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EU Live Issues

Land-use Planning and Permitting

On 7 May, Michael Schulz (MIRO, Germany) and Secretary General Dirk Fincke represented UEPG in the Ad-Hoc Working Group 2 on exchange of best practices on policy and legal framework, information framework, land-use planning and permitting (AHWG2). This WG reports back to the European Commission Raw Materials Supply Group and feeds into the implementation of the Raw Materials Strategy and related EU Initiatives promoting sustainable access to resources.

Background

In 2008, the European Commission launched the EU Raw Materials Initiative with a first Communication, followed-up by a second Communication in 2010 based on a three pillar structure addressing (1) critical raw materials, (2) improving the legal framework conditions to ensure access to resources within the EU and (3) resource efficiency and recycling.

DG Enterprise & Industry is using the European Commission Raw Materials Supply Group (RMSG) as the key tool to report on progress with two ad-hoc Working Groups on critical raw materials and land-use planning and permitting (AHWG2).

In full respect of the subsidiarity principle, the European Commission developed a number of indicators addressed to EU Member States which should provide an insight into which kind of policies contribute to a fast, clear and reliable land-use planning and permitting process and to identify the gaps and weaknesses of existing policies.

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

Report on land-use planning and permitting

At the EU-Presidency Conference on 20 June in Athens, the European Commission will publish a Report on land-use planning and permitting merging recommendations with 25 good practice examples. This Report covers prospecting, exploration, extraction, processing, refining, closure and post closure and might become the core part of further projects or Initiatives.

UEPG has amended the draft Report according to the comments received by its Members. This is a unique opportunity to shape the EU Policy on sustainable access to resources within the EU.

Public Consultation

The European Commission recently announced a public consultation to be launched by the end of 2014 on EU Raw Materials Supply and the option to prepare a legislative proposal based on the above mentioned Report. The outcome of the consultation will play a decisive role on the legal tool to be used.

Soil Protection

As previously announced, on 20 May the draft Soil Protection Framework Directive was officially withdrawn. This opens the door to new proposals, and the upcoming Communication on "Land as a Resource" (planned for 2015) will most certainly fulfill this objective.

European Soil Partnership (ESP)

On 21 May, UEPG Public Affairs Manager Sandrine Devos attended the first meeting of the European Soil Partnership. The event, organised by the Joint Research

Center, was introduced by Pia Bucella, Director Natural Capital at DG Environment, European Commission, and gathered representatives from the European Institutions, the European Environment Agency, EU Member States, scientific experts and stakeholders.



Director Pia Bucella, Natural Capital, DG Environment.

A Roadmap of this Partnership was presented, and items discussed included the:

- Close link between land and soil
- Need to take into account the economic value of soils
- Study “Economics of Land Degradation”
- Overlap with the water policies
- Approach “Prevent – Limit – Compensate”

Implications for the Aggregates Industry

Although the industrial sectors targeted are not the Aggregates Industry, a future EU legislative proposal would certainly have consequences for the sector.

Competition for land should reflect the value of soil, and soil is seen as a cross-cutting issue to be addressed in spatial planning. Additionally, DG Environment released a brochure on soil sealing which highlight the need to reduce asphalt and concrete.

Next steps

UEPG is following closely the developments around the Communication on “Land as a Resource” and met with the consultants in charge of the supporting study to underline the temporary existence of quarries and pits and the positive impacts of a sustainably managed Aggregates Industry.

19 June 2014 Conference “Land as a Resource”

2015 Communication on “Land as a Resource”, which will address land-take and soil degradation

2015 International Year of Soil
5 Dec. 2015 World Soil Day and publication of the Report on Status of World Soil Resources

Resource Efficiency Indicators

On 6 May, UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke, being Member of a Delegation of non-energy extractive Industries (NEEI), briefed Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik on the concerns of the European Aggregates Industry on resource efficiency, indicators and EU wide targets. These targets and indicators might be included in an upcoming European Commission Communication on the Circular Economy.



Background

In the context of the EU Resource Efficiency Policy, the European Commission committed itself in the Roadmap to a resource efficient Europe (Annex 6) to discuss and agree resource efficiency indicators and targets. That is why DG Environment set up a European Resource Efficiency Platform (EREP) comprised of high-level representatives from the European Commission, Members of the European Parliament, Environmental NGOs, Academia and Industry. EREP had recently presented policy recommendations including a weight-based and consumption-focused lead indicator without taking into account the environmental impact during extraction and long-term application of the raw

material, i.e. the sustainable use in construction. A number of additional indicators on land, water, soil, biodiversity and other areas intend to compensate the shortcomings of the lead indicator.

