**Polymetal International response regarding Geghanush tailing dump**

*Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Polymetal International to respond to the following item:*

- *«Geghanush tailing dump: Cancer diseases and zero attention», Ecolur Network, 3 August 2016*

<http://www.ecolur.org/en/news/mining/geghanush-tailing-dump-cancer-diseases-and-zero-attention/8454/>

*In response, Polymetal International sent the following statement:*

We would like to thank the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre for raising this with us. Polymetal takes its environmental and social responsibilities extremely seriously.

The Kapan Gold Mine is a new asset for Polymetal after acquiring it from Dundee Precious Metals in April this year. As part of the process of integrating the Kapan Gold Mine into Polymetal Group, a thorough assessment of the mine’s current environmental impact is being conducted. We will be rolling out our Group-wide environmental management system to Kapan, which adheres to national and international standards, legislation and best practice and is designed to protect and improve the ecology in the areas where we operate. We will continue to develop this system and will seek to get it certified.

Bringing social and environmental policies at Kapan in line with the rest of our operations will take some time, but work is underway. We have already established a Polymetal information centre at Kapan where local residents can go to receive information about our operations and raise any issues they may have. Although we understand that residents have had previous contact with Dundee Precious Metals, Polymetal has not yet been approached by the local community about the Kapan operation. We are very much open for dialogue and encourage local residents to use our information centre to highlight any concerns.

As we continue integrating Kapan into Polymetal Group, we will set up the same feedback system that is in place at all of our operations, which offers a simple mechanism for local residents to get in contact with us with any questions or suggestions. This system works very successfully across the Group and we look forward to it becoming operational in Kapan, which is expected by the year end.

Needless to say, the health and wellbeing of our employees and local communities are of paramount importance to Polymetal and forms a cornerstone of our sustainability strategy. In 2015, we invested US$5.1 million in environmental protection and our Safety and Sustainability Committee, which was created last year, is constantly reviewing how we can further minimise our environmental impact. Our sustainability policies are designed to meet the principles of the UN Global Compact and since we signed up in 2009, we have complied with the Compact’s ten principles in relation to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption across our portfolio of assets.

As stated in our Sustainability Report, in 2015, we continued our excellent compliance record in relation to environmental laws and regulations, receiving no significant fines or nonmonetary sanctions for breaches or infringements. Historically, we had no major environmental incidents and there were no spills or leakages in 2015. Our compliance with strict environmental standards has been recognised by third parties and we are proud constituents of the FTSE4Good and Euronext Vigeo 70 Emerging Markets sustainability indices. As such, we are working hard to ensure our Kapan operation meets our high environmental standards.

Following your query, we will further investigate the environmental legacy in the Kapan area with a view to identifying any potential health hazards.