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EU Live Issues

New Parliament and Commission



On 1-3 July, The European Parliament re-elected Martin Schulz (S&D, Germany) as President and appointed MEPs to Parliamentary Committees. UEPG worked mainly with Members of the following three Committees:

- **Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)** - Chair: [Jerzy Buzek](#) (EPP, Poland)
- **Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)** - Chair: [Giovanni La Via](#) (EPP, Italy)
- **Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)** - Chair: [Thomas Händel](#) (GUE, Germany)

UEPG had already identified key MEPs and organised meeting.

A **grand coalition** in the European Parliament based on the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (EPP), the Socialists and Democrats (S&D) with the support of the Liberals (ALDE) has been established in a bid to establish a work programme of the European Union for the next five years.



On 15 July, **Jean-Claude Juncker** (EPP, Luxembourg), previously designated by Member States and supported by the European Parliament Grand Coalition was elected President of the European Commission by the European Parliament.

On 16 July, the four nominated Commissioners replacing those who left to become MEPs were approved by Parliament by 421 votes in favour, 170 against and 32 abstentions.

The four new Commissioners are to serve for the rest of the current term, which expires on 31 October 2014.

Jyrki Katainen (Finland) for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro, to replace Olli Rehn

Ferdinando Nelli Feroci (Italy) for Industry and Entrepreneurship, to replace Antonio Tajani.

Martine Reicherts (Luxembourg) for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship to replace Viviane Reding.

Jacek Dominik (Poland) for Financial Programming and Budget, to replace Janusz Lewandowski.

Over summer, national leaders should designate their future commissioners to Brussels. The new President of the Commission would then distribute portfolios within his team of 27 commissioners.

Portfolios usually mainly monitored by UEPG are DG Enterprise and Industry for a better access to local resources and reindustrialisation, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion as Health and Safety is our top priority with Zero Harms target, and, DG Environment as to promote the ongoing work of the sector and prevent further constraints on the sector.

Each commissioner would be scrutinised in individual hearings before Parliament Committees in October. Then the European Parliament would vote to approve or reject the new Commission College as a whole. It is only in November that the new Commission would take office.

UEPG monitors closely each of the above steps to keep its members informed.

EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020



After two years of delay, and a last year consultation at which UEPG participated, the

European Commission launched a new [Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020](#), in line with the [Europe 2020 Strategy](#).

The Strategic Framework identifies three major health and safety at work challenges:

- to improve **implementation of existing health and safety rules**, in particular by enhancing the capacity of micro and small enterprises to put in place effective and efficient risk prevention strategies;
- to **improve the prevention of work-related diseases** by tackling new and emerging risks without neglecting existing risks – *with continued specific attention on occupational cancers, diseases caused by asbestos, lung diseases, skin diseases, asthma and other chronic conditions*;
- to take account of the **ageing of the EU's workforce** – *next focus of the EU-OSHA Healthy Campaign at Work for 2016-2017*.

The Strategic Framework proposes to address these challenges with a range of actions under seven key strategic objectives:

1. Further consolidating national health and safety strategies;
2. Providing practical support to SMEs;
3. Improving law enforcement by EU Member States;
4. Simplifying existing legislation;
5. Addressing the ageing of the European workforce and improving prevention of work-related diseases;
6. Improving statistical data collection;
7. Reinforcing coordination with international organisations.

The Strategic Framework identifies instruments to implement these actions: social dialogue, awareness raising, enforcement of EU legislation, synergies with other policy areas and EU funds.

As the next step, this communication will be transmitted to the new European Parliament, and the Council for a resolution.

The ongoing work of evaluation of 24 EU Occupational Safety and Health Directives, among which the Directive 92/104/EEC (surface and underground mineral-extracting industries), and at which UEPG has participated, will be finalised in 2015. This work and Refit (European Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance programme) will strengthen the evidence base for possible new initiatives in

line with the Strategic Framework. If identified as necessary, a Directive might become subject of revision.

Circular Economy Package

The new package, which has been presented by Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik, as a “strategic answer to the new reality of globalisation and increasing pressures on limited and scarce natural resources”, comprises different elements:

“Towards a Circular Economy”

This Communication sets out the overall approach to circular economy: keeping resources in productive use longer, using them again and again through recycling, cutting waste and reducing dependence on uncertain supplies.

One of the most important elements for the Aggregates Industry is the resource productivity target. While not binding, such a target would provide an impetus for Member States to take into account resource use. The methodology chosen by the European Commission – against the recommendations of UEPG and the Non Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP), is to measure it by GDP on Raw Material Consumption (RMC).

UEPG and NEEIP's recommendations showed results. The next Commission taking office on 1 November 2014 will decide on whether to suggest the inclusion of GDP/RMC as a headline target in the context of the revision of the Europe 2020 Strategy after the on-going public consultation.

“Green Action Plan for SMEs”

This Communication sets out the opportunities for entrepreneurship and SMEs of the transition and explains how Commission instruments and policies can support it, within the framework of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020.

“Green Employment”

This Communication sets out the employment opportunities and explains how we can ensure that European labour markets are ready to exploit them. It builds on the recommendations of European Resource Efficiency Platform (EREP), an Initiative of DG Environment.

“Resource Efficiency Opportunities in the Building Sector”

This Communication proposes ways to make our buildings more resource efficient and

improve markets for construction and demolition waste. The two major components in this Communication are:

- a. Building a common European approach to assess the environmental performance of buildings;
- b. Establish better functioning market for recycled construction materials.

