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## EU Live Issues

### New Parliamentary Committees

As a result of the European elections in May, the European Parliament and its Committees are being reshaped. Giovanni La Via (EPP, Italy) has been elected the new Chair of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI Committee). The full list of the 136 MEPs from the ENVI Committee (69 full members and 67 substitutes) is available on the [website of the ENVI Committee](#).

It is worth noting that the leading countries in the ENVI Committee are Germany, Italy, Hungary and France, and that the number of Greens has dramatically decreased.

Thomas Händel (European United Left, Germany) has been elected the new Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL Committee). The full list of the EMPL Committee (of 55 full members and 45 substitutes) is available on the [website of the EMPL Committee](#).

Jerzy Buzek (EPP, Poland) has been elected the new Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. The full list of the Committee (of 67 full members and 65 substitutes) is available on the [website of the ECON Committee](#).

For more information see also the different [European Political Parties](#) in the European Parliament.

### New European Commission



The new *European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries*, is Karmenu Vella (ALDE, Malta). During his hearing in the European

Parliament, Mr. Vella started with a statement outlining his future policy programme based on the [mission letter](#) signed by Commission President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker. Karmenu Vella, would liaise closely with the

Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness.

Mr. Vella began with the possibility of reviewing the Natura 2000 Directives, referring to a refit-initiative. He intended to ensure that resource efficiency and Green Economy remain high priorities. Vella saw the 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme – adopted by the European Parliament and Member States – as his key guidance. Other areas of concern were air quality being a major social and health problem.



The new *Commissioner in charge of Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility*, is Marianne Thyssen (EPP, Belgium). During

the hearing on 1 October, she was asked by the respective Parliamentary Committees specific questions on her plans and priorities for her upcoming 5-year mandate outlined in her [letter of mission](#).

Marianne Thyssen, until recently a Member of the European Parliament, outlined her main goals such as jobs, growth, social protection, fight against poverty and discrimination and for inclusion. She affirmed the Commission's support for education, training, skills and mobility through EU instruments to achieve the above goals. She developed in detail on more Social Dialogue and Investments, better climate for Entrepreneurship and SMEs, further promotion of social indicators and social partners at the European Semester, and to pursue the refit of 24 Occupational Health and Safety Directives for protecting workers to new risks.

While existing legislation should be simplified, Mrs Thyssen also called for a better implementation of EU legislation by Member States as well as further information and indicators on the current state of play.

It remains to be seen on how Mrs Thyssen will precisely work and cooperate with the other Commissioners on overlapping topics.

New Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs is Elżbieta Bieńkowska (EPP, Poland), former Polish Deputy Prime-Minister.



According to her [letter of mission](#), Mrs. Bieńkowska will contribute to projects steered and coordinated by the Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness and the Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, as well as the Vice-President for the Digital Single Market and the Vice-President for Energy Union. One of the key areas is to raise the profile and important role of the industry within the European economy.

Taking effect on 1 January 2015, the Directorate-General for Internal Market and Services (DG MARKT) and the Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry (DG ENTR) will be merged to (DG GROWTH) reporting to Mrs. Bieńkowska. The Unit “Raw Materials, Metals, Minerals and Forest Based Industries” will be under the Directorate G – “Sustainable Growth and EU 2020” led by Director Carlo Pettinelli.

Commissioner Mrs Bieńkowska stressed in her initial statement, that industry needs secured input of raw materials. It is concerning that Europe has the highest energy prices in the world and observes a dramatic decline of investment. The construction sector should undergo a fitness check and the Construction Products Regulation should be analysed. When legislating, it is necessary to take into account all sectors’ specifics. Health & Safety would come first and Europe needs a green economy including a market-based resource efficiency approach.

Competitiveness lies as the heart of the 2020 Strategy. Every legislation and initiative will undergo a ‘SMEs test’ to ensure that it will not disadvantage SMEs. The Internal Market is not for large companies only, but for companies whatever their size. This is why the one-stop-shop mechanism and the removal of administrative barriers are one of the priorities within her mandate.

