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Oral Presentation

S20. MINING POLLUTION IN TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS: AN OVERVIEW

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TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS (TRNC)

Cyprus has long been known as an island with copper resources. In fact, it is said the name of Cyprus is derived from the word Cyprium and Cuprium means Copper. The Cyprus Mining Corporation (CMC) made a major contribution to the Cypriot economy until 1975. Due to events of the war in 1974, the company abandoned mining in the area in 1975. Over the years, without any environmental protection measures of the mining area being undertaken, contamination caused by what remains there is more severe than previously estimated. Several reports have shown that soil, drinking water and irrigation water are contaminated by heavy metals. Also living organisms are affected such as crops, plantlife, and animals, as well as human populations. Along with Cyprus, it is believed that other eastern and middle Mediterranean countries are endangered too. In this overview, contamination of the environment, living organisms and public health problems will be presented, along with the legal status of the CMC in relation to European Environmental Policy and the Constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in accordance with previously conducted research.