



## EU Live Issues

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## EU Live Issues

### Environmental Impact Assessment

In December 2013, an agreement had been reached between the European Commission, the then EU Lithuanian Presidency and the European Parliament (trialogue) on the review of the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) Directive.

The Parliamentary Environment Committee approved the triilogue text on 12 February, with a striking majority: 46 in favour, 8 against and 2 abstentions. The Parliamentary Rapporteur, Andrea Zanoni MEP (ALDE, Italy), said that the European Parliament had achieved important successes in triilogue, including increased health and environmental standards, more transparency, consideration of climate and biodiversity. He regretted that a strong blocking minority in the EU Council prevented the inclusion of shale gas into the scope of the EIA Directive, but ultimately recommended the Environment Committee to approve the text.



**UEPG's strong involvement in the Parliament**  
UEPG President Amaud Colson (right) and UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke with Angelika Niebler MEP (EPP, Germany) during a debate on the EIA.

Following this vote in Committee, the European Parliament approved in plenary session the report, again with a striking majority: 520 in favour, 139 against and 13 abstentions.

The compromise text tends to be a more balanced approach between environmental

imperatives and the need to not put a too heavy burden on the European Industry. Major changes impacting the Aggregates Industry after the text's adoption include:

- Demolition works within the scope of the Directive;
- Possibility of joint procedures;
- Time limits imposed on competent authorities;
- Greater involvement of the public through an Internet portal;
- Consideration of reasonable alternatives to the project;
- Additional factors to take into account: land, climate, landscape, hydro-morphology, biodiversity (instead of fauna and flora)
- Monitoring and mitigation measures;
- Baseline scenario;

Throughout the negotiations, UEPG has mobilised significant resources in cooperation with other sectors of the non-energy extractive industry, and achieved significant success thanks to the strong involvement of UEPG Members. The main positive outcome of the negotiations is that Annexes I and II have not been opened and remain as they are in the current Directive. Another achievement is that scoping will not be mandatory, but instead an option at the request of the developer. These measures would have added costs and red tape to the Aggregates Industry.

The fact that UEPG has invested a significant amount of time and staff resources resulted in other objectives reached:

- Threshold of 25 hectares where EIA is not automatically required is maintained
- In-house experts may be used
- No retroactivity of the Directive
- Mineral exploration not within scope

Ministers of the EU Council finally approved the text on 14 April 2014.

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

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UEPG wishes to thank its Members for their strong and active support and Public Affairs Manager Sandrine Devos, who was successfully leading the project.

### Next steps

The text will be published in the Official Journal in May 2014. The Directive should be transposed by EU Member States within three years after its entry into force, by 2017.

DG Environment informed us that the European Commission would prepare a Guidance document to assist Member States.

UEPG recommends its Members to carefully monitor the implementation at national level.

### DG ENVI Management Plan 2014

The European Commission's Directorate General Environment has released its Management Plan for 2014, based on the 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme. The main relevant items for the European Aggregates Industry are:

#### Biodiversity

- Preparation for the mid-term review of the Biodiversity Strategy scheduled for 2015;
- Preparations for the EU No Net Loss Initiative (NNL);
- Initial Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES);
- Natura 2000 fitness check;
- Implementation of the second phase of the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform.

#### Resource Efficiency

- Resource Efficiency and Waste Initiative (Circular Economy package);
- Land as a resource (Communication);
- Communication on Sustainable Buildings;
- Activities on environmental footprint, green public procurement;
- LIFE 2014-2020: Sub-Programme Environment and Resource Efficiency.

#### Air Quality

- Inter-institutional discussions;
- Work on the implementation of the air pollution legislation, in particular:
  - Assessment of Member States national emission inventories and national emission reduction strategies;
  - Assessment of air quality data and local air quality plans and programs.

### Implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Water Blueprint

- Report to Parliament and Council providing an overview of Member States' implementation of the Water Framework Directive;
- Implementation of the Priority Substances Directive and preparation of its next review;
- Technical review of the annexes to the Groundwater Directive;
- Preparation of measures for water re-use and draft measures.

Additional items include the revision of the EU legal framework on environmental inspections and the report on the implementation of the Directive on Environmental Liability.

Environmental taxation is also mentioned, as the European semester will "provide an opportunity to instil more resource efficiency thinking into national policy making, enabling financial resources to be directed away from unsustainable practices and towards the development of the green economy".

