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EU Live Issues

Environmental Impact Assessment

Background

In October 2012, the European Commission (EC) adopted a proposal for a review of the Directive on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), which was adopted in 1985 and codified in 2011. The review aims at taking into account the political and technical changes of the last 25 years and to simplify the EIA process.

Start of trialogue

The first reading of the European Parliament provided the Rapporteur Andrea Zaroni MEP (ALDE, Italy) with a mandate for the negotiations between the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU (trialogue). All three EU Institutions expressed their preference to agree on a compromise text before the European elections in 2014.

Together with the NEEIP, UEPG has developed an [updated position](#) with a focus on the most critical unsolved issues:

- *Disproportionate extension of the scope of the EIA* (exploration of mineral resources and all “open-air” mining activities in Annex I);
- Inclusion of “visual impact” and of subsoil;
- Definition of biodiversity with reference to the Natura 2000 Directives;
- Ex-post monitoring and mitigation measures;
- Baseline scenario.

UEPG and the NEEIP have been circulating this position and been in contact with the EU Institutions to explain our concerns.

Next steps

The EU institutions expect the final trialogue meeting on 11 December.

Accident Prevention



On 27 November, High Level Panellists and participants from EU Institutions, Standardisation bodies, Trade Associations, Insurance Organisation and Company representatives of the Non-Energy Extractive Industry from across Europe discussed tools to prevent accidents.



Host Christa Schweng (third from left) and Moderator Simon van der Byl (second from right).

The event was hosted by Christa Schweng, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee and Chair of the Governing Board of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work who underlined the necessity to work together for risk prevention.

Armindo Silva, Director for 'Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue' in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and

Inclusion (DG EMPL) of the European Commission, presented the latest feedback of the EU H&S Strategy consultation and EU H&S legislative framework relative to the Extractive Industry. Mr. Silva recommended that end users engaged with manufacturers and provided to them data based on feedback and machines' compliances, to work together on the Design Stage, recognised that risk assessment was an



essential step in prevention of OSH, as working together with and between social partners and supporting SMEs in OSH.



After the presentation of Martin Isles (MPA and UEPG Committee H&S Chair), a common

consensus was towards the importance of use of good practices and initiatives as Safer by Design to trigger standardisation to state of play.

Safety was seen as a top priority for the whole supply chain. The European Minerals Foundation Forum was a start of the dialogue between manufacturers, users, standardisation and authorities on regular basis to working together toward standardization, education and implementation in order to reach common Health and Safety thinking, behaviour and culture in the whole supply chain in Europe for zero accident targets.

Risk Prevention

On 11 and 12 November, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) Summit on Working

together on Risk Prevention took place in Bilbao, Spain. César Luaces Frades (FdA) participated to the event and represented UEPG to take part in the debate on 'Good practices in management leadership and worker participation', 'Benchmarking in occupational health and safety' and 'Successful networking and campaigning in occupational Health and Safety'.

The Summit was the last EU-OSHA event on the campaign on risk prevention. The next Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2014-2015 would be on practical solutions for psychosocial risks and priority topics in the area of Working Environment.

Construction Products Safety

The European Commission has proposed a new package of legislative and non-legislative measures to improve consumer product safety and to strengthen market surveillance of products in the EU. The package, adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2013, was debated in the European Parliament. It was expected that the new legislation would come into effect in 2015. The Regulation on consumer product safety (COM(2013) 78) did not impact on the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) but it covers construction products and established requirements. Amendments by the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) Committee not only created additional burden for manufacturers but were also redundant with CPR current requirements.

Avoiding additional burden

In close cooperation with the Association Construction Products Europe (CPE), UEPG and other CPE-Members achieved that the European Parliament accepted an amendment to

exclude construction products from the above mentioned Consumer Product Safety Regulation. This means that construction products would not be subject to any further requirement about the country of origin or the new marking "EU safety tested"; thus a success in avoiding new burden.

Minventory Workshop

Led by the British Geological Surveys, Minventory aims to gather 'Statistical information on EU raw material deposits'. The project was commissioned by DG Enterprise & Industry in January 2013 and will run for 2 years, closely linked with the objectives of the EU Raw Materials Strategy.

The main focus is on the analysis of available geological data to establish a pan-European database on resources and reserves of non-energy, non-agricultural raw materials, to publish a Road Map and a Year Book.

Sectoral Social Dialogue

The last 2013 meeting of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee Extractive Industry (SSDCEI) took place on 29 November. Miette Dechelle from the UEPG General Secretariat briefed SSDCEI-Members on the European Minerals Foundation Forum addressing accident prevention, Safer by Design and the achievements of the Explosives for civil uses Task Force. The SSDCEI strongly supported these activities which will be mirrored in the Social Dialogue 2014 Programme.

The new Chair of the SSDCEI is Philip E. Garner (EURACOAL President and Director General of CoalPro, UK); Vice-Chair is Jean-Pierre Damm (industriAll, Employees' Representative).

The next meeting will take place in February 2014.

UEPG News

UEPG SDA Ceremony 2013



The tri-annual major UEPG event is the Sustainable Development Awards Ceremony.

UEPG launched the first European Restoration Award scheme in 1997; in 2005, UEPG enlarged the scope to all aspects of sustainable development with the UEPG Sustainable Development Awards; in 2010, a special award was dedicated to Biodiversity.

The European Aggregates Industry supports the principles of sustainable development and is committed to operate with care and concern for the environment, for its neighbours and for society as a whole. The UEPG Sustainable Development Awards illustrate this commitment by promoting the spread of best practice and by encouraging projects that go well beyond what is required by planners or regulators, set new standards of excellence and provide an inspirational example that others can follow.

For the 2013 edition, the independent Jury was composed of:



Gerard Bos, Head of IUCN's Global Business and Biodiversity Programme, responsible for the implementation of

IUCN's Business Engagement Strategy and serves as focal point for all business and biodiversity related matters at IUCN.



Gerard Bos was represented at the Ceremony by Luc Bas, Director of the IUCN European Union Representative Office in Brussels.

Theodor Bülhoff, President of ISSA-Mining, International Social Security Association and former Director of Berufsgenossenschaft Rohstoffe und chemische Industrie (Germany) focused on Prevention in the Extractive Industries.



Jean Claude Lefeuvre, Professor Emeritus at the National Natural History Museum, Chair of the French Institute of Biodiversity-IFB since its creation in 2000 until 2008, the

Standing Committee of the National Council for the Protection of Nature, the Scientific Council of the Coast Conservatory and the Regional Scientific Council of the natural heritage of Brittany, France.

Peter Moser, Professor for Mining Engineering & Mineral Economics and

since 2011 Vice Rector of the University of Leoben, Austria. He is also in charge of International activities of the University.



This year, the independent Jury had to make a selection out of a record number of 52 excellent entries from 14 countries, including Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands and UK.



The 2013 Awards Ceremony was hosted by Sirpa Hertell (EPP, Finland), Member of the Committee of the Regions and working on Natural resources and Environment. It took place in the prestigious Brussels Centre of Fine Arts (Bozar).



The Master of Ceremonies, UEPG Past-President Jim O'Brien, presented

the excellent entries to an audience of almost 130 participants from all over Europe, among them, honourable Members of the European Parliament and representatives from the European Commission. Special guest was the Catalan Minister of Agriculture and Natural Environment, Josep Maria Pelegrí.

At the Ceremony, UEPG President, Arnaud Colson and Secretary General, Dirk Fincke handed over the 32 certificates to company representatives. The host of the event, Sirpa Hertell, and Jury Members presented the 19 Awards. All entries are published in a brochure and will be part of a touring exhibition in EU Institutions further raising public awareness at highest EU level to what the European Aggregates Industry can achieve on sustainable development. UEPG Vice-President, Elisabeth Gammelsæter closed the 2013 UEPG Sustainable Development Awards Ceremony with a poetic touch.



In addition to the three pillars of the sustainable development (Environment, Social and Economic) and the extra category on Biodiversity, companies were also rewarded for education, employee's involvement, communication and innovation.

After the Awards Ceremony, UEPG had arranged a Gala Dinner for UEPG Members, company representatives and key EU decision makers in the Kwint Restaurant with the participation of the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Alejo Vidal Quadras, (EPP, Spain).



UEPG President Arnaud Colson briefing European Parliament Vice-President Alejo Vidal Quadras, (EPP, Spain) on the key challenges the European Aggregates Industry is currently facing.

ForumMIRO 2013

More than 450 participants and 60 exhibitors attended the ForumMIRO organised by the German Aggregates Federation (MIRO). Former European Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen defended the European idea but criticised the bad industrial policy of the Commission increasing ever more the administrative and financial requirements for companies.



During several break-out sessions, participants could choose between technical and political themes. MIRO also invited speakers from the German Environment Ministry explaining a new regulation on environmental compensation.

Meeting with Gaston Franco – MEP

On 6 November, UEPG President Arnaud Colson, accompanied by Secretary General Dirk Fincke and Public Affairs Manager Sandrine

Devos, met Gaston Franco MEP (EPP, France) in Brussels.



From right to left: Arnaud Colson (UEPG President), Gaston Franco MEP (EPP, France) and Sandrine Devos (UEPG General Secretariat).

The objective of this meeting was to discuss the outcome of the 7th Environmental Action Programme (EAP) and its potential implications as a legal instrument, including soil protection.

The UEPG President Colson presented to the achievements and challenges of the European Aggregates Industry such as the administrative burden on business. Mr Franco, who is also Chair of the subgroup "Forestry" of the EP Intergroup "Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development", urged the Aggregates Industry to have closer links with their local authorities.

UEPG Board Meeting

On 28 November, UEPG Board Members discussed at the end of a marathon session of different events key financial and policy issues, including achievements and future priorities for UEPG in 2014.



Board Members welcomed a new associated company Member; Livnopotovni from Bosnia and Herzegovina and suggested a meeting between the four Committee Chairs and Secretaries to coordinate the work on the many live issues.