During the hearing, MEPs such as [David Borrelli](#) (EFD, Italy), [Neoklis Sylikiotis](#) (European United Left, Cyprus) focused on assisting SMEs through removing administrative barriers.

[Andrzej Duda](#) (ECR, Poland) and [Dennis De Jong](#) (European United Left, The Netherlands) urged Bieńkowska to fight corruption and unfair practices in the frame of public procurement.

[Reinhard Bütikofer](#) (Greens, Germany) underlined the importance of the European Semester to achieve a sustainable Europe; more precisely, [Pascal Durand](#) (Greens, France) suggested strengthening recycling to reduce the environmental footprint. A possibility would be to require indicating the length of use of the products for better sustainability. Bieńkowska agreed that the reindustrialisation policy needs to target a sustainable industry, using carefully energy and raw materials.

[Gerben-Jan Gebrandy](#) (ALDE, The Netherlands) asked whether Mrs Bieńkowska would agree that resource efficiency is the key to competitiveness and whether we need a lead target indicator. While she replied to the first part of the question with more research, innovation, resource efficiency, waste management and recycling, she did not come back on the lead indicator.

[Vicky Ford](#) (ECR, UK), Chair of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee complained that the current Commission has missed to undertake for some initiatives an impact assessment and got a commitment from Bieńkowska in doing an impact assessment on future projects. Furthermore, Mrs Ford also received a positive reply on whether Commissioner-designate Bieńkowska would be prepared to withdraw a proposal if Parliament demanded it.

Bienkowska’s has high ambitions. Her focus is on SMEs and public procurement as part of the reindustrialisation of Europe. This is where she has gained most experience during her past assignments. UEPG will highlight that the striking majority of companies in the Aggregates Industry are SMEs. She mentioned that SMEs not only need access to finances but that assistance and cost-savings could be done through better regulation and reduction of the administrative burden. Other priorities which are in line with the UEPG activities are competitiveness, access to resources, access to finance, implementation of existing

legislation and fighting unfair practices. While Mrs Bieńkowska seems to head towards an industry friendly direction, she will have to push hard for her portfolio when reporting to the designated Vice-President Jyrki Katainen who is in charge of Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness.

## Land-use planning & permitting

The European Commission Raw Materials Supply Group (RMSG) is the central body to implement the EU Raw Materials Strategy, related initiatives and projects. During the last meeting of the RMSG on 26 September, a number of Member State representatives expressed opposition on a future EU legislation on land-use planning and permitting due to subsidiarity.

Furthermore, the European Commission decided to postpone the public consultation on land-use planning and permitting to have sufficient time to develop the text of the consultation with Members of the Raw Materials Supply Group. At this stage, DG Enterprise & Industry cannot say with certainty whether or not a legislative proposal will be issued but will remain the right to revert to all possibilities. The recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group 2 (AHWG2) will not mention a legislative proposal.

UEPG, invited by the European Commission to present the recommendations on land-use planning, suggested further distributing of the AHWG2 Report and the Natura 2000 Guidance for the Non-energy extractive industries at national and regional level.

## UEPG Analysis

With the ‘blockade’ of EU Member States on a legislative proposal on land-use planning and permitting, such an Initiative is now less likely or at least postponed. UEPG and other NEEIP Partners will have to discuss the further procedure and to develop alternatives. While the RMSG advises DG Enterprise & Industry on policies and recommended policy actions, they are not in the position to stop a Commission Initiative.

## European Protected Areas

### Why do they matter in the global context?

On 26 September, IUCN held an event in the Committee of the Regions, with the objective to prepare at EU level for the World Park Congress which took place in November in

Sydney, Australia. This Global Forum articulates the vital role of protected areas in conserving nature as part of economic and community well-being.

