



EU Live Issues

Respirable Crystalline Silica

0.1 mg/m³ confirmed – NEPSI recognised

EU Presidency Conference on Aggregates

SAVE-THE-DATE: 17 November 2017

Natura 2000 – Better Implementation

UEPG prepares for update of Guidance

EU Industrial Strategy

UEPG Co-Rapporteur of WG on business-friendly environment

Circular Economy

Recycling with realistic expectations

Construction Products Regulation

UEPG calls not to repeal CPR

UEPG News

75 Years FEDiEX

Seminar on Nature and Biodiversity

UEPG Mission to Members

UEPG Team visited colleagues in Croatia, Hungary and Switzerland

Upcoming UEPG events

EU Live Issues

Respirable Crystalline Silica

Despite the call of the European Parliament and some trade unions and stakeholders for a 0.05 mg/m³ Binding Occupational Exposure Limit (BOELV), UEPG, its Members and NEPSI partners managed with a major campaign to convince a sufficient number of EU Member States (COREPER) to vote in favour of a proportionate and technically feasible BOELV of 0.1 mg/m³ for RCS generated by a work process under the revised Carcinogens and Mutagens at work Directive (CMD).

NEPSI is recognised in the text at the recital (6) as one of the “valuable and necessary instruments to complement regulatory measures and in particular to support the effective implementation of limit values”. While this is good great progress, UEPG will continue to call for greater recognition in the Directive during the second batch negotiations.

Any future evaluation of RCS threshold at work will be based on the scientific, technical, social and economic feasibility expressed by the Advisory Committee of Safety and Health.

Next Steps

The European Parliament will have to vote on the text as its first-reading position most likely on 30 August in the Employment Committee and in the week of 11-14 September in Plenary and which the Council will then approve during the second half 2017. UEPG will continue to collect data and indicators for a harmonised methodology of measurements and a common protocol to support compliance of companies. UEPG will obtain further information through its GAIN network on the RCS technical standardisation and its assumption of compliance.

EU Presidency Conference on Aggregates

Since 1 July, the Estonian Government is running the [EU Council Presidency](#) for the next 6 months striving towards an open and innovative European economy which supports knowledge-based growth and competitiveness. Estonia wishes to see an inclusive, sustainable and resource efficient Europe using the potential of a digital Europe with the free movement of data, data collection and e-health.

What is the Presidency Conference about?

Aggregates are essential for housing, schools, roads, railways, airports, flood defences and many other vital infrastructure projects. And yet, the steady supply of aggregates to satisfy the demand of 2.7 billion tons per year is not ensured across the EU. The amount of recycled aggregates will increase over the next few years with increased recycling rates but can only substitute, if used to its full potential, 10-20% of the total demand.



80% and more of primary aggregates from quarries, (marine) sand and gravel extraction are needed. Sufficient reserves must be secured with minimum environmental impacts and maximum social and economic benefits.



The Estonian EU Presidency will address this challenge with a dedicated Conference on

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sustainable supply of aggregates in the European Union, proudly co-organised by UEPG, the European Aggregates Association.

Kadri Simson, the Estonian Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure and her Cabinet colleague Siim Kiisler, Minister of Environment will open the Conference showing commitment to a streamlined and well-coordinated coherent policy combining industrial and environmental needs.



Gwenole Cozigou, Director from DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG Growth) of the European Commission will provide a key-note speech on the EU Raw Materials Strategy and other EU instruments to ensure a sustainable supply of aggregates while UEPG President Jesús Ortiz will provide an outlook on the demand of aggregates over the next 10 years and what the European Aggregates Industry would need to ensure that sustainable supply.

The event will explore the key ingredients of a European and national Raw Materials Policy which are fit for purpose for not only large infrastructure projects such as Rail Baltica but also for the daily demand of resources for our economic development across the EU.

Experts from all over Europe will present their experience on permitting procedures, land-use planning, geological knowledge, restoration, recycling and resource efficiency.

The EU Presidency Conference on the sustainable supply of aggregates within the European Union, will take place on Friday, 17 November 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia. Should you wish to attend, you are kindly requested to send an email to eu2017ssa@mkm.ee.

Natura 2000 – Better Implementation

On the occasion of the Natura 2000 Proclamation Day, UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke outlined to Karl-Heinz Lambertz, meanwhile President of the Committee of the

Regions, the essential role aggregates producer are playing at regional and local level. The Committee of the Region will arrange meetings at regional level to ensure a better implementation of Natura 2000, addressing the deficiencies identified in the Fitness Check Report.



