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## Live Issues

### Environmental Impact Assessment

To monitor and shape the review of the EIA Directive is a top priority for UEPG. Together with NEEIP partners, UEPG is actively involved in the EU debate of the relevant EU Institutions.

### Council of the European Union

At the last meeting, on 6 June, the Working Party on Environment (WPE) examined the proposal from the Irish Presidency of a compromise text.

Major changes to the proposal reflect in particular Member States' wish not to establish a very prescriptive system at EU level, allowing for flexibility as required by specific situations in Member States. They relate to:

- less stringent provisions regarding coordinated or joint procedures;
- more flexibility for the screening procedure;
- the fact that scoping would not be mandatory and the content of scoping;
- the technical expertise required to ensure the completeness and quality of the EIA reports;
- more flexible timeframes for the screening procedure and the consultation of the public;
- no deadline for the conclusion of the environmental impact assessment;
- less specified elements listed in the Annexes;
- the deletion of delegated powers;
- a more specified provision related to the application of the amended Directive.

### European Parliament

Following the publication of the Rapporteur's report, MEPs proposed 591 amendments, which were discussed on 19 June 2013 in the Parliamentary Environment Committee.

The proposed amendments are generally split into those in favour of the EC proposal with a

broadened scope and willing even to go further (including the Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs) and those opposing this approach.

Some items are particularly subject to very different views, for instance on the fixed timeframes and the need for compensation/offsetting tools as well as ex-post monitoring.

The deadline for amendments to the Parliamentary Report was 22 May, and both the [NEEIP](#) and [UEPG](#) submitted their amendments, available on the UEPG website Members' Only section.

### Next steps

The compromise presented by the former Irish Presidency text differs very much from both the initial European Commission's proposal and from the European Parliament's draft report. It has not yet been debated amongst Member States and will likely not be agreed before September 2013, under the current Lithuanian EU Presidency.

Stakeholders and decision-makers are now focusing on the European Parliament's debate. Compromise amendments had been discussed between the Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs end of June. After amending the timeline, the vote in the European Parliament's Environment Committee is now scheduled for 11 July 2013, during the ENVI Committee meeting. The Rapporteur mentioned that negotiations would be initiated in September for the first reading scheduled on 23 October 2013 in Brussels.

The European Commission hopes that the reviewed EIA Directive can still be adopted by March 2014 under the Greek EU Presidency.

UEPG is liaising with NEEIP members to establish a voting list based on the compromise amendments. UEPG, together with the NEEIP, is actively advocating for an EIA Directive implementing the principles of

smart regulation. UEPG encourages its members to contact their MEPs to that effect.

## EU Raw Material Strategy

UEPG continues to monitor and support the implementation of the Raw Materials Strategy, in particular the second pillar on sustainable access to resources within the EU.

## Raw Materials Supply Group meeting

On 17 June, UEPG attended the European Commission Raw Materials Supply Group meeting reviewing the progress made to implement the EU Raw Materials Strategy since its launch in November 2008.

## Overview on progress made

Mattia Pellegrini, Head of Unit in DG Enterprise & Industry reported on progress made to implement the three pillars of the EU Raw Materials Strategy: critical raw materials, access to resources within the EU and Recycling and Resource efficiency. A European Commission Study recommended the certification of waste treating facilities. To raise more awareness to the supply of raw materials, the Council of the EU has requested an annual event, for instance, addressing the European Innovation Partnership.

## Critical Raw Materials

Cinzia Giaconia from DG Enterprise & Industry and Luis Tercero from the Fraunhofer Institute reported on the review of the list of critical raw materials which should be undertaken at least every 3 years. Out of 48 candidate raw materials 20 (instead of 14) might be considered critical. The new and final list of critical raw materials was to be published at the end of 2013.

## European Innovation Partnership

Milan Grohol from DG Research presented the progress on the European Innovation Partnership. The Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP), which includes examples for the Aggregates Industry, should be approved in July 2013. During the second half of 2013, there will be a call for commitments to implement the proposed actions. Operational Working Groups, Sherpa Groups and the High Level Group will be maintained to monitor implementation.

## Land-Use Planning and Permitting

Slavko Šolar from DG Enterprise & Industry reported on National Minerals Policy Indicators and replies received. The European Commission refers to Art. 173, Treaty of the Functioning of the EU to monitor EU Member States' actions addressing industrial competitiveness. However, Minerals Policy remains strictly Member States' competence. So far, 18 Member States replied. A preliminary report will be issued to the Raw Materials Supply Group. The Commission launched a project on statistics led by Oakdeane Hollins where Past President Jim O'Brien provides input on behalf of UEPG.

