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EU Insight is edited by the UEPG General Secretariat as part of its communication service to UEPG Members.

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EU Live Issues

EMF 2011: Resource Efficiency

On 30 November 2011, the 12th European Minerals Forum took place in the North-Rhine Westphalian Representation in Brussels. The high level event, organised by the European Minerals Foundation with the strong support from UEPG and colleagues of the non-energy extractive Industries, brought together more than 50 stakeholders. This year's new format addressed the central theme 'Resource Efficiency' with three roundtable sessions.

Abraão de Carvalho from DG Enterprise & Industry and Pia Bucella from DG Environment underlined the necessity to move the industry towards resource efficiency, while Jean-Marie Chandelle, Chief Executive of CEMBUREAU, emphasised on behalf of the non-energy extractive industries the fact that resource efficiency goes together with local access to resources. Opposition to any taxation on resource use and reduction of red tape were common themes throughout.

Best Practices in Minerals Planning and Permitting Procedures - What is the Final Goal?

Pekka Suomela, from the Finnish Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Alain Pasquier, from the French Aggregates Association (UNPG), César Luaces Frades, from the Spanish Aggregates Federation (FdA) and Mark Plummer, from the Department of Communities and Local Government in the United Kingdom, exchanged their respective experiences related to Minerals Planning and Permitting Procedures. The importance of dialogue was underlined towards achieving really effective planning and permitting.

Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials – Turning Challenges into Opportunities?

Although emphasising the necessity for greater recycling and resource efficiency, Reinhard Bütikofer MEP (Greens, Germany), Parliamentary Rapporteur of the EU Raw Materials Strategy, expressed his personal oppo-

sition to taxation, which was very much welcomed by the industry.



Declines calls for resource use taxation
From left: Reinhard Bütikofer MEP (Greens, Germany) at the European Minerals Forum 2011 with Tom Harrison, Dundee University and Brian James, Mineral Products Association, UK.

Professor Tom Harrison, from the Dundee University, presented his ongoing project to develop indicators which would enable the measurement of resource efficiency with a simple, pragmatic yet fair view.

Brian James, Chair of the European Platform for Recycled Aggregates (EPRA), explained the challenges to increase recycling, and insisted on the need to reduce red tape.

This was further complemented by Thierry Salmons, President of the Industrial Minerals Association (IMA-Europe), who explained that the industry relied on final users for recycling.

Reconciling Extraction and Biodiversity: Aspiration or Reality?

Pia Bucella, Director in DG Environment and Hans Friederich, Director for Europe of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), strongly supported the "no net loss" principle, and acknowledged the industry's commitment to biodiversity.

Jim Rushworth, VP Environment and Public Affairs Quarries, for the Aggregates & Concrete sections of Lafarge, highlighted the crucial importance of a simple set of indicators to measure progress on biodiversity.

Stakeholders expressed their concerns over the misperception from local authorities that there should be no extraction within Natura 2000 areas. Pia Bucella indeed re-affirmed that the European legislation did not forbid

extraction. This very fruitful exchange led to the proposal to organise a workshop on Natura 2000, with the objective to bring together the local competent authorities and the industry and to present the EC Guidance on Non-Energy Extractive Industry (NEEI) and Natura 2000.



Extraction in Natura 2000 areas not per se forbidden
Pia Bucella (right) and Hans Friederich acknowledging the positive contribution of the sector to biodiversity.

UEPG President, Jim O'Brien, in conclusion, emphasised the need for developing minerals policies and plans in all Member States and the positive role already being played by NEEIP members on resource efficiency and biodiversity.

Danish EU Presidency

On 1 December, as part of the preparation for the Danish EU Presidency, UEPG-President Jim O'Brien and Dirk Fincke from the General Secretariat briefed Thomas Fogtmann from the Danish Permanent Representation on the achievement and challenges of the aggregates industry. Mr Fogtmann is in charge of the implementation of environmental policy, water, sea, noise. A blueprint on the EU water policy will be presented in November 2012.

The discussion with Mr. Fogtmann focused on the Presidency priorities, which more generally were a responsible, dynamic, green and safe Europe and more particular a potentially legally binding 7th Environmental Action Programme. While some Member States wished for a proposal for a new Environmental Action Programme to be released early 2012, the European Commission refers to the recently published Resource Efficiency Roadmap and additional initiatives.

In this context, the EU Environment Council conclusions of 19 December, acknowledged that resource efficiency will require technological innovation, new governance models, new business and education models, new consumption patterns and lifestyles. In the context of a difficult economic situation, some member states called for "innovative financial

solutions", arguing for a "closer cooperation with business". Member States asked for "proper conditions (...) to be established, both in the form of regulatory and market-based instruments, as well as through voluntary schemes, in order to stimulate resource efficiency".

The meeting with Mr. Fogtmann concluded with his interest expressed in being informed on UEPG positions and to continue the dialogue involving his colleagues.

Water Management

On 30 November, César Luaces Frades, Chair of the Water Management Working Group, and Sandrine Devos, from the UEPG Secretariat, met with Mr Jorge Rodriguez Romero, Team Leader for the Water Framework Directive within DG Environment.

This was an opportunity to clarify the potential impacts of the aggregates industry on water, the risk of water pollution being very low in comparison to other extractive industries, since the material extracted is inert and the industry committed to good practices.

Water management will be an increasingly important topic in 2012 (International Year of Water), with the development of the Blueprint and the revision of the water legislation.

Next steps

16 Feb. 2012 Water Management Working Group meeting, Brussels

EU funding and action plans

Horizon 2020 launched

On 30 November, the European Commission presented a package of measures to boost research, innovation and competitiveness in Europe. [Horizon 2020](#) stands for a €80 billion programme for investment in research and innovation. Horizon 2020 is the successor of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), but for the first time brings together all EU research and innovation funding under a single programme. The funding programmes run from 2014 to 2020.

