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Site visit in Oostende, Belgium

Sandrine Devos and Miette Dechelle are briefed on marine aggregates extraction

UEPG Meetings

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

B@B Platform

On 6 June, Dirk Fincke from the General Secretariat represented UEPG in a European Commission Business and Biodiversity Platform meeting chaired by François Wakenhut, Head of the Biodiversity Unit, DG Environment. The exchange of views on the way forward was very constructive.

Participants also discussed a final draft Biodiversity Benchmarking Discussion Paper which aims to guide companies towards the most appropriate tools and methods for benchmarking biodiversity conservation in non-energy extractive industry business activities, taking into account economic constraints and environmental benefits. The paper will serve as a basis for further discussion in a workshop on biodiversity benchmarking on 20 September in Brussels.

On 10 June, the B@B Platform Steering Committee looked at the benchmarking progress being made by the six target sectors, attended by UEPG President Jim O'Brien. The Platform is pushing to develop comparable benchmarking schemes for all six sectors by year-end 2011.

Next steps

20 Sept.

B@B Platform Workshop on Biodiversity Benchmarking, Brussels

EU Raw Materials Strategy

Following the European Commission Communication "Tackling the challenges in commodity markets and on raw materials" published on 2 February, the European Parliament reacted with a Motion for a European Parliament Resolution, specifically its own Report "on an effective raw materials strategy for Europe". UEPG had invited the Rapporteur Reinhard Bütikofer MEP

(Germany) and a number of Shadow Rapporteurs to the European Minerals Dinner Debate on 13 April to discuss a future European Raw Materials Strategy.

Opinion of EP-Environment Committee

Members of the Parliamentary Committee Environment, Public Health and Food Safety wished to strengthen the environmental element in the Parliamentary Report on the Raw Materials Strategy. Amendments asking for a deletion of a paragraph calling for a tax on mineral resources and non-energy raw materials were rejected. Instead an amendment of Bas Eickhout MEP (Greens, Netherlands) urging the "EC to examine the effects of a tax on mineral resources, non-energy RM, water and land" was adopted. The full text of the opinion can be downloaded [here](#).

Report of EP-Industry Committee

A total of 279 amendments had been tabled for the Report "on an effective raw materials strategy for Europe". The Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs in the Industry Committee agreed on 31 compromise amendments for the final draft Report have been voted on 30 June. UEPG and other NEEIP Partners analysed these compromise amendments and agreed on a joint voting recommendation for MEPs. UEPG followed the vote directly in the European Parliament and noted positively that all industry supported amendments were adopted.

UEPG will continue to support amendments to the Report asking for deletion of taxation. The draft Report of Reinhard Bütikofer already acknowledged that "a tax for mineral resources is not an adequate tool". Ensuring a successful outcome of the Raw Materials Strategy remains a top priority for UEPG.

Promoting national initiatives

The Second Pillar of the EU Raw Materials Strategy aims at exchanging good practice in respect of national minerals and land use

planning and calls on EU Member States, while respecting subsidiarity, to develop national strategies. UEPG is pro-actively collecting these good practices in order to facilitate the development of industry friendly national initiatives fostering access to resources. Some countries already launched their own projects, e.g. Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, Norway and United Kingdom. If your country is developing a national raw materials strategy or an initiative to improve access to resources, please provide information to the UEPG General Secretariat by 29 July 2011 to secretariat@uepg.eu.

Next steps

July	UEPG to collect best practice of national initiatives
Sept. 2011	Adoption of Report in Plenary session, Strasbourg
30 Nov.	European Minerals Forum, Brussels

Resource Efficiency

A resource-efficient Europe is one of seven flagship initiatives as part of the Europe 2020 strategy aiming to deliver smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

A communication was published on 26 January, and a consultation was made on the subsequent roadmap.

The EP Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI), responsible of the topic, appointed Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Netherlands) as Rapporteur.

Parliamentary debate on Resource Efficiency

The Rapporteur for the Parliamentary Committee Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), Lena Ek (Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Sweden), and members of this Committee met on 15 June to debate on the Communication.

The debate highlights were the following:

- ⇒ The direct links between the Resource efficiency initiative and the raw materials strategy;

- ⇒ The EC would release the roadmap in August, and therefore the EP coordinators should meet to discuss this. The issue of measurement and targets would be addressed in the roadmap;
- ⇒ Importance of water efficiency and of the waste issue;
- ⇒ Importance to address environmental priorities in parallel with economic and social priorities.

“Indicators and targets for resource use and efficiency”

A study, funded by the European Commission, will be conducted in the context of the framework contract on Sustainable Management of Resources led by the Paris based environment Consultancy [BIO Intelligence Service](#).

The study will identify and assess existing resource use and resource efficiency indicators and evaluate the possibility of setting corresponding targets.

Indicators could be based on:

- Economic activity (GDP)
- Resource-use (material flow analysis, land area use in m²)
- Environmental impact (over the entire life cycle)

Targets could be set on

- material (both biotic and/or abiotic)
- water use
- land use
- greenhouse gas emissions.

The study would also consider the benefits of Total Mass Requirement versus Abiotic Resource Depletion.

The final report is expected by the end of 2011. UEPG will closely follow developments, particularly in the context of promoting more recycling.

