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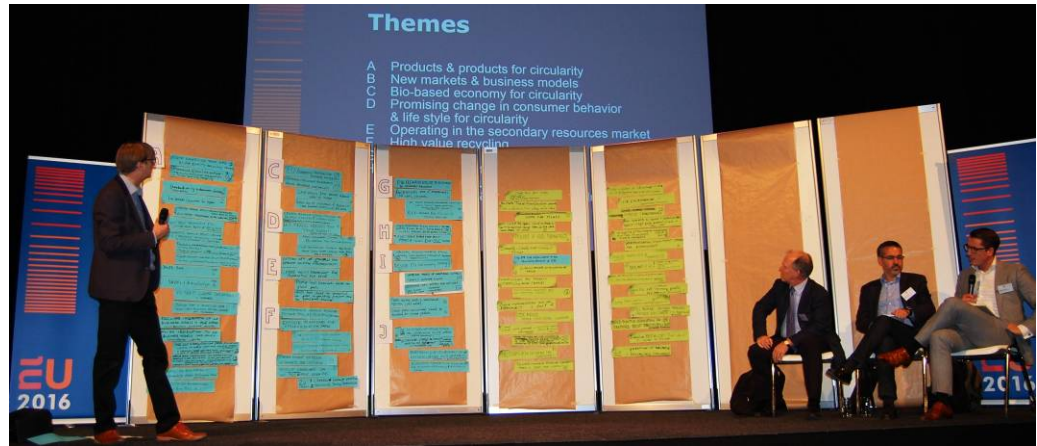
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EU Live Issues

Unwrapping the Circular Economy Package

On 2 December 2015, the European Commission released its much expected new Circular Economy Package. It was presented as even more ambitious as the previous package from July 2014 withdrawn by the Juncker-Commission. The Dutch EU Presidency organised on 25 January a major Conference to “unwrap the Package”. 300 stakeholders from business, civil society and public authorities across the EU discussed challenges and opportunities for a circular economy in Europe and the impact of the new proposals from the EU Commission. The second day was dedicated to EU policy makers in a closed session with the objective to consider how national and EU policies, as proposed in the Circular Economy package, will help to achieve common objectives at the national and EU level.

Dirk Fincke and Sandrine Devos from the UEPG General Secretariat attended the event and shaped the debate in several thematic roundtables, in particular on recycling, backfilling, resource efficiency and economic instruments. The Conference was an opportunity to promote the upcoming NEEIP Forum on the Circular Economy, which will take place on 20 April 2016 to exchange

directly with the key policy makers and stakeholders.

Next steps

UEPG has been invited to provide the European Commission comments on the waste proposal and is currently analysing the package and developing a position. The UEPG Recycling Task Force will discuss the definition on backfilling and will suggest recommendations to the UEPG Technical and Environment Committee.

The Finnish Network in Brussels

On 12 January, Dirk Fincke, Miette Dechelle and Sandrine Devos met several Finnish representatives in Brussels. The objective was to exchange on two key topics, Natura 2000 and the new Circular Economy Package. The policy meetings were an opportunity to underline the compatibility of both topics with a sustainable extraction and production of aggregates.



Marika Paavilainen, from the Finnish Permanent Representation indicated that

Finland strongly supported a better implementation of Natura 2000 and that it was necessary to continue working to reach the recycling targets across the EU. Finland preferred to measure resource efficiency at local, regional or national level with more than only the potentially misleading lead weight based indicator.

The office of the Vice-President of the European Parliament Anneli Jäätteenmäki MEP (ALDE, Finland) welcomed UEPG's comments and the contribution of the European Aggregates Industry to both biodiversity and the Circular Economy.



MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP (EPP, Finland), former Rapporteur on the own-initiative Report on Resource Efficiency, advocated for EU wide resource efficiency indicators (if possible harmonised), but agreed with UEPG on the shortages of the lead indicator which does not display the full impact and benefit. She was very interested by the sector's good practices for biodiversity and compatibility with Natura 2000.

NEPSI Reporting 2016

On 15 January 2016, NEPSI Reporting started. National and company Members have time to report till 15 March 2016. UEPG calls all its Members to contribute actively to the 2016 NEPSI Reporting.

To support the Reporting process a video and power point presentation in English were provided to UEPG Members. To campaign for NEPSI added value among members and industry partners a video in English now translated in 8 languages (French, Czech, German, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Spanish, Swedish) was communicated to Members. A shorter video will be produced this year for a larger public and decision-makers. Webinars on NEPSI added-value in the 8 languages will be organised in the coming months. As soon as dates are set, information on the webinars will be disseminated to Members. To conclude

the NEPSI project 2015-2016, a conference is planned to take place on 16 June 2016 in Brussels.

If you need assistance for the reporting, the UEPG General Secretariat or the NEPSI Helpdesk are at your disposal. Further guidance is available on the NEPSI Website at <http://www.nepsi.eu/reporting/reporting.aspx>

Preliminary results of the Reporting will be discussed during the UEPG Health & Safety Committee meeting on 10 March in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

UEPG News

Marine Aggregates Task Force in Denmark

On 28 January, our Danish colleagues from Danske Råstoffer hosted the Marine Aggregates Task Force meeting in the Danish NCC Roads Headquarter close to Copenhagen.



The Chair of the Task Force Ingo Hammwöhner, guided the discussion around marine protected areas, which the European Environment Agency started to define as potential no-go areas while the Natura 2000 Directives do not per se prohibit economic activities. Other topics were the Maritime Spatial Planning and the progress achieved by some EU member States, market based instruments and the review of production data.

UEPG Sustainable Development Award 2016

The UEPG Sustainable Development Awards is the major event to reward companies that have successfully integrated the social, economic and/or environmental dimensions of sustainable development into their operations. The UEPG Sustainable Development Awards promote the dissemination of best practices and encourage projects which go beyond what is required by planners and regulators. It

is intended that the Awards should provide examples which others could follow. The Awards are a great showcase for the Industry and individual companies all over Europe.

In 2013, we have had a record 52 entries from 14 countries, all entries being of outstanding quality. 2016 is the year of the triannual Sustainable Development Award. UEPG Members applications are expected before 4 April 2016. "Get Ready!"



Jury Members (from NGO, Geological Association, Trade Union, Academia and Institution) will meet to deliberate over summer. The UEPG Sustainable Development Award Ceremony 2016 will take place on 16 November at "Palais des Beaux Arts" in Brussels followed by a Dinner at Kwint Restaurant.

The UEPG General Secretariat looks forward to your entries sent by 4 April. "Let the best wins!"

Upcoming UEPG events

- 17 February** UEPG Committee Chair Coordination meeting, Brussels
- 17 February** PR & Communication Task Force, Brussels
- 19 February** RDS & EPD Working Group, Brussels
- 24 February** Biodiversity Task Force, Brussels
- 24 February** Water Management Task Force, Brussels
- 10-11 March** Committees Meetings, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 20 April** NEIIP Forum, Brussels
- 20 April** Board Policy Dinner, Brussels
- 21 April** Board Meeting, Brussels
- 2-3 June** Delegates Assembly, Berlin, Germany