To improve the quality of data on replies on the permitting procedures which is the competence of the Länder (Regions), the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) in Germany will organise a workshop taking place on 27 August. The Commission aims at encouraging other EU Member States to improve data reporting and to raise awareness to the importance of this exercise. EU Member States which have not yet replied are Belgium (regional reply only), Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Poland and Slovakia.

More information is needed and a review of the indicators might improve the reporting. Second data collection foreseen within next 1 or 2 years.

## Study on supply of raw materials launched

DG Enterprise & Industry commissioned the Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services ([www.cses.co.uk](http://www.cses.co.uk)) to undertake a study on the evaluation and exchange of good practices for the sustainable supply of raw materials within the EU. The study will collect 20 best practice examples & recommendations in the four designated areas of the Commission Indicators. UEPG and other NEEIP stakeholders will be invited to specific Working Groups on 23 September and 10 December 2013 contributing to the study. The final report will be presented on 30 January 2014.

## Upcoming EU environmental legislation

UEPG has called the Commission to streamline EU legislation to ensure

sustainable access to resources. This includes inviting DG Environment to present upcoming environmental legislation to the Members of the Raw Materials Supply Group, led by DG Enterprise & Industry. As a result, the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and the Resource Efficiency Indicators were outlined. On the latter point, DG Environment aims at disaggregating material data in order to differentiate between the different natures of materials and sectors. No methodology is yet available to differentiate but DG Environment recognises that 50% of raw materials are construction materials.

UEPG criticised that SMEs are not represented at the Resource Efficiency Platform. UEPG nominated a competent representative willing to contribute but had been refused. Yet, it remains unclear how the findings and recommendations of the Platform will be used. DG Environment needs to express clear on how to link resource efficiency with growth and recovery of the Economy.

## National Minerals Strategies

As part of the exchange of good practice on land-use planning and permitting, DG Enterprise & Industry invited EU Member States to present their new national minerals strategies.

Mikael Gröning from the Swedish Ministry of Industry outlined his country's Minerals Strategy which is based on a 10 years scenario addressing both metals and quarrying industry. Areas of National Interest (reindeer herding areas, water and fishing, nature) do not exclude extraction of minerals. Additional challenges are transport lines necessary to deliver the extracted materials. The vision is to create growth through sustainable use of Sweden's Minerals Resources. The Strategy includes 5 strategic objectives, 11 action areas and 19 actions.

Helena Viegas from the Portuguese Mines and Quarries Department presented her country's National Minerals Strategy. According to her data, half of the total production value in Portugal derives from the Aggregates Industry. Aggregates permitting procedures are dealt with at regional level.

20% of royalties paid will be used to support sustainable projects beneficial to local communities. The Strategy foresees the establishment of a national fund financially supported by the Industry to ensure restoration in case of bankruptcy of a company; the support of the fund will remain voluntary and should replace the bank guarantees which became increasingly difficult to obtain for companies.

The European Commission has published available [National Mineral Strategies](#) of EU Member States:

### Changes in European Commission staff

After 5 years working on the Raw Materials Strategy Maria Spiliopoulou-Kaparia, Deputy Head of Unit from DG Enterprise & Industry will leave the Unit becoming Deputy Head of Unit for Impact Assessments in the same DG. UEPG thanked Maria for her outstanding contribution to improve the legal framework conditions to foster sustainable access to resources within the EU.

Helena Viegas from the Portuguese Mines and Quarries Department will join the DG Enterprise & Industry Unit "Raw Materials, Metals, Minerals and Forest-based Industries" on 16 July 2013 as national seconded expert.

### Boosting Resource Efficiency

On 15 May, Paul Rübiger MEP (Austria, EPP) hosted and moderated a conference of the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development.



Speakers from the Commission, the United Nations and Industry included UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke who highlighted the contribution of the European Aggregates Industry to resource efficiency and the specific legislative and technical needs to contribute further.

### Sustainable Raw Materials Supply

UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke attended a seminar of the Liberals Group (ALDE) in the European Parliament hosted by [Vladko Todorov Panayotov](#) MEP (Bulgaria) and [Kent Johansson](#) MEP (Sweden) addressing the sustainable supply of raw materials. The event focused very much on critical raw materials and metals. Not surprisingly the call was for recycling, substitution and international trade. Only a few statements were relevant to the European Aggregates Industry or needed to be corrected.

