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EU Live Issues

Cypriot EU Presidency

On 1 July, the Republic of Cyprus will take over the EU Presidency from Denmark. Cyprus joined the EU in 2004 and became a eurozone member in 2008. The country sees its EU leadership role both as a challenge and an opportunity and wishes to enhance its image as a credible and responsible member of the Union.

Cyprus wants to help steer the Union in its most important objectives, the first one being the progress of talks to agree the next EU budget for the period 2014-2020. Other priorities are in the field of energy efficiency and European Integration.

Explosives for civil uses



The second meeting of the Task Force on Explosives for civil uses took place on 25 June at the UEPG Office, with the participation of the European Commission, FEEM, the German Blasting Association, 'Dresden Informatik' and representatives from the user sectors.

The meeting gave the opportunity to discuss and amend a first draft of a common action plan for all the supply chain players, prepared by the Chairman of Task Force César Luaces Frades (FdA, Spain), with the aim of implementing the Directive "Identification and traceability of the explosives for civil uses" within the required timing. The key issues addressed focused on the action plan, technical challenges regarding national legislation on implementation of the Directive,

use of tracking and tracing of explosives devices and software and training for end-users.

As soon as the draft action plan is approved by the Task Force members and concerned associations, it will be presented to Member States at the next European Commission meeting on Explosive for civil use, in October.

Respirable Crystalline Silica

The 2012 NePSi reporting is in continuous improvement in comparison with 2010 and 2008. The NePSi Council meeting of 14 June, focused on the EC funding project support, the promotion of the NePSi Agreement to the construction sector at EU and National level and the NePSi good practices guidelines and uses at company level.

The report was agreed by all signatories.

UEPG would like to thank all its committed members to this crucial issue for their hard work and good results.



Sectoral Social Dialogue

The Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Extractive Industry (SSDCEI) Bureau Meeting chaired by Martin Isles (MPA, UK) took place on 11 June in Brussels. Partners' representatives agreed on the final version of the Health & Safety joint declaration as well as the next meeting focus and speakers on Innovation and Industrial policies.

The three European Trade Unions Association EMCEF (European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers' Federation), EMF (European Metal Workers' Federation) and ETUF-TCL (European Trade Union Federation Textile, Clothing and Leather) are now forming one same European Association called [IndustriAll](#). This new entity is part of the Sectoral Social Dialogue.

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UEPG News

Hillhead 2012



The International Quarrying & Recycling Show, Hillhead 2012, with over 400 exhibitors, was the opportunity to raise awareness about the Safer by Design project as well as MPA's, SBMI's and UEPG's initiatives on Health & Safety.

Meeting with Swedish Board

On 18 June in Buxton, UK, Martin Isles, UEPG H&S Committee chair, was invited by Björn Strokirk, Managing Director of the Swedish Aggregates Association (SBMI) to present the background and latest development of Safer by Design to the Swedish Association's Board Members. Equally, SBMI informed Martin Isles on their intensive work in Sweden with Sandvik and Metso Machinery Manufacturers, using Safer by Design as starting point. Miette Dechelle, from the UEPG Secretariat, was invited to this fruitful exchange of views and had the opportunity to promote UEPG's activities on Sustainable development and PR & Communication.



Jonas Johansson (SBMI Vice-Chairman) with his wife Helen, Miette Dechelle, Martin Isles with his partner Christina Stoner, Björn Strokirk, Henrik Lövgren, Urban Norlin, Ilja Berkenbos, Per Murén, all from SBMI

MPA launches 'Safer by Partnership'

Statistics show that contractors are at disproportionate risk of occupational injury. Of the fatalities that occurred at MPA members sites between 2000 and 2011, two-thirds were suffered by contractors. Additionally, the number of contractor Lost Time Incidents(LTI) increased between 2009 and 2011, despite 10

years of overall continuous improvement in pursuit of Zero Harm.

At Hillhead 2012, with the contributions of key speakers from the National competent authorities and the Industry and Quarrying Institutes,

the Mineral Products Association launched the 'Safer by Partnership' Initiative, one of the family of MPA 'Safer by...'



Nigel Jackson, MPA Chief Executive, at the launch of 'Safer by Partnership'.

initiatives, setting out a clear action plan:

- Launch a Contractors' Charter which will harness contractors and clients' minds to work together in true partnership and contribute to the achievement of Zero Harm.
- Develop a single Contractor Database which will streamline prequalification by enabling contractors to lodge and share their credentials with clients.
- Engage to share ideas, gain feedback and review progress via Regional Contractor Forums.
- Share a toolkit of vital resources including statistics, publications, web links and competence mapping.
- Improve knowledge of working practice in the industry so that performance can be improved.
- Work closely with other relevant stakeholders so that the 'Safer by Partnership' initiative is widely supported and successful.

Meeting with Machinery Suppliers

The 'Hillhead 2012' international Quarrying & Recycling Exhibition, in the heart of England's Peak District, was a prime opportunity to observe

working plant & equipment and to meet manufacturer s face-to-face, in particular to communicate



and confirm common understandings on the

'Safer by Design' initiative. Highlights included meetings with senior representatives from Volvo; Komatsu; ASL/Terex; Australian Engineering Company ('SafeBoarder' range of retractable Personnel Access Systems); etc. Of specific interest were providers of 360° all-round vision systems (displayed by ASL/Terex; Spillard Safety Systems; and Vision Techniques). The ASL/Terex system was launched on the Terex stand by the Managing Director of Scottish Coal to an audience including the Health and Safety Executive, the British Regulator.

Fedex Biodiversity site visit

The last of a cycle of events launched in December 2012 by Fedex – the Belgian Aggregates Association - under its "Biodiversity Action Plan", two "site visits" were organised on 8 June, with the aim of presenting a variety of measures taken to preserve and boost biodiversity in a compatible way with extraction's activities. A delegation of the UEPG Secretariat participated in the event.

The two quarries that have been visited were the Division of the Sand quarry of Mont-St-Guibert and at the rock quarry of Quenast, both located in the Wallonia Region.



A bank swallows (aka Sand Martin) colony at the Sand quarry of Mont-St-Guibert

Upcoming UEPG Meetings

- 12 September** PR&Communication TF and Biodiversity Indicators WG meetings, Brussels
- 13 September** Biodiversity TF and Water Management TF meetings, Brussels
- 14 September** RDS&EPD WG meeting, Brussels
- 19 September** Marine Aggregates TF meeting, Brussels
- 25-26 October** UEPG Committee meetings, Brussels
- 28 November** EMF, Brussels
- 29 November** UEPG Board meeting, Brussels