Proposal for a Directive: Revision of the targets of the Waste Framework Directive, the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, and the Landfill Directive

The proposal keeps the waste hierarchy intact and promotes

- a ban on landfilling of recyclable waste (paper, glass, metal and plastic) and biodegradable waste (by 2025);
- to phase out landfilling of all recoverable waste (by 2030) – not legally binding.

In particular, some of the amendments proposed to Directive 2008/98/EC (Waste Framework Directive) are of direct interest to aggregates.

The European Commission presents also several actions and EU-funded research projects related to the Circular Economy. DRAGON (Development of Resource-efficient and Advanced underGround technologies), might be of interest to the Aggregates Industry. The EU budget contribution amounts to €3.24 million; Project Coordinator is the Montanuniversität Leoben, Austria. The project sets out to solve this challenge by developing a prototype system for the automated online analysis, separation and recycling of excavated materials in underground construction sites.

Next steps

The legislative proposals will now pass to the Council and the European Parliament.

UEPG is setting up a Working Group on Taxation. It will keep working closely together with the NEEIP on advocating for realistic targets, and together with Construction Products Europe (CPE) on issues related to construction.

Construction Product Regulation

The draft Report on the implementation of the Construction Product Regulation (CPR) summarises the main obstacles identified by construction product manufacturers when

applying the Regulation (EU No 305/2011) laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EE.

The working groups of Construction Products Europe (CPR Working Group, Sustainability Working Group and Task Group Implementation of CPR), to which UEPG actively contributed, have discussed, amended and revised the Report to summarise the current state of play.

The document now finalised has been sent to the European Commission and would be presented to EU Officials in September.

DG Enterprise and Industry published a call for tender on the 'Analysis of implementation of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR)'. Capgemini Consulting then contacted Construction Products Europe (CPE) to participate as a subcontractor. The project should start after the summer break and run for one year. Results of the applications will be published in September 2014.

Economic incentives to recycling

The European Commission's DG Enterprise & Industry, subcontracted a study on economic incentives to valorise construction and demolition (C&D) waste. UEPG and other stakeholders from construction raw materials industries and users were invited to debate a first draft Report. The study compares the cost items when supplying virgin raw materials and recycled C&D waste, i.e. extraction and on-site processing vs. demolition, collection and sorting. Furthermore, not only aspects of supply but also of the demand for virgin and recycled materials are analysed. Participants were asked about market failures, regulatory and technical factors which might be an obstacle for the valorisation of C&D waste.

While UEPG promotes recycling of C&D waste where economically, technically and environmentally feasible, it should not be seen as a purpose in itself and cannot replace the extraction of virgin aggregates.

UEPG News

Meeting with MEP Anne Sander

Following the European Elections, UEPG started to get in contact with newly elected MEPs having key positions within the European Parliament Committees of interest for our sector.



Arnaud Héroit, UNPG Secretary General, Dirk Fincke, UEPG Secretary General, Anne Sander MEP (EPP, France) and Arnaud Colson, UEPG President in the European Parliament.

On 9 July, UEPG President, Arnaud Colson, Secretary General of the French Aggregates Association UNPG, Arnaud Héroit and UEPG Secretary General, Dirk Fincke, outlined the valuable contribution of our industry to sustainable development to Anne Sander MEP (EPP, France). Mrs Sander is Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and showed interest in UEPG's activities on Health and Safety. President Colson and Arnaud Héroit invited Mrs Sander to the next UEPG Delegates Assembly taking place on 21 May 2015, in Strasbourg, in France.

Biodiversity Indicators

On 14 July, the German Aggregates Federation (MIRO) and UEPG organised a workshop for German speaking UEPG Members on biodiversity indicators. The objective was to present the EU Biodiversity Policy and to explain in the field on how to apply the UEPG Biodiversity Indicators.



Expert speakers were Michael Rademacher from HeidelbergCement and Thomas Beißwenger from the South-Western German Aggregates Association ISTE (Member of MIRO). UEPG will support other Members to organise a workshop in their national language on demonstrating the application of biodiversity indicators.



New IUCN guide for managing biodiversity in cement & aggregates sector

We are pleased to inform you that IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), in collaboration with UEPG and other industry associations in the cement and aggregates sector, has launched a new guide to encourage companies to responsibly manage biodiversity throughout their operations.

The guide - Integrated Biodiversity Management System - was developed over four years by an independent panel of biodiversity and ecosystem experts in consultation with industry practitioners and other stakeholders. Following numerous visits to quarries in several countries, including Spain and Belgium, the panel created a procedure for adopting a systematic approach to safeguarding biodiversity on cement and aggregate landholdings.

Aggregates and concrete are among the most used resources on Earth, second only to water. Extraction of raw materials – such as limestone, shale and sand – can have significant environmental impacts, posing major risks to biodiversity and ecosystems.

“The European Aggregates Industry with its 25,000 extraction sites across Europe has great potential to further contribute to biodiversity, in particular reaching out to the many Small and Medium Enterprises among the 15,000 companies. Simple and cost-effective tools will help big and small operators to safeguard biodiversity. UEPG is pleased to continue its fruitful cooperation with IUCN on biodiversity which began in 2007.”

The guide can be downloaded [here](#) . You can find further information on [UEPG website](#)

Upcoming UEPG meetings

- 8-9 Oct.** Committee meetings, Brussels
- 10 Oct.** GAIN – Global Aggregates Information Network meeting, Brussels
- 20 Nov.** NEEIP Conference, Brussels
- 19-20 Nov.** Board Meeting and Board Policy Dinner, Brussels