#### Next steps

UEPG had been working on most of these topics. During its meeting of 6 March, Members of the UEPG Environment Committee made recommendations on the priorities to be addressed, taking into account DG Environment's pipeline. Amongst the top priorities to be approved by the UEPG Board, the initiatives on No Net Loss, on Land and on Air Quality should rank high. UEPG will keep you informed on the developments for these topics.

### Natura 2000 - Fitness Check

As part of its evolution towards smarter regulation, the European Commission is reviewing a number of pieces of legislation. The 1979 Directive on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) and the 1992 Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) – the Natura 2000 Directives, will in this framework be assessed through a "Fitness Check". Fitness checks are comprehensive policy evaluations assessing whether the regulatory framework for a policy sector is "fit for purpose". Their findings will serve as a basis for drawing policy conclusions on how

well EU policies have been performing and feed into possible consideration on the future of the relevant regulatory framework.

Together with the European Commission, UEPG contributed to the Natura 2000 Guidance to assist in an appropriate implementation into national law.

### Content of the Fitness Check

The Natura 2000 Fitness Check will examine, among other things:

- Implementation and integration successes and problems;
- Costs of implementation and of non-implementation of the legislation;
- Opportunities for improving implementation and reducing administrative burden without compromising the integrity of the purpose of the directives;
- Situation of implementation in different EU Member States;
- Views of key stakeholder groups.

The Fitness Check will benefit from the 2015 mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and new initiatives, including No Net Loss and Green Infrastructure, which will be taken into account.

#### Timeline

In March/April 2014 to autumn 2015, a Study Contract will be launched to support the Commission in collecting and assessing evidence for the Fitness Check. By the end of 2014/start 2015, a Public Internet Consultation will be undertaken, followed by the assessment of Article 17 Habitats Directive and Article 12 Birds Directive national reports in the first half of 2015. In June 2015, a stakeholder meeting at Green Week or another appropriate forum would discuss the preliminary outcome of the assessment. The Commission will report on the findings of the Fitness check at the end of 2015/early 2016.

#### Next steps

UEPG will remain in contact with Stefan Leiner, Head of the Nature Unit, DG ENV.B.3, managing the Fitness Check, in order to contribute to this exercise and to provide case studies demonstrating the difficulties met by the Industry.

## Communication “Land as a resource”

A Communication on “Land as a resource” should be addressing land degradation (fragmentation of ecosystems, soil sealing, pollution of soil) with the objective of no net land take by 2050 through

- Evaluating the current situation (including existing good practices);
- Defining objectives at EU level;
- Assessing options for policies (at EU and national levels).

### Timeline

19 June 2014: a launch event in Brussels and launch of the stakeholder consultation. The consultation will apparently not among the objectives but only on the proposed options.

Autumn 2014: Workshop with Member States to discuss the options.

Early 2015: Internal decision process with the new European Commission.

Mid 2015: Communication, with impact assessment and supporting studies.

### Next steps

Potential impacts for the Aggregates Industry are the implementation of a land offsetting scheme, limited access to land and measures related to soil remediation.

The UEPG General Secretariat is following closely developments related to this upcoming Communication, both with DG Environment and with consultants working on the supporting studies.

## A Resource Efficient Europe

The European Commission has contracted a study on “Scenarios Towards A Resource Efficient Europe”.

### Background

In the framework of the 2020 Strategy, DG Environment commissioned a study on Resource Efficiency in the Built Environment. The study, which comprises 10 topical papers and a summary, is available on the following website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enveco/resource\\_efficiency/topical.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enveco/resource_efficiency/topical.htm).

It assesses the economic, social and environmental effects of efficiency improvements quantitatively up to 2030. Different policy scenarios were analysed:

1. Best practice uptake of technical improvements;
2. Policy package with voluntary implementation of instruments: a combination of regulatory, economic and informative policy measures that are implemented on a voluntary basis;
3. Policy package with mandatory implementation of instruments: a combination of regulatory, economic and informative policy measures that are implemented on a mandatory basis, including more stringent versions of policies already required under the Waste Framework Directive to realise 70% recycling of Construction & Demolition waste. It concerns mandatory administrative and financial instruments such as source separation, quality standards for secondary raw materials, re-use and recycling targets and landfill taxes.
4. Environmental tax reform A: matching the Mandatory scenario, combines all elements of the ‘Voluntary’ scenario with budget-neutral (not material-neutral) shift of taxes from labour to materials with a tax of 20%.
5. ‘Environmental tax reform B: flat-rate resource tax of 35 % on all primary resource extraction and imports.