At the Brussels event, speakers included Luc Bas (Director, IUCN EU Representative Office), Stefan Leiner (Head of Nature Unit, DG Environment) and Alberto Marcos Arroyo Schnell (WWF) giving an opportunity to praise the success of Natura 2000. According to the speakers the European example, with its very specific features, could be a source of inspiration for other parts of the world: Its scientific approach ensures no “easy-fix”; the strict legal framework is yet flexible and prevents short-term interests; economic activities are not banned, provided that they do not undermine the conservation objectives, and Natura 2000 areas are not no-go-areas.



Although some challenges had yet to be overcome (eg. the funding, Natura 2000 at sea, connectivity), which could be addressed through the Fitness

Check, participants expressed doubts on the relevance to review the Natura 2000 Directives as planned by the new Commission President Juncker. Luc Bas, Director of the IUCN EU Representative Office said: *“Our nature legislation, i.e. the Birds and Habitats Directives, forms the backbone of the EU’s strong environmental framework. An assessment of these Directives can be useful for fine-tuning and improving their effectiveness, but a review that aims to make them ‘fit for purpose’ and turn them into a ‘modern piece of legislation’ leaves dangerous room for interpretation in a context of deregulation.”*

## Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency

### Background

The flagship initiative for a resource-efficient Europe under the Europe 2020 Strategy supports the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy to achieve sustainable growth. This flagship initiative has been carried in 2011 by a Communication followed by a Roadmap.

The Circular Economy Package, composed of 4 Communications and a proposal for a revised Waste Framework Directive, was published in

July 2014, as a “strategic answer to the new reality of globalisation and increasing pressures on limited and scarce natural resources”.

### Latest developments

One of the potential leverages for this Package is to include some of its elements into the European Semester and/or the mid-term Review of the Europe 2020 Strategy (the European Commission is conducting a public consultation to assess the progress and the way forward).

The European Semester for economic policy coordination (implementation of 2014 priorities) has been discussed in the European Parliament. The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety had drafted an opinion, which pleaded for a comprehensive integration of the resource efficiency agenda into the European Semester, with the promotion an inclusion of the indicators (including Raw Materials Consumption) from the Circular Economy Package, making it binding. Thanks to the coordinated efforts of the NEEIP, the plenary vote on 22 October confirmed that the European Parliament did not support the inclusion of binding indicators.

Following this vote, the EU Environment Council discussed on 28 October a compromise text prepared by the Italian Presidency, and adopted conclusions on the Greening of the European Semester and the Europe 2020 Strategy mid-term review. In a public debate, which took the form of a roundtable, the Environment Ministers presented their countries' positions on whether to include an aspirational resource efficiency target in the Europe 2020 review and the role of Environment Ministers in planning European economic policies.

The document underlines the need for further greening the European Semester and the 2020 Strategy in particular by:

- Including a resource efficiency target in the Europe 2020 Strategy, as a non-binding, aspirational goal;
- ‘Resource productivity’ measured through GDP relative to Raw Material Consumption (RMC) has been identified by the Commission as a candidate aggregate indicator. This would acknowledge that future work on indicators should properly reflect the progress made in achieving resource efficiency. It should also take properly

into account the structural differences of Member States economies and other national specificities, as well as the scarceness of resources, their renewability and recyclability;

- Promoting the inclusion of circular economy principles and the potential for green employment in the annual cycle of economic policies as of 2015;
- Considering that shifting taxation from labour to pollution, energy and resource use in a budgetary neutral manner may be an appropriate tool.

The Council Conclusions will feed into the subsequent Commission work on the review of the Strategy. The decision on whether to include a resource efficiency target in the Europe 2020 Strategy will be taken in the context of the mid-term review, taking into account the results of the on-going public consultation and also the recommendations of the European Resource Efficiency Platform.

Another item discussed during the EU Council was the proposal for a Directive that would amend six directives addressing the management of different types of waste and affects an important number of legally binding obligations. Some Ministers expressed concern that the targets for waste reduction and reuse envisaged in the Commission proposal, which is part of the legislative package on circular economy, are too demanding or too optimistic while others agree with its level of ambition and underline that their countries have already made considerable achievements towards meeting the targets.

### Implications for the Aggregates Industry

The lead indicator based on raw material consumption is of course detrimental to bulk materials such as aggregates. It is suggested as well to follow the target proposed by the European Resource Efficiency Platform (EREP): 30% increase in resource productivity by 2030. The policy mix to achieve such a target would be left to EU Member States.

Market-based instruments, in their different forms (incl. environmental taxation and resource taxation) are also intensively discussed.

### UEPG action

UEPG has engaged with the Non Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP) and other industries, and produced a [Position Paper](#). All sectors have contacted their network at Member

State level (through for instance the Raw Materials Supply Group) and at Parliamentary level. We would encourage UEPG Members to raise their competent authorities' awareness on the disadvantages of the indicator and resource efficiency target, by using the arguments developed in the Position Paper.

The UEPG Recycling Task Force, chaired by Brian James (MPA, UK) presented the barriers to recycling and the need to have realistic targets during a European Commission meeting on sustainable use of natural resources in construction.

### Next steps

European Commission 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Frans Timmermans, in charge of better regulation, is currently reviewing a number of legislative proposals with the possibility to withdraw or re-table the Resource Efficiency Initiative. The legislative package on waste will continue to be discussed within the Council at an expert level.

European Parliamentary Rapporteurs had been appointed: Simona Bonafè (S&D, Italy) for the proposal Amending Directives on waste and landfill of waste; Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, Finland) for the Communication "Resource Efficiency: moving towards a circular economy". UEPG will monitor closely the developments in the European Parliament and will reply to the EC public consultation on the Europe 2020 strategy review.

UEPG will be developing further its strategy with the support of the UEPG Working Group on Market Based Instruments chaired by Jerry McLaughlin (MPA, UK).

Next UEPG Recycling Task Force: 3 February 2015, UEPG office, Brussels.

### 'Track and Trace' Directive's implementation's final phase

On 4 November 2014 in Brussels, César Luaces Frades (UEPG), Chair of the Explosives for civil uses Task Force, presented the latest work progress of the Task Force to Members States (e.g. from website to users guidance translated in 9 languages), which was positively welcomed by all stakeholders. It was also the opportunity to raise awareness on latest challenges faced before the final phase of the 'Track and Trace' Directive's implementation on 5 April 2015. César Luaces Frades called Members States

to strongly support communication for an efficient, safe and timely completion of the Directive by the whole supply chain via National, Regional and Local Authorities and Administrations' channels. All information can be found at:

<http://www.explosives-for-civil-uses.eu/>.

### Latest news of the EC Machinery WG

On 5-6 November 2014, Miette Dechelle, UEPG Public Affairs Manager, participated at the EC Machinery Directive WG meeting. The main issues discussed for our sector were on:

- an evaluation study on the Machinery Directive in 2015.
- the work of the AdCo (Administrative Co-operation between Members States) WGs on Market surveillance, Noise Emission, Standardisation and Earth Moving Machinery, especially on visibility, also a new standard is in preparation at CEN level.
- the possible amendment of the Annex V of the Machinery Directive on 'safety components' to add 'filters and filtration systems in cabs', in the aim of protecting the operator.

### Social Dialogue at EU level

Social Dialogue is of high importance for the new European Commission. In the President Jean-Claude Juncker' letters of mission addressed to Vice-President for Euro and Social Dialogue, Valdis Dombrovskis, and to Commissioner for Employment, 'Social Affairs', Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen, it was stressed to engage with social partners at EU level on European Commission priorities and to promote the central role of social partners within the National and EU process, as well as to more involve and consult Social Partners (e.g. within the European Economic Semester).

