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EU Live Issues

Raw Materials Strategy

On 13 September, Dirk Fincke, UEPG Secretary-General, attended the European Parliament plenary session in Strasbourg when adopting the "Report on an effective raw materials strategy for Europe". The Report is a response to the European Commission Communication "Tackling the challenges in commodity markets and on raw materials" published on 2 February 2011, taking into account other Reports and Initiatives.

Debate

During the associated debate on Monday 12 September, Commission Vice-President and Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship Antonio Tajani, the Parliamentary Rapporteur Reinhard Bütikofer, Shadow Rapporteurs, representatives from the Parliamentary Committees issuing an opinion and political group representatives all contributed to the debate.

Reinhard Bütikofer MEP (Greens, Germany) stressed that the current lack of raw materials supply is both a challenge and opportunity to develop innovation, resource efficiency, recycling and substitution. Cooperation between EU Member States and European Commission was key to success. A high-level Task Force is needed to bring together EU institutions in developing a 2050 Roadmap.

Commissioner Tajani welcomed the final draft Parliamentary Report which was in line with the objectives of the European Commission. It was important to consider the whole life-cycle of raw materials. The European Commission will continue to make progress on the Innovation Union Partnership and ensure that land use and extractive activities will respect environmental stewardship.

Judith Merkies MEP (Socialists & Democrats, the Netherlands), Rapporteur of the Environment Committee opinion, warned to acknowl-

edge the signs of the next crisis on raw materials emerging which should be tackled before it impacts. Europe needs to use the raw materials available within the EU through reuse and recycling. A paradigm shift was needed for our banking system and society. Taxation could give consumers incentives to buy environmentally friendly products. Europe was too quick in touching untouched areas rather than using the resources in the built environment.

While Lena Ek MEP (Liberals & Democrats, Sweden) called for forbidding extraction in Natura 2000 areas, Karl-Heinz Florenz MEP (EPP, Germany) warned against using Natura 2000 as a weapon against industry. The Chair of the Parliamentary Industry Committee Herbert Reul MEP (EPP, Germany) said that new sources of raw materials needed to be explored while limitations and restrictions to growth were heading into the wrong direction. Riikka Manner MEP (Liberals & Democrats, Finland) welcomed that the final draft Report, stating that a tax on mineral resource use was not an appropriate fiscal tool for increasing resource efficiency.

Outcome

The amendment tabled by Judith Merkies MEP (Socialist & Democrats, the Netherlands) which urged "the Commission to examine the effects of a tax on mineral resources, unused extracted raw materials, non-energy raw materials and water and land use" was ruled inadmissible. Instead, Members of the European Parliament adopted the paragraph 15 believing "that a tax on mineral resources is not an adequate fiscal tool for increasing resource efficiency, while calling on the Commission to commission a study on the effects of a tax on water and land use, with specific attention to possible unintended repercussions on economic activities and renewable energy production in the EU".

UEPG welcomes the first part of this paragraph, convinced that taxation on mineral resources is not an inappropriate tool for in-

creasing resource efficiency, and refers to the many studies already available on resource taxation and broader market-based instruments and the mixed picture these demonstrated on effectiveness in increasing resource efficiency. Resource efficiency is best achieved through technical best practices and recycling.

The European Parliament will now formally issue the final version of the Report. Once the Report is available, UEPG will circulate it to its members.

Next steps

The adopted European Parliament's Report on an effective raw materials strategy for Europe has no legal binding nature but recommends measures to improve sustainable access to resources and resource efficiency. The Report can be quoted by other European Institutions and stakeholders including Academia in using it for studies and future legislative initiatives.

UEPG thanks its members and colleagues from NEEI Associations for their support and excellent cooperation in successfully lobbying on this Report.

Roadmap on Resource Efficiency

The Roadmap on A Resource-Efficient Europe was published on 20 September 2011. Two staff Commission working papers were published along with this document.

Background

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. On 26 January 2011, the European Commission published the Communication on a "[Resource-Efficient Europe](#)" (COM (2011) 21), in order to define medium and long term objectives and means needed for achieving resource efficiency. The overall target is that, by 2050, all resources are sustainably managed, including raw materials, energy, water, air, land and soil.

Implications for the Aggregates Industry

The Roadmap states that the specific risks of minerals, including security of supply, are already addressed in the EU Raw Materials Strategy. Hence security of raw materials supply will not be treated extensively in the

Roadmap, although the interaction between their use and other resources is recognised.

The Roadmap tackles a number of key issues, as set out below:

1. Market-based instruments

The Roadmap states the need to address markets and prices, taxes and subsidies that do not reflect the real costs of resource use. The philosophy is to shift taxation away from labour, and to increase the share of environmental taxes.

2. Indicators

2012: The European Commission will establish a common methodological approach to enable Member States and the private sector to assess, display and benchmark the environmental performance of products, services and companies based on a comprehensive assessment of environmental impacts over the life-cycle ('environmental footprint').



Roadmap on Resource Efficiency

High-level meeting with Heinz Zourek, Director General, DG Enterprise and Didier Herbert, Head of Unit with Christian Haeser from MIRO, Germany.

3. Recycling

2012: The European Commission will expand the scope of the Ecodesign directive to non-energy related product.

2013-14: The European Commission will stimulate the secondary materials market and demand for recycled materials through economic incentives, develop end-of-waste criteria and assess areas where legislation on the various waste streams could be aligned to improve coherence.

4. Ecosystem services & biodiversity

The European Commission will promote the use of innovative financial and market-based instruments and explore their wider potential, including a possible establishment of a biodiversity financing facility and payments for

ecosystems services, in particular in cooperation with the European Investment Bank and through Public Private Partnerships.

