



## UEPG News

### Aggregates contribute to summer leisure

Inauguration of the 10th Edition of Paris Plages, co-sponsored by Lafarge

### UEPG welcomes a new team member

Facing the increasing number of challenges while maintaining a high level of service to members, a part-time secretary will join the Team on October 1.

### UEPG Meetings

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Good practice examples

### President is welcomed in New Zealand, Australia and Colombia

Sharing the key challenges and experiences of the Aggregates Industry will benefit the industry globally

## UEPG News

### Aggregates contribute to summer leisure



From 21 July to 21 August, the sandbank of Paris Plages welcomes tourists and Parisiens from Quai du Louvre to Pont d'Arcole with many leisure, sport and cultural activities. On 21 July, Lafarge organised a boat visit on the « Wasp » to kick off the Paris Plage event. Among officials, partners and clients invited to discover Lafarge's activities on the Canal St Martin, Miette Dechelle, from the UEPG Secretariat, was present.



Crédit photo: REUTERS/Gonzalo Fuentes

This year Lafarge provided 6000 tonnes of sand, to the "Paris Plage" event, over 3 kilometres of sand on the river bank of the Seine. These mountains of sand came from the pits of Bernières, in Normandy. The sand was transported by a river convoy of 6 barges 180 metres long which travelled 175 kilometres distance.

## UEPG welcomes a new team member

As UEPG grows in strength and reputation, the General Secretariat has to face an increasing number of key issues related to aggregates while maintaining a high level of service to members.

We are pleased to report that as of 1 October, the General Secretariat will welcome a new team member, Ivana Oceano.

The role of the part-time secretary will include assisting the Secretary-General and the two Public Affairs Managers in their lobbying activities, monitoring EU issues, updating the UEPG website, assisting in the organisation of events, developing communication materials, and assisting in the day-to-day office management.



Ivana is Italian, fluent in English and has excellent knowledge of French and a good knowledge of Spanish. She graduated in Political Sciences and

has a postgraduate specialization in International and European Affairs. She has been Office Assistant for ELA, the European Logistics Association for the past 4 years.

## UEPG Meetings

- 7 Sept. PR & Comm. Task Force, Brussels
- 8 Sept. Biodiversity Task Force, Brussels
- 9 Sept. Marine Aggr. Task Force, Brussels
- 13 Sept. European Platform for Recycled Aggregates Meeting, Brussels
- 21 Sept. Transport Working Group, Brussels
- 6-7 Oct. Committee Meetings, Brussels

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European Aggregates Association  
UEPG aisbl  
Rue d'Arlon 21 – B-1050 Brussels  
Tel: +32 22 33 53 00 – Fax: +32 22 33 53 01  
E-Mail: [secretariat@uepg.eu](mailto:secretariat@uepg.eu)  
Internet: [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu)

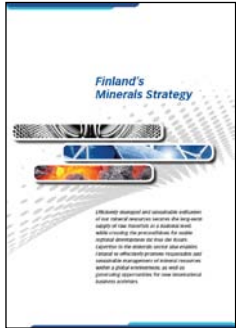
## EU Raw Materials Strategy

The EU Raw Materials Strategy aims at exchanging good practice in respect of national minerals and land use planning. The European Commission, while respecting subsidiarity, calls on EU Member States to develop national strategies.

UEPG pro-actively collects these good practices in order to facilitate the development of industry friendly national initiatives fostering access to resources. Some good examples from UEPG members are listed below:

### Finland

The Finnish ministerial working group on climate and energy policy has commissioned the preparation of a Minerals Strategy for Finland. The key terms of reference have been to anticipate international and domestic development trends in the minerals sector over the next few decades, and to make recommendations concerning the formulation of a sustainable minerals policy and the development of the minerals



sector in a way that satisfies the needs of both society and business. The minerals sector covers the mining industry, which produces metallic ores and industrial minerals, as well as other extractive industries that refine rock material and natural stones.

The strategy was drawn up over a six-month period during 2010, based on contributions from a team of more than 20 experts drawn from across the entire minerals sector. An additional 90 people were invited to support the process, representing various stakeholder groups in the minerals sector, from industry to nature conservation organisations. This larger group contributed to drafting the strategic document through online surveys and seminars.