UEPG and other Members of the Industry Delegation (BUSINESSEUROPE, CEMBUREAU, Cerame-Unie, EuroAlliages, EUROFER, Eurogypsum, Euromines, EUSalt, IMA-Europe) aligned their messages while still stressing the differences and varieties among the sectors.

Key points

The Commissioner outlined that 2 million new jobs will be created by 2030 and an increase of GDP if productivity is raised by 30%. Resource efficiency would contribute to the reindustrialisation of Europe as it was a cost-reducing target. It would be a route towards innovation and a signal for investors reducing the risk of import dependency. The Commissioner ensured the Industry Delegation that demand for resources will increase by 2030 and resource efficient European companies would have a better position on the global market. The Commissioner preferred a political target to create the necessary framework conditions for resource efficiency.

UEPG explained that the Aggregates Industry is a local Industry with hardly any international trade. What matters to aggregates producers is local access to resources to reduce the environmental and economic costs of transport. This requires a coherent land-use planning and a simplified permitting procedure allowing sufficiently long permits to extract the full economically viable deposit rather than closing a non-exhausted site. The upcoming Communication on Circular Economy should have a reference to the EU Raw Materials Strategy.

Commissioner Potočnik agreed that land-use planning was crucial for resource efficiency allowing an industry of bulky materials to be more resource efficient. He will consider including such reference as suggested by UEPG and pay more

attention to the coherence with other European Commission legislation or Initiatives.

UEPG further expressed concerns that the proposed weight-based lead-indicator (EUR/tonne) would penalise the European Aggregates Industry under a one-fits-all approach.

Commissioner Potočnik committed to specific measures that should recognise the differences of the sectors and that such target would not be legally binding. There was no intention to stigmatise any sector. Resource taxation will most likely not be addressed in the Communication, although, the general policy of the European Commission is to shift the cost burden from labour towards resource use. The implementation of any taxation policy would strictly remain with EU Member States respecting the subsidiarity principle.

Outcome

Commissioner Potočnik follows a top-down approach where a global political target should create the conditions to use resources more efficiently. Too much focus is on the consumption of raw materials and much time has been spent by defending a deficient weight-based lead-indicator. The Industry Delegation proposed to continue the dialogue with the European Commission as more input from stakeholders is needed.

Raw Material System Analysis

The European Commission's DG Enterprise and Industry subcontracted a study on data inventory for a Raw Material System Analysis including the 21 critical raw materials and aggregates. Objective is to better understand the flows of raw materials in the EU. The study, led by the Paris based Consultancy Bio by Deloitte, will include the consumption in the EU-28 and their associated flows over the entire life-cycle, including exploration, extraction, processing, manufacturing, use, end end-of-life disposal and treatment.

Following a meeting UEPG had with Bio by Deloitte in their Paris offices, UEPG had

been invited to the first Expert Workshop in Brussels. In such an unusual grouping of aggregates with critical raw materials, UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke had to underline permanently the need for a very broad and flexible methodology allowing for the specifics of aggregates. The proposed indicators and aspects will have to be reviewed as the available deposits and resources, the "value of ore", the production process, the scale of international trade, the structure of industry and the recycling policies are very different to critical raw materials.

Building Information Modelling (BIM)

On 13 May, the Association Construction Products Europe (CPE) organised a workshop on Building Information Modelling. John B-Bullock (MPA, UK), Secretary of the UEPG Technical Committee and UEPG Public Affairs Manager Miette Dechelle contributed to the workshop.

On 11 February 2014, the EU Council adopted a package modernising public procurement. It allows Member States to require the use of specific electronic tools, such as of building information electronic modelling tools or similar for public works contracts and design contests.

A new Technical Committee on Building Information Modelling (BIM) was set up in 2014 to coordinate the adoption of ISO Standards as European Standards and develop a multilingual data framework for the characteristics of construction products.

