



**Statement by Mr. Jaanus TAMKIVI,  
the Estonian Minister of the Environment,  
at the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
Commission on Sustainable Development  
Ministerial Round Table “Managing Mining for Sustainable Development”**

United Nations Headquarters  
New York  
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Dear colleagues,

Estonia lines up with the general position brought up by EU during the session. Compared to the global level Estonia has no remarkable mineral resources. However, we have a geological resource that is essential in the local level and might be of interest on global context as well – the oil shale (organic-rich shale).

The Estonian deposit is the largest commercially exploited and best-studied oil shale deposit; despite there are huge deposits of similar kind widely spread in the world. It is clear, that several countries will exploit their oil-shale deposits in the future, and Estonia will be open to share our experience on that field.

Oil shale is a resource of strategic importance to Estonia, as it will ensure our energy security and sustainable development. As the primary interest of the State is an uninterrupted supply of electricity and heating energy to all consumers, oil shale resources are being used efficiently and with the minimization of the environmental impacts.

Increased demand of oil products during last years, has initiated development and improvement of oil-shale based production technologies. We have made remarkable progress in this field in recent years. Estonia possesses the unique experience and know-how of mining and processing of oil shale and uses the best possible technologies in all phases of production. In Estonia we have developed unique new technology, enabling the oil and oil-gas production with minimized environmental impact and waste. At the present day there are working two solid heat carrier installations that are the only functioning units of their kind in the world.

In Estonia we are increasing the use of the limestone gangue from oil-shale mining as the building material. This is a good initiative concerning the management of residues and waste-rock in extractive industry. Production of such a construction material from waste is economically motivated also with landfill tax, applied to all industrial waste.

Thank you!