



## EU Live Issues

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UEPG members raise awareness to the contribution of the aggregates industry

## EU Live Issues

### Sectoral Social Dialogue

On 17 October 2011, the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for the Extractive Industry (SSDCEI) plenary session took place in Brussels. The Members of the Committee officially agreed to support the Safer by Design project at European Sectoral Social Dialogue level. At the meeting, the UEPG Representative, Miette Dechelle, from the UEPG Secretariat, received direct support from EMCEF, EUROCOAL and IMA-Europe. The partners have asked now UEPG to define a strategy and an action plan on common actions to be agreed at the next meeting. The Health and Safety 2004 joint declaration is in revision and partners agreed to disseminate the information to their members for comments and agreement for the next session. At this meeting, Hungarian Representatives from the Employees and the Employers side were invited to describe the social dialogue structure and actions in Hungary. Mr. Zoltan Akos represented the Hungarian Mining/Quarrying Association.

### Safe Machinery

In 2010, UEPG has been granted by the Technical Body CEN/TC 151 "Construction equipment and building material machines – Safety" to the liaison status. Since, UEPG has been invited to participate to the 24<sup>th</sup> CEN/TC 151 Plenary Meeting on 26-27 October 2011 at St. Julian's in Malta and to present its activities and especially the Safer by Design project to members of the Technical Body.

Jost-Peter Sonnenberg, expert on "Testing and Certification Body" at "BG Raw Materials and Chemical Industry", Germany, has accepted to present UEPG association activities, with a focus on the 'Safer by Design' project, its background, development and goal. It is a new step in the promotion and recognition of 'Safer by Design' at European level and in the process of standardisation.

## Explosives for civil use

On 19 October, César Luaces Frades, Vice-Chair of the UEPG Health & Safety Committee and Miette Dechelle from the UEPG General Secretariat participated in the working group of explosives for civil uses.

Main discussion point was postponing the application of the Directive on the *system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil uses* which is supposed to be applied from 5 April 2012.

UEPG has strongly lobbied for a postponement to allow developing a cost effective, single, European wide identification code and system for the whole supply chain.

Members of the 'explosives working group' accepted the proposal to extend the implementation date to 5 April 2013 for manufacturers and importers. Labelling and the obligations on data collection and record keeping for the whole supply chain will be postponed by three years to 5 April 2015.

The revised document should be sent to members of the 'explosives working group' in the coming few days. The Council and the European Parliament will have 14 days to provide an opinion.

The Commission will prepare the legal documentation to the Parliament within a period of 90 days (end of January 2012) asking EU Members States to transpose the new legislation into national law by 5 April 2012 and to implement the new regulations by 5 April 2013.

Action for Users would be to train their employees on the new software when available within the given time frame.

UEPG has proposed to invite representatives from the German blasting school developing the proposed software and FEEM to coordinate actions.

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## Parliamentary Intergroup on water

# EP Water Group

On 19 October, the European Parliament Intergroup on water met to discuss the “integration of water into other EU policies”.

Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez MEP (S&D, Spain), Vice-President of the European Parliament, stressed the importance of the topic, while Richard Seeber MEP, (EPP, Austria), Chair of the Intergroup, underlined the cross-sectorial approach needed to tackle this matter. The President of the Economic and Social Committee, Staffan Nilsson, reminded the close connection with the other policies, including soil protection. The internalisation of environmental costs into the price of water was discussed, and Peter Gammeltoft (DG Environment) reminded that in this issue, no one size fit all, and that implementation was crucial.

### European Parliament ENVI Committee

On 17 October 2011, Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA), participated in the European Parliament Environment Committee for the annual exchange of views.

The core businesses of the EEA are waste, air quality, water and biodiversity. Jacqueline McGlade underlined the key priorities of the EEA, which are assessment of ecosystems (both in terms of environment and in terms of accountancy), indicators and the Shared Environment Information System. The collection of data was a difficult but highly valued exercise. The EEA valued very much Green Infrastructure and more involvement of citizens in the reporting system.

## UEPG News

### UEPG Committee Meetings

On 6-7 October, UEPG members gathered at the Representation of the German Bundesland North-Rhine Westphalia, in Brussels, in order to address priorities for the industry and define future actions.

This year, UEPG welcomed the representatives of the new Russian Associated Member, OAO Pavlovskgranit.



**Active new UEPG Members from Russia**  
Representatives of OAO Pavlovskgranit with UEPG President Jim O'Brien

The main points discussed during the four sessions are the following:

### Health and Safety Committee



**Progress made on Health & Safety**  
Martin Isles (centre) chairing the EUPG Health & Safety Committee meeting on 6 October, Brussels.

- Analysis of SDIs 2010, Social Pillar
- Social Dialogue Agreement on Crystalline Silica Latest development
- EU-OSHA, presentation of present and future activities by Brenda O'Brien
- Latest information on the Sectoral Social Dialogue and Standing Working Party for the Extractive Industry
- “Safer by Design” project – follow up
- Present and future activities in the framework of the Atlantic Alliance
- EU Directive on Explosives for Civil Use

### Environment Committee



**Promoting environmental compatibility**  
Chair of the Environment Committee Arnaud Colson (left) and Vice-Chair François Petry.

