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EU Live Issues

Cyprus EU-Presidency

UEPG attended on 10 July the European Parliament Environment Committee session exchanging views with Sofoclis Aletraris, Cypriot Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment on the Council Presidency's programme for the second half of 2012.

During the [Cypriot EU-Presidency](#), two Environment Council meetings will take place where Environment Ministers of EU Member States will discuss and adopt legislation and conclusion.

25 October 2012, Luxembourg

The first Council meeting will exchange views and aims for Council Conclusions on the EU Climate Change Policy and the Rio+20 conference outcome.

19 December 2012, Brussels

The second Council meeting looks more substantial in offering debate and a Progress Report on the Review of the Environment Impact Assessment Directive (EIA). Minister Aletraris expressed himself being optimistic that sufficient agreement can be achieved to present a European Commission proposal for a 7th Environment Action Programme (7th EAP). This second Council meeting will also have to agree on conclusion for a Blueprint to safeguard European Waters. European Parliament Rapporteur is [Richard Seeber MEP](#) (EPP, Austria).

The Cypriot EU-Presidency announced a focus on inclusive and equitable green growth to be promoted through the sustainable management of resources, especially water. Nicosia also aspires to 'reenergise' the EU Integrated Maritime Policy.

Discussion in the Parliament

MEPs expressed concern that existing and adopted EU legislation is not fully implemented in many EU Member States and asked the Cypriot Presidency to come up with concrete proposals on how to deal with better implementation. It was welcomed that Nicosia will address sustainability and water management not only in the EU, but also prepares for a high profile EU representation at the COP11 meeting in Hyderabad (India) on 8-19 October 2012.

Next steps

UEPG will follow-up with the Commission and the Presidency on the above mentioned policy issues, in particular on the 7th EAP and on the water blueprint.

Business, Water and Wetlands

On 9-10 July 2012, WWF organised a Symposium on "Business, Water and Wetlands". This was an opportunity to discuss how NGOs and business could work better together. WWF presented the excellent cooperation they have with the Bulgarian Aggregates Association BAPIM and it was underlined that companies should promote more their good work.



Round-table on the contribution of business to water policies

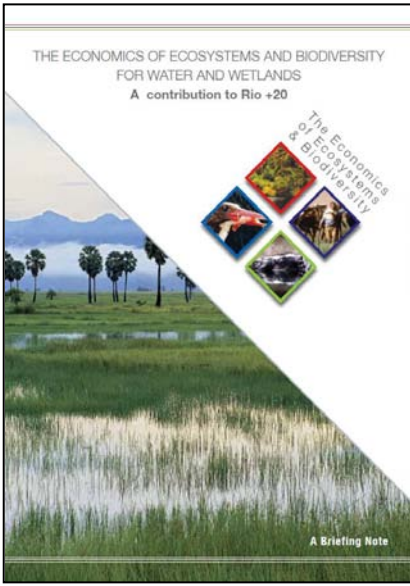
This was organised as a side-event of the Ramsar (Convention for Wetlands) conference, taking place in Bucharest. At the Ramsar Conference the TEEB report for Water and Wetlands was presented, which



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had been launched at the Rio+20 event. TEEB stands for The Economic Value of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity.



It was emphasised once more that, although it was important to outline economic aspects and to measure in order to manage environment better, TEEB was not all about monetisation. Furthermore, it is only one tool amongst others. Restoration was seen as the priority, which needed to be addressed with stakeholders.

UEPG News

1st IUCN-UEPG High-Level meeting

Following the signature of the Letter of Intent between IUCN and UEPG, a high level meeting between the two parties took place at IUCN offices in Brussels on 26 July 2012.



IUCN and UEPG promoting biodiversity
Hans Friederich, Pan-European Regional Director, and Arnaud Colson, UEPG President

Arnaud Colson, UEPG President, together with Jim O'Brien, who had successfully

initiated this new level of cooperation, underlined the huge opportunities that aggregates extraction offered to biodiversity. Hans Friederich, Pan-European Regional Director, agreed that with some creativity, great things could be achieved with limited resources, provided that both parties use their respective networks.

Monica Jacobs, Head of the IUCN Brussels Office, Shulamit Alony, IUCN Project Manager, Dirk Fincke, UEPG Secretary General, and Sandrine Devos, Public Affairs Manager, attended the 1st high-level meeting.

Next steps

14 Dec. 2012 Second high-level meeting

UEPG/EU-OSHA partnership

We are pleased to inform you that UEPG has been accepted as EU-OSHA 2012-2013 partner in the Official European Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2012-13 'Working together for risk prevention' Campaign.

The Campaign is co-ordinated by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), and partners in the EU's 27 Member States and beyond.



The Campaign encourages managers, workers and other stakeholders to join forces to improve safety and health. This is the opportunity to promote UEPG and UEPG Members' Health & Safety best practices in matter of **risk prevention and joined forces to improve safety and health at European and national level.**

A whole range of resources are available along with campaign and promotional materials in 25 languages: See [Website](#) - [Brochure](#). You can also find information within your [focal national points](#).

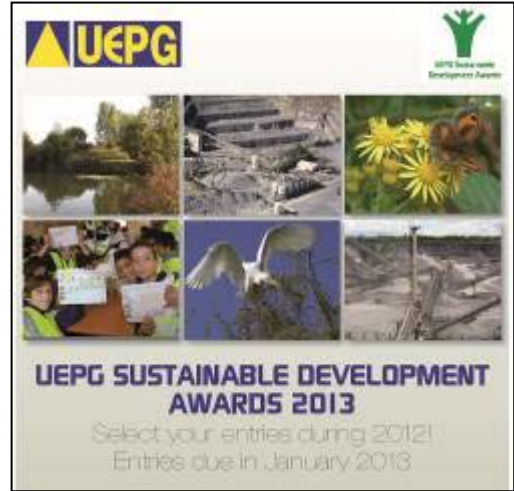
Be aware of the European Good Practice Awards to apply for at national level for

Associations and Companies. For more information see [Brochure](#) (languages choice at bottom page) as well as [Awards from previous campaign](#).

UEPG SD Awards 2013

Now is the time to prepare

UEPG Members are invited to organise their national selection process during 2012, for submission of entries to UEPG in January 2013.



Each Full Member may submit up to 8 entries, each Associate member up to 4 entries, and an Associate Company Member 1 entry.

Upcoming UEPG Meetings

- 12 September PR & Communication Task Force meeting, Brussels
- 12 September Biodiversity Indicators Working Group meeting, Brussels
- 13 September Biodiversity Task Force meeting, Brussels
- 13 September Water Management Task Force meeting, Brussels
- 14 September RDS & EPD Working Group meeting, Brussels
- 19 September Marine Aggregates Task Force meeting, Brussels
- 25-26 October UEPG Committee meetings, Brussels
- 28 November European Minerals Forum, Brussels
- 29 November UEPG Board meeting, Brussels