A dedicated website was also launched for the minerals strategy, so that anyone who was interested could access an open survey at the site

and submit their development proposals. For a more detailed description of the process, see [www.mineraalistratagia.fi](http://www.mineraalistratagia.fi).

### France

In cooperation with the French Government, UNPG has developed a White Book 'Livre blanc' providing a vision for 2030 and the upcoming challenges for the French Aggregates Industry.



UNPG President Nicolas Vuillier (right) thanking Jean-Marc Michel, Director General in the French Ministry for Environment for his contribution to the Livre blanc.

The 'Livre blanc' comes up with 22 proposals on how to improve the sustainability of the sector and delivers 4 scenarios on the possible future of the sector in France.



On 3 May, UNPG presented the White Book at a Colloquium to a large public at the French National Assembly in Paris. The event included four roundtables with key stakeholders and industry representatives moderated by a journalist. Each roundtable was headed by a short video challenging the panelists and triggering a lively and constructive debate.

UEPG arranged the video interview with Karl Falkenberg, Director General of DG Environment, European Commission. The event was a real success for raising awareness to the challenges facing land use planning and permitting procedures for aggregates extraction.

### Germany

The "[Deutsche Rohstoffagentur \(DERA\)](http://www.deutsche-rohstoffagentur.de)" was founded in October 2010 and will be based in

Hannover at the headquarters of the German Agency of Geoscience and Raw Materials. DERA will serve as a platform for information and as a consultancy for minerals and energy raw materials. The focus is on availability and supply as well as resource efficiency. UEPG will support its German Member MIRO to take into account the interests of sand, gravel and crushed rock producers in the scope of the German Raw Materials Agency.

### Lithuania

In response to the EU Raw Materials Initiative launched in 2008, the Lithuanian government has developed a "Strategy for the Optimum Use of Lithuanian Underground Mineral Resources". In 2010 The Baltic Journal of Road and Bridge Engineering published an essay on Lithuanian Mineral Resources, their reserves and possibilities for their usage in road building ([Vol. 5, No. 4, p. 218-228](#)).

### United Kingdom

The need for the future mineral planning system to operate so that sufficient aggregates are made available to support economic growth and development has been confirmed in a new Government statement. The UK Mineral Products Association (MPA) has been working for 18 months to ensure that the Government understands the need for essential aggregates and that a strategic approach to aggregates planning can and needs to be incorporated into the 'localism' agenda.

The Communities and Local Government Committee on the Abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies at the end of 2010 acknowledged the MPA's evidence and recommended the retention of certain key elements of the Managed Aggregate Supply System (MASS).

The MPA believes that it is essential that the emerging National Planning Policy Framework recognises the important role that the MASS has performed over the last 35 years and could continue to fulfil in the future as a vital component of a more 'localist' approach to strategic planning for aggregates supply.

## President is welcomed in New Zealand, Australia and Colombia

### New Zealand

Jim O'Brien was invited by Roger Parton, Executive Director of the Aggregate and Quarry Association of



Presentation at the AQA/IOQ Annual Conference in Rotorua

NZ (AQA), to make a keynote presentation at the AQA/IOQ annual conference in Rotorua on the North Island on July 7, with 230 participants. His topic "Key Challenges of the European Aggregates Industry as Opportunities for New Zealand" was very well received. Although the NZ aggregates production has declined since 2007, it now is an impressive 7.6 tonnes per capita. The economy is set to grow steadily in the years ahead, also with the challenges of rebuilding after the Canterbury and Christchurch earthquakes. Jim's visit attracted considerable media attention and he was interviewed on [Radio NZ](#) on July 10. The visit concluded with a roundtable discussion with a wide range of industry representatives on July 11.