- Sustainable Development Awards 2013
- Biodiversity Task Force
- Marine Aggregates Task Force

- Water Management Working Group
- Mining Waste
- Marine Aggregates Strategy
- Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for Aggregates
- Analysis of SDIs 2010 – Environmental Pillar
- CEN / TC 396 on Earthworks

### Technical Committee



**Following and contributing to CEN/TC WGs**  
Chair of the Technical Committee Jean-Marc Vanbelle (right) and Vice-Chair John Lay.

- Construction Product Regulation
- European Aggregate Standards - CEN/TC 154
- European Standards for Road Construction Materials - CEN/TC 227
- Release of Dangerous Substances: CEN TC 154 SC6/WG13/TG12 TC 227 WG 6, TC 351 WG1
- Recast of the Euratom Directive – Radioactivity in concrete constituents – TC351 WG3 State of play
- European Platform of Recycled Aggregates (EPRA)

### Economic Committee



**Leading on the Raw Materials Strategy**  
Chair of the Economic Committee Hans-Peter Braus (right) with Vice-Chair Jerry McLaughlin.

- Economic outlook for the Aggregates Industry
- EU Raw Material Strategy
- Implementing the Economic Value of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity (TEEB)
- Taxation and Market based instruments for the aggregates industry
- Transport Efficiency – Draft Position Paper from the Working Group

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

### Next UEPG Committee meetings

8-9 March 2012 Cracow, Poland

10-11 Oct. 2012 Brussels

### Norsk Bergindustri - Environment

The Norwegian Association for the non-energy extractive industry (Norsk Bergindustri) held its annual environmental conference on 26-27 October in Gardermoen, close to Oslo Airport. The event was well attended by representatives from industry, machinery suppliers, competent authorities, environmental NGOs and academia. Dirk Fincke, UEPG Secretary General, reported on the current and upcoming EU biodiversity initiatives and UEPG activities and the many success stories in that area.



**Fostering sustainable development in Norway**  
Elisabeth Gammelsæter at the Norsk Bergindustri Environment Conference, Gardermoen, Norway.

Elisabeth Gammelsæter, Secretary General of Norsk Bergindustri presented the implementation of the EU Mining Waste Directive into Norwegian legislation. Although Norway is not a member of the European Union, some EU legislation is implemented in the framework of a partnership between the EU and Norway. In a very constructive debate during the event, participants elaborated the concept of sustainable development and what it means for individual companies.

UEPG will continue to support members at national events and demonstrating the close links between EU initiatives and national policies, thus, the need to enhance cooperation as the European Aggregates Industry. At the same time, it gives the UEPG General Secretariat the opportunity to learn more about national key priorities and shows new and innovative ways of cooperating with national stakeholders.

### Biodiversity on top of the agenda

UEPG members raise awareness to the contribution of the aggregates industry to biodiversity through special events and partnerships with NGOs.

### Launch of the biodiversity partnership between HeidelbergCement and BirdLife International



**Promoting the diversity of plant and animal species in the quarries of HeidelbergCement**

Michael Rademacher, HeidelbergCement; Daniel Gauthier, HeidelbergCement; Marco Lambertini, Birdlife International; Bernard Matthieu, Heidelberg-Cement

On 4 October 2011, HeidelbergCement and BirdLife International launched in Brussels their new partnership. They have signed an agreement for three years to bring the two organisations together on a global basis in view of forming a long-term and mutually beneficial relationship. Both partners will review the current biodiversity strategy and achievements of HeidelbergCement. Together they will define required actions in order to maximize the nature conservation benefits and will implement them throughout the mining sites of HeidelbergCement – starting with Europe and Central Asia. The goal of this partnership is also to exchange global and local scientific expertise around the high biodiversity value of habitats in mining sites.

### Fediex seminar on Biodiversity

On 25 October, Fediex, the Belgian aggregates association, organised a seminar in Namur in order to raise its members' awareness on biodiversity. This is part of the Fediex Biodiversity Action Plan which has been launched in December 2010.

Sandrine Devos, from the UEPG General Secretariat, presented the European context. A representative from the Walloon authorities explained the challenges met in the

region for the protection of biodiversity and how the industry and the authorities could better cooperate; she emphasised the positive role of the quarrying industry for biodiversity. Professor Olivier Guillitte, President of the Walloon Council for Sustainable Development, called for a better recognition of the very positive role of the aggregates industry for biodiversity.

### MPA Restoration Awards and Natural England Biodiversity Awards 2011

The event took place on 19 October at the Royal Society London and attracted a very wide range of NGO and environmental organisations.

Awards announced at the event included the winner of the inaugural Natural England Biodiversity Award, CEMEX UK in partnership with RSPB for lowland heathland creation at its Rugeley Quarry in Staffordshire.



**Excellence in restoration**  
The restored CEMEX Rugeley Quarry in Staffordshire,

Natural England Chief Executive Helen Phillips told members of the Mineral Products Association (MPA) at the event: "There are countless inspiring examples of what happens when restoration and conservation are planned into the early stages of mineral extraction and the Minerals Products Association Awards are a great way of highlighting the efforts that have been made. I am delighted to be able to recognise the commitment, knowledge and enthusiasm for wildlife shown by the high standard of entries and the dedication shown by so many of MPA's members."

### UEPG Meetings

- 29 Nov. Task Force on RDS and EPD
- 29 Nov. EPRA meeting
- 30 Nov. European Minerals Forum 2011
- 1 Dec. Board Meeting