Natura 2000 Action Plan

On 6 June 2017, the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions organised a high-level conference to present and debate the EU Action Plan on better implementation of the Natura 2000 Directives.



The conference was divided in four sessions, outlining the four priorities of the EU Action Plan. UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke was invited to be a panellist on the first session "Smarter implementation of the Nature Directives for nature, people and the economy". The session focused on the cases of inflexible application of species protection rules, delays and unnecessary burdens in permitting procedures and insufficient stakeholder awareness which may lead to unnecessary tensions between nature protection and socio-economic activities.



UEPG supports the EU Action Plan for Natura 2000, as it is embracing the necessity to reconcile business and biodiversity through the engagement of stakeholders and partnerships across policy areas. It was a good opportunity

to show that the European Aggregates Industry is actively working on the improvement of the conservation of biodiversity, developing innovative approaches such as "Temporary Nature", and to convey once again the message that our industry is not an obstacle but part of the solution.

EU Industrial Strategy

UEPG and around 130 other European Industry Associations signed a joint declaration calling for an ambitious EU Industrial Strategy. This joint declaration was handed over by a delegation of 15 industry representatives, including Dirk Fincke, UEPG Secretary General, to the Estonian Minister of Economy and Infrastructure, Mrs Kadri Simson. Minister Simson ensured the delegation that the Competitiveness Council will issue a draft EU Industrial Strategy end November 2017. Estonia has currently the EU Council Presidency.



The joint declaration was also handed over to [Jerzy Buzek MEP](#) (EPP, Poland), Chair of the Parliamentary Industry Committee, to [Patrizia Toia MEP](#) (S&D, Italy), to [Martina Werner MEP](#) (S&D, Germany) and to [Massimiliano Salini MEP](#) (EPP, Italy) as the co-initiators of the European Parliament Resolution on building an ambitious EU Industrial Strategy. All four MEPs showed strong interest in the diversity of the industries represented and the ensured their string support during the Estonian EU Presidency.



Just after having handed over the joint declaration, Estonian Minister Kadri Simson presented her policy priorities to Members of the Parliamentary Industry Committee. Martina Werner MEP (S&D, Germany) used that opportunity to remind Minister Simson to deliver an ambitious EU Industrial Strategy.

A draft EU Industrial Strategy

UNIFE – the European Rail Industry Association, as the initiator of this joint declaration, invited interested colleagues to thematic 6 working groups preparing a draft EU Industrial Strategy. UEPG was accepted as Co-Rapporteur of the WG on a business-friendly environment. The draft produced by Industry representatives will be finalised end of September and send to the Estonian EU Presidency for further discussion.

Circular Economy

With the publication of the Circular Economy Package and the review of the Waste Framework Directive, UEPG decided to launch a campaign demonstrating that UEPG Members are already contributing to resource efficiency and recycling, showing its future potential in the European Aggregates Industry but also emphasising the technical implications and environmental and economic limitations of recycling. UEPG believes that it is important to shape the debate and to bring expectations to a realistic level.



UEPG at DDR Expo 2017

The Demolition, Decontamination and Recycling Expo (DDR Expo), organised by the European Demolition Association (EDA) with UEPG as an institutional partner, took place on 14-16 June 2017, in Brussels. The event brought together all stakeholders working for a circular economy, from policy-makers, to manufacturers, to industrial stakeholders.

The format of the event was a 3-day-Forum with conferences, workshops and an exhibition area where machine manufacturer displayed their latest technology used in demolition and recycling. UEPG had great visibility throughout the event, by organising workshops and conference sessions, by displaying PR & Communication materials in the Institutional Corner and with its active

presence in the networking area, delivering the European Aggregates Industry's message on the Circular Economy.

Workshop on Recycling Aggregates

UEPG had a specific session dedicated to recycling of aggregates. The presentation and discussions focused on the physical infrastructure needed for recycling and the economic viability to recycle.

The workshop session started with a presentation by David Holman, National Recycling and Landfill Manager at Hanson Quarry Products Europe in the UK, Member of the Mineral Products Association (MPA, UK) and of the UEPG Recycling Task Force. He presented case studies on the production of aggregates from construction and demolition waste in the UK, and on the different uses of recycled aggregates.



The presentation was followed by a debate moderated by Dirk Fincke, Secretary General of UEPG. John Bullock, consultant for the Mineral Products Association (MPA, UK) and Secretary of the UEPG Technical Committee, contributed to the discussions as panellist. The debate focused on the demand and use of recycled aggregates in different building areas, the challenges on the way forward with the circular economy and on the existing good practices.

