



## EU Live Issues

### No Net Loss (NNL) Initiative

New initiative of the European Commission for the protection of ecosystems

### Environmental Impact Assessment

Rationalisation of the European legislation on EIA

### Soil Protection

European Commission issues two new reports on the state of Europe's soils

### Machinery Working Group

UEPG participates in the activities of the EU Machinery Working Group

### Explosives for civil use

Directive postponed to 2013/2015

## UEPG News

### UEPG Task Forces and Working Groups

Marine Aggregates TF meeting

PR & Communications TF meeting

Biodiversity TF meeting

Water Management WG meeting

RDS & EPD WG meeting

### President welcomed by Danske Råstoffer

Jim O'Brien presents UEPG activities

## Upcoming UEPG Meetings

EU Insight is edited by the UEPG General Secretariat as part of its communication service to UEPG Members

European Aggregates Association  
UEPG aisbl  
Rue d'Arlon 21 – B-1050 Brussels  
Tel: +32 22 33 53 00 – Fax: +32 22 33 53 01  
E-Mail: [secretariat@uepg.eu](mailto:secretariat@uepg.eu)  
Internet: [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu)

## EU Live Issues

### No Net Loss (NNL) Initiative

With the Communication "Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020" the European Commission intends that "ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems" by 2020.

To reach this target, the Commission announced 'an initiative to ensure there is no net loss of ecosystems and their services e.g. through compensation or offsetting schemes'. The roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe reiterates this commitment to a 'No Net Loss' (NNL) initiative. This was also endorsed by the Council Conclusions of 19 December 2011.

Within this mandate, the European Commission is setting up a Working Group on "No Net Loss of Ecosystem and their Services", to collect views from EU Member State representatives and stakeholders.

UEPG and several other European associations agreed on Jim Rushworth (Lafarge) as a common representative for the non-energy extractive industry. The WG met for the first time on 17 February in Brussels to agree on its mandate and structure; discuss a roadmap for the 'no net loss' initiative; confer about the definition of the 'no net loss' concept and the scope of the initiative. It was mentioned that the NNL initiative could be introduced in 3 ways - voluntary scheme, guidelines or mandatory. A second and third meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for respectively July and November 2012. UEPG will closely monitor progress on this important topic.

### Environmental Impact Assessment

The original Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive from 1985 and its three subsequent revisions (1997, 2003 and 2009) have been combined with the objective to create a "more compact, clearly translated and user-friendly version". This [codified directive](#) came into force on 17 February 2012.

### Soil Protection

In 2006, the European Commission proposed a Soil Protection Framework Directive, supported by the European Parliament, but which was blocked in the Council by a minority (Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands & the UK).

UEPG, although recognising the valuable resource that soil represents, has strong reservations concerning this proposal, and especially on Annex II, a "list of potentially soil polluting activities".

UEPG, together with other NEEIP members, had lobbied against this proposal, on the basis of the subsidiarity principle, i.e. that soil protection is better undertaken at national or regional level.

### New Developments

On 13 February, the Commission has issued two new reports on the state of Europe's soil:

- ⇒ A [policy report](#), which gives an overview of the actions undertaken by the European Commission to implement the four pillars the Soil Thematic Strategy;
- ⇒ The [scientific report](#) 'The state of soil in Europe'

### Next Steps

The European Parliament and the Council are now invited to submit their views on the policy report. The European Commission plans to integrate further soil considerations in the upcoming review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive. The Commission will also propose accounting for land use, land use change and forestry emissions (LULUCF). The integration of soil protection and management into different EU policies might annul the need for a specific directive.

### Machinery Working Group

On 14 February, Miette Dechelle from the UEPG Secretariat attended the Commission Machinery Working Group Meeting. The meeting was an opportunity to promote the Safer by Design project as well as to

strengthen links with the Commission, DG ENT Unit Machinery, CEN and ETUI (European Trade Union Institute); and moreover allowed a first contact with CECE (Committee for European Construction Equipment). It was announced that the Machinery Working Group will support the new E-platform on *Earthmoving Machines for lifting operations*.