Eco-innovation Action Plan launched

Launched on 15 December, the [EcoAP](#) is one of the commitments of the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative, building on the 2004 Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP). Its objective is to help business to deliver green growth and environmental benefits.

LIFE 2014-2020 regulation proposal

On 12 December, the Commissioner for Environment Janez Potočnik announced the new LIFE regulation proposals and budget for the period 2014-2020, taking into account the results of this year's public consultation. The proposed LIFE budget is of €3.2 billion. The new draft regulation refers to a LIFE Programme for the Environment and Climate Action. Priorities within LIFE projects will promote, coordinate and catalyse large territorial scale approaches to planning and management of the EU's nature, water, waste, air, and climate.

SSDCEI – New Chairman

UEPG, as a member of the Sectorial Social Dialogue Committee for the Extractive Industry, has been offered to assume the Chairmanship for 2012. The Chair is elected for one year and will propose the agenda and coordinate meetings with the European Commission and Social Partners. In a year where UEPG is promoting Safer by Design at European level, we have the pleasure to inform you that Martin Isles from the UK Mineral Products Association and UEPG Health & Safety Committee Chair has accepted to be the Chair of the Sectorial Social Dialogue Committee for the Extractive Industry in 2012.

UEPG News

UEPG Board meeting

On 1 December, UEPG Board Members discussed key financial and policy issues, including achievements, areas to be improved and future priorities for UEPG in 2012.



Reviewing UEPG priorities and future activities
UEPG Board Members meeting in the Brussels office.

RDS & EPD Working Group

At the last UEPG Committee Meetings on 6-7 October 2011, Environment Committee members discussed the need to develop an environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for aggregates.

Technical Committee members discussed the Construction Product Regulation and the Basic Work Requirements No 7 (CPR BWR 7), which made clear reference to EPDs. They also agreed that the development of a model EPD would need careful monitoring with regards to the work within TC 350 and the finalisation of the approach on dangerous substances in the standardisation process.



Developing a model EPD for aggregates
Members of the Working Group discussing technical aspects of a model EPD and RDS.

The Technical Committee members decided to set up a Working Group addressing both issues of Release of Dangerous Substances and Environmental Product Declaration (RDS & EPD), which developments would be followed by the Environment Committee members.

On 29 November, Jean-Marc Vanbelle, Chair of the Technical Committee, launch the first meeting of the Working Group on Release of Dangerous Substances and Environmental Product Declaration (RDS & EPD).

Next steps

17 Feb. 2012 RDS & EPD Working Group meeting, Brussels

Promoting recycled aggregates

Members of the European Platform for Recycled Aggregates (EPRA) met on 29 November in Brussels to discuss the development of end of waste criteria for aggregates. This needs close follow-up as the current developments are of concern, mainly the lack of involvement of industry, the scope of the study on end-of waste criteria and the general contradiction with the aim of resource-efficiency to promote recycling.



Promoting clear end-of-waste criteria
Members of the European Platform for Recycled Aggregates (EPRA) in the UEPG office.

A UK industry representative presented the UK Quality Protocols which objective was to bring recycled materials to the same level and standards as primary materials.

A representative from the Belgian Building Research Institute presented their work on recycling of C&D Waste, confirming the fact that recycled aggregates needed technology transfers rather than innovation projects.

Next steps

23 Feb. 2012 EPRA meeting, Brussels

MIRO Biodiversity Conference

In cooperation with the German Construction Materials Federation (BBS) and a major environmental NGO, the Global Nature Fund, the German Aggregates Federation (MIRO) organised a workshop and a conference focusing on biodiversity which took place on 14 December in Berlin, Germany.

Photo: Holger Petsch



Strong support to further contributing to biodiversity
Participants in the Representation of the Land Hessen in Berlin, Germany.

In view of the ongoing close cooperation and successful projects between aggregates producers and NGOs, Martin Kern, Chair of the MIRO Environment Committee asked regulators and legislators to focus on what we can achieve together for biodiversity. Not only in Germany, but in many European countries, national and/or regional legislation does not always take into account the new potential companies and NGOs can achieve to progress on biodiversity.

Photo: Holger Petsch



Need for better adapted restoration projects
Martin Kern, Chair of the MIRO Environment Committee at the biodiversity conference in Berlin, Germany.

Thomas Beißwenger, Secretary General of the South-Western German Aggregates Association ISTE and a biologist by background concluded the conference with high level speakers.

On the same day, representatives from the non-energy extractive industry, NGOs and academia discussed in a workshop a new set of indicators proposed by Ulrich Tränkle from AG.L.N., an independent expert, working together with the industry for many years.

UEPG Meetings

- 2 Feb. 2012** Marine Aggregates Task Force meeting, Brussels
- 15 Feb. 2012** PR & Communication Task Force meeting, Brussels
- 16 Feb. 2012** Biodiversity Task Force meeting, Brussels
- 16 Feb. 2012** Water Management Working Group meeting, Brussels
- 17 Feb. 2012** RDS & EPD Working Group meeting, Brussels
- 23 Feb. 2012** EPRA meeting, Brussels
- 8-9 March 2012** Committee Meetings, Cracow, Poland
- 25 April 2012** European Minerals Forum Parliamentary Debate, Brussels
- 26 April 2012** Board Meeting, Brussels
- 25-26 May 2012** Entrepreneurs' Forum & Delegates Assembly, Limassol, Cyprus

Season's Greetings

The UEPG General Secretariat Team would like to wish you and your families a happy Christmas and a prosperous 2012! We would like to warmly thank all our Members for their much-valued support for all UEPG 2011 activities.

