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10 years UEPG Newsletter

When UEPG opened its permanent office in Brussels at the beginning of 2003, the next logical step was to report regularly on what is happening and coming up in the EU Institutions. In October 2003, UEPG launched a monthly Newsletter entitled 'EU Insight' in English which proved to be a central tool of communication. Three years later, in September 2006, the German version 'Bericht aus Brüssel' was added. The French version 'Bulletin Europe' with a new and common layout and design for all three language versions is published since January 2007. While the UEPG Newsletter is produced in-house in three languages, a number of UEPG members disseminate and translate the Newsletter in their native languages.

The UEPG Newsletter continued to develop, available for download on the renewed UEPG website and offering hyperlinks to key documents and to EU decision makers. The Newsletter informs UEPG Members in 29 countries about next steps of specific lobbying campaigns and reminds on upcoming UEPG events.

UEPG aims at further improving its communication service to Members and thanks the UEPG PR & Communication Task Force for their innovative and constructive input.

EU Live Issues

Environmental Impact Assessment

The vote in the European Parliament plenary session took place on 9 October 2013,

adopting numerous amendments. The main items of the Report are as follows:

- In-house experts can be used by operators to produce an EIA;
- No retro-activity of the Directive;
- Research and exploration of minerals are now in the scope of the Directive.

Pursuant to Rule 57(2), and upon request of Rapporteur Andrea Zanoni MEP (ALDE, Italy), the matter has been sent back to the competent committee for re-consideration.

EU Council

As there is time pressure to finalise the negotiations by December 2013 or January 2014, EU Member States are very active with weekly meetings. Main items of discussion are the timeframes included in the European Commission's proposal, biodiversity and transitional arrangements.

Next steps

The EU Institutions are under time pressure. The last Parliamentary plenary session before European elections will take place on 17 April 2014.

Triologue between European Commission, Parliament and EU Council should start on 5 November, with a second meeting already planned on 26 November. UEPG is now focusing its actions on the EU Council.

Respirable Crystalline Silica

The revision of the Carcinogens and Mutagens at Work Directive (CMD) was delayed to the second quarter of 2014. Difficulties appeared to identify Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) as a substance. The Scientific Committee for setting up Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL) was recalled upon new findings to advice the European Commission. Possible options are either an Indicative Limit Value (ILV) for RCS in the Chemical Agents Directive (health-

based value) or a Binding Limit Value for RCS in the Carcinogens at Work Directive. The Industry Association UNICEM (France) presented the assessment of the economic impact on the sector if RCS was to be integrated into the CMD. Following this example, all NEPSI sectors will be contacted by BiPRO 'Beratungsgesellschaft für integrierte Problemlösungen' to produce similar impact assessments.

NePSi 2014 Reporting

From 15 January-15 March 2014, aggregates producing companies are called to report on the potential exposure to RCS and the good practice applied. UEPG will enrol UEPG Members using the same reporting software than in previous years.

End of Waste Criteria for Aggregates

On 3 October, during a European Commission meeting of WG3 'Sustainable Use of Natural Resources', Gunther Wolff, Policy Officer, Waste Management & Recycling in DG Environment presented the review of Construction & Demolition waste targets in the context of a general target review of waste legislation. Targets are being reviewed in the clauses of three Directives by 2014, and are being kept consistent, where possible, with the Roadmap on Resource Efficiency and the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP). The target review is being conducted via a public consultation which ended on 10 September 2013. It includes consideration of a list of options, impact assessment and a legislative proposal by 2014. Specific objectives of the review include translating objectives of the 7th EAP into reachable targets and improved implementation.

In response to Mr. Wolff's presentation, participants noted that while the supposition has historically been that waste criteria should exist at an EU level, certain issues are being resolved at Member State level, perhaps reducing the need for EU-level criteria. Mr. Wolff acknowledged that while EU criteria are preferable, given that waste criteria are complicated and time-consuming to develop, national-level action may be sufficient for certain materials such as aggregates, for which there is little cross-border trade.

UEPG circulated the UK protocol as a potential template for national end-of-waste criteria. Member States should be responsible to develop recycling of aggregates in a way that fits with the individual markets.

Construction Products Regulation

The European Commission has launched an email consultation on the last proposal for the delegated act on Annex V of the Construction Products Regulation (Assessment and verification of constancy of performance). The Commission will draft the final version to be submitted to the inter-service consultation and then to the Parliament and the Council thereafter.