The European Commission will put forward proposals to foster investments in natural capital, and will issue a Communication on Green Infrastructure in 2012, and a "No Net Loss" initiative in 2015.

Member States should map the state of ecosystems and their services by 2014 and assess their economic value, and promote the integration of these values into accounting and reporting systems at EU and national level.

Member States should work with key stakeholders to encourage businesses to assess their dependency on ecosystem services building upon the EU Business & Biodiversity Platform.

5. Water, Air, Land and Soil

- A Blueprint to safeguard Europe's water will define a strategy to address this specific topic. The Groundwater Directive will be reviewed in 2012.
- The European Commission will undertake a comprehensive review of all EU air pollution policies by 2013.
- Land-use and Soil are linked together. The European Commission will further develop the scientific knowledge-base on biotic material, land-use effects and trends, and spatial planning, including broader resource efficiency considerations in the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive in 2012.
- Member States should limit land take and soil sealing to the extent possible.
- A Communication on Land-Use should be developed by 2014.

6. Marine resources

The European Commission will contribute to safeguarding natural coastal and marine capital by proposing policy measures on management and planning in 2012, and establish an extensive network of protected areas by 2020.

Next steps

The European Minerals Forum on 30 November 2011 will address resource efficiency and recycling. UEPG will continue its partnership

with the Business@Biodiversity Platform, monitor the Green Infrastructure Initiative, the upcoming communications and initiatives originating from this Road Map and will actively advocate the fact that the effects on a tax on raw materials have not proven beneficial for the environment. UEPG will also continue to advocate that biodiversity should be evaluated solely on a scientific basis, and not an arbitrary financial basis.

Sectoral Social Dialogue – SbD

On 1st September at the UEPG Office, M. Vladimir Zuberec, from the Sectoral Social Dialogue Unit of the European Commission, met Martin Isles, Chair of the UEPG Health & Safety Committee and Dirk Fincke and Miette Dechelle from the UEPG Secretariat, to know more about UEPG activities and objectives as a Social Partner as well as on the Safer by Design (SbD) Project.

On 6 September, Martin Isles, made a presentation to the IMA-Europe H&S Committee Members on Safer by Design.

On 9 September, at the Bureau Meeting of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Extractive Industries, all partners' representatives agreed to propose a common project on Safer by Design at the next plenary session in 17 October, a significant success.

NePSi

Martin Isles, Chair of the UEPG Health & Safety Committee lead a meeting on a roundtable with representatives from IMA-Europe, UEPG, and the European Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) on the possibility for the EFBWW to join the NePSi agreement. The discussion was very positive as a first step in introducing them to the agreement, underlining the benefits for the employees of the construction sector.

Mining Waste

The Mining Waste Directive had provisioned the adoption of technical guidelines for inspections since 2008. However, this task has been delayed, and the European Commission is now finalising the document, and as well proposing a review of the BREF. Two workshops were held on this subject with stakeholders. Simon Van der Byl (MPA) and Sandrine Devos (UEPG Secretariat) attended the

first workshop on 30 June in Brussels. The second workshop was held in Lisbon from 21 to 23 September. UEPG underlined especially that the guidance document must be voluntary and that the guidance must only apply to those sites that are covered by Article 7. The question of frequency of inspections and independence of inspectors was also openly debated. The NEEIP has since discussed the topic and will closely monitor developments.

In parallel, the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change of the European Economic and Social Committee discussed on 27 September (own-initiative opinion) "the processing and exploitation, for economic and environmental purposes, of the industrial and mining waste deposits from the European Union". Miette Dechelle, UEPG Secretariat, attended the meeting. Part of the debate was on definitions (co-product, by-product), as these are key to ensure the promotion of the use of waste. The launch of the Innovation Union Partnership on Raw Materials was welcomed as it could be an opportunity to develop innovative techniques, thus reducing land-filling.

Biodiversity

UEPG is driving forward progress on biodiversity and communicating the achievements of the industry in this area at numerous events and expert Working Groups.

Green Infrastructure Background

The EU biodiversity strategy announced the development of a Green Infrastructure 'daughter' initiative (by 2012), as a key element to ensure the restoration of ecosystems and their services.

The Commission plans therefore to publish a Communication and has set up a working group composed of stakeholders to elaborate recommendations to the Commission on Green Infrastructure. The Working Group will elaborate recommendations to the Commission on Green Infrastructure, through 4 tasks:

- What should be the scope and objectives of Green Infrastructure in the EU?
- How to put in place Green Infrastructure on the ground?
- What should be the role of the EU?
- How to finance Green Infrastructure?

Implications for the Aggregates Industry

A Green Infrastructure policy as presented by the European Commission has strong links with the following themes:

- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (with strong hints towards a monetarisation of biodiversity)
- Taxes on land-use
- Ecological offsets
- Soil protection
- Resource efficiency

On 6 September, Sandrine Devos, UEPG Secretariat, participated in a European Commission meeting on Green Infrastructure in order to show that the industry has embraced green/blue corridors and is fully compatible with biodiversity. In particular, UEPG made the point that a Green Infrastructure policy should not focus too heavily on one specific sector (agriculture) nor on the issues of taxes and financial offsets and that attention should also be given to rehabilitation and restoration as a much more realistic alternative to financial compensation.

DG Environment indicated that there would be an initiative on "no net loss" in 2015, which would tackle the linked topics of biodiversity, putting a value on ecosystem services, habitat banking, offsetting and generating demand through a market.

Next steps

25 Sept. Comments on the revised Task Reports

30 Sept. Final reports

B@B Platform

On 20 September, Dirk Fincke from the General Secretariat contributed to the discussion to the B@B Platform workshop. Objectives were to identify an appropriate way forward towards implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy and developing a biodiversity benchmarking system.



Measuring progress on biodiversity

Jim Rushworth, Lafarge (at right) