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## EU Live Issues



### 2014 Greek EU Presidency

Greece will hold the Presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2014, before handing over the reins to Italy on 1 July 2014.

The priorities of the Greek EU Presidency will concentrate on:

- Growth, jobs and cohesion
- Further integration of EU and eurozone
- Migration, borders and mobility
- Maritime policies, which will be of a high focus for Greece.

In addition, efforts will be made to promote the regulation proposal for combating alien invasive species and to significantly advance the package of non-legislative proposals on air quality (presented on 18 December 2013).

## Environmental Impact Assessment

### Background

In October 2012, the European Commission (EC) adopted a proposal for a review of the Directive on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). The review aims at taking into account the political and technical changes of the last 25 years and to simplify the EIA process.

### Triologue

The EU institutions expected the final triologue meeting to take place on 11 December.

According to the latest information received, the Lithuanian EU Presidency, in a spirit of compromise with the European Parliament, and in order to reach an agreement before

the end of its Presidency, was willing to consider changes to Annexes I and II. This is a critical point for the Non Energy Extractive Industry, which opposes any changes to these two annexes. Thanks to the lobbying of UEPG and of the NEEIP, and to solid arguments that Member States had expressed previously, any modification to Annexes I and II was deemed as unacceptable.

The 11 December triologue did not reach an agreement due to this outstanding issue.

### Next steps

A fourth (and normally last) triologue meeting may take place the last working week of December, but chances are that the discussions will have to resume after the holiday break, under the Greek EU Presidency. Time is running out to finalise the review, has the last European Plenary session before the elections is in April 2014. This could either create further delays to the review, postponing it till after the elections, or on the contrary, rush the discussions (with increasing hasty compromises) to an end so that the text can be voted in March or April.

## EC Raw Materials Supply Group

On 10 December, the Raw Materials Supply Group (RMSG), chaired by the European Commission DG Enterprise & Industry, with representatives attending from EU Member States, Industry, European Geological Surveys and other Commission DGs, met in Brussels. It addressed:

### European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials (EIP)

[Call for commitment](#) can be submitted by not later than 31 January 2014

### Horizon 2020 – Raw Materials in Societal Change No 5

- Horizon 2020 will be launched on 1 January 2014 with [several national launch and thematic events](#)

- Deadline for applications: 8 April 2014.

### Follow-up to feasibility study on certification of waste facilities

[Public Consultation launched](#) to allow policy conclusions; deadline for replies 17 March 2014.

### Report on National Minerals Policy Indicators

The Report including Annexes will be sent to stakeholders in the coming days - comments are sought by mid February 2014;

### Land-use planning and permitting

- Ad-hoc Working Group on land-use planning and permitting had been reactivated for the collection of good practice examples; UEPG was invited to nominate an expert by mid January 2014;
- The upcoming Greek Presidency will organise a EU-Presidency conference on land-use planning in the first half of 2014.

### Evaluation and exchange of good practice project

UEPG is providing good examples via its Members.

### European Innovation Partnership (EIP)

The Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) of the EIP on Raw Materials was formally adopted on the 25 September 2013. The European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials Annual Conference had for first objective to inform and involve partners across Europe to better implement the SIP. For this event, UEPG was actively represented by Dirk Fincke, UEPG Secretary General. This annual conference presented also the guidelines for the Call for Commitments of the EIP RM, some concrete examples of possible commitments, and the possible financial instruments to support the "Raw Materials Commitments".

See Meeting documents and further information at [European Commission Website](#).

### CPR Delegated Act on DoP on websites

After the approval in the European Parliament of the Delegated Act to make DoP available in websites, 12 EU Members State Representatives started to raise concerns on the document at the latest Council meeting on 11 December asking for further discussion and the delay of the approval of the document.

These Member States were Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Austria, Romania, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, France, Belgium and Italy.

Consequently, we ask UEPG Members to stress at National level the importance of the document to avoid any further delay, blocking position and rejection of the document at the next Council meeting in January.