The study draws some conclusions, which may feed into some European Commission’s initiatives. Some important findings are the following:

- Significant reductions in the EU-27 resource use are possible, with a positive effect on European GDP.
- The ‘Mandatory’ scenario is very successful in reducing the use of resources, but reduces mainly the use of non-metallic minerals. However, the reduction of fossil fuel use is best achieved with a tax reform.
- Policies focusing on high volumes of materials will have most impact.
- The focus of policy attention should be on generic systems, e.g., Environmental Product Declarations, environmental performance rating of building and infrastructure.
- Mandatory instruments or an effective level of Environmental Tax Reform is required to have the highest reductions of resource use.

- Standardisation and certification play a major role in any policy package: a significant number of win-win options are available, yet not implemented, which suggests that non-financial bottlenecks exist.

### Weaknesses of the study

On 20 February, a conference took place to present these results; Sandrine Devos, UEPG Public Affairs Manager, attended. Stakeholders questioned several aspects of the study and showed its limits which alter the relevance of its results:

- Confusion between resource efficiency and resource use;
- Several trade-offs have not been taken into account, for instance energy use as this is dealt by another DG of the European Commission;
- The timeframe of 2030 is too short for the building sector which needs a long-term approach;
- Criticisms over the indicators (abiotic resource depletion or total mass requirement);
- Taxation might not reduce the resource use but only increase the costs borne by extracting companies.

### Next steps

UEPG will monitor the future Resource Efficiency Package, planned for 2014.

### Friends of the Earth – Four Footprints

On 11 February, the Environment Protection Organisation Friends of the Earth organised a conference on the four footprints (land, water, carbon and material) which is their recommended methodology to assess resource efficiency. These footprints, although they do not address important issues such as pollution or biodiversity, can be used for modelling.

Interesting debates took place, including on the much criticised indicators used by the European Commission to measure resource efficiency.

Natalia Matting, Legal Officer, Sustainable Industrial Policy and Construction, DG Enterprise and Industry, explained the European Commission’s focus on resource efficiency and addressed the difficulty to measure it. She acknowledged the importance not to leave SMEs behind with too complex methodologies.

Jacques Bonnin, Socio-Economic Analyst for the Resource Efficiency & Economic Analysis Unit of DG Environment, underlined that footprint indicators, on top of the methodological difficulties which were met, had a limited use for policy-making but were good tools to raise awareness.

Jo Leinen MEP (S&D, Germany), closed the conference by mentioning that in his view any resource efficiency targets should be broken down by industrial sector.

### Next steps

The new theme of 2014 on “Circular Economy” was discussed throughout the day, as it encompasses many EC initiatives and policies such as the 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Plan, the Raw Materials Strategy, the European Semester and Resource Efficiency.

The Green Week 2014 will focus on Circular Economy, Resource Efficiency & Waste, and will take place from 3 to 5 June 2014.

### Land-use Planning and Permitting

By continuing the implementation of the Raw Materials Strategy and in full respect of the subsidiarity principle, the European Commission developed a number of indicators which should provide an insight into which kind of policies contribute to a fast, clear and reliable land-use planning and permitting process at national level.

In addition, DG Enterprise & Industry subcontracted a project to collect 25 good practice examples on land-use planning and permitting procedures across the EU.

The Commission announced a public consultation to be launched by the end of 2014 on EU Raw Materials Supply and to prepare a European Commission Report merging the indicator recommendations with the 25 good practice examples to be published at the EU Greek Presidency Conference on 20 June in Athens.

### EU Election Campaign

On 22-25 May, all 28 EU Member States will hold elections for the European Parliament. The MEPs will then elect the President of the European Parliament and of the European

Commission. The President-elect chooses the Commissioners (and their policy area) from Candidates put forward by EU Member States.

UEPG has developed a [manifesto](#) summarising what the European Aggregates Industry needs from the new EU decision makers. UEPG has also joined the [Basta Campaign](#) calling for smarter regulation and a more industry friendly policy through recognising the positive contribution of our sector. Both documents are available on the [UEPG Website](#).