In 2015, a social summit with the participation of the new Commissioners will be organised by the European Commission, Social Dialogue Unit. The Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Extractive Industries, to which UEPG is partner, will focus its work on Health and Safety training, life-long learning, energy and Raw materials policies and Social Dialogue in new Member States. The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), European agency, will start a representativeness study of the extractive industries sectors, where UEPG

as the other social dialogue partners of the Committee for Extractive Industries will be called for support and contributions.

### Latest updates on CPR

On 18 November, John Bradshaw-Bullock (MPA, UK), Secretary of the UEPG Technical Committee, participated at the Construction Products Europe (CPE) WG meeting on Construction Products Regulation (CPR). John reported that the consultant CPA hired by the Commission to carry out the CPR Implementation Study sent questionnaires to all stakeholders (including CPE and UEPG). CPE will prepare a template reply for members based on CPE Implementation of the CPR's Manufacturers' Report. The final deadline for the whole supply chain to reply is by 18 December. There is eCompliance systems (as Electronic data storage) consultation ongoing where we could have some concerns, UEPG Members have been informed on the different proposed options.

UEPG drawn the attention of the European Commission on CE marking with proposals for simplified CE marking to accompany the product e.g. CE symbol and unique reference number to the Declaration of Performance (DoP).

### UEPG News

#### Steinexpo 2014



More than 48,000 visitors and 254 exhibitors are making steinexpo the biggest exhibition of equipment demonstrated live in a quarry. Leading manufacturers of construction machinery, suppliers of mineral processing equipment, suppliers of add-on equipment and service providers considered the 9<sup>th</sup> steinexpo from 3 to 6 September 2014 a huge success.

UEPG President Arnaud Colson addressed organisers and visitors at the Opening Ceremony on 3 September underlining the importance of innovation and health & safety even in time of economic crisis. The next steinexpo will take place in 2016, once again in Niederofleiden, Germany.

## Biodiversity Task Force



On 11 September, members of the UEPG Biodiversity Task Force, chaired by Vanessa Ardouvin, met in Brussels in order to discuss the latest developments related to biodiversity at EU level and the UEPG Vision 2020:

- The Natura 2000 Directives will undergo a Fitness Check, and potentially a review. UEPG would need to make its case, showing both the compatibility between extraction and biodiversity, and the difficulties encountered. This should be a high priority for UEPG.
- The No-Net-Loss initiative was being developed, and UEPG needed to reiterate its position that rehabilitation, both through actions of mitigation and progressive restoration during operations and final restoration, is the best method for the aggregates industry to restore biodiversity. This is why UEPG does not support financial offsetting for the Aggregates Industry.
- Although data gathering for the UEPG Biodiversity Indicators improved, UEPG Members signalled the need for further assistance. UEPG is currently drafting a document explaining why our Industry needs biodiversity indicators and how to apply those in the field.

## Mining Waste BREF Review



On 11 September, members of the UEPG Mining Waste BREF (Reference Document) Review Working Group, chaired by Benoit Lussis, met in Brussels in order to identify potential issues for UEPG Members and to build a common position. The main objective is to find out whether there is a need to have BAT for the Aggregates Industry, and if so, to propose realistic BAT.

## Recycled Aggregates

On 17 September, members of the UEPG Recycling Task Force, chaired by Brian James, met in the UEPG office to address:



- A focus on the revision of the Waste Framework Directive in the context of the Circular Economy Package;
- UEPG's message as an active member of the European Commission Thematic Group 3 – Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, in the framework of the Competitiveness of the construction industry;
- Recommendations for the UEPG Technical Committee.

Recycling is at the heart of several EU policies at the moment: the Raw Materials Strategy (pillar 3) and the Circular Economy Package are the main drivers, rolled across the Europe 2020 Strategy, the European Semester and several other tools. Several studies are being conducted in this context, and several consultants have requested UEPG's input, through public consultations or private interviews. This is why UEPG needs to develop its position to deliver a clear and consistent message.