William Neale, Member of Cabinet of Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Environment said that the European Economy depends on import of raw materials and that Europe was a resource-poor region. He furthermore stated that raw materials have seen a significant increase of market prices. UEPG commented that none of these three points applies to the European Aggregates Industry; all resources are available (but not necessarily accessible) in Europe which is a resource rich continent and the market price development cannot be compared to critical raw materials. Mr Neale acknowledged later on that the majority of raw materials will still have to come from natural resources.

Professor Hermann Wotruba from the Aachen University in Germany presented the Metal Mining Industry and promoted underground extraction to reduce waste. He continued saying that the majority of energy used is for processing the extracted materials. The Committee Chairman Hans-Peter Braus contacted Professor Wotruba to raise awareness that these kind of general recommendations to EU Institutions could run the risk that decision makers might ask for aggregates underground mining and will get a wrong image of our industry.

### Next steps

UEPG will provide the Commission with best practice examples on permitting procedures and will join the CSES-led WGs.

The next Raw Materials Supply Group meeting will take place in September 2013, Brussels.

### Green Infrastructure

On 6 May 2013, the European Commission published a new [Communication on Green Infrastructure](#) (GI).

### Background

The EU Biodiversity Strategy includes a commitment for the Commission to develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy. The Resource Efficiency Roadmap states that the Commission will draft a Communication on Green Infrastructure.

In 2011, the European Commission set up a Working Group composed of stakeholders to elaborate recommendations on Green Infrastructure, to which UEPG participated.

### Key points

Green Infrastructure is described as a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services. This would incorporate green spaces (or blue if aquatic ecosystems are concerned) and other physical features in terrestrial (including coastal) and marine areas. On land, Green Infrastructure is present in rural and urban settings.

According to the Communication, Green Infrastructure can make a significant contribution to achieving a number of key EU policy objectives, including water management, nature conservation, land and soil management, climate change and disaster risk management.

The objectives are to encourage the development of Green Infrastructure and to ensure that it becomes a standard part of spatial planning and territorial development that is fully integrated into the implementation of these policies.

The strategy should take the form of an enabling framework providing a combination of policy signals and technical or scientific actions. At this stage, the European Commission thinks that the strategy can be implemented within the context of existing legislation, policy instruments and funding mechanisms.



## Implications for the Aggregates Industry

The Green Infrastructure Strategy is supported by different actions under development:

- Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES), shall help to reinforce the baseline against which the value of the benefits that nature provides to human society can be valued, and investments in Green Infrastructure can be measured;
- Establishment of a Restoration Prioritisation Framework (RPF), shall support the prioritisation of restoration in the context of Green Infrastructure;
- Biodiversity Proofing, seeks to mainstream consideration for biodiversity in key EU funds and promote the funding of projects with a positive impact on biodiversity, which includes Green Infrastructure projects;
- No-Net-Loss (NNL) will support the implementation of Green Infrastructure through developing an initiative that ensures there is no net loss of ecosystems and their services e.g. through compensation or offsetting schemes.

The major element to monitor will be the developments of the No Net Loss Initiative.

### Next steps

By the end of 2017, the Commission will review progress on developing Green Infrastructure and publish a report on the lessons learnt together with recommendations for future action.

UEPG will keep monitoring closely developments of the No Net Loss Initiative. The European Parliament ENVI Committee is now in preparatory phase in order to appoint a Rapporteur.

## Environmental Liability Directive

The Directive, which entered into force in 2004, establishes a framework based on the polluter pays principle to prevent and remedy environmental damage to protected species and natural habitats, damage to water and damage to soil.

The Directive had foreseen that “Member States shall report to the Commission on the

experience gained in the application of this Directive by 30 April 2013 at the latest. (...) On that basis, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council before 30 April 2014, which shall include any appropriate proposals for amendment”.

The review of the Directive is a possibility. Meanwhile, the European Commission acknowledged some flaws in the implementation, and launched several initiatives with the objectives to support the implementation, including studies to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the current regime and a stakeholder meeting on 11 June.

### Implementation challenges and obstacles

A study, commissioned by DG Environment and undertaken by the Paris based consultancy Bio Intelligence Service, has been published on 16 May. The full report is available on <http://eldimplement.biois.com/>. It analyses the legal framework and the practical application into 16 Member States. It presents the benefits and the flaws (e.g., the lack of a level playing field), and then gives some recommendations for improvement, including the use of best practices identified (e.g., the organisation of workshops for stakeholders) amongst the Member States; drafting technical guidance to support competent authorities; development of a database.