The UEPG Team is providing relevant news such as the [PollWatch2014](#), to see how the forecast of the elections looks like in your country, European Parliament Party's [manifestos](#) and on-going [debates](#). The next debate with European Parliament presidential nominees will be shown on 15 May by [Eurovision](#).

### Sustainable Construction

The European Commission set up in 2013 5 thematic groups to address the “Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises”.

UEPG has been active in the Commission Thematic Group 3 (TG3) on “Sustainable use of natural resources”, which most recent meeting took place on 8 April 2014.

We are pleased to provide you with some highlights relevant for the Aggregates Industry:

### Update on the Sustainable Building Communication

The new title should be “Resource Efficiency opportunities in the Building sector”, and the Communication (prepared jointly by DG Enterprise and DG Environment) should be published in May 2014, as part of the Circular Economy Package before the Green Week.

Its objectives should be as follows:

- To ensure decision-making by different actors involved along the life cycle of a building is based on relevant information
- To increase the use of recycled materials in the construction sector

The expectations are:

1. A framework of core indicators to assess the environmental performance
2. A better functioning market for recycled construction materials
  - a. By exploring systematic barriers
    - i. Environmental damage costs not reflected in landfilling fees nor in the price of virgin materials
    - ii. Split incentives along the value chain (costs borne by the demolition industry while potential benefits accrued in the production phase)
  - b. By promoting best practice on Member States initiatives integrating the environmental costs in primary materials (eg. tax on aggregates)

DG Environment clarified that the objective was not to decrease the amount of tons of materials, but to decrease the environmental impacts.

### Review of recycling performance

The current Waste Framework Directive targets for Construction & Demolition Waste are 70% minimum recovery by 2020 which includes backfilling. The Roadmap toward a Resource Efficient Europe foresees that recycling rates should be at maximum feasible levels and that landfilling should be virtually eliminated. The 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Programme recommends the same aspects and foresees as well market-based instruments.

### State of play in EU Member States

Already more than 20 Member States reach the target with a significant part of backfilling. A study should be launched to assess the situation in the Member States, look at definitions, work with Eurostat to improve the statistics. This will include to work on definitions and requirements for backfilling. On the use of economic instruments, landfill taxes would be proposed. Equally, the use of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) should be intensified.

### End of Waste criteria (EoW)

The development of EU EoW had proved extremely difficult and slow. The outcome was so far not satisfactory.

### Next steps

The next meeting of TG3 will take place on 16 September 2014.

## UEPG News

**UEPG President briefs Director Silva**  
Support for UEPG Initiatives

**Save the Date! - NEEIP Conference**  
Reindustrialisation of Europe

**Water Management Task Force**  
UEPG Position Paper on Water approved

**Recycling Task Force**  
French study provides new figures

**Marine Aggregates Task Force**  
Maritime Spatial Planning is essential

**CPR Working Group**  
Delegated Act of DoP on a website published

**NEPSI 2014 Reporting**  
A success and next steps

**UEPG Committee meetings**  
Key items addressed in Bucharest

**PR & Communication Task Force**  
Preparatory actions to new coming EP

**Safer by Design in the forefront**  
Promotion and lobbying pays off

**UEPG Board Meeting & Policy Dinner**  
UEPG 2014 high priorities addressed

**Video of Norsk Bergindustri**  
Promote the importance of the mineral sector to a large public

**Fediex General Assembly**  
High rank authorities present

**Upcoming UEPG meetings**

## UEPG News

### UEPG President briefs Director Silva



Following the successful European Minerals Foundation Forum organised last November 2013 on Safer by Design, UEPG President Arnaud Colson briefed Director Armindo Silva, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion on UEPG Health and Safety Initiatives during a meeting on 14 February in Brussels. The purpose was first to get support for Safer by Design and to present the figures on social progress while identifying the areas where improvement is needed. President Colson referred to the damage caused through illegal extraction and overweight of lorries in certain countries and the need for law enforcement at EU and national level.

Director Armindo Silva informed that the European Commission will do an exposed evaluation of OSH Directives' implementation in 2015. UEPG has been contacted by the hired consultant from the EC on the exposed evaluation of the Directive 92/104/EEC (surface and underground mineral-extracting industries).

### Save the Date! - NEEIP Conference

UEPG and Associations from the non-energy extractive industry (NEEIP) will work together to organise a high-level Conference addressing the need to reindustrialise Europe. The upcoming Italian and Latvian EU Presidencies, the newly elected European Parliament and the new European Commission will be invited to join with key speakers. The format will again be a Panel with open debate with attending stakeholders.