## UEPG Committee and GAIN Meetings

On 8-9 October, UEPG Members gathered for the four Committee meetings to discuss and exchange views on topical European and national live issues in Brussels, Belgium. This was an opportunity for each Committee to review its priorities.

### Technical Committee

On 8 October, members of the UEPG Technical Committee discussed key items related to standardisation, release of dangerous substances and recycling of aggregates. Tapani Mikkeli, from the European Commission, DG Enterprise, presented the challenges and the way forward for Aggregates Industry with regards to the Construction Product Regulation.

### Economic Committee

On 8 October, members of the UEPG Economic Committee discussed the Accounting Directive with the European Commission guest speaker Jean-Philippe Rabine, SDIs, the European Commission Report and objectives on land-use planning

and permitting procedures, the first Non-Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP) Forum 2014.

### Health and Safety Committee

On 9 October, members of the UEPG Health and Safety Committee focused on the prevention of accidents, the latest EU developments on Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) and the ongoing evaluation of the Occupational Health and Safety Directives, promoting and disseminating Safer by Design project, distributing the new website and guidance document of the UEPG led Task Force on Explosives for civil uses' and briefing on the EU-OSHA Campaign 2014-2015 on Managing Stress.

### Environment Committee

On 9 October, members of the UEPG Environment Committee discussed the priority items for the Aggregates Industry: the Circular Economy Package; Review of the Mining Waste BREF; No-Net-Loss and the review or potential merger of Natura 2000 Directives.

### GAIN Meeting

On 10 October, the Global Aggregates Information Network (GAIN) 2014 meeting took place in Brussels. Representatives from Australia, Europe, Canada, China, South Americas and South Africa attended the meeting facilitating the exchange of experiences, challenges, solutions and new ideas. The discussions revealed that the industry faces similar challenges across the globe, but the various regions have devised different approaches and solutions. All agreed on the advantages of an ongoing regular exchange of GAIN colleagues, and there was consensus on the desirability of holding the next GAIN meeting in 2016.

### PR & Communication Task Force

Chaired by Robert Wasserbacher (Fachverband Steine-Keramik, Austria), the UEPG PR & Communication Task Force met on 14 October 2014. The aim of the meeting was to exchange National Good Practices, discuss current and new UEPG PR & Communication tools, targets, and priorities, and the public and internal perception of the sector's contribution towards biodiversity.

### Meeting of CEN/TC 154 - Aggregates

The Panel of CEN/TC 154 Chairs met at the UEPG premises to finalise the new draft

package of Aggregate Standards. In this meeting, editorial matters were adjusted over all the drafts, latest developments with regard to the CPR and CEN rules were taken on board, actively supported by the CEN Consultant Joel Cuhe. The entire package of Drafts is scheduled to be launched for CEN Enquiry Stage end of 2014 or beginning 2015.

### **Meeting with Belgian Permanent Representation and authorities**

On 20 October, FEDIEX, the Belgian Federation of the extractive industries, welcomed Mr. Olivier Belle, Deputy Representative of the Permanent Representation of Belgium in the EU, at the Carneuse extraction site in Moha, with key Wallonian authority representatives from the Environment, Water and Permitting Departments.

This site visit allowed briefing them on the main priorities of the extractive industries at Belgian and European levels. Secretary General Dirk Fincke, Public Affairs Manager Sandrine Devos and Miette Dechelle presented the concerns of the industry with regards to access to resources and the progress achieved with the EU Raw Material Strategy, the potential revision of the Natura 2000 legislation and respirable crystalline silica.

The site "Moha" has been operated by Carneuse since the early 20th century. It produces about 2 million tonnes of stone, aggregates and the raw materials necessary for lime manufacturing. The visit focused on the rehabilitation of the 'zoen' area, former settling pond converted into wet area at the end of the 1980s. The 'zoen' area has created an area of high biological value, maintained through periodic interventions from the company.

