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Avrupa Minerals commences drilling at Marateca in the Portuguese Pyrite Belt

Avrupa Minerals Ltd. (AVU:TSXV) is pleased to announce that drilling has started at the Marateca Cu-Zn project in the northernmost extension of the Iberian Pyrite Belt (IPB) in Portugal. Three holes total are planned for three separate targets in an exposed window of the same package of Paleozoic volcano-sedimentary rocks that hosts the giant Neves-Corvo massive sulfide deposit, located 115 km to the southeast in the IPB and presently being mined by Lundin Mining Company. Two of the targets, the São Martinho and Volta anomalies, are classic volcanogenic massive sulfide (VMS) targets based on interpretation of gravity, reflection seismic, and IP-Resistivity geophysical data. The third target, at the Serrinha anomaly, is based more on the surface presence of exhalative-style mineralization and alteration, anomalous soil geochemistry (Cu, Pb, Zn, Ag, As, Sb, Ba, Mn, Hg), and a broad subsurface IP chargeability anomaly that may indicate the possibility of stockwork or VMS feeder-zone mineralization.

Avrupa will pre-collar the São Martinho and Volta holes, using a percussion drill to quickly cut through 50 to 100 meters of Tertiary cover, followed by the use of core drilling to pass through the Paleozoic rocks down to the target zone of 350 to 500 meters depth. Drilling at Serrinha will directly start with the use of the core drill rig down to a target zone of 250 to 300 meters depth. The Company anticipates the drilling program to continue into early 2011, with approximately 1,300 meters of drilling completed.

Paul W. Kuhn, CEO of Avrupa commented, "We are excited to start the drilling program at Marateca. This may be the northernmost drilling attempted in the Pyrite Belt, and almost 30 kilometers north of the blind Lagoa Salgada Cu-Zn deposit, presently the farthest-north-known VMS deposit in the IPB. We accomplished the generation of these first three Marateca targets using sound surface geologic mapping and anomalous soil and rock geochemistry, integrated with the use of historical airborne geophysical information and recently-applied ground geophysical surveys. The three first-pass, exploratory drill holes were designed to better understand the targets, and to add to our total knowledge of the target area, making the project even more attractive to potential joint venture partners. Adding to the excitement is the fact that the Marateca property also contains at least six other target areas that have not yet been advanced to the degree of understanding that we have at São Martinho, Volta, and Serrinha."

Avrupa Minerals holds two contiguous licenses, Alvalade and Ferreira do Alentejo, located 50-60 km south of Marateca in the northern Portuguese Pyrite Belt and has been granted a third (also contiguous) license, Canal Caveira, although the contract for

this one has not yet been signed by the government of Portugal. The Caveira and Alvalade licenses cover a number of known deposits and formerly-working mines, including the Caveira Mine and Lousal Mine, respectively. Avrupa is currently working on compilation and re-interpretation of historic geophysical, geological, and geochemical data for the Lousal-Caveira district and will be able to greatly upgrade their understanding of the district over the next 3-6 months. The Company continues to generate new high quality drilling targets in the district and will look to potentially advancing these targets by joint venture-style partnerships with other companies.

Avrupa Minerals Ltd. is a growth-oriented junior exploration and development company focused on aggressive exploration, using a prospect generator model, for valuable mineral deposits in politically stable and prospective regions of Europe, including Portugal and Kosovo.

The Company has an exciting portfolio of exploration projects consisting of:

- Copper and Zinc in Portugal at Marateca, Alvalade, Canal Caveira, and Ferreira do Alentejo in the Iberian Pyrite Belt, where Europe's richest active copper mine is located;
- Tungsten in Portugal at the Covas prospect;
- Silver, Lead and Zinc in Kosovo at the Glavej and Kamenica properties in the Trepça Mineral Belt of the Vardar Zone, historically, Europe's most productive district for lead and zinc.

For additional information, contact Avrupa Minerals Ltd. at 604-687-3520 or visit our website at www.avrupaminerals.com.

On behalf of the Board,

“Paul W. Kuhn”

Paul W. Kuhn, President & Director

This news release was prepared by Company management, who take full responsibility for its content. Paul W. Kuhn, President and CEO of Avrupa Minerals, a Licensed Professional Geologist in the State of Washington, USA, is a Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101 of the Canadian Securities Administrators. He has reviewed the technical disclosure in this release.

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