National examples developed

At the meeting three examples were presented from Denmark (Cuneco), UK (TATA Steel) and France (AFNOR) as well as the international Initiative "BuildingSMART". Many national solutions are flourishing, which can fragment the market and create challenges of finding a common language, definition, movement of goods and unfair competition. SMEs need an efficient and low cost system process with proper training. BIM or similar approaches are inevitable, working already

on electronic systems (e.g. online DoP) and might diminish paper work in our sector. The UK representative tabled the Aggregate Industry's concern over the cost and practicality of paper CE marking and the need to provide an alternative through the use of websites.

Next Steps

It was recommended to create a CPE Working Group made of national experts for monitoring and pursuing the work at European level on BIM as well as to participate to the new CEN Working Group.

Implementation of the CPR

On 13 May, UEPG Public Affairs Manager Miette Dechelle participated to the CPE Task Group on the Implementation of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR).

The meeting focused on:

- CPE Members' recommendations of the CPR Implementation draft Report, for which UEPG Members have been asked to send comments;
- Delegated Acts Annex III (Declaration of Performance) and Annex V (Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance) to be published by the end of May/June;
- Fitness Check in 2014 to assess the cumulative effects of EU legislation in relation to the construction sector, with initial scope to cover CE marking, national energy performance requirements, including: Ecodesign requirements, REACH, Environmental Product Declarations, energy labelling of products and national energy and environmental labelling for products and buildings;
- Latest development of Basic requirements for construction works number 7 (BRCW7): Sustainable use of natural resources, for which CPE prepared a draft Roadmap;
- CPE presentation on Standards for the Building Test Expo in Brussels, 17-19 June 2014;
- Exchange of information across the supply chain;
- European Commission Call for tenders on CPR Implementation.

Capgemini Consulting contacted Construction Products Europe (CPE) to apply for the tender as a subcontractor. The submission deadline for (an administrative, financial and technical programmes) is set for 2 June. The Task Group proposed main topics for the application to focus on.

Next Steps

The next CPE meetings will take place on Friday 17 October 2014 and Tuesday 3 February 2015.

Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES)

Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 calls Member States to map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services in their national territory with the assistance of the European Commission. The objective of the EU assessment is to provide a critical evaluation of the best available information for guiding decisions on complex public issues.

The MAES project included a report which proposes a typology of ecosystems to be assessed and mapped and the use of the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) developed for environmental accounting purposes, and developed pilot projects.

High-Level Conference

On 22 May, the International Biodiversity Day, Sandrine Devos, UEPG Public Affairs Manager, attended the European Commission High-Level Conference on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services which took place in Brussels.

High-level speakers fed the debates, including Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik, Tony Long, Director European Policy Office of WWF, Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency, Pavan Sukdev, TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) Study Leader, and IUCN Director General Julia Marton-Lefèvre.



The speakers at the event agreed that high quality and consistent data on the condition of our ecosystems and the services that they provide is essential for making the right decisions for future investment in conservation. The MAES Initiative is designed to play a major role in ensuring the timely provision of such data. This initiative will support the upcoming No-Net-Loss Initiative in 2015, which might develop a habitat banking scheme in Europe.

UEPG News

RDS & EPD Working Group



On 19 May 2014, Members of the UEPG RDS (Regulated Dangerous Substances) and EPD (Environmental Product Declaration) Working Group met at the UEPG Office. The meeting was chaired by Brian Bone (MPA, UK), new convener of this Working Group. UEPG is grateful for the excellent work of his predecessor Jean-Marc Vanbelle.

Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

Environmental assessment is an important topics for aggregates producers, as the certification could add costs to the Industry. Considering the ongoing discussions on the different methodologies within the EU, it was decided that UEPG should wait further before starting to work on the PCR (Product Category Rules) of its generic EPD for aggregates.

Regulated Dangerous Substances (RDS)

Topics addressed included:

- The latest developments with regards to the new proposal of TS 3 (CEN TC351 WG1), which was seen by Members as a good technical compromise, but politically still difficult. A consultation would take place over the summer.
- The Dutch question regarding soil (CEN TC154 WG13). A revised wording to address this would be proposed in July to CEN TC154.
- The dossier for Without Further Testing (WFT) from the European Concrete Platform had been submitted. As for UEPG, it might be easier to get criteria for WFT in the standards than to prepare a dossier.

Next steps

The next meeting will take place on 17 November 2014, in the UEPG office.