Invitations and the latest programme will be circulated in due course. Please save the date – 20 November 2014, Brussels.

## Water Management Task Force

On 5 February, Members of the UEPG Water Management Task Force discussed the review of Annexes I & II of the Groundwater Directive, which should not impact the Aggregates Industry and addressed the Global Water Tool developed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development – Cement Sustainable Initiative.

The UEPG Position Paper and document on the "Positive contributions of the aggregates sector to water" were finalised and presented to the UEPG Environment Committee for approval.

## Recycling Task Force



On 12 February, Members of the Recycling Task Force discussed the End of Waste (EoW) criteria, as the European Commission had confirmed that it would not develop European EoW criteria for aggregates, but rely on national ones. The first approved EoW criteria was the UK Protocol. Figures and Data on recycling, including a French study on recycling rates showed that the Aggregates Industry is closer to the EU targets than previously thought.

The UEPG Position Paper was finalised and presented to the UEPG Technical Committee for approval.

## Marine Aggregates Task Force

For the meeting on 20 February, in the office of OAM Baustoffe in Hamburg, Germany, Task Force Chair Jeffrey Thompson invited a representative from the German Planning Authorities. It became apparent, that not much space is left in the German North Sea with conflicting uses. The focus of the meeting was on the Maritime Spatial

Planning Framework Directive (MSPFD) and the success of the UEPG lobbying campaign to insert non-energy minerals in the draft Framework Directive.

### CPR Working Group

On 24 February, the Construction Products Europe (CPE) Working Group meeting on the CPR took place. The Delegated Act on Declaration of Performance (DoP) on a website has been finally published in the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU) in 24 languages. You can access information [here](#). CPE reported that the European Commission forecasts the adoption of the Delegated Act on Annex III (Declaration of Performance) by this summer. On the Basic Work Requirement 7 (BWR7), the European Commission (EC) is currently requesting Members States information to map national regulations and the voluntary schemes dealing with sustainable use of resources presented on April at the Construction 2020 Thematic group 3 meeting. The EC clarified that the work under BRCW7 would only focus on environmental impacts. There was a current work on from CPE on the reporting of the CPR implementation, where CPE members as UEPG are asked to participate.

### NEPSI Reporting

Despite the economic crisis and severe downturn in several countries, UEPG 2014 NEPSI Reporting has successfully exceeded 2012 Reporting thanks to active contribution of UEPG Members within the reporting process. We would like to thank you for your tremendous work.



The upcoming NEPSI Council meeting will take place in June in Brussels.

### What next in terms of RCS?

- The European Commission is now focusing on the refit (Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme) of the Health and Safety at work Directives planned for 2015, for which UEPG was consulted.

- The impact assessment study from the European Commission on substances to be included within the Carcinogens and Mutagens at work Directive (CMD) was delayed by end of 2014, which delayed the revised CMD proposal by end of 2015.
- The evaluation of the RCS file from the Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL) would be a long process and would probably not help the EC decision in the short term or could delay its position.
- The European Commission was still looking for good practice examples. UEPG will consider to further contribute with new data collection.

UEPG is actively monitoring the issue and will keep you informed.

### UEPG Committee meetings

On 6-7 March, UEPG Members gathered for the four Committee meetings to discuss and exchange views on topical European and national live issues in Bucharest, Romania. The event was kindly hosted by the Romania Aggregates Producers Association (APPA). This was an opportunity for each Committee to review the priorities.

### Health and Safety Committee



Following the welcome of the APPA President, Eric Thieulot, Dan Dumitru, APPA, reported on transport impact on safety in the sector of minerals and especially aggregates in Romania.

The main live issues for the Committee were focused on the prevention of accident supported by the indicators and sharing good practices, monitoring the latest EU development on Respirable Crystalline Silica and requesting Members a high contribution to 2014 NePSi reporting; promoting and

disseminating Safer by Design project, new road map and national examples, and spreading Explosives for civil uses' documents at national level.

### Environment Committee



Live Issues discussed were the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and UEPG's lobbying work, biodiversity, Water Management and Marine Aggregates. Ruxandra Balaet from the Romanian Environment Ministry, Waters and Environment Ministry Department of Waters, Forests and Fisheries reported on the challenge of the Water Framework Directive implementation, the Danube River Protection Convention and measures for industrial activities.

