



## EU Live Issues

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Three pillar structure remain in focus of debate in European Parliament

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## EU Live Issues

### Raw Materials Strategy

Despite the fact that the new Communication on 'Tackling the challenges in commodity markets and on Raw Materials' widened its scope to include energy raw materials, agriculture, food security and commodity markets, the debate in the European Parliament clearly is now focused on the three pillars of the 2008 Raw Materials Initiative which are:

1. Fair and sustainable supply of raw materials from global markets
2. Fostering sustainable supply within the EU
3. Boosting resource efficiency and promoting recycling

### Public Hearing

On 3 March, the Social & Democrats Group of the European Parliament (S&D) held a Public Hearing on the EU Raw Materials Strategy. The Hearing, chaired by Marita Ulvskog MEP (S&D, Sweden), addressed all three pillars and discussed implementation and appropriate tools. Gwenole Cozigou, Director in charge of the Raw Materials Strategy in DG Enterprise, highlighted a number of key aspects for the non-energy extractive industry:

- It was re-emphasized that the EC would not limit its actions to the 14 listed critical raw materials.
- It was considered essential to look at both obstacles and innovation to promote recycling. 2012 would set clear actions and directions for recycling
- It was emphasized that it would be more useful to use the existing legislation and tools and enforce them rather than to create new ones, such as an inappropriate taxation of raw materials.
- It was important not to overplay the Raw Materials Strategy on resource efficiency aspects, as there were many common areas in which society could not do without primary raw materials.

UEPG, in close cooperation with other NEEIP sector associations and the European Minerals Foundation, is organising the Minerals Dinner Debate in the European Parliament on 13 April in Brussels. Hosted by Judith Merkies MEP, Rapporteur of the Innovation Union, the debate will address Resource Efficiency and Innovation and the second pillar of the Raw Materials Strategy 'Fostering sustainable supply within the EU'. Confirmed speakers include Gwenole Cozigou, Director of DG Enterprise & Industry, Reinhard Bütikofer MEP (Greens, Germany), Rapporteur of the Raw Materials Strategy and Judith Merkies MEP (S&D, Netherlands), Rapporteur of the Innovation Union, as well as Shadow Rapporteurs and CEOs from several companies. More than one hour for open discussion makes this Dinner debate an opportunity to exchange your views with EU key decision makers. If you wish to participate, please send the completed [Registration form](#) to the European Minerals Foundation:

[info@europeanmineralsfoundation.org](mailto:info@europeanmineralsfoundation.org)

### ITRE Committee - EP

On 31 March the Industry Research and Energy (ITRE) Committee of the European Parliament discussed the 'Innovation Union' Report Progress by Judith Merkies (S&D) and the Report on 'an effective Raw Materials Strategy for Europe' by Reinhard Bütikofer (Green/ALE).

### Innovation Union

Judith Merkies emphasised the fact that Businesses and Entrepreneurship were extremely important, as they played a big role for Innovation. Most of the Report of Ms. Merkies was in the line with the European Commission pilot project. Some definitions of the Report were yet to be amended by MEPs; especially 'Social Innovation'. The vote on the Report will take place at the next ITRE Committee on 12 April.

### An Effective Raw Materials Strategy for Europe

The main message from MEPs related to 'Raw Materials Sustainable Supply and Development

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for Europe'. Mr. Bütikofer declared 'an effective governance is key to an effective policy'.

Alejo Vidal-Quadras (EPP, Spain) highlighted the challenges of access to resources such as the many administrative burdens and protected areas as Natura 2000, when they are forbidden zones for Industries.

Judith Merkies underlined the difference between 'reuse' and 'recycling'. She called for ban (as interdiction) on urban mining and emphasised the need for increased recycling.

Gwenole Cozigou mentioned that access to resources was falling to subsidiarity principles and so to Members State decision.

