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## EU Live Issues

### Environmental Impact Assessment

The review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive is a top priority for UEPG. The General Secretariat works together with other sector associations of the Non-Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP).

### European Parliament

The European Parliament was supposed to vote on 11 September on the [Report](#) from [Andrea Zanoni](#) MEP (ALDE, Italy) on the revision of the EIA Directive. 83 amendments had been tabled by the Environment Committee to the European Commission's proposal.

Before the vote took place, [Nikolaos Chountis](#) MEP (Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left, Greece), who was the Rapporteur for the Petition Committee on this Report, requested the vote to be postponed. He underlined that the review of the EIA was very important to his Committee and they made for 85% of the petitions received. He therefore requested more thorough debates, especially with the European Commission. MEPs agreed that the vote would be postponed to 8 October 2013. Deadline for amendments is 2 October.

UEPG took the opportunity to liaise with more MEPs in order to [convey our messages](#), the main ones being in particular, opposing the inclusion of mineral resource exploration within the scope of the EIA, the deletion of the distinction based on the size of open-cast activities, which would therefore all be subject to a full EIA, and the extended screening procedure.

In that context, the NEEIP has been contacted by the French electricity company 'Electricité de France (EDF)' – which has set up an industry coalition gathering various sectors (electricity, railway, chemical). On 1 October, EDF organised in the European Parliament an event, hosted by [Herbert Reul](#) MEP (EPP, Germany), outlining how critical a sound revision of the EIA Directive is for the future of the industry. At this event,

UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke, presented the common concerns of 9 non-energy extractive industry sectors. A strong voice needed for the vote in plenary on 8 October in Strasbourg, where Sandrine Devos, UEPG Public Affairs Manager, will meet with MEPs and/or their Assistants before the debate and vote.

### Next steps

In the Council of the EU, the Working Party has now almost weekly meetings on the EIA review. After the vote in the European Parliament, UEPG will liaise with Member States which seem, according to the latest drafts of a compromise text, to take on a harder line.

Time is becoming essential as we are reaching the end of MEPs' mandate. This adds pressure on the debates in trilogue and makes it all the more crucial for UEPG Members to liaise at national level so that EU Member States are aware of the difficulties industry is facing.

### Environmental Inspections

On 25 September, Sandrine Devos from the UEPG General Secretariat, attended a workshop entitled "Self-regulation vs. Policing: Policy options for the new EU framework on Environmental Inspections", which took place in the European Parliament, Brussels.

Following a public consultation launched earlier this year and the recognition in the 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme of the need to extend binding inspection and surveillance provisions, the European Commission might come up with a proposal before the end of Environment Commissioner's Potocnik mandate on 31 October 2014.

The workshop addressed the shortcomings of the current EU system of inspections – which consists of non-binding recommendations (including the need to address illegal activities and the Member States' capacities) and the need to build a level playing field for industry.

Liam Cashman, Deputy Head of Unit in DG Environment, presented the possible options to

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improve enforcement of environmental legislation, including the need to inform and involve the public.

## Raw Materials Strategy

On 23 September, the European Commission reported on the [update of the Raw Materials Strategy](#) and related initiatives at the Raw Materials Supply Group (RMSG) meeting, where UEPG has a seat, chaired by DG Enterprise & Industry Director Gwenole Cozigou and Head of Unit Mattia Pellegrini.

## European Innovation Union Partnership

European Innovation Union Partnership (EIP) Chapter 3.II addressing the Non-Technology Policy Pillar of the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) is of relevance for the Aggregates Industry. The SIP will be approved by the High-Level Steering Group (HLSG) on 25 September. The HLSG and the Sherpas assisting the Members of the HLSG will remain in charge to monitor and evaluate the EIP and ensuring implementation of the SIP. Further meetings of the HLSG and of the Operational Groups might take place in March and May 2014.

## Horizon 2020

The DG Research and Innovation driven 'Horizon 2020' is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. The three pillars of Horizon 2020 are Excellent science, Industrial leadership and Societal Challenges (SC). Relevant for our Industry is No 5 addressing "Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials". The Budapest based [European Institute of Technology](#) will play a key role. Research and Innovation should be 100% financed; Innovation actions by 70%. While only one single work programme will be available for the Horizon 2020, it will have 12 specific Focus Areas. Furthermore, a web tool should allow to identify calls of interest and to submit proposals. Commission has received 15,000 nominations for the expert groups. Sub-challenge 5.3 includes a proposal for a near zero-waste target and cross challenge topics are offered particularly for SMEs. The final Work Programme will be adopted on 10 December 2013.