### Mining accidents – superfund

A study to explore the feasibility of creating a fund to cover environmental liability and losses occurring from industrial accidents, commissioned by DG Environment and undertaken by Bio Intelligence Service, had been published on 16 May. It assesses the Hungarian proposal to establish a European Union Industrial Disaster Risk-Sharing Facility to be funded by an annual contribution from targeted industries and companies. This proposal was motivated by the industrial accident which took place at the MAL alumina factory near Kolontár, Hungary, on 4 October 2010. If the fund or scheme was established under the ELD, the extent of such operators would be necessarily limited to its Annex III, which includes management of extractive waste.

There was a stakeholder consultation to develop this study, and both UEPG and the NEEIP provided comments to the European Commission in January 2013, and the concerns expressed had been taken on board in the final report.

The study does not draw firm conclusions and acknowledges the difficulties to create such a fund, especially as there is a lack of data related to industrial incidents.

### Stakeholder Meeting

On 11 June 2013, Sandrine Devos, Public Affairs Manager, attended the stakeholder meeting organised in Brussels. The objective was to identify the achievements and gaps of the Directive and of its implementation.

Although stakeholders identified that the gaps were in the implementation, and that time and exchange of experience would be the essence to improve the application of the Directive, the European Commission seems to favour a review of the Directive in 2014.

### Next steps

UEPG will monitor the possibility of a review of the Environmental Liability Directive and will keep promoting the need for a coherent legal framework that provides predictability and fosters competitiveness.

## Green Week 2013 – Cleaner Air for All

From 4 to 7 June, the 2013 edition of Green Week took place in Brussels. The focus this year was Air; timely with the current review of the EU Air policy.

At the opening session, high level speakers – Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočnik, Environment Director General Karl Falkenberg and Member of the European Parliament Satu Hassi - underlined good progress achieved through implementation of EU legislation. However, the air quality was still too low in Europe.

Janez Potocnik intends to propose a new Strategy, which includes full compliance with the European thresholds by 2020 and new objectives for 2030. He showed his disappointment in the priority given for industry. Amongst measures envisaged, the revision of the Non-road Mobile Machinery

legislation might extend the scope to cover smaller and larger engines and the introduction of new stages and emission limits.



From left to right: Satu Hassi, MEP (Greens, Finland); Janez Potočnik, EU Commissioner for Environment; Karl Falkenberg, Director-General, DG Environment.

As for the Ambient Air Quality Directive, which sets the limits for various pollutants including PM10 and PM2,5, the revision planned might be postponed. It seems, indeed, very difficult to convince Member States to apply stricter thresholds to align with the WHO's recommendations, while the current limits are breached and the European Commission is pursuing legal action against Member States for failing to comply properly with their current obligations.

Amongst the speakers at the closing session of the Green Week was Dr Hans Bruyninckx. The Belgian new Executive Director at the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen replaces Jacqueline McGlade at the end of her second five-year term.

Next year's theme was announced to be "Green Economy".

## Maritime Spatial Planning

Jeffrey Thompson, Chair of the UEPG Marine Aggregates Task Force and Secretary General Dirk Fincke briefed the European Commission and the European Parliament Rapporteurs on the UEPG Position on the newly proposed Maritime Spatial Planning Framework Directive. While the content of any spatial planning and permitting procedure is left to EU Member States respecting the subsidiarity principle, a list of important industry activities did not include the non-energy extractive industry. UEPG has gained support from the Commission and the Rapporteur to propose an amendment.

## NePSi Council Meeting

The NePSi Council meeting took place on 13 May and focused mainly on the proposal of a

European Commission co-funded project application on the *effectiveness of the procedures and reduction of dust*.

The project will sample exposures with and without applying good practices, through a selection of sites from all sectors, a selected geographical area and group of workers using a common format of good practices. The work will be undertaken by a consultant.

### Next steps

**15 January 2014** Start of NePSi Reporting  
**18 June 2014** NePSi Council meeting

## EC Machinery Working Group

At the Machinery Working Group on 23-24 May, two main points for the sector were discussed:

### Emergency stop control devices

The German Government is preparing a respective guidance document. The final version should be circulated in the coming months and presented at the next Machinery working group meeting in November.