The delegated act for DoP being available on websites and the implemented act for the European Technical Approval format are currently blocked within the European Commission due to legal issues to be solved before sending the documents to the Parliament. The delegated act was supposed to be voted on 17 October in the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee. Construction Products Europe is keeping up the pressure to unlock progress.

7th Environment Action Programme

On 24 October 2013, the European Parliament voted on the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP).

Background

The 7th EAP is meant to guide EU environment policy up to 2020, the timeframe being aligned with the multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020 and other key strategies, including the Europe 2020 Strategy. It draws on a number of initiatives in the field of environment, including the Resource Efficiency Roadmap and the 2020 Biodiversity Strategy. As its predecessors, the 7th EAP shall be based on the polluter-pays principle, the precautionary principle and preventive action and the principle of rectification of pollution at source.

The subtitle of this 7th EAP is "Living well, within the limits of our planet". It sets 9 priority objectives and builds on existing initiatives and legislation rather than coming up with

new initiatives. One of its objectives is to demonstrate how specific environmental issues are inter-related and how improvements in one area could deliver multiple benefits not only for the environment but also for the economy and society. Most of the initiatives and tools to achieve the 9 priority objectives had been already launched by the Commission and are recommended to be implemented, e.g. 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, revision of Environment Impact Assessment Directive, Water Blueprint.

Additionally to the European Commission's proposals, the European Parliament:

- brings an increased focus to soil protection, climate change, marine areas and reference to maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management, biodiversity and ecosystem services, with the encouragement of 'payments for ecosystem services' schemes;
- Recommends increased use of market-based instruments, including via the European Semester;
- Confirms the wish to further develop inspection support capacity at European Union level;
- Proposes to develop methodologies to measure the resource efficiency of water, land, material and carbon which should be developed by 2015, to reduce overall resource use, to develop indicators and targets for land, water, material and carbon footprints, to put in place incentives and methodologies that stimulate companies to measure the environmental costs of their business and profits derived from using environmental services and to disclose environmental information as part of their annual reporting;
- Refers to the objective of "no net land take" by 2050;
- Alludes to an 8th EAP.

Next steps

The 7th EAP is to be formally approved by the Council in mid-November and published in the EU Official Journal by the end of this year.

UEPG News

UEPG Committee Meetings

On 10-11 October, UEPG Members discussed key policy items and how to adjust UEPG lobbying campaigns.

Economic Committee



Live Issues discussed were the environmental and social impact of the massive and continued economic decline in Southern Europe and how UEPG and the European Commission could help while avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach. Furthermore, the implementation of the EU Raw Materials Strategy and the Innovation Union Partnership were of interest.

Environment Committee



Live Issues discussed were the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, biodiversity with a specific focus on the EU No-Net-Loss Initiative, Water Management, Marine Aggregates and Recycled Aggregates. Members agreed that the top priorities were the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, biodiversity and water.

Health & Safety Committee



Live Issues discussed were the continued creation of national H&S Committees contributing to the prevention of accidents; collection of good practice examples; the impact assessment of RCS included in the Carcinogens and mutagens at work directive or Chemical Agents directive and the 2014 NePSi Reporting, Safer by Design and explosives for civil uses.

Technical Committee



Live Issues discussed were recycling, the Construction Product Regulation (CPR), CE Marking for Aggregates and updates on CEN TC351.

A major concern was related to the Harmonised Product Standards (CEN TC154): the CEN Management Centre decided to withdraw current EN13043:2013, 13139:2013 and 13242:2013 standards and replace them by the “proposed to UAP” version, which is not considered as workable by aggregates producers. The UEPG Technical Committee agreed on sending letters to both the CEN Management Centre and to the national mirror committees.

Explosives for civil use Task Force

Chaired by César Luaces Frades, the Task Force meeting on explosives for civil use took place on 16 October in the UEPG office to finalise the work on the website, the Action Plan and the dissemination of the final Guidance Documents. These achievements were presented by César Luaces Frades to EU Members States demonstrating the commitment to implement the delayed Directive on the identification and traceability of explosives for civil use.