## Next steps

UEPG will attend the SC5 Info Day taking place on 12 November in Brussels to identify contacts within the Member States' expert group for SC5,

National Contact Points and the Advisory Group of 31 experts.

## Critical Raw Materials

As part of the regular review of the list of critical raw materials, 52 raw materials are being assessed. All currently 14 critical raw materials (except Tantalum) remain critical but new ones might join summing up to 21 critical raw materials. Aggregates are still not among the list of potentially critical raw materials. The final Report on Critical Raw Materials will be adopted on 15 November 2013.

## National Minerals Strategies

The [Dutch Minerals Strategy](#) excludes energy, water and construction materials due to existing policies. The national determined production did not cover the market demand and extraction sites close to the German border were suffering problems of competitiveness. After a trial period it was decided to leave the market determine the demand which seems to work much better.

Initial steps of an Italian Minerals Strategy were developed by a new Department created within the Italian Ministry of Economic Development. Currently, no Italian National Strategy is available and regional governments are in charge of planning and permitting. About 20 regional strategies exist which hinder investment. A new legal framework and a uniform legislation should improve the situation and simplify permitting procedures. It is recognised that the non-energy extractive industry plays an important role for the Italian Economy. The striking majority of aggregates producing companies are micro and small enterprises. The national strategy should also create a business network, better performance on recycling and resource efficiency.

## Next steps

UEPG will get in contact with the Italian Ministry of Economic Development to offer support and to build up a strong national Aggregates Association.

In several EU Member States aggregates are either dealt with under a specific regime or are excluded from a national strategy. This is often due to existing policies at regional or local level. UEPG and its Members have to consider whether this trend is something desired or should be changed and whether this should be determined at EU level or better at national level.

## Evaluation and exchange of good practice

At the first Working Group meeting which was organised back to back with the Raw Materials Supply Group meeting, the contracted consultancy 'Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services (CSES) already listed 52 good practice examples provided by EU Member States and from the 2010 ad-hoc WG Report on land-use planning.

Members of the RMSG welcomed the project but stressed that the first set of good practices examples needed to be reviewed and the level of quality improved. The European Commission proposed to re-activate the ad-hoc WG on land use planning and to arrange a separate meeting inviting the former ad-hoc WG Members and open participation to additional experts.

## Next steps

The European Commission invited UEPG and other Members of the RMSG to provide further examples from the areas legislative framework and regulations, information framework, land use planning and permits and authorisation. UEPG circulated a call to Members of the UEPG Economic Committee to provide further good practice examples on land-use planning which could be applied in other EU Member States.

## Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS)

On Friday 27 September 2013, a NePSi and UEPG experts outlined to Karola Grodzki from DG Employment, who is drafting the Risk Assessment on the revision of the Carcinogens and Mutagens at work Directive (CMD), the impact on industry if RCS was included.

We would like to inform Members that the European Commission will finalise the Risk Assessment in the second quarter of 2014, and not by the end of this year as previously foreseen. The proposal of the European Commission on the revision of the CMD shall be finalised by the end of 2014 or beginning of 2015. The ordinary legislative procedure will start in 2015.

A meeting of the Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL) is planned for December 2013 to evaluate the Risk Assessment and the Occupational Exposure Limit of proposed substances, such as Respirable Crystalline Silica, within the revision of the CMD or the Chemicals Agents at work Directive. The SCOEL was set up by a

Commission Decision (95/320/EC) with the mandate to advise the European Commission on occupational exposure limits for chemicals in the workplace. All Member of SCOEL act as independent scientific experts, not as representatives of their national governments.

The European Commission is giving more time for Associations to send data and figures on the economic and social impact of the new proposed substances, which could be included in the revision of the CMD.

### Prepare for NePSi Reporting 2014

From 15 January until 15 March 2014 companies of all NePSi sectors are asked again to report on the RCS exposure and good practice applied. David Yelland (MPA/NePSi) will briefly present the NePSi Reporting System and recall the procedure at the next UEPG Health & Safety Committee on 11 October.

