

# Press release

13 September 2000

## Environment report

Union Minière has published its first *environment report*, not with the aim of following the current trend, but:

- Outside the company, to communicate in a transparent, open manner with national and international authorities and all other parties concerned;
- Inside the company, to provide the foundation for a coherent management system, by introducing a set of measurable environmental performance indicators.

In short, this report offers a detailed overview of the environmental performance of all the industrial sites in the European Union. It also constitutes a management system for determining and complying with the environmental objectives of the Group and all the units belonging to the Group.

Externally, UM wants to provide the authorities with an opportunity to monitor its environmental performance in a structured manner year by year and to measure the performance attained against the objectives set. Internally, UM wants to extend this management system to all of the Group's industrial facilities, including those outside the European Union.

All the facts and figures contained in this report have been examined by external auditors to ensure they are both objective and relevant.

This first environment report highlights several key issues:

1. Emissions of metals into the atmosphere and water have halved over the past five years, a trend which has already been in evidence for around 20 years.
2. Another positive aspect is that UM is systematically increasing the proportion of secondary raw materials (recycled products) in terms of its total feedstock. UM currently recycles more than 600,000 tonnes, in other words, around 28% of the raw materials it consumes. This is a much higher proportion than is usual for the sector as a whole. Through its recycling activities UM makes an important contribution to sustainability by reducing the consumption of natural resources and energy.

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3. The report also clearly illustrates that UM is achieving good levels of compliance with both environmental standards and conditions which are imposed by external bodies and additional rules which it has adopted on a voluntary basis (93%). This is despite numerous new facilities being started up last year. This figure is expected to show a further improvement.
4. The reported environmental nuisance level showed a striking downward trend, decreasing by more than 80% in less than 10 years.
5. UM's major copper producing operations in Bulgaria (Pirdop) should already achieve compliance with EU environmental standards in 2002, as a result of a USD 109 million investment programme.

This first environment report concentrates on describing the current state of affairs and describes the methodology applied; however, in future, in addition to providing a classic account of events, it will also give greater emphasis to the objectives and targets the Group hopes to achieve on the environmental front in the years to come.

Finally we are proud to announce that the Dow Jones Sustainability Group has identified UM as a company with "above average sustainability performance" compared to other companies in the metal industry. This comforts the UM management team that the company is on the right track to sustainable growth.

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The report can be obtained by e-mail ([info@um.be](mailto:info@um.be)) or directly downloaded from UM's website ([www.unionminiere.com](http://www.unionminiere.com)).

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## PROFILE

**Union Minière (UM)** is an international metals and materials group, which strives to obtain leadership positions in selected markets. Its activities are centred on 3 business groups: Advanced Materials, Copper & Precious Metals and Zinc. To ensure a rapid response to the market, each business group is divided into several business units and business lines.

The UM Group has industrial operations in Europe, North America, Asia and Africa and serves a global customer base through an international sales network with offices in more than 25 countries.

The underlying principles of UM's strategy across the various business groups are a commitment to technological innovation, operational excellence, recycling and environmental responsibility.

The Group generated a turnover of EUR 3.2 billion in 1999. UM currently employs some 8,000 people.

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