UEPG Delegates Assembly 2014

This year's UEPG Delegates Assembly was kindly hosted by FSKB, the Swiss Aggregates Producers Association. The focus of the site visits was on Education and Innovation.



On 26 May, UEPG Delegates visited at the Rubigen Kästli pit an [outdoor classroom](#) allowing schools everyday to learn more about our sector. The 59 company Members of the Gravel Association of the Canton Bern ([KSE](#)) set up a foundation to promote the positive contribution of the sector to nature conservation, education and local community.

An agreement was signed between the foundation and the local authorities to undertake voluntary environmental services in their operating areas and in return to get authorised to extraction in protected areas.



The second visit was focused on the brand new and innovative extraction and production site of the company [Alluvia](#), with around 140 employees. The company praises sustainability and resource efficient technologies in response to technical, environmental and economic aspects.



The U. Hofstetter AG and Messerli AG, which formed Alluvia in 2006, were part of the first companies to create the KSE foundation. The Director of Alluvia, Mr. Kurt Baumgartner, was also Treasurer in early times of the European Aggregates Association UEPG.



On 27 May, the Delegates Assembly included the traditional review of Committees and Task Forces activities, all of which reported significant progress. Delegates discussed a draft of a UEPG Strategy 2020 and current priorities. UEPG President Arnaud Colson thanked past President Denis Mertens (Fediex, Belgium), who resigned as Treasurer for his work for and dedication to the

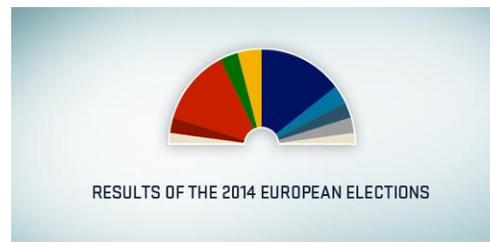
Association. Jean-Marc Vanbelle (Fediex, Belgium), Chair of UEPG Technical Committee, was elected as new Treasurer. Members welcomed the new associated company Livnoputovi d.o.o. from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

UEPG Delegates Assembly 2015

The French Member Association UNPG kindly offered to host the next UEPG Delegates Assembly on 20-21 May 2015 in Strasbourg, France, during the European Parliament Plenary Session. The second UEPG Sustainable Development Award Exhibition on 2013 applicants is planned to take place the same week in the European Parliament to show best practices of the sector to MEPs.

European Elections 2014

Similar to 2009, the turnout remained low with only 43%. The preliminary results from the [European Parliament website](#) show that the European People's Party (EPP) is once again the strongest party in the European Parliament.



What does that mean?

The Lisbon Treaty of 2009 foresees that the European election results and candidates should be taken into account. Jean-Claude Juncker was nominated by the EPP Congress held in Dublin as the EPP's candidate for becoming the next President of the European Commission. Mr Juncker is the leader of the Christian Social People's Party (CSV) in Luxembourg and served as Prime Minister of Luxembourg for over 18 years between 1995 and 2013.

What will happen next?

In July, MEPs officially will take up their seats in the Parliament and will elect the President of the Parliament, Vice-Presidents and Quaestors.

The designated Commission President will have to be elected by the European Parliament mid July. EU Member States will suggest Commissioners for each portfolio. Each of the Commissioners will have to present their profile and political agenda to the Parliament and will have to be elected individually.

Once the composition of Parliamentary Committees is decided, UEPG will arrange meetings with the new MEPs in the near future to present our activities.

UEPG meets Romanian Government

During the last UEPG Committee meetings in Bucharest, Eric Thieulot, President of the Romanian Aggregates Association (APPA), UEPG President Arnaud Colson and UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke briefed the Economic Advisor of the Prime Minister of Romania on the difficulties Romanian companies are facing. Strongly supported by examples from across Europe and updates on new Initiatives and Studies of the European Commission, the meeting concluded constructive and fruitful for all parties.



Our Romanian colleagues from APPA committed to provide further information on the identified challenges.

As part of the services for full Members, UEPG provides strong support at highest European and National level.

Upcoming UEPG meetings

- 8-9 Oct.** Committee meetings, Brussels
- 10 Oct.** GAIN – Global Aggregates Information Network meeting, Brussels
- 20 Nov.** NEEIP Conference, Brussels
- 19-20 Nov.** Board Meeting and Board Policy Dinner, Brussels