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EU Live Issues

Environmental Impact Assessment

On 26 October, the European Commission (EC) adopted a proposal for a new Directive (COM(2012)628) that would amend the current Directive on Environmental Impact Assessments (2011/92/EU), which was adopted in 1985 and codified last year.

You may find the proposal in all EU languages by following the link [here](#).

Background

The proposal for a new Directive is the result of a review process started in 2009, when the European Commission published a report on the application and effectiveness of the EIA Directive. A public consultation then took place in 2010, which was concluded with a conference to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Directive. The results of the consultation and of the discussions during the conference fed in the review process.

The objective of the review is to:

- Take into account the changes in the policy, legal and technical context in the last 25 years
- Correct three identified shortcomings: the screening procedure; the quality and analysis of the EIA; the risk of inconsistencies with other legislations
- Simplify the EIA process

The review is consistent with the Roadmap towards a Resource Efficient Europe and should therefore address this by introducing new requirements related to limited resources (e.g. biodiversity).

Implications for the Aggregates Industry

Screening procedure

- Specification of the content and justification of screening decisions by Member States
- Modification of Annex III to describe the selection criteria. In particular:
 - hydromorphological changes
 - impacts of the project on climate change,

- in terms of greenhouse gas emissions
- impacts of the project on land, soil, water, air and biodiversity
- impacts on landscape
- cumulation of impacts with existing or approved projects

Quality and analysis of the EIA

- reinforce the quality of the process (i.e. mandatory scoping and quality control of EIA information)
- specify the content of the EIA report with a detailed list of information to be provided – see new Annex II.A and modified Annex IV
 - Description of subsurface and water use
 - Energy and natural resources used (including water, land, biodiversity and soil)
 - Mandatory assessment of reasonable alternatives
 - Description of the likely evolution of the area without the implementation of the project
- EU Member States are obliged to justify their decision on EIAs which might be challenged

Risk of inconsistencies and overlapping with other legislation

- Specification of time-frames for the main stages required by the Directive: public consultation (30 to 60 days), screening decision (3 months), final EIA decision (3 months after all necessary information gathered)
- Introduce a mechanism (a kind of EIA one-stop shop) to avoid duplication and overlapping with other legal requirements originating from EU legislation such as Directive 2010/75/EU (integrated pollution prevention and control), 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive), 2001/42/EC (Strategic Environmental Assessment).

The assessment of alternatives, monitoring and the adaptation of the EIA to new challenges on biodiversity, climate change, disaster risks, availability of natural resources might result in higher costs for companies.

Next steps

The proposal will be considered by the European Parliament and the Council (ordinary legislative procedure; former co-decision), most likely in 2013. It is expected that the approved text should enter into force in March 2014.

UEPG will follow up closely on the nomination of the European Parliament rapporteur and update its 2010 position paper in order to support the introduction of deadlines for the EIA process and to support the proposed "EIA one-stop shop", but also to advocate a cost-efficient EIA for the industry.

Commission Work Programme 2013

On 23 October, the European Commission published its 2013 Work Programme. Proposals in this work programme will be tabled during 2013 and in the first part of 2014, bearing in mind the end of the current legislature. Absolute imperative is to tackle the economic crisis. The focus is on growth and job creation. It is planned to:

- Intensify work on standards, certification and labels, including the review of standardisation acquis.
- Modernise Europe's transport and logistics to help companies save time and energy, as well as reduce emissions, through proposals on rail and freight transport.
- Review the waste legislation, to look at how new markets and better recycling can contribute to growth.
- Adapt the EU policy framework for air quality.

These initiatives are in line with UEPG's current priorities.

Safer by Design

From end of September to beginning of October, a series of meetings took place in Europe to raise awareness on Safer by Design in standardization by Member States and Manufacturers.

On 25 & 26 September, Miette Dechelle participated in the StandarDays, to brief them on further introduction of Safer by Design into the standardization process.

On 26 September, Walter Nelles, MIRO contributed to Machinery ADCO WG meeting on 'earth moving machinery' in Stuttgart on behalf of UEPG, presenting to Members'

States, Manufacturers and Trade Union Representatives, the latest developments on visibility aspects of Safer by Design.

On 8-9 October, Jost-Peter Sonnenberg, BGR, represented UEPG at the CEN/151, Standardization in the field of safety of machines and equipment, plenary session in Hamburg, with the aim of informing of the Safer by Design latest developments to the standard group.

On 29 October, Martin Isles and Miette Dechelle participated at a Meeting with UK and EU Representatives of Machinery Manufacturers to further promote cooperation on Safer by Design and Standardization process.

Explosives for civil uses

On 25 October, the European Commission Explosives for civil uses working group took place in Brussels. One of the main focuses of the meeting was on the actions taken and the follow up on the good implementation of the Directive within the time limit for the whole supply chain and Member States.



César Luaces Frades, Vice-Chair of the UEPG H&S Committee, and Miette Dechelle, UEPG Public Affairs Manager, were invited to present UEPG and the Explosives for civil uses Task Force ongoing common actions work to Members' States and Stakeholders present. The work done was very positively welcomed and Members' States should come back on the recommendation for common action plan in a month's time. The support of Members' States within the action plan will allow a better dissemination and cooperation in the whole supply chain. The European Commission also proposed a definition for common understanding on end users and the Federation of European Explosives Manufacturers (FEEM) on 'small article', which were agreed. Documents have been sent to UEPG H&S Committee Members in advance. A brief report was made to UEPG H&S Committee Members at the H&S Committee Meeting on 26 October in Brussels. UEPG will keep its members informed on new developments.

Financing Biodiversity

The 11th Conference of Parties (COP11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity met in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012. Over 14,000 delegates from 172 countries participated.