The debate conveyed key messages on measures to promote recycled aggregates. The European Aggregates Industry supports the concept of Circular Economy and believes it is the right and responsible way forward; although, it is necessary to set realistic targets and expectations. In countries with recycling rates reaching 90% or more, only 12 to 20% of the total aggregates demand could be substituted with recycled aggregates. Under the current circumstances, 80% and more still needs to be supplied by primary aggregates.



Another important policy area discussed was the taxation of natural aggregates, which was deemed not to be the right tool to bolster higher recycling rates. The emanating key message was the need to address not the cost of aggregates but essentially its availability. Panelists underlined the necessity of stronger public policies and improved construction and demolition waste management to promote higher recycling rates.

Debate on the EU Waste Framework Directive

UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke was invited to a Panel addressing the update of the EU Waste Framework Directive. The speaker of the session was Gunther Wolff, European Commission policy officer working in the Unit "Waste Management and Secondary Materials" at the Directorate-General for Environment.

The session unpacked the new Circular Economy package and displayed measures to move towards a more sustainable construction sector. The debate focused on construction and demolition waste, backfilling and landfilling, as well as the difficulties and potential for recycling in the EU. According to Gunther Wolff, two main challenges need to be addressed in the near future; first one being the increasing use of complex construction materials which makes it harder to sort and recycle. The second issue raised during the discussions was the lack of reliable statistics which makes it ever more challenging to set feasible and ambitious targets.



Dirk Fincke argued on the latter point that without having the right tools to measure the current baseline in recycling, it would be hard to assess the progress achieved. He underlined the need to better define underlying indicators rather than discussing ever stricter targets. Mr Fincke was very vocal on the active contribution and official endorsement of UEPG to the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Protocol. The European Aggregates Industry supported the development of an “End-of-Waste Criteria” and the legislative process of the Waste Framework Directive, and is now widely recognised as a prominent stakeholder by EU institutions and a growing number of NGOs.

Dirk Fincke asserted in this session the need to use recycled materials in appropriate applications. He pointed-out the necessity to understand that in practice, even with the total recycling of all construction and demolition waste, the available amount of recycled aggregates of the appropriate quality would not allow for the complete substitution of natural aggregates. Mr Fincke said, that more than 80% of the total demand of 2.7 billion tons per year would have to be sourced from primary resources.

Great visibility with a UEPG corner



UEPG and its Members had great visibility at the event displaying its banners, leaflets and aggregates samples in the Institutional Corner and with an active presence in the workshop and conference sessions, as well as in the networking area.



Dirk Fincke was the voice of the European Aggregates Industry during an interview in the Press Corner of the EXPO conveying UEPG’s key messages on the circular economy.

Being a partner of the DDR Expo and with upcoming other conferences and events on circular economy, UEPG produced a leaflet on “[Life Cycle of Aggregates](#)”, also available on the UEPG website. Full UEPG Members may receive the printable high-quality file upon request.

Next Steps

The DDR Expo 2017 has shown an opportunity to enlarge the UEPG network and meeting key EU stakeholders working on the EU Waste Framework Directive. The contribution and support provided in the organisation of the DDR EXPO laid the foundations to a greater partnership with EDA for future opportunities.

Roadshows on Waste Management

The European Commission organises a number of workshops in EU Member States presenting the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Protocol in the respective language.

Our Portuguese colleagues from ANIET and our Irish colleagues from the ICF have contributed to the event in their countries. The UEPG General Secretariat will contact those Members and offer support to suggest speakers and to present their experience with C&D waste recycling for aggregates. The next workshop will take place on 14 September, Zagreb, Croatia.

Definitions do matter

Jean-Marc Vanbelle, Chair of the UEPG Technical Committee and UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke discussed with Gunther Wolff and Silvija Aile from DG Environment the review of the Waste Framework Directive and key definitions on backfilling, inert waste and suitable waste and offered input to the Delegated Acts on terms to be defined further which are relevant to aggregates producers.

Construction Products Regulation

On 21 June, Members of the European Commission Technical Platform discussed the future of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) including a potential scenario of repealing the regulation. Jean-Marc Vanbelle, Chair of the UEPG Technical Committee, John B-Bullock, Secretary of the UEPG Technical Committee and Miette Dechelle,

UEPG Public Affairs Manager together with Members of Construction Products Europe (CPE) contributed to the debate of the Platform. They rejected the proposed scenario repealing the CPR, being particularly alerted to the challenges industry would face if such scenario would become reality.