Paul Rübzig underlined that for a better 'transparency and long term supply' Members States should work together on Raw Materials Markets and the European Commission should coordinate these. Then, Mr. Rübzig mentioned that Natura 2000 and access to resources were not in contradiction. Mr. Rübzig declared that to ensure competitiveness in Europe, taxes were not a solution, especially when taxes and administrative burdens are not the same in other part of the world. He underlined that part of efficiency was also in improved measurement.

The vote of the Report will take place at the next ITRE Committee on 12&13 April.

**Next steps**

**12-13 April** ITRE Committee  
**13 April** EMF Dinner Debate, European Parliament, Brussels

**Natura 2000 Guidance**

On 28 February, the European Commission released the Natura 2000 Guidance for the non-energy extractive industry in 10 additional EU languages: French, German, Czech, Dutch, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovakian, and Spanish. The different languages versions are available on the [DG Environment website](#).



**Background**

In August 2010, the EC published the [guidance document](#) on non-energy mineral extraction and Natura 2000. The guidance is de-

signed to inform competent authorities and companies on the permitting procedure regarding plans and projects potentially impacting on Natura 2000 areas.

The European Commission emphasises that NEEI projects are not automatically excluded from Natura 2000 sites but their compatibility needs to be carefully assessed. Furthermore, the guidance recognises that some extraction projects can also ultimately be beneficial to biodiversity.

**Next steps**

The document will be translated into two additional EU languages (Greek and Bulgarian).

**UEPG News**

**UEPG Committee Meetings**

On 10-11 March, UEPG members addressed current live issues and considered the next steps for the sector. The Committee meetings were kindly hosted by our Hungarian colleagues and took place in Budapest.



**Working for the recovery of our industry**

From left: Jim O'Brien, UEPG President, and Zoltán Cseh, President of the Aggregates Section in the Hungarian Mining Association.

All meeting documents and presentations are available on the UEPG website ([www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu)), members-only section.

The key issues addressed at each Committee Meeting were:

**Health and Safety Committee**

- SDIs on fatalities and the use of the CSI fatality prevention initiatives
- Safer by Design: the achievements and next steps
- European Social Dialogue Agreement on Respirable Crystalline Silica and preparation for the 2012 Reporting (workshops, tools, campaign and lobbying)



**Health and Safety Committee**

From right: Jim O'Brien, UEPG President, Martin Isles, Chairman.

- National Lobbying for a complete postponement of the Directive on Explosives for Civil Use and developing a unique harmonised code for the all supply chain.

**Environment Committee**



**Environment Committee**

From right: Arnaud Colson, Chair; Sandrine Devos, Secretary and François Pétry, Vice-Chair.

- Natura 2000 guidelines implementation
- Update on Biodiversity Task Force and working towards Targets and a Strategy
- Water Management guidelines and statement policy paper
- Mining Waste Directive Transposition
- Declaration on Mining Catastrophes
- Developing a model Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for Aggregates

**Technical Committee**



**Technical Committee**

From right: Jean-Marc Vanbelle, Chair; Markus Schumacher, Secretary; John Lay, Vice-Chair and Brian James, Chair of the European Platform for Recycled Aggregates.

- The CPR, and implications of CE Marking for Construction Products
- Developments on Dangerous Substances
- Outcome of the European Aggregate Standards CEN/TC 154 Meetings
- Policy on Resource Efficiency, Recycling

### Economic Committee

- Lobbying on the Raw Materials Strategy
- Predicting the demand for aggregates in the SaRMA region



#### Economic Committee

From left: Hans-Peter Braus, Chair and Jerry McLaughlin, Vice-Chair.

- Economic outcome 2010 versus 2009 and outlook 2011
- Launch of a Transport Working Group

### Future UEPG Committee meetings

- 6-7 October 2011 Brussels
- 8-9 March 2012 Cracow, Poland

### European Platform for Recycled Aggregates

On 1 March, the members of the European Platform for Recycled Aggregates (EPRA) met in the UEPG office in Brussels.