## UEPG News

### UEPG Task Force Meetings

#### Recycling Task Force

Following the decision of the Delegates Assembly in May 2013 in Helsinki, a UEPG Recycling Task Force had been established. It met for the first time on 10 September, in the UEPG office in Brussels, chaired by Brian James (MPA, UK).

The objectives of this first meeting were to agree on the terms of reference of the Task Force and to build common grounds on EC topics such as waste targets and sustainable construction, in liaison with Construction Products Europe.

The two key tasks were to agree and to promote proper definitions and figures for recycled aggregates and to "encourage possible use of recycling as an aggregate, for the most appropriate application on the place of use".

#### Next steps

**12 February 2014** Recycling Task Force meeting, Brussels

#### PR & Communication Task Force

The PR & Communication Task Force meeting on 12 September focused on the exchange of good practice examples on national campaigns and brochures, on the public perception of the industry with national and European cases

studies, on the necessity to liaise with the Committees and Task Forces supporting their work, on how to prepare for the 2014 European election and on the internal and external UEPG Communication.

#### Biodiversity Task Force

On 17 September, Members of the Biodiversity Task Force discussed indicators and the European Commission No Net Loss Initiative.



**DG Environment and IUCN in UEPG office**

Chantal van Ham from IUCN and Strahil Christov from the Biodiversity Unit of DG Environment at the UEPG Biodiversity Task Force meeting.

Strahil Christov, Policy Officer for Biodiversity, DG Environment, presented the phase two of the Business@Biodiversity Platform, to be launched by the end of the year, and which would focus on Natural Capital Accounting, Innovation for biodiversity and business opportunities and Access to Finance and Innovative Financing Instruments. Members of the Task Force later recommended that UEPG should be part of the new Business@Biodiversity Platform.

Chantal van Ham, European Programme Officer from IUCN gave an update on the latest changes within IUCN and on the cooperation with UEPG.

Théo Flavenot from Unicem, France presented his thesis on "Green Infrastructure and quarrying: Assessing risk and opportunities", which showed results in the positive role that quarries can play in connectivity for some species.

#### Water Management Task Force

Members of the Task Force addressed on 17 September in the UEPG office the implementation of Water Indicators, a UEPG reply to the EC Consultation on the review of Annexes I and II of the Groundwater Directive, the review of the UEPG Position Paper on Water Management and the UEPG statement on the positive contribution of the Aggregates Industry to water.

#### NEEIP Meeting

On 5 September, UEPG hosted and chaired the meeting of the Non-Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP). Guest speaker was Flor Diaz Pulido, new Deputy Head of the "Raw Materials, Metals, Minerals and Forest-based Industries" Unit in DG Enterprise & Industry. Mrs Diaz Pulido, who is successor of Maria Spiliopoulou-Kaparia, used this first meeting with NEEIP colleagues to better understand the needs and differences of each sector.

Oscar Nieto from Construction Products Europe gave an update on the Construction Products Regulation. Items of common interest were Access to Justice, Transparency, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, No-Net-Loss, Biodiversity Indicators, Respirable Crystalline Silica, explosives for civil use and upcoming events of NEEI associations.

#### UEPG briefs Bio Intelligence Service

Bio Intelligence Service (BIOS) is a consultancy firm based in Paris, which is often commissioned by the European Commission to develop studies on a wide range of topics related to sustainability.

It has come to the attention of UEPG that Bio Intelligence Service has been involved on many reports of interest to the Aggregates Industry, especially in the areas of resource efficiency, biodiversity, liability and recycling. UEPG therefore contacted the consultancy in order to present our sector and activities and to learn more about their work.

François Petry, Chair of the UEPG Environment Committee, Vanessa Ardouvin, Geologist at Holcim, and Sandrine Devos, from the UEPG Secretariat, met with four consultants dealing with key topics for UEPG on 18 September in Paris.

The meeting was very fruitful, with useful exchanges of information. UEPG offered the input from the European Aggregates Industry on some of the topics BIOS is covering and which address our sector, which was welcomed by BIOS, and both parties expect further exchanges of information in the future.

#### Upcoming UEPG meetings

<b>10-11 Oct.</b>	UEPG Committees
<b>27 Nov.</b>	EMF Forum
<b>27 Nov.</b>	UEPG SDA Ceremony
<b>27 Nov.</b>	UEPG Board Policy Dinner
<b>28 Nov.</b>	UEPG Board