At the same time, the European Commission launched a consultation giving 4 weeks to reply to the “inception impact assessments” document for the possible review of the construction products regulation.

UEPG Members were called to reply to the consultation of the European Commission and send comments on a draft UEPG letter to be sent to the European Commission on the same issue.

UEPG News

75 Years FEDiEX

FEDiEX celebrates its 75th Anniversary with a series of events and seminars spread across the year 2017. The second seminar organised this year was held on the 21 June with the theme Nature and Biodiversity in Quarries. The seminar was hosted by the company ‘Nelles Frères’, which is a partner in the successful Life in Quarries project, co-funded by the European Commission Life Programme.



Michel Calozet, Secretary General of FEDiEX, presented the cornerstones of the project and moderated a conference showing the benefits of this project for nature and industry. This project is essential for the entire Aggregates Industry, as it will set an excellent example for partnerships between industry, local authorities,

environmental NGOs and universities working hand in hand to prove the compatibility of sustainable aggregates extraction with biodiversity and nature protection.



The project promotes an innovative approach which is the dynamic management of biodiversity. Thereby, a network of temporary habitats is managed dynamically in time and space across the quarry, in parallel with the extractive activity and ensuring a constant availability of suitable habitats for the development of biodiversity.

UEPG participated to this seminar showcasing the state of play of the Life in Quarries project and the promising first results. The event was followed by a site-visit in the host quarry Nelles Frères, displaying the systems and methodologies put in place for the dynamic management of biodiversity on site.

UEPG Mission to Members

Hungary – Miette Dechelle

On 19-20 June, Miette Dechelle, UEPG Public Affairs Manager met our Hungarian colleagues Mr Akos Zoltay and Mr Zoltán Cseh.



Miette Dechelle spoke to Mr Zelei and Mr Katona currently working on the National Hungarian Raw Materials Strategy including aggregates. It was the opportunity to exchange on other National Raw Materials policies in Europe and to present the UEPG sustainable development indicators. The Meeting was followed by a site visit of Szobi Üzem (Colas) demonstrating the application of Health and Safety at work good practice examples and the company's contribution to biodiversity.



Miette Dechelle presented UEPG activities and how best to assist the Hungarian Association and its Members. A specific focus was given on Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) and the European Minerals Day. Further good practice examples were shown during the visit of a quartz sand site nearby Budapest owned by the company 'Kvarchomok Bányászati és Feldolgozó'.

Croatia – Alev Somer

On 6-7 July, Alev Somer, UEPG Public Affairs Officer, visited the Croat Business Association PROMINS, chaired by Gordan Šredl, in Zagreb. The objective of the visit was to exchange on the priorities and concerns of PROMINS, discuss national affairs and have a better understanding of the needs that can be addressed at UEPG level.



Gordan Šredl and Alev Somer exchanged also on essential European policies relevant for the Croatian Aggregates Industry, including Circular Economy and Respirable Crystalline Silica. Alev Somer presented items addressed by the four UEPG Committees, with a particular focus on better implementation and regulatory enforcement.



The company Colas Mineral welcomed Alev Somer and Gordan Šredl for a site visit in Varaždin. The gravel site had good examples of biodiversity management and health and safety measures, while it was also the opportunity to address the challenges of the industry on the ground and discuss the good practices at European level.

Switzerland – Dirk Fincke

On 17-19 May, UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke had the opportunity to brief Members of the Board and the Delegates Assembly of the Swiss gravel and concrete Association (FSKB) on the activities of UEPG. Among representing the interests of Swiss Aggregates Producers, FSKB is also undertaking inspection in close cooperation with the regional authorities.



The Swiss Association employs not only technical experts but also has staff with environmental expertise to advise companies and to actively undertake restoration projects.

Upcoming UEPG events

- 12 Sept.** RDS and EPD WG Meeting, Brussels
- 14-15 Sept.** Recycling TF Meeting, Stavanger, Norway
- 18 Sept.** Biodiversity TF Meeting, Brussels
- 18 Sept.** Water Management TF Meeting, Brussels
- 19 Sept.** Air Quality WG Meeting, Brussels
- 22 Sept.** EMD Launch event, Estonia (co-hosted by Kunda Nordic)
- 4 Oct.** PR & Communications Task Force Conference Call
- 12-13 Oct.** Committees Meetings, Brussels
- 16 Nov.** Board Policy Dinner & Board meeting, Tallinn, Estonia
- 17 Nov.** EU Presidency Conference "Sustainable supply of aggregates", Tallinn, Estonia