to be supported by sectoral policies of positive discrimination such as the fiscal policy, the access to venture capital or even investments in research projects, scientific and technological development;
- The basic law 54/2015 creates territory access conditions, which in a near future may take to the disinvestment in the mining sector. We

- recommend the revision of this Decree law at the same time of the publication of the related regulations;
- It was also made a reference to the new circular economy paradigm promoted by the EU and the leading role that the Extractive Industry may have in this area, not only by the domain of the necessary technologies to the reuse / revaluation of wastes, but also for the accumulated practical knowledge in the use of raw materials of low economical value;
 - It were pointed out the big challenges for the aggregates' sector in the world which came out of the GAIN 2016 forum. It were presented the major conclusions which came out of the social partners meeting who are members of the Global Information Aggregates Network (Gain Forum 2016) which took place in South Africa last April (we can highlight that the members of this network represent more than 60% of the worldwide aggregates production, which is estimated in more than 40 billion tons). It were also mentioned the data on the production and the consumption of aggregates worldwide, the perspectives of the worldwide evolution of the markets of this raw materials and the future challenges that this important world economic sector will have. It were clearly identified the problems and the need to plan the access to this mining resources , fighting not only the illegal activity but also the environmental impacts that deregulated practices have on this subsector of the extractive industry;
 - It were emphasized the opportunities of supporting expansion and internationalization of the sector companies. Being ANIET a privileged partner to redirect to its associates those supports;
 - A reflection was also made about new opportunities in the Extractive Industry, in particular those which come out of the journey made by this industrial activity in the exploitation of Marine Georesources. The ongoing project of the Extension of the Continental Portuguese Platform may increase Portugal's potentialities in this domain;
 - We also thought over sustainability (in the aspect of the preservation of resources) of the exploitation of mineral resources, being identified the several dimensions of sustainability in the Mining Row. The importance in the mining resources of the three elements – Know – Preserve – Value was underlined;

- It was stressed out the relations and the benefits which may arise from the aggregation between the Cluster Habitat Sustentável and the extractive sector;
- It was also discussed the Recovering of landscape & Biodiversity associated to the Extractive Industry Sector, for this matter a case study was presented (Secil – Outão) in which were highlighted some implications connected with flora and fauna of the exploitation areas of the mineral resources. The difficulties of the recovery processes were underlined, the importance of developing new investigations, the need of continuous monitoring and in long term involving not only the affected areas but also the wide areas which comprise and complement the studied ecosystem.

Oporto Congress Center of Alfândega, 9th November 2016

XIII Technical Seminars of Associação Nacional da Indústria Extractiva e Transformadora

Joaquim Eduardo Sousa Góis

(Coordinator of the Regional Engineer Geological and Mining College –
Order of Engineers of the North Region)