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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

European Parliament

[Martin Schulz](#), former Socialists and Democrats leader, takes over from [Jerzy Buzek](#) (PPE, Poland) as President of the European Parliament.

His mandate will last two and half years, until the beginning of the next legislature in July



New President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz

2014. Mr Schulz has been a member of the EU Parliament since 1994 and president of the Socialist Group since 2004. In his acceptance speech, following his election on 17 January in Strasbourg, the new President criticised the Parliament's failure in finding solutions to the eurozone crisis,

promising a more assertive Parliament.

New Chair of the Industry Committee is [Amalia Sartori](#) (Christian Democrats, Italy), a member of the European Parliament since 1999. Vice-Chairs are [Patrizia Toia](#) (Socialist, Italy), [Jens Rohde](#) (Liberals, Denmark), [Dimitrios Droutsas](#) (Socialists, Greece) and [Evžen Tošenovský](#) (European Conservatives and Reformists, Czech Republic).

New Chair of the Environment Committee is [Matthias Groote](#) (Socialists, Germany), an industrial and mechanical engineer. Mr Groote is substitute member of the Industry Committee and member of the delegation for relations with the United States. He is member of the European Parliament since 2005 and supported by [Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy](#) (Liberals, Netherlands), [Carl Schlyter](#) (Greens, Sweden), [János Áder](#) (Christian Democrats, Hungary) and [Dan Jørgensen](#) (Socialists, Denmark) as Vice-Chairs.

UEPG will continue to strengthen its network in the European Parliament strongly involving UEPG members.

Priorities of the Danish EU Presidency

Denmark takes over the EU Presidency from 1 January to 30 June 2012. The Presidency programme, officially presented 6th of January in Copenhagen, aims at a more responsible, dynamic, green and safe Europe.

Concerning **Health & Safety**, the Danish Presidency stressed the fact that an important element with a view to retaining employees on the labour market is a good working environment and the prevention of occupational risks.



The European Commission visits Denmark on 11-12 January to meet with the Danish government. Family picture in Copenhagen.

During the Danish Presidency, a conference will provide input to the follow-up on the EU 2007-2012 strategy, on occupational health and safety. UEPG will closely follow any development in this field. Referring to **Environment**, it was made immediately clear that this will be one of the areas where the Danish Presidency wants to put major efforts. Among the most relevant topics, the 7th Environmental Action Program (see separate article) and the Environmental Support Programme LIFE+. The latter, in force from 2014 to 2020, is to be negotiated in the first half of 2012. This will include prioritisation of special environmental areas, criteria for allotting support, project types and administrative provisions.

Before the official start of the new EU Presidency, UEPG has established good contacts with the Danish Permanent Representation in Brussels. Already in December 2011, as part of the preparation for the Danish EU Presidency, UEPG-President Jim O'Brien and Dirk Fincke from the General Secretariat met Thomas Fogtmann, in charge of the implementation of environmental policy. The meeting with Mr. Fogtmann concluded with his interest expressed in being informed on the achievement and challenges of the aggregates industry as well as on UEPG positions and to continue the dialogue involving his colleagues.

7th Environmental Action Programme

The 6th Environmental Action Programme (EAP) will end in July 2012. Following its [final assessment](#), the Council called for a 7th EAP. On 12 January, a workshop on the priorities for the 7th EAP was held in the European Parliament. All participants agreed on several aspects:

- ⇒ the need to include water, soil management, air, biodiversity and ecosystem services into the 7th EAP
- ⇒ the focus on implementation and enforcement of existing legislation
- ⇒ the strong links with the Resource Efficiency strategy
- ⇒ the need to mainstream environmental policies into all policies
- ⇒ the need to balance an ambitious vision with realistic targets
- ⇒ the concerns over the funding of the EAP

Karl Falkenberg, Director General of DG Environment, was in the view that one way to achieve a better implementation for future legislation was to shift away from directives towards regulation, allowing more ownership for Member States in the implementation process.

The European Environmental Agency stressed the importance to talk in economical terms, and therefore supported the adoption of national environmental accounting.

NePSi Reporting 2012

The NePSi Reporting 2012 period is now open until 16 March 2012. You should invite your members and re-send them their codes (login and password). Multisite Reporting is

now available. To support you and your members in filling data in, you can download the instructions in 22 languages at <http://www.nepsi.eu/reporting/guidances.aspx>. Should you have any questions or need any support please do not hesitate to contact the UEPG Secretariat: T +32 2 233 53 00 - Email secretariat@uepg.eu.



To avoid further unnecessary regulatory burden, NePSi Signatories are called to do their utmost to make the 2012 reporting a success. UEPG would like to thank all its Members for their support.

UEPG News

Achievements of UEPG in 2011

Throughout 2011 UEPG successfully lobbied to make sure that the interest of the European Aggregates Industry were represented and taken into consideration by the European Union Institutions. Herewith is an overview of UEPG major achievements in 2011.

Safer by Design and SSDCEI

The members of the Sectorial Social Dialogue for the Extractive Industry (SSDCEI) agreed to support the **Safer by Design** project at European level. UEPG, in the person of its representative Martin Isles, was offered the **Chairmanship of SSDCEI** for 2012.

NePSi preparation

In 2011, four successful **NePSi multi-sector workshops** took place in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania and Poland.

Explosives for civil uses

UEPG, together with other stakeholders, strongly lobbied for a **postponement for the implementation of the Directive** on the system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil uses. The implementation date is now the 5 April 2013 for manufacturers and importers. Labeling and the obligations on data collection and record keeping for the whole supply chain will be postponed by three years to 5 April 2015 ensuring that new IT systems in place will work properly.

UEPG EU-OSHA Campaign Partner

The **European Agency for Safety and Health at Work** awarded UEPG represented

by César Luaces Frades, Vice-Chair of the UEPG H&S Committee with the EU-OSHA Partner certificate and thanked UEPG for its commitment on Health & Safety.



EU-OSHA Closures Campaign, 22-23 November, Bilbao (Spain)

César Luaces Frades, between EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, László Andor (left) and the Director of the EU-OSHA, Christa Sedlatschek (right), receiving the EU-OSHA Partner certificate to award UEPG commitment on H&S.

Biodiversity

Throughout 2011 UEPG, and particularly the **Biodiversity Task Force**, had an extremely fruitful cooperation with other NEEIP sectors, IUCN, the B@B Platform as well as ongoing discussions with DG Environment to demonstrate the compatibility between biodiversity and nature protection and aggregates extraction.

Marine Aggregates & Water Management

The **Marine Aggregates Task Force** elected a new chair and is currently developing its membership and strategy. Voluntary guidelines have been developed on **mining waste** and on **water management**.

CPR, Dangerous Substances & Recycling

A new Working Group has been created in order to deal with the specifics of some sensitive topics within the Construction Product Regulation, such as Dangerous Substances. The Committee continues to closely follow technical developments in TC154, TC227 and TC396. EPRA (the European Platform for Recycled Aggregates) continues to promote recycling and an EU end-of-waste criteria.

EU Raw Materials Strategy

On the EU Raw Materials Strategy UEPG performed during all 2011 a tireless lobbying activity, supported by other sectorial partner associations. UEPG welcomes that the **European Parliament Report on the raw**

materials strategy considers **resource taxation** not as an appropriate tool to increase resource efficiency.

Strong Support for our Members

The UEPG Team has offered strong support and presence to its Members on the occasion of their National events in 2011. Contact the UEPG Secretariat for more information on services UEPG offers its members.

European Minerals Day 2011

The biannual pan-European initiative, organised by CEMBUREAU, IMA-Europe and UEPG, proved very successful and allowed a wide European public to explore the world of minerals and discover more about an industry that contributes to every aspect of our lives. In 2011, 180 sites in 21 European countries participated. The Aggregates Industry was represented by 11 national members.

Benefits from GAIN

UEPG President Jim O'Brien visited the Aggregates & Quarry Association of New Zealand ([AQA](#)) in Rotorua, Cement, Concrete & Aggregates Australia ([CCAA](#)) in Sydney, the Colombian Aggregates Association ([ASOGRAVAS](#)) in Bogotá during July 2011 and the Brazilian association ANEPAC in November 2011. In June and July colleagues from China and India respectively visited the UEPG office in Brussels.

These visits proved to be very useful to better understand common challenges and solutions for the aggregates industry worldwide, as well as to exchange best practices. It was very gratifying also to see that so many of UEPG activities are seen to be good examples to be implemented globally.

12th European Minerals Forum 2011

This 12th edition of the Forum, organised by the European Minerals Foundation with UEPG and the support of our colleagues of the non-energy extractive Industries, was developed around the main theme of 'Resource Efficiency'.

High level speakers from the EU Institutions as well as experts from Universities, NGOs and from the Industry attracted more than 50 stakeholders. The full Report of the event can

be downloaded from the [UEPG website](#) while pictures can be found [here](#).

SDI 2010

The SDI data collection for 2010 confirmed a positive trend both in quality and quantity of data. The 2010 Review covers 34 Countries (31 members + Estonia, Malta and Turkey). UEPG would like to thank all who participated in this important work.

UEPG Priorities in 2012

Based on the main challenges of UEPG members and upcoming initiatives from EU Institutions, UEPG is developing its priorities for 2012.

Environmental priorities

2012 will see the birth of a number of initiatives, derived from the EU Roadmap to a Resource-Efficient Europe and from the Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. This will include:

- Development of a 7th Environmental Action Plan
- Green Infrastructure Initiative
- No Net Loss of Biodiversity Initiative
- Blueprint of water management
- Development of a Land-use Communication

On biodiversity, the further development of indicators will become more important. Natura 2000 will also be a key area of interest for UEPG, with the objective to demonstrate the compatibility between aggregates extraction and protected areas.

It is essential to be active on these topics in order to ensure access to local resources and to avoid heavy administrative and financial burdens for the aggregates companies.

Technical priorities

The outcome of the UEPG Working Group on Release of Dangerous Substances and Environmental Product Declaration for aggregates will be essential in view of the upcoming legislations.

The implementation of the Roadmap to a Resource-Efficient Europe will require the industry to make further efforts and focus on

recycling. In this, the development of acceptable End-of-Waste criteria will be essential.

UEPG 25th Anniversary

On 24th May UEPG members will gather to celebrate the association's 25th Anniversary in Limassol, Cyprus. Former UEPG Presidents and founding members will share the special memories of their respective Presidencies.

A new UEPG logo has been designed especially for this occasion and will be used throughout the year.



INFRA Aggregates Days

On 19-20 January, our Finnish colleagues from Infra brought together more than 200 national aggregates producers, representatives from academia and government. Topics were the Economic development, guidance for applying the Environmental Impact Assessment, dust control and many other items linked with EU legislation. Dirk Fincke from the General Secretariat presented UEPG activities and invited Members of Infra to shape EU policy for aggregates producers.

Upcoming 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, 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 Apr. 2012: European Minerals Forum Debate, Brussels
- 26 Apr. 2012: Board Meeting, Brussels
- 24-25 May 2012: Entrepreneurs' Forum & Delegates Assembly, Limassol, Cyprus