APPA Forum – Romania

On 17 and 18 October 2013, APPA (the Romanian Aggregates Producers' Association) hold a Forum in Bucharest entitled “Mineral resources in Romania, main component of infrastructure development”. The event was attended by aggregates producers, representatives from the competent national authorities, geological surveys and the transport association. It explored the main challenges of the Romanian Aggregates Industry: illegal activities, overloading and taxation.

Sandrine Devos, from the UEPG General Secretariat, presented the activities of the European Aggregates Association and in particular case studies on taxation.



The organisation of such a major event proofed APPA's determination to improve its structure and to lobby more intensively at national and European level. It also was a milestone as APPA Members elected a new President, Eric Thieulot (Lafarge Aggregates), to succeed Carmen Ionescu (Grandemar) after a 5-year Presidency.

Next steps

6-7 March 2014 UEPG Committee Meetings, Bucharest

20th Anniversary of PZPK

Members of the Polish Aggregates Producers' Association (PZPK), led by Director Aleksander Kabziński, reviewed the achievements of the last 20 years and are looking ahead identifying future key challenges for the industry sector. Among the points raised was the question on how to return to a sustainable national production level after the peak for the 2012 European Football Championship and related unusually intense infrastructure projects.

Company representatives also wished to follow more closely upcoming EU initiatives and legislation and to get in contact with Polish MEPs.

MIRO Environment Committee

On 23 October, Member of the German Aggregates Federation MIRO gathered for the national Committee on securing raw materials supply, environment protection and after use.

Christian Haeser from MIRO and Dirk Fincke, UEPG Secretary General reported on the review of the Environment Impact Assessment Directive, the review of the Groundwater Directive, resource taxation, the implementation of the Raw Materials Strategy, the European Innovation Partnership and the

new European Commission Work Programme 2014.

UEPG thanked MIRO for having been very active to mobilise German MEPs to support UEPG and NEEIP positions on the review of the EIA.

MIRO showed strong interest in learning more about the effects and impacts of aggregates taxation in other EU Member States.

The German Government currently reviews the national soil protection legislation and aims at further developing national and European indicators for improved resource efficiency.

MPA Restoration Awards

The UK Mineral Products Association (MPA) has launched its new National Nature Park - a nationwide network of quarries that have been restored for wildlife and which are accessible to the public.



The online resource includes 50 sites around the country totalling 4,000 hectares, with a range of facilities including nature trails, viewing hides and visitor centres. The UK Government recognised and praised MPA members' important work to conserve nature at the Association's Restoration and Biodiversity Awards in London. Many outstanding achievements were celebrated and shared with an emphasis on how nature can benefit when strong partnerships exist between industry and conservation groups.

EMF Forum 2013

The 14th European Minerals Forum will take place on Wednesday 27 November 2013 in the European Economic and Social Committee, in Brussels.

This year's Forum, supported by UEPG and other sector associations of the non-energy extractive industries, aims at working together with the whole supply chain to prevent machine-related injuries and ill health. This will involve analysing root causes of accidents and draw recommendations raising awareness through presenting recent good practices and initiatives in Europe.

High Level Speakers from EU Institutions, Standardisation, Trade Associations, Employer and Employees representatives and the Non-Energy Extractive Industry are invited.

If you wish to participate, please request a registration form and reply by 13 November to info@europeanmineralsfoundation.org. Places are limited and will be distributed on a first come first served basis.

UEPG SD Awards Ceremony 2013

The tri-annual major UEPG event is the Sustainable Development Awards Ceremony. For the 2013 edition, the independent Jury had to make a selection out of a record

number of 52 excellent entries from 14 countries.



The 2013 Awards Ceremony will be hosted by Sirpa Hertell (EPP, Finland), Member of the Committee of the Regions and will take place in the prestigious Brussels Centre of Fine Arts (Bozar).



After the Awards Ceremony, UEPG has arranged a Gala Dinner for UEPG Members, company representatives and key EU decision makers in the Kwint Restaurant.



We would be delighted to welcome you and your colleagues to these most important events which show-case the achievements of aggregates producers in sustainable development.

Upcoming UEPG meetings

- 27 Nov. EMF Forum
- 27 Nov. UEPG SDA Ceremony
- 27 Nov. UEPG SDA Gala Dinner
- 28 Nov. UEPG Board
- 6-7 March 2014 Committee Meetings, Bucharest, Romania