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EU Live Issues

Healthy Workplaces Campaign

On 28 March, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) organised a meeting for existing and new partners to plan the focus and application criteria for the upcoming 2012-2013 Campaign.



Getting ready for the next campaign

Christa Sedlatschek (centre left) and Brenda O'Brien (centre right) at the Partnership Meeting.

Christa Sedlatschek, Director of EU-OSHA, Brenda O'Brien moderator and EU-liaison of EU-OSHA in Brussels, Armindo Silva, Director, DG Employment, Peter Wragg from DG Enterprise and Industry, and Stephen Hughes MEP (UK), presented their support for the campaign.

Miette Dechelle from the General Secretariat participated at the event with the aim of networking and preparing a UEPG application for the next campaign, which will focus on Safer by Design.

Next steps

11 May 2012 Deadline for application
Oct. 2012/13 European Weeks for Safety and Health at Work
April 2013 Good Practice Awards Ceremony
Nov. 2013 Healthy Workplaces Summit

1st European Biodiversity Summit

The first European Biodiversity Summit, organised by the [Business & Biodiversity Campaign](#), took place on 17-18 April in Stuttgart, Germany. The event focused on the latest information on ecosystem valuation, EU regulations, and the link to climate change and, through practical examples, showcased how

businesses can seize biodiversity opportunities. High-level representatives from companies and from the European Commission joined prominent decision makers and leaders in presenting keynote speeches to more than 500 participants.



Break-out sessions tackled issues including:

- Opportunities for biodiversity financing, where Eva Maria Mayerhofer, Lead Environmental Specialist, from the European Investment Bank (EIB), explained that the EIB was working closely with DG Environment and DEFRA (UK Ministry for Environment) on banking habitats and offsets, in view of creating a market framework by way of a regulation on No Net Loss.
- Collaboration between Companies and NGOs, where Jim O'Brien, UEPG President, Marion Hammerl, Global Nature Fund President and Rashila Kerai, Biodiversity Programme Manager, Holcim, debated how companies could excel on cooperation. This session was moderated by Hans Friederich, Regional Director for Europe, IUCN.
- Legal Compliance and Biodiversity Offsetting, where Michael Rademacher, Biodiversity and Natural Resources Manager of the Global Environmental Sustainability Department, Heidelberg Cement, presented the mitigation hierarchy.

Biodiversity & Resource Efficiency

On 20 April, MEPs voted in plenary session in Strasbourg on two important items:

Firstly, the report on 'our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020'. The report, drafted by Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE, Netherlands), is a follow-

up to the EU biodiversity strategy for 2020, as tabled by the European Commission in May 2011. The resolution was adopted by 414 in favour, 55 against and 64 abstentions.

Secondly, the review of the '6th Environment Action Programme and the setting of priorities for the 7th Environment Action Programme'.

The report, drafted by Jo Leinen (S&D, Germany), focused on the three 'I's:

- Implementation and strengthening of environmental legislation
- Integration of environmental objectives into all sectoral policies
- International dimension of environment protection

The resolution was adopted and therefore MEPs called on the Commission to present as soon as possible its proposal for a 7th EAP, while the 6th EAP ends in July 2012.

Next steps

UEPG will closely follow the initiatives resulting from the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, including Invasive Alien Species, No Net Loss and Green Infrastructure.

UEPG will follow the development of the 7th EAP, which should be very much linked to the Resource Efficiency Roadmap.

UEPG Biodiversity Indicators WG

On 17 April, the WG met for the first time in Stuttgart. It was seen as urgent to find common grounds, as unsuitable indicators might be imposed upon the aggregates industry unless it develops some itself.

Attendants presented the current state of play in UK, Germany, France and Belgium, and agreed on the necessity to find suitable indicators for all companies, including SMEs.

Next steps

- July 2012** Meeting of biodiversity national experts in Brussels
- 12 Sept. 2012** UEPG Biodiversity Indicators WG meeting in Brussels

SSDCEI Plenary

On 24 April, the SSDCEI plenary session took place in Brussels under the Chairmanship of Martin Isles (MPA), Chairman of the UEPG Health and Safety Committee.

The main issues presented at the meeting were on Shale Gas (under the request of other partners), New Skills for New Jobs, and

the NePSi first outcome. Partners agreed to promote at the next Bureau meeting on 11 June the Extractive Industry sectors' work with schools and universities to encourage young people to work for the sectors.

Explosives for Civil Use

Following successful UEPG lobbying action, the Directive on setting up a system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil uses, has been postponed. The obligations for the supply chain on data collection and record keeping will therefore not apply until 5 April 2015.

A Task Force chaired by César Luaces Frades (UEPG), involving the Federation of Explosives Manufacturers (FEEM), NEEIP, EURACOAL, and the European Commission will prepare recommendations to promote a unique harmonised code for the whole supply chain, to inform and train end users to be ready in time for the implementation of the Directive and to ask for safety guarantees from manufacturers of tracking devices and software for end users. Agreed recommendations will be sent and presented to Member States by October 2012.

- 2 May 2012** First draft documents ready
- 23 May 2012** Deadline for feedbacks
- June 2012** Meeting to finalise documents
- Oct. 2012** Commission WG of the explosives for civil use meeting

UEPG News

Safer by Design

On 19 April, Raphaël Bodet (UNPG) represented UEPG at the Earth Moving machinery Meeting in Paris (ADCO). Representatives of Member States, Machinery Suppliers and Manufacturers and Trade Unions were present. Raphaël Bodet promoted the Safer by Design project which was welcomed by the majority. It was advised that users should be more present within standardisation to ensure that Safer by Design criteria are included in the process.

Promoting NePSi Agreement

The meeting organised by Michel Buzot (UNPG), on behalf of UEPG, with FIEC (European Construction Industry Federation), FNTF (French Public Work) and IMA-Europe Representatives in Paris was very positive. The construction employers' representatives

were open to finding solutions to first present best practices from the sector at European level and to decision-makers, and then promote NePSi added value and its successful results. This exercise might be reiterated at other national country levels to raise awareness among the Construction sector at European level.

UEPG Board Policy Dinner

On 25 April, the UEPG Board Policy Dinner in Brussels offered UEPG Board Members the excellent opportunity to exchange openly with Gwenole Cozigou, Director at DG Enterprise and Industry and with Pia Bucella, Director at DG Environment.



Compatibility: Natura 2000 and aggregates extraction
UEPG President Jim O'Brien (centre) with Director Pia Bucella (left) and Director Gwenole Cozigou.

The focus was on the implementation of the EU Raw Materials Strategy, the resource efficiency roadmap, sustainable access to resources in or close by of Natura 2000 areas and biodiversity.

UEPG Board meeting

On 26 April, UEPG Board Members adopted new Position Papers on land use planning, resource efficiency, ecological offsets, water management, Safer by Design, Transport Efficiency and Aggregates taxation which will be online in June 2012 – see www.uepg.eu.

Upcoming UEPG Meetings

- 24-25 May** Entrepreneurs' Forum & Delegates Assembly, Limassol, Cyprus
- 12 September** PR & Comm Task Force, Biodiversity Indicators WG
- 13 September** Biodiversity Task Force meeting, Brussels
- 19 September** Marine Task Force
- 10-11 October** UEPG Committee meetings, Brussels
- 28 November** European Minerals Forum, Brussels
- 29 November** Board Meeting