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EU Live Issues

Construction and Demolition Waste

On 17 March, the last meeting of Task Force 2 – which aims at setting conducive framework conditions – took place in the premises of DG Grow.

The draft protocol was shaping up well, with constructive input from a wide range of stakeholders from industry and Member States. There is still work to be done by Task Force 1 (Quality Recycling, Building Confidence) on quality management.

To demonstrate the challenges for companies, UEPG is organising a site visit for the European Commission representatives and the consultants from Ecorys working on the Protocol.

A final workshop will take place in Brussels on 30 June to validate the Protocol. This document should be a useful tool for the Industry and will need some promotion.

Backfilling in the Circular Economy

Sandrine Devos, UEPG Public Affairs Manager presented the state of play on what UEPG defines as backfilling under the waste Directive in the Sustainability Working Group of Construction Products Europe.

The NEEIP Forum on 20 April 2016 will serve perfectly well all 9 NEEI sectors to convey messages of the non-energy extractive industries. UEPG encourages its Members to secure a place in this event. For registration, please send an email to secretariat@uepg.eu.

Financing the Circular Economy

On 21 March, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank explained the funding opportunities offered by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), by the EU funding programme for research and innovation (Horizon 2020), by the structural funds for waste management and through investments in the circular economy at national level. The Investment Plan for Europe (Juncker Plan) can also play an important role.

UEPG keeps monitoring and informs Members on other opportunities to receive EU funding for innovative projects.

UEPG News

Committee meetings in Amsterdam

Kindly hosted by our Dutch colleagues from Cascade, UEPG held its four expert meetings on 10-11 March in an Airport meeting close to Amsterdam.

Health & Safety

Together with NEPSI Employers, UEPG supported lobbying for a 'lighter regime' after the European Commission decided to include Respirable Crystalline Silica in a proposal to revise the Carcinogens and Mutagens at work Directive in 2016. UEPG Members would participate to NEPSI webinars and the Conference on the NEPSI Agreement on 16 June 2016. UEPG Members strongly contributed to NEPSI Reporting in 2016.

The European Commission is evaluating 24 Safety and Health at work Directives among

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UEPG aims at identifying where the European Aggregates Industry would have a common understanding and could join forces with other non-energy extractive industry sectors.

which are the mining and surface extraction Directive and other Directives, having a direct or indirect impact on the European Aggregates Industry. UEPG contributed intensively at each stage of the process of the evaluation, worked on common action points and position papers with other Associations and will contribute to the upcoming Social Partners consultations.

UEPG is continuously working on Ill-Health and Accidents Prevention in the Aggregates Sector ranging from data collection, collection of good practices, the drafting of a guidance document and contribution to EU campaigns, EU OSH and Social projects, platforms and committees.

Environment

Members elected Benoit Lussis (Fediox, Belgium) as the new Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee.

Live issues discussed were the state of play of the Mining Waste BREF review and of the Natura 2000 Fitness Check.

Guest speakers presented Dutch initiatives, which were received with great interest: the Temporary Nature Initiative, and the Natural Capital Protocol.

Members welcomed the upcoming publication of the brochure on the positive contribution of the Aggregates Industry to Water Management.

Members also discussed the priorities of the Committee and agreed to promote best practice related to dust emissions and to voluntarily reporting on water indicators. An extra effort was requested on the reporting of indicators, and of biodiversity indicators in particular to obtain a baseline.

Technical

Live issues discussed were the developments of the European Aggregates Standards and their further delay, and the Construction Products Regulation.

A guest speaker presented the Dutch experience related to the release of dangerous substances (RDS). The issue was further discussed with the work of the UEPG Working Group on RDS and the developments in WG13 (CEN/TC154). It was

understood that Developments of dossiers (WFT) were not a priority for the European Commission.

The UEPG Recycled Aggregates Task Force had been working on the definitions proposed by the European Commission in the Circular Economy Package.

Economic

As the leading UEPG Committee on the new Circular Economy Package, Members of the Economic Committee reviewed and discussed the whole package including the amendments on the waste Directive and the proposals of the Action Plan. In particular the UEPG definition of backfilling and the technical and political views of other stakeholders were debated. UEPG aims at identifying common views to be expressed at the upcoming NEEIP Forum on the circular economy.

Other key items of the Economic committee were projects to promote the compatibility of extraction and environment, and on national roundtables highlighting best practices and recommendations on land-use planning and permitting. UEPG decided to support these projects in the context of further implementing the EU Raw Materials Strategy and the related good work of the European Commission Raw Materials Supply Group.

FEDIEX debate on recycling

On 23 March, the Belgian association Fediox organised a debate for its members on recycling, with the input from the Belgian recycling association.

The competent authorities are amending legislation in order to allow the filling of excavation voids with unpolluted soils and the treatment of inert wastes in extraction areas. The objective of the meeting was to better understand the implications of such a modification of the legislation for aggregates producers and the compatibility between the production of recycling and natural aggregates on a same site. This also led to discussions on the definition of "backfilling" proposed in the new Circular Economy Package, which was presented by Sandrine Devos, Public Affairs Manager at UEPG.

Fediox members welcomed the opportunity to use unpolluted soils on extractive site as long

as they were suitable and managed in the framework of rehabilitation activities.

Construction Products Regulation

John Bullock, Secretary of UEPG Technical Committee (MPA, UK) participated at the last CPE CPR WG Meeting.

The main focuses of the meeting were on more flexibility for simplified CE-marking, the procedure of rejected hENS, the probable timing for a review of the Construction Products Regulation, a new template for submission of a Delegated Act to CEN, the publication of European Assessment Documents (EADs) with Technical Assessment Bodies (TABs), and assessment of 'Without Testing' (WT) procedure and/or the 'Without Further Testing' (WFT) for Dangerous Substances.

UEPG is monitoring on all these items and reporting regularly to its Members for information and action.

Upcoming UEPG events

20 April	NEEIP Forum, Brussels
20 April	Board Policy Dinner, Brussels
21 April	Board Meeting, Brussels
2-3 June	Delegates Assembly, Berlin, Germany

Terrorist Attacks in Brussels



We would like to thank for the numerous expressions of concern and sympathy after the terrorist attacks on 22

March in Brussels – a sad day for Belgium and for Europe.

The Brussels-based team and our closest relatives are safe. We will continue our work as usual but EU Institutions are under higher alert level which means external meetings are reviewed to be cancelled or postponed until further notice.

If you need any information or have planned to come to Brussels, please do not hesitate to contact us for advice.