With the recent Communication on Resource Efficiency, the third pillar of the Raw Materials Initiative, and the proposal to have an Innovation Union Partnership on Raw Materials, the EPRA has an increasingly important role to play.

A number of key topics were addressed in order to tackle the challenges for recycling and to meet the European Commission's ambitions. It was agreed that it would be politically important for EPRA to submit a project for the Innovation Union Partnership.

EPRA has been developing position papers on resource efficiency and end-of-waste criteria (available on the [UEPG website](#)). The next

steps are now to promote these within the European Commission and MEPs.

### Next steps

**13 Apr. 2011** European Minerals Foundation Dinner Debate, hosted by Judith Merkies MEP (S&D, Netherlands), Rapporteur of the Innovation Union flagship Initiative

**13 Sept 2011** Next EPRA meeting

### European Environment Agency

On 24 March, President Jim O'Brien, Public Affairs Manager Dirk Fincke and Simon Stig-Gyilling from the Danish Aggregates Association met with Ronan Uhel, Head of Natural Systems and Vulnerability Programme of the European Environment Agency (EEA) on areas of potential cooperation. The meeting was organised based on a request from EEA-Director Jacqueline McGlade, who had learnt about the achievements of the European Aggregates Industry on biodiversity.

Mr. Uhel agreed that the aggregates industry indeed contributes to biodiversity. He also agreed with UEPG that the study of Pavan Sukhdev on the Economic Value of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) was not really about putting a price on nature. Instead, the value of an ecosystem and biodiversity at site level should follow a strictly scientific approach. External biodiversity expertise could be provided by the Biodiversity Topic Centre based in Paris. It was agreed that the EEA and UEPG would fruitfully continue to cooperate on promoting Biodiversity.

### SAMOTER exhibition in Verona, Italy

On 3 March, President Jim O'Brien and Dirk Fincke from the UEPG General Secretariat presented UEPG activities and their added value to ANEPLA and their member companies in Italy.



Added value for Italian Aggregates Producers  
ANEPLA Secretary General Francesco Castagna (left) and its President Cirino Mandola (right) at SAMOTER.

Mr. O'Brien invited ANEPLA members to Brussels for targeted meetings with possibly Vice-President Antonio Tajani, other key Commission representatives and Italian MEPs to highlight challenges of the Italian Aggregates Industry as part of the UEPG lobbying strategy. The presentation and the invitation to Brussels were warmly welcomed.

SAMOTER one of the biggest annual exhibitions in Italy of earth-moving machinery producers and the related industries. ANEPLA had organised a half day session with speakers from UEPG, Universities, NGOs and industry.

### MIRO Environment Committee Meeting

On 23 March, Dirk Fincke from the UEPG General Secretariat briefed members of the Environment Committee of the German Aggregates Federation (MIRO) on EU live issues such as the Raw Materials Strategy, EU Initiative on Resource Efficiency and UEPG Biodiversity Strategy.

The German Environment Ministry is currently revising three regulations on ground water, soil and substitution of construction raw materials as a single package. As the German soil regulation is part of this review, it was noted that the German Government is one of the EU Member States blocking the EU Soil Protection Framework Directive in the EU Council.

### Next steps

**27 September** MIRO Environment Committee Meeting, Cologne, Germany

### New Danish Member: Danske Råstoffer

On 24 March, Jim O'Brien and Dirk Fincke welcomed Director Kim Fynbo Nielsen and Simon Stig-Gyilling, Secretary of the new Danish Aggregates Association 'Danske Råstoffer' into the UEPG family. The main current Danish issues are planning procedures, taxation and Natura 2000, and therefore UEPG support will be very welcome.

The new association also represents the Danish Marine Aggregates Producers with an annual production of 4.5 million tonnes and a fleet of 18 ships.

### UEPG Meetings

- 14 April** Board Meeting, Brussels
- 26 May** Entrepreneurs' Forum, Lisbon, Portugal
- 27 May** Delegates Assembly, Lisbon, Portugal