## Explosives for civil uses

Following UEPG lobbying action, the Directive setting up a system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil uses, has been postponed. The obligation on manufacturers and importers to mark explosives should be postponed to 5 April 2013. The obligations for the supply chain on data collection and record keeping should therefore be postponed to 5 April 2015. This allows manufacturers and users more time to develop secure, reliable and cost-effective European-wide harmonised systems.

## UEPG News

### UEPG Task Forces and WGs

Focusing on specific policy areas, Task Force and Working Groups develop positions and strategies where detailed progress is needed.

#### Marine Aggregates Task Force meeting

Members of the Task Force met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February in Brussels to debate the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the potential impact of the Raw Materials Strategy on the marine aggregates industry.

The two guest speakers Mr Haitze Siemers, Head of Unit at DG Mare, European Commission, and Ms Vera Coelho, from the NGO *Seas at Risk* enriched the discussion highlighting a somewhat different approach from the EU and NGO to marine issues.

#### PR & Communication Task Force meeting

On 15 February, Members of the Task Force discussed the Communication strategy, exchanged best practice, new UEPG PR tools and future events. Excellent projects were presented by Austria (FSKI), Spain (FdA), Germany (MIRO), France (UNPG), Norway (Norsk Bergindustri), Lafarge and Heidelberg Cement. Participants also focused on possible new cooperation with EU Media, developing a

Press Release format. Also discussed were the launch of the new UEPG website as well as the celebrations for the 25th Anniversary and the 2013 Sustainable Development Awards. It was considered to restyle the UEPG monthly newsletter.



**Brainstorming on PR & Communication issues**  
Miette Dechelle (left) with Hilary Arrowsmith (MPA, UK)

All UEPG Members are welcomed to participate to the Task Force exchanging PR and Communications expertise.

#### Biodiversity TF meeting



Members of the Biodiversity Task Force met on 16 February in the UEPG office and discussed:

- Recent EU developments, including “Green Infrastructure” and “No Net Loss”;
- Review of recent national Biodiversity initiatives and of the UEPG Biodiversity case studies database;
- Towards Biodiversity Indicators: results from the UEPG SDI survey;
- UEPG position paper on Ecological Offsets – lobbying strategy;
- UEPG Sustainable Development Awards 2013 – Best Practice for Biodiversity;
- Potential cooperation with NGOs.

#### Water Management WG meeting

During the meeting on 16 February the discussion focused on the Water Framework Directive, the Floods Directive Common Implementation Strategy, the Groundwater Directive implementation and revision, a Blueprint initiative, the International Year of Water 2012 and on implications with the EU resource efficiency strategy. As water is an increasingly important subject, it was decided to prepare a UEPG position paper and to adapt the internal water management guidelines for external use.

### RDS & EPD Working Group

The UEPG Working Group addressing the Release of Dangerous Substances (RDS) and the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) met in Brussels on 17 February with the main objectives to draft a model EPD for aggregates and to define how to organise ITT, WFT, content or leaching. Good progress is being achieved on both these important subjects.

### President welcomed by Danske Råstoffer

President Jim O'Brien was welcomed at Danske Råstoffer's first “Theme Day” held on 1 February in Vejle, Denmark.



**President with Danske Råstoffer Board Members in Vejle, Denmark.**

Danske Råstoffer was recently formed as the merger of two associations, and is now the UEPG Danish member, representing over 80% of the Danish aggregates industry. Jim O'Brien presented an overview of UEPG activities in Danish. There was keen interest on national aggregates planning policies, recycling challenges, NePSi reporting and the upcoming UEPG Sustainable Development Awards.

The session concluded with a presentation on biodiversity by Morten DD Hansen of the Natural History Museum of Aarhus advocating that quarries and pits were ideal havens for biodiversity, best ensured by completely natural re-vegetation of the worked-out areas. President Kim Fynbo Nielsen concluded that UEPG and Danske Råstoffer would indeed cooperate even more closely together going forward.

### Upcoming UEPG Meetings

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>8-9 March</b> | Committee Meetings, Cracow, Poland                          |
| <b>25 April</b>  | Board Policy Dinner, Brussels                               |
| <b>26 April</b>  | Board Meeting, Brussels                                     |
| <b>24-25 May</b> | Entrepreneurs' Forum & Delegates Assembly, Limassol, Cyprus |