### Earthmoving Machinery

Following a petition on *fatal occupational accidents that have occurred in Germany involving earth-moving machinery* and, the active role of UEPG in the ADCO Earthmoving machinery Working Groups in 2012 and the continuous promotion of Safer by Design, the European Commission and Members States question the state of the art of standards related to earthmoving machines' visibility and access.

### Visibility:

The quality of camera monitoring systems has considerably improved. It was agreed that the requirements of standards EN 474-1 and ISO 5006 relating to visibility need to be improved in light of the state of the art by using camera-monitoring systems and person identification systems.

The Austrian Government is about to sign a contract to support a one year project estimated as 1.7 million EUR with the University of Graz and the automotive sector on camera sensor systems to recognise human being's position. The Austrian Government representative asked for the

project, when finalised, to be referred within the Standards and Machinery Directive.

The 360° camera system presented in Hillhead was mentioned and could become in the long term future a European standard.

### Safe access:

The dimension of 700 mm for the height above ground of the first step of such access systems does not comply with the requirements of the Directive relating to ergonomic principles and can lead to accidents.

The Commission also notes that the criticism of the excessive height above ground for mobile machinery is shared by the representatives of users of the machinery, both employers and workers. It is also referred to the 'Safer by Design' project carried out by the European Aggregates Association (UEPG) on the basis of feedback from member Companies recommends as 'core aspirations'.

There is an on-going project on noise emission focused on impact assessment studies of the Machinery Directive requirements and to identify possible simplification.

In recent months, several 'horizontal' acts had been adopted by the European Parliament and the Council or proposed by the European Commission which either amend the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC or have implications for its practical application. The Machinery Directive will be revised in the near future.

### Next steps

|                       |  |               |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>18 June 2013</b>   | Machinery (Members States) Workshop on machinery noise emissions | ADCO (States) |
| <b>8 Oct. 2013</b>    | Machinery (Members States) Workshop on risk assessment           | ADCO (States) |
| <b>19-20 Nov.2013</b> | Next Machinery Working Group Meeting, Brussels                   |               |

## Construction Products Europe (CPE)

On 4 June, the last CEPMC General Assembly took place in Brussels. The Delegates approved the CEPMC activity report, the 2014 budget and the new name (Construction Products Europe), logo and website [www.construction-products.eu](http://www.construction-products.eu).



A new president was elected. Jean-Marie Vaissaire took over from the incumbent President, Libero Ravaioli. Jean-Marie Vaissaire is currently President of the French Association AIMCC, and President of Saint Gobain Glassolutions.

### CPE WG Sustainability

On 23 May 2013, Sandrine Devos (UEPG Secretariat) participated to the CEPMC Sustainability Working Group. Major items on the agenda included:

- Competitiveness of the construction sector Reports from the thematic working groups were given. UEPG is participating in TG3 on 'Sustainable Use of Natural Resources'.
- The consultation was still not published, and considering the delays, the Communication on Green buildings should not be expected before Summer 2014.
- Sustainability Assessment CEPMC's strategy is still to advocate for CEN/TC350 as the methodology of reference for construction products, and discussed how best to promote it.
- Resource efficiency: Some studies commissioned by DG Environment received very strong criticisms from the industry, and CEPMC would advise the European Commission not to pursue further on this basis. The indicators presented were indeed seen as out of touch with the reality of the construction products.
- EC Review of Waste policy: CEPMC would create an ad-hoc working group to develop a position on this topic, to which UEPG will participate. The industry is now awaiting for the stakeholders' consultation to be published.

### Next steps 16 October

CPE WG Sustainability

### CPR – Apply it now

The Construction Products Regulation (CPR), which repeals the Construction Products Directive (CPD), came into force on 24 July 2011, and is applicable as from 1 July 2013. The CPR aims at clarification of the basic concepts and of the use of CE marking, simplification of the procedures, so as to reduce the costs incurred by enterprises, in particular SMEs, and increased credibility for the whole system.

The key concept of the CPR is the declaration of performance (DoP), which is replacing the declaration of conformity (DoC) from the previous CPD. For every construction product covered by a harmonised standard or a European Technical Assessment, the manufacturer will draw up a declaration of performance with the intended use of the construction product.

By 1 July 2013, all construction products placed on the EU market will have to be CE marked.

The CPR (article 60) foresees a delegated act to define the conditions on which a declaration of performance may be electronically processed, in order to make it available on a website. The Commission's Delegated Act is expected to be adopted by September 2013. It will then be transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council for their reaction. At the end of the procedure the Delegated Act (most probably a Regulation) will be published in the Official Journal of the EU.