### Technical Committee



Live Issues discussed were the UEPG Recycling Task Force report, updates on regulated dangerous substances, on European Aggregates Standards, Declaration of Performance (DoP) and CE marking under the Construction Product Regulation (CPR), and the Recast of the Euratom Directive on radioactivity in concrete constituents.

### Economic Committee



Grigore Pop, from the Raw Materials Agency in Romania reported on the Romanian Raw Materials Strategy. The Committee discussed the Accounting Directive, SDIs, European

Innovation Partnership, the European Commission indicators on land-use planning and permitting procedures, the EU Raw Materials Strategy, the next Non-Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP) Conference 2014 and new study on resource taxation.

## PR & Communication Task Force



On 13 March, Members of the Task Force exchanged on

- National Good Practices from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Norway and UK, with region and companies' good examples;
- Current and new UEPG PR & Communications' priorities, targets, tools and events;
- Liaising with UEPG Committees, e.g. the Technical Committee;
- Improvement of UEPG Internal Communication toward its Members and,
- Advocacy to MEPs before and after EU Election in May 2014.

For more information contact UEPG Secretariat, [secretariat@uepg.eu](mailto:secretariat@uepg.eu).

## Safer by Design in the forefront

Following intensive lobbying work on Safer by Design at EU level, the whole supply chain is on board:

- Manufacturer are now promoting the project directly, this is illustrated by an article from Metso in the [January/February Aggregates Business Europe Magazine](#) (p19);
- On 28 February, Miette Dechelle (Public Affairs Manager) presented on behalf of UEPG a draft Safer by Design road map for 2014 actions to partners of the Sectorial Social Dialogue Committee for Extractive Industry. The document was agreed at the UEPG Health and Safety Committee meeting in Bucharest on 6 March;
- On 25 March, the European Commission Machinery Working Group in Brussels, where Miette Dechelle participated, underlined the good work of end users, machinery manufacturers and Members States to

improve together the standards from access to visibility to make machines safer.

## Next steps

UEPG Health and Safety Committee Members will act upon on Safer by Design 2014 Road Map and send good practice examples.

## 'SAFER BY DESIGN' introduced to South-East Asia



On 18 March 2014, sponsored by ISSA-Mining, UEPG H&S Committee Chairman, Martin Isles, introduced the 'Safer by Design' initiative to conference delegates from nine out of the ten Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Hué, the old imperial capital of Vietnam. Focusing on promoting occupational safety and health, and following the launch of the country's National Safety Week, this two-day Vietnamese Government and ASEAN-OSHNET event was simultaneously translated and received technical assistance from ISSA-Mining and the International Labour Organisation.

## UEPG Board Meeting & Policy Dinner



On 23 April, UEPG Board Members discussed key financial, strategic and policy issues, including achievements and future priorities for UEPG in 2014.



The Board Policy Dinner with the participation of Mr. Slavko Solar from the European Commission's DG Enterprise & Industry,

focused on the EU Raw Materials Strategy and the importance of local access to resources offering to UEPG Board members an open debate on future Initiatives of the Commission.

## Norsk Bergindustri produces video

Norsk Bergindustri produced a video available in Norwegian and in English to raise awareness to a large public on the essential role of the Extractive Industry sectors within our society. [Enjoy watching!](#)

## Fedex General Assembly

On 25 April, the General Assembly of the Belgian Aggregates Federation Fedex took place at the Cercle of Wallonie in Namur, gathering more than 60 participants. Among them were high level representatives from government, Employers' Federation, stakeholders and Fedex's Members.



Special guest was Mr. Philippe Henry, Wallonia Environment Minister for Spatial Planning and Mobility.

In his speech, the President of Fedex, Mr. Jean Marbehant, presented the achievements of 2013. Showing a decrease in the production of aggregates extracted in Belgium of 3% compared to 2012. He stressed that the economic picture remained uncertain for the future. He continued welcomed the adoption of the Code of Local Development.

## Upcoming UEPG meetings

- 26-27 May Delegates Assembly, Bern, Switzerland
- 22-25 May European Elections, EU
- 8-9 Oct. Committee meetings, Brussels
- 10 Oct. GAIN – Global Aggregates Information Network meeting, Brussels
- 20 Nov. NEEIP Forum, Brussels
- 19-20 Nov. Board meeting and Board Policy Dinner, Brussels