### SNAP-SEE Meeting in Bratislava



The third Steering Committee Meeting of the SNAP-SEE (SustaiNable Aggregates Planning for South-Eastern Europe) project took place in Bratislava on November 13-14, 2013, with all active partners present. Very good progress has been achieved towards the project goal of encouraging aggregates plans and policies in all countries of the region, with successful first round stakeholder consultations already having taken place in no less than nine SEE countries. These stakeholder meetings have led to positive dialogue between the industry, geological institutes, planning and permitting

authorities and local NGOs. Many further stakeholder consultations are planned for early 2014, as the project steadily moves towards completion by September 2014.

UEPG Past-President, Jim O'Brien, continues to support the University of Leoben Team which is leading the project, and already several industry participants have expressed interest in UEPG membership.

### UEPG News

#### UEPG achievements in 2013

Throughout 2013 UEPG successfully lobbied to make sure that the interest of the European Aggregates Industry were represented and taken into consideration by the European Union Institutions. Herewith is an overview of selected UEPG achievements in 2013.

#### Environment

- The top priority in 2013 has been the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, a text which impacts directly the aggregates producers' administrative and financial burden ability to obtain/extend a licence.
- Biodiversity remains a top priority for UEPG, the milestone of 2013 being the agreement and launch on indicators.
- UEPG continued to follow very closely developments on the outcome of the 7th Environmental Action Program, on the Blueprint to safeguard Europe's waters, on soil protection, dust emissions and implementation of Natura 2000.

#### Technical

- UEPG maintained its monitoring of the implementation of the Construction Product Regulation (CPR) as its replacement of the Construction Product Directive (CPD).
- UEPG lobbied with CPE for CPR to be excluded of the scope of the Regulation on consumer product safety to avoid any

- redundancy and extra administrative burden.
- The Technical Committee keeps monitoring and being actively involved in the drafting and revision of standards.
- UEPG created a Recycling Task Force, demonstrating its commitment in resource efficiency. The Task Force is at its start, and has as objective to "Encourage all possible use of recycled materials as aggregates, for the most appropriate application on the place of use".

### Health and Safety

- The risk assessment study of the European Commission on Respirable Crystalline Silica within the Carcinogens and Mutagens at work Directive (CMD), followed by the revision of the Directive, was delayed until 2014. UEPG replied to the European Commission consultation on the serious impact of inclusion of RCS in the CMD on our sectors; supported a NePSi Partners common Position and consultation exercise, and met the European Commission Representative Mrs. Grodzki, in charge of the dossier.
- UEPG actively supported the 14<sup>th</sup> European Minerals Foundation Forum on accident prevention focused on machines and equipments, where Safer by Design raised a general consensus.
- The Explosives for civil uses Task Force led by UEPG received the support of Members in its actions and finalised a guidance document for the whole supply chain.
- UEPG received recognition as Partner of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work 2012-2013 Healthy workplaces Campaign called 'Working together for risk prevention'.

### Economic

- Continued high level awareness was given to sustainable access to resources when implementing the EU Raw Materials Strategy in EU Member States.

- UEPG is actively involved within EC Working Groups on exchanges of good practices and indicators.
- UEPG closely monitored Accounting Directive and made clear its position on resource taxation.
- UEPG closely participated in EU Projects as Minventory, a database on EU Raw materials deposits, and SNAP-SEE, SustainAble Aggregates Planning for South-Eastern Europe.

### PR and Communication

- The Triennial Sustainable Development Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner were a success, gathering more than 130 participants all over Europe and EU-Decision makers.
- The European Minerals Foundation Forum developed the partnership with the whole supply chain on Machines and Equipments for the Extractives Industries.
- The creation of a database for PR and Communication good practices.
- The start of streamlining work with UEPG Committees and Task Forces.

### Season's Greetings



The UEPG Team (namely UEPG President, Arnaud Colson, Secretary General, Dirk Fincke and Public Affairs Managers Sandrine Devos and Miette Dechelle) would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a healthy, safe and prosperous New Year 2014!

We would like to warmly thank all our Members for their much-valued support for UEPG activities in 2013.

## UEPG Meetings in 2014

- 12 Feb. Recycling Task Force
- 6-7 March Committee meetings, Bucharest, Romania
- 23 April NEEIP Parliamentary Debate, Brussels
- 23 April Board Meeting, Brussels
- 24 April Site Visit with EU representatives, Brussels area
- 26-27 May Delegates Assembly, Bern, Switzerland
- 22-25 May European Election  
New MEPs to be briefed by UEPG and its Members on the aggregates Industry.