### **Fediex Safety Technical Day**

Each year, the Belgian Aggregates Federation Fediex organises a Safety Technical Day. This year's training day, focused on "Work at height". The event gathered 80 participants from the whole supply chain. The event provided a comprehensive overview starting from the law and theory to practice, including the intervention of Belgian competent authorities, inspection and training bodies, personal protective equipment (PPE) suppliers, machinery suppliers and industry representatives. It delivered a unique occasion to outline the 'Safer by Design' project to a larger public. Concrete examples were

presented by the Association and from Machinery Manufacturers addressing clients' requests for safer Machines.

### **SNAP-SEE final Conference**

On 22-24 October, the final Conference of the project 'Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South East Europe (SNAP-SEE)' took place in Bled, Slovenia. The objective of the event was to share the results of three years project and to place those results in the context of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials' call for an improved minerals policy framework.

The project leader invited stakeholders to engage in a dialogue on how to enhance EU efforts to upgrade and coordinate national mineral plans, permitting and reporting policies to improve access to resources, and offered a more transparent and participative exchange of ideas with involved stakeholders.

The Conference attracted stakeholders from national governments, planning and permitting authorities, other representatives of the public and private sector, especially aggregates and other minerals producing companies and associations, NGOs and stakeholders interested in minerals planning and policy. The two days of the International Conference gathered more than 70 experts from 17 countries.

Jim O'Brien, UEPG Past President and Miette Dechelle, UEPG Public Affairs Manager gave presentations on developments in the European Aggregates Industry and promoting excellence in safety, environment and PR. Irina Koleva, Secretary General of the Bulgarian UEPG Member Association BAPIM presented the enormous problems caused by illegal extraction in several EU Member States.

More information on the project and its activities is available on the [SNAP-SEE website](#).

### **First NEEIP Conference**

Cooperation between the different sectors of the non-energy extractive industries becomes increasingly important. UEPG received full support to organise the first NEEIP Forum on 20 November in Brussels to discuss ways of reindustrialising Europe! This event brought together EU and national high-level decision makers to address economic recovery and job creation in Europe; a policy which became the core priority for the new European Commission led by President Jean-Claude Juncker. Speakers included Director Carlo

Pettinelli (European Commission), Ben Knapen (European Investment Bank), Flor Diaz Pulido, (European Commission), Sylvain Lefebvre (IndustriAll), Alexandre Affre (BUSINESSEUROPE), Olivier Belle (Permanent Representation of Belgium) ably moderated by Simon van der Byl (Mineral Products Association, UK).

60 expert stakeholders from the European non-energy extractive industries, EU Institutions, NGOs and academia were involved in an open debate during the Forum.

### **UEPG Annual Review 2013-2014**

The latest UEPG Annual Review is available on [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu). It provides you with an overview of all UEPG activities, achievements and upcoming challenges for Aggregates Producers in Europe. Upon request, full Members will receive a printable high-quality electronic version.

### **Living with Minerals 5 Conference - Towards a UK Minerals Strategy**

MPA played an active and supporting role at the CBI Minerals Group's 'Living with Minerals 5' (LWM5) Conference with the theme 'Towards a UK Minerals Strategy' on 17 November. The Conference debated the merits of a UK Minerals Strategy, as well as drawing attention to the essential contribution of the minerals industry to the UK economy and our quality of life. Nigel Jackson, Chief Executive MPA and Chair of the CBI Minerals Group, said that Industry wants to lead the development of a minerals strategy (...) hoping for stronger and more material Government policy recognition and support.

### **UEPG Board**

On 20 November, UEPG Board Members discussed key financial, strategic and policy issues, including achievements and future priorities for UEPG in 2014-2015.

### **Upcoming UEPG meetings**

<b>15 January</b>	EPD & RDS WG, Brussels
<b>3 February</b>	Recycling Task Force, Brussels
<b>4 February</b>	WG on Market Based Instruments, Brussels
<b>12-13 March</b>	Committee meetings, Stockholm, Sweden
<b>20-21 May</b>	Delegates Assembly, Strasbourg, France