In the meanwhile, manufacturers can continue their practice to provide information about the performance of their products on a website. It is noted that a batch of the same product supplied to a single user can be covered by a single DoP and that a paper copy of the DoP should be supplied if the recipient of the product requests it.

The CPR (article 60) foresees a delegated act for the adaptation of the Annex III model for drawing up a Declaration of Performance model. UEPG is closely monitoring the CPR

through Construction Products Europe (previously CEPMC) on Delegated Acts.

### Next Steps

- 8 July** EC Meeting on Delegated Act on websites
- 9 July** CPR Task Group meeting
- 15 July** EC Meeting on Delegated Act on Annex III
- 9 Oct.** CPR Task Group meeting

### References

[CPR](#) / [EC Website](#) / [CEP Blog on CPR](#)

### B@B Platform

The European Commission has published a [Call for Tender](#) in order to launch Phase 2 of the Business@Biodiversity Platform. This Call for Tender is looking for a contracting party (replacing IUCN) in order to manage the future Platform.

### Background

The European Business and Biodiversity (B@B) Platform, initiated by the European Commission, lasted for 3 years, until October 2012. The Platform fed into the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan 2006-10. The situation has significantly evolved since, with a number of EU Member States having developed their own national Business and Biodiversity Platforms.

The EU B@B Platform covered 6 sectors, including non-energy extractive industry. UEPG was the first industry sector to join the EU B@B Platform.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 identified the Platform as an important vehicle for engaging businesses in achieving the biodiversity targets. The Strategy indicates that the Commission will further develop the Platform and encourage greater cooperation between businesses in Europe, including SMEs, and links to national and global initiatives.

### Description of the future Platform

Phase 2 of the EU B@B Platform is a continuation of the previous Platform, but in contrast to the first phase, the future Platform will be open to all business sectors and to national authorities.



Taking into account the present policy context (including the Roadmap for a Resource Efficient Europe and the 7th Environment Action Programme), the future B&B Platform will be focussing on:

1. Accounting for natural capital; build on existing initiatives to develop methodologies establishing good practice principles in natural capital accounting, with a particular focus on biodiversity and ecosystems;
2. Innovation for biodiversity and business; promote innovation that contributes to nature and biodiversity conservation and provides business opportunities, e.g. showcasing business models/ companies involved in Green Infrastructure and restoration;
3. Access to finance and Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Biodiversity-related business activities.

On 29 May, Sandrine Devos from the UEPG Secretariat met the DG Environment official in charge of the B@B Platform. The new Platform would focus on impacts and dependencies, and was planned to be free of charge.

### Next steps

Once launched, the Platform should run for 3 years. UEPG will apply to be a member of the Platform and promote the Aggregates Industry's positive contribution to biodiversity and the UEPG biodiversity indicators.

### SNAP-SEE Montenegro



The third SNAP-SEE meeting, held in Budva, Montenegro, on 15-16 May, was attended by Past-President Jim O'Brien on behalf of UEPG and the University of Leoben, with almost 40 attendees from 12 SEE countries present. The focus of the meeting was the

preparation for the national or regional stakeholder consultation meetings, which are now being organised in Albania, Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia between June and October 2013.

The goal of each meeting is to develop 20-year national or regional Aggregates Plans. The Aggregates Industry will be actively participating in these important meetings, represented by UEPG national associations where these exist. The meetings will also be a stimulus to develop national aggregates associations where these do not yet exist, to hopefully become future UEPG members. The SNAP-SEE project is therefore now becoming a strong driving force in creating a vibrant and sustainable aggregates industry in South-Eastern Europe, and in turn a strong UEPG representation in the region. More details may be seen on [www.snapsee.eu](http://www.snapsee.eu).

### Explosives Task Force



On 20 June, Members of the Explosives Task Force, lead by UEPG, met in Brussels to discuss the latest developments of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase implementation (April 2013) of the Directive Track and Traces.

Issues on readability of bar codes were highlighted and Manufacturers were asked to find cost efficient solutions. The first guidance document for the whole supply chain on the implementation of the Directive was approved and will be sent for dissemination to Members.

The Task Force will now start drafting a guidance document targeting only users to prepare them for the implementation of the Directive by April 2015.

## UEPG News

### UEPG Delegates Assembly

This year the UEPG Delegates Assembly was kindly hosted by Infra Ry, the Finnish Aggregates Producers Association. The focus of the visits and meeting organised was on Safety, a priority for UEPG President Arnaud Colson.

On 6 June, UEPG Delegates visited the truly inspirational Rudus Safety Park, a good practice to be used by other countries in Europe. In 2009, Rudus, Infra ry Member, built Europe's first and, to date, only Safety Park in Ämmässuo, Espoo, incorporating real-life situations into its safety training. Rudus' partners in the Safety Park are 23 large construction industry and insurance sector companies. Rudus Safety Park received 5,000 visitors in 2012, most of them were Managers in charge of safety, employees, subcontractors and students.



The second part of the day was focusing on Metso and Caterpillar live presentations of Safer machines on sites.

On 7 June, the Delegates Assembly included the traditional progress reviews of Committees and Task Forces, all of which reported significant progress. The Membership Report noted with regret the loss of AB Dolomitas (Lithuania) and OAO Pavlovskgranit (Russia) as associated company members.

The Delegates also thanked Alain Pasquier, who served as UEPG Board Member since 2007. His commitment and valuable work have been highly appreciated.



### UEPG Delegates Assembly 2014

The Swiss Member Association FSKB kindly offered to host the next UEPG Delegates Assembly on 26-27 May 2014 in Bern, Switzerland.

### IUCN-UEPG Cooperation

On 20 June, the 3rd high level meeting between IUCN and UEPG took place at the Brussels office of IUCN.

Arnaud Colson, UEPG President, together with François Petry, Chair of the UEPG Environment Committee, met with Luc Bas, new Director of IUCN European Union Representative Office since 1 May 2013, and Chantal van Ham, European Programme Officer. Dirk Fincke, UEPG Secretary General, and Sandrine Devos, Public Affairs Manager, also attended the meeting.

This was an excellent opportunity to learn more about our new contact persons in the Brussels office, and their priorities. Luc Bas and Chantal van Ham welcomed very much the achievements of UEPG for biodiversity and look forward to cooperating with UEPG.

### Next steps

Gerard Bos (IUCN Head of Business & Biodiversity Unit) will remain the UEPG Sustainable Awards Jury Member as previously agreed. UEPG is organising a site visit for IUCN in order to help them understanding the specificities of the aggregates industry and its role for biodiversity.

### RDS Working Group

On 17 May, the RDS Working Group addressed the "Dutch option" on testing, which means crushing into fine grains, in order to achieve the equilibrium. Such a

testing method has financial implications for aggregates producers, but also on limit values. In order to better understand the reasoning for such a requirement, Rein T. Eikelboom, Expert Soil Quality and Construction Products, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, Netherlands, and André van Zomeren, Researcher Environmental Assessment, ECN, Netherlands, had been invited to present their approach. The key reason is the lack of (comparable) data. The concentration at constant level allows local equilibrium, which allows for no further leaching. The equilibrium is reached more quickly with fine grains.



Further to this interesting exchange, Jean-Marc Vanbelle, Chair of the UEPG Technical Committee, invited Rein T. Eikelboom and André van Zomeren to the next CEN TC154 SC6 TG12 meeting so that they can present their experience.

### Biodiversity Indicators WG

On 17 May, members of the UEPG Biodiversity Indicators Working Group met in the UEPG office in Brussels. The objective of the meeting was to discuss further the use of the indicators and to agree on definitions.



The UEPG Biodiversity Indicators need to be robust and yet applicable by all the industry, including its many SMEs. This is why 2 steps were agreed:

1. Step one as a mandatory reporting, with two simple, habitat-based indicators:
  - a. Percentage of restored area with Nature conservation objectives within former quarry area rehabilitated
  - b. Percentage of Temporary Habitat (Wanderbiotopes) within current working quarry area
2. Step 2 as an optional reporting, flexible and allowing members to report on their own methodologies

### Next steps

With the approval of the Delegates Assembly, the two indicators from step 1 had been included in the SDIs data collection form.

The Chair of the Working Group, Jim Rushworth, is presenting these indicators to CEMBUREAU, the European Cement Association, and CSI, the Cement Sustainability Initiative.

### Annual UNPG H&S Day Meeting

Health & Safety experts of the French Aggregates Association (UNPG) met on 24 April in Paris. The day was focused on the presentation of new tools using IT equipment and Internet based training, guidance on dust control and a 1.5 million EUR fund of the French National Social Insurance to foster risk assessments and training.

### 2013 UNPG SD Awards



From left: The award was handed over by UNPG President, Nicolas Vuillier to Project Manager, Nicolas Seignez and Eric Sapin, Director, STB Matériaux.

On 31 May, the French Aggregates Association (UNPG) has awarded the Prize of Excellence for its 2013 Sustainable Development Award to the Pit of Hamel (Northern French Area), operated by STB Matériaux for the exemplary nature of rehabilitation of its site and approach in maintaining wild bees' colonies. Committed to the National Biodiversity Strategy, this SME has developed several partnerships to favour the implementation of its qualitative project



based on scientific monitoring and approach to protect this unique natural heritage in the north, and with the perspective to be opened to a large public and schools.

The award ceremony took place on the site, in the presence of hundred guests and the National press.

The other French SDA winners were SNEH Matériaux, les Carrières Rouges de Muneville-le-Bingard, Les Sablières de la Meurthe, Carrière de Rosières-aux-Salines, Granulats Vicat, Cemex, Carrière de Labatut, Eiffage, Carrières des Roches Bleues, Eurovia, Granulats Vicat, Carrière de Maizières, Lafarge, Carrière d'Anneville-Ambourville, Doyeux Sablières Montponnaises.

## European Commission at the Seine



On 26 April, the authorities in charge of the waterways in Paris on the Seine river hosted a delegation of 30 people led by the European Commission DG Move, Mark Major, and the Belgian MEP Philippe de Backer, active member of the European Parliament Transport Committee.

Many representatives of Waterways in France were present such as the General Manager Marc Papinutti, President of Paris' Ports, and the Director General JF. Dalaise Alexis Rouque. Many professionals like Franprix and Lafarge were also present to show the port of Bourdonnais, allowing both unloading aggregates and cement and embankments for recycling. The ecological advantage of career using the waterway, CO2 savings, congestion prevented trucks, timely transport, and non-stop services are a recognised advantage.

## SVZK Meetings

On 30 May, the Slovak Association of Aggregates Producers (SZVK) celebrated its

15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in Košice, Slovakia. The event gathered 105 participants, with special guests from other Aggregates and Minerals National Associations as Mr. Aleksander Kabziński, Director of the Polish Aggregates Association. High level speakers were also invited to intervene as Mr. Peter Gajdzica, Director of SZVK with representatives of the mining office, Chamber and the Environment Ministry. A short film was shown illustrating SZVK history, main objectives, and sectors' activities. It underlined the sector's contribution to local economy and respect to environment.



On 6 and 9 June, the 15<sup>th</sup> European Days of Miners and Metallurgists took place in Košice, European Slovak Capital of Culture for 2013. The event was organized by the Association of mining societies and guilds of Slovakia, under the auspices of the President of Slovakia. There were about 1500 participants from all over Europe. Many activities were organised for this event from mineralogical and photo exhibitions to an international conference. For more information see [www.zbsc.eu](http://www.zbsc.eu).

## Delegates Assembly of FdA Member Gremi d'Arids

On 14 June, the Catalan regional Member of the Spanish Aggregates Federation FdA organised its annual Delegates Assembly in Barcelona. Dirk Fincke, Secretary General of UEPG presented new EU legislation and future challenges for the European Aggregates Industry. The current production level in the Catalan region is well below the European average. Therefore, Gremi d'Arids is preparing for the recovery of the economy and the increase of the production level.

## FSKB - Journée Grapiers et Béton

On 14 June, the Swiss Aggregates Association (FSKB) hold its annual General Assembly in Interlaken, Switzerland.



Arnaud Colson, UEPG President, addressed members summarising the added value of UEPG for the Swiss Aggregates Producers and thanked for their valuable contribution to UEPG Committees and Task Forces.

The President of FSKB, André Renggli, welcomed UEPG colleagues for the next UEPG Delegates Assembly, which will be hosted by our Swiss colleagues in Bern on 26-27 May 2014.

## FEDIEX Biodiversity Training

On 18 June, the Walloon Minister of Nature Carlo Di Antonio handed over the first diplomas of "Madam & Mister Biodiversity" to 21 participants from the quarrying sector.



This training was organised in the framework of the sectorial charter "Quarries and Biodiversity" adopted in May 2012 by Minister Di Antonio and the Aggregates Industry whose objective is to promote the development of biodiversity in the Walloon pits and quarries.

This training aimed at supplying pits and quarry staff with tools allowing them to implement biodiversity management measures within the quarry management plan. Besides University biodiversity experts, the participants benefited from the experience of specialists from an NGO, from the competent authorities, from engineering consulting firms as well as from the sector itself.