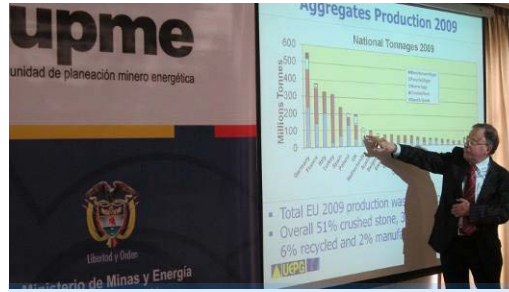
### Australia



Attendees at presentation in Brisbane (Ken Slattery at centre)

Jim was then welcomed by Ken Slattery, CEO of Cement, Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA) at its office in Sydney. There followed a series of presentations on the topic of "Key Challenges of the European Aggregates Industry – Opportunities for Australia" in Sydney on July 13, in Melbourne on July 14 and in Brisbane on July 15. In each the audiences were key senior State Minerals Planning and Environmental officials, as well as local industry representatives. The Australian economy is strong, with a national aggregates demand of 6.3 tonnes per capita, demand being particularly strong in the major cities, with the additional challenge of reconstruction after the floods in Queensland. CCAA is therefore particularly focused on future aggregate supplies in the big urban areas.

### Colombia



Presentation in Medellín, with senior attendees from UPME present

Jim was invited by Carlos Fernando Forero of ASOGRAVAVAS to make the keynote presentation on "Recycling of Construction and Demolition Materials – the European Perspective" at its major recycling conference in Bogotá on July 27, with 130 participants. There followed presentations in Medellín and Cartagena on July 29 and August 1 respectively on the topic of "Future Opportunities for the Colombian Aggregates Industry", each with wide participation from senior government officials, planners, architects and industry representatives. Although national demand is currently only 3 tonnes per capita, the strong economic growth promises an increase to 5 tonnes per capita within 5 years. A final review meeting with senior officials of UPME (the national mining planning unit) and industry representatives was held in Bogotá on August 2, focused on the issue of future aggregate supplies.

### Exchanges of Good Practice

The key topic of interest in all three countries was the EU Raw Materials Strategy (RMS), as there are precisely the same challenges of access to local aggregates resources in the major cities. All three associations decided to emulate the UEPG lobbying strategy on the RMS, as decided to initiate national aggregates strategies similar to those adopted in the EU (for example the Finnish Strategy or the French Livre Blanc). Indeed the universality of need for access to local resources can now reinforce UEPG's lobbying at home.

There was also universal interest of the topic of Resource Efficiency and Recycling. Strongest in their commitments to promote recycling were the burgeoning cities of Bogotá and Medellín, where the combined pressures of high cost of natural aggregates (2-3 times that of the EU average), availability of demolition materials and lack of landfill space have triggered the government to demand the use of recycled materials in new buildings. Their experiences can also be adopted by EPRA to promote more recycling in EU countries.

EPRA will also benefit from the best practice recycling guide in preparation by Alan Kirby of the Cement & Concrete Association of NZ.

All three countries also noted the UEPG commitment to biodiversity, and in particular its many case studies which prove that quarrying and biodiversity are fully compatible. All three countries face similar challenges of access being prohibited or extremely difficult in conservation areas, and the EC Natura 2000 Guidelines as well as national biodiversity good practice guidelines were seen as useful models to adopt. This wider dissemination on the UEPG's positive action directly supports the IUCN and EC stated targets of encouraging global action on biodiversity.

On Health & Safety there was strong interest in the Safer by Design project: in Australia, the parallel EMESRT



Quality Control and Safety Officers at the Agregados del Caribe plant in Cartagena

initiative in the mining industry is now deemed to be a significant success. There was also great interest in the universal challenge of improving industry safety, and in that context the CSI fatality prevention initiatives on Driving and Contractor management were already well known to the international groups present in all three countries, and could now be adopted by all players big and small.

UEPG's activities on Public Relations were attentively noted in all three countries, and UEPG and national campaign examples were favoured for adoption in all three countries. UEPG's Sustainable Development Awards were seen as a great example to follow. In Colombia there were some excellent examples of good social responsibility in providing literacy and other social programs for employees and their families. Everywhere the importance of further improving the image of the aggregates industry was acknowledged.

It was very gratifying to see that so many of UEPG activities are seen to be examples to be implemented globally, and UEPG will also benefit from learning from the good practices its colleagues in GAIN (the Global Aggregates Information Network). Overall such exchanges will strengthen the recognition and lobbying power of the aggregates industry globally.