UEPG News

Finnish Delegation in Brussels

On 30 May, members and colleagues of the Finnish association Infra ry visited the UEPG office. Among the delegation were Eija Ehrukainen, Rudus Oy; Tero Elo,

Morenia Oy; Taina Piironen, NCC Roads Oy; Jame Sorri, Lemminkäinen Infra Oy; Satu Räsänen, EK (Confederation of Finnish Industries) and Pia Rämö, Infra ry.



Presenting good examples from Finland
Our Finnish colleagues reporting progress and remaining challenges.

This was an opportunity to discuss the main challenges of the Finnish aggregates industry, their excellent national Minerals Strategy and its impact. The Brussels based UEPG team presented the activities of the European Aggregates Association and upcoming policy initiatives. Further to the meeting, our Finnish colleagues expressed their interest to participate in the work of the UEPG Marine Aggregates Task Force. Other national associations are also welcome to organise similar visits to Brussels.

Briefing Regions on Natura 2000

On 7 June, Jim O'Brien, UEPG President, at the request of Gremi d'Arids, presented the UEPG Environmental activities, and gave a detailed presentation on the EC non-energy mineral extraction and Natura 2000 Guidance Document to the Catalan regional government.



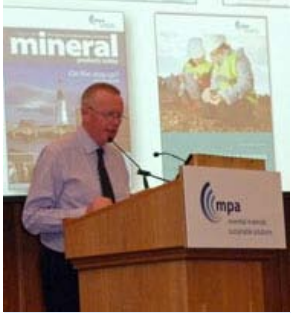
Reminding on the compatibility between quarrying and Natura 2000
UEPG President Jim O'Brien at the "Consell d'Arids 2011", Barcelona.

Jim O'Brien reminded that the Extractive Industry can indeed co-exist with Natura

2000 areas, and even positively contribute to Biodiversity. The presentation was positively received.

MPA General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Mineral Products Association (MPA) took place on 16 June in Central London. The event gathered 130 delegates from 60 MPA member companies. A wide-ranging round of presentations were given in both the morning Business and afternoon Conference sessions, interspersed with networking. Jim O'Brien,



Opening the Conference
Nigel Jackson, Chief Executive MPA.

President of UEPG, presented the activities of UEPG and its major issues of work with the MPA. Mr Nigel Jackson complimented the long-standing good cooperation between MPA and UEPG.

Environment Charter event

The "Charte Environment" is a voluntary certification scheme initiated by the French association UNICEM. Quarries and pits are audited on several aspects of their environmental management (incl. biodiversity, water, energy).

François Pétry, UEPG Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee, has been elected President of the Charte Environnement.



Looking at settling ponds

Ludovic Boise, Holcim, and Sandrine Devos, UEPG General Secretariat, at Holtzheim gravel pit.

On 20 and 21 June, the auditors from the scheme met in Strasbourg, in order to share experiences and to re-assess some elements of the questionnaire used for the certification.

Sandrine Devos, from the UEPG General Secretariat, was invited to the event to present UEPG and its environmental activities, to describe the evolution of the European legislative framework, and to introduce to some of the activities of its members.

This was as well an opportunity to visit three gravel pits in Alsace: Gernstheim, Lingolsheim and Holtzheim. Sandrine Devos met Victoria Michel, from the NGO BUFO, who is working closely with Holcim on their partnership to protect the European Green Toad.

NePSi Working Group and Council

The NePSi ad hoc Working Group took place on 21 June in Brussels. The Working Group was organised on request of the trade unions in the NEPSI Council. The objective of the ad hoc Working Group is to gather practical recommendations on how to further investigate on the effectiveness of the Social Dialogue Agreement and its application.

The NePSi Council took place on 22 June calling for and regularly advertising concrete examples of good practice on NePSi-Reporting from companies and National associations. The NePSi Secretariat will ask EU-OSHA in helping to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Social Dialogue Agreement.

The NePSi Council fixed the 2012 Reporting time frame **from 15 January to 15 March 2012**, all Members to please note.

The next NePSi workshops will take place on 14 October in Romania and on 18 October in Poland, and later this year in the Czech Republic. The precise date and venue will be announced shortly.

For more information, please visit the [NePSi website](#) or contact the UEPG General Secretariat.

Next steps

14 October NePSi workshop, Romania

18 October NePSi workshop, Poland

15 Jan-15 March 2012 Reporting

Sectoral Social Dialogue

The Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Extractive Industry (SSDCEI) Plenary Session took place on 24 June in Brussels, discussing Health & Safety, Recycling, Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) and Social Dialogue in Germany. A joint declaration dated from 2004 is now under discussion and an updated version will be circulated to UEPG for discussion. Partners of the Sectoral Social Dialogue are now expecting further UEPG proposals on how to progress on Safer by Design.

Next steps

17 October SSDCEI Plenary Session, Brussels

Site visit in Oostende, Belgium

On 27 June, Fediex, with the help of the group De Cloedt, organised for its members a study visit on marine aggregates in Oostende. Sandrine Devos and Miette Dechelle, from the General Secretariat, participated in the event.



Visiting a marine aggregates facility

A ship unloading marine aggregates in the harbor of Oostende, Belgium.

The event started with a visit of a NHM facility (De Cloedt Group) in the harbour of Oostende. Gerry de Cloedt then presented the activities of the group and especially detailed the marine aggregates activities.

UEPG Meetings

6 Sept. Transport Working Group, Brussels

7 Sept. PR & Comm. Task Force, Brussels

8 Sept. Biodiversity Task Force, Brussels

9 Sept. Marine Aggr. Task Force, Brussels