The ambitious goals, known as Aichi Targets to be achieved by 2020, have been set for protection of biodiversity. Parties agreed to ambitious plans to double funding for previously stated goals aimed at curbing species extinction and reducing habitat loss. Ministers from about 80 countries called on industrialized countries to double their payments to developing countries by 2015. Figures however have not been announced, but the agreement was welcomed by biodiversity advocates as a step forward.



UEPG News

UEPG Committee Meetings

On 25-26 October, UEPG members gathered for the four Committee meetings to discuss and exchange views on topical European and national live issues.



Technical Committee

Live Issues discussed were recycling and the end-of-waste criteria, updates on regulated dangerous substances, the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD), updates on European Aggregates Standards, CE marking, the Declaration of Performance (DoP) and the Recast of the Euratom Directive on radioactivity in concrete constituents.

Environment Committee

Live Issues discussed were biodiversity and the future cooperation with IUCN, ecological offsets and the EU no-net-loss Initiative, Water Management and Marine Aggregates.

Health & Safety Committee

Live Issues discussed were the Social Dialogue Agreement on Crystalline Silica and latest political developments, examples of

Silica Dust Monitoring from UEPG Members, and IMA-Europe's initiative on the issue, Explosives for civil use, the progress on Safer by Design and the UEPG partnership with the European Agency for Safety and Health.

Economic Committee

Live Issues discussed were the implementation of the EU Raw Materials Strategy, the recommendations of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) on mineral companies, the upcoming Accounting Directive, a draft UEPG survey on taxation and the implementation of the project on the Economic Value of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity (TEEB) with Patrick ten Brink as guest speaker from the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP).

European Minerals Foundation Forum

emf2012@gmail.com', and logos for UEPG, Aggregates Association, HeidelbergCement, and Golden Aggregates. At the bottom, it says 'This event is supported by the European Commission and the European Business and Biodiversity Campaign. The European Business and Biodiversity Campaign is supported through LIFE programmes of the European Union.'"/>

In close cooperation with the European Minerals Foundation, UEPG is organising this year's Forum addressing the "Way Forward for a Resource Efficient Industry" taking place on 28 November in Brussels. Thanks to the support from HeidelbergCement and the Business and Biodiversity Campaign (LIFE programme) the event is free of charge.

The Forum will use the new successful format of an open debate at two roundtable sessions moderated by Paul Ames, Journalist. The two sessions will discuss the implementation of the EU Raw Materials Strategy and Sustainable Access to Resources and the EU Biodiversity Strategy Target: Restoration of Ecosystems by 15%. The programme and registration form is on the UEPG website www.uepg.eu.

Measuring the contribution of the aggregates industry to biodiversity

A number of EU initiatives require the development of biodiversity indicators (including No Net Loss Initiative and offsetting), and a UEPG Working Group is developing indicators for the Aggregates Industry. Such indicators should be cost-effective and easily implementable by SMEs, yet comprehensive enough so that they can measure progress.

Following previous meetings and exchanges, members of UEPG met in Brussels on 2 October 2012. External experts had been invited to that meeting, and were asked whether they could validate the general habitat approach taken by UEPG, validate or suggest an alternative list of habitats and give recommendations on the baseline.

Experts were broadly in agreement, and enthusiastic about the course of action. Their input is currently feeding in a refined proposal which should be further discussed mid-November.

Water Management

On 16 October, members of the Water Management Task Force met in Brussels in order to present an update on the developments related to water policy, mainly the upcoming Blueprint planned for November, and to review the business plan of the task force and its strategy. It was agreed that a key objective of the Task Force should be not to show only how the industry reduces its potentially negative impacts, but also to show the positive impacts that it creates.

Next steps

6 Feb. 2013 Next meeting, Brussels

Recycling

On 30 October, partners of European Platform for Recycled Aggregates (EPRA) met in Brussels to discuss the policy updates (including the revision of the Waste Framework Directive and Resource Efficiency) and the developments on the End of Waste Criteria. A presentation on the recycled aggregates industry in Finland was as well an interesting insight on the opportunities and challenges of the sector. The revision of the EPRA position papers was as well on the agenda, in order to send a strong message towards the EU institutions.

Next steps

27 Feb. 2013 Next meeting, Brussels

III Spanish National Aggregates Congress

Despite the sharp decline of production which has not yet stopped, Spanish Aggregates Producers gathered at the third National Aggregates Congress in Caceres numerously. Under the motto 'new times, new strategies regional and national authorities and Javier Andrada, President of the Spanish Aggregates Federation (FdA) gave encouraging messages to producers and underlined the need to maintain the good work on sustainable development. The Congress was used to launch the Spanish Minerals Strategy.



UEPG provided strong support with presentations from President Arnaud Colson, Technical Committee Chair Jean-Marc Vanbelle, Secretary General Dirk Fincke, Francelina Pinto from ANIET (Portugal), Alain Pasquier from UNPG (France).

SNAP-SEE Projects get underway

Past-President, Jim O'Brien, attended the first meeting of the 2-year SNAP-SEE project in Leoben, Austria, on 24-26 October. This ERDF-supported project follows on the SARMA project, and is focused on implementation of Sustainable Aggregates Planning in 13 participating countries in South-Eastern Europe.



Jim is providing active industry support to the Leoben University team, headed up by Günter Tiess. This project will strengthen the role of existing UEPG member associations in the region, and will also hopefully lead to founding of new UEPG member associations. Therefore the project has direct interest for UEPG, and regular updates will be reported.

Upcoming UEPG Meetings

28 Nov. European Minerals Forum
 28 Nov. UEPG Board Policy Dinner
 29 Nov. UEPG Board meeting
 14 Dec. 2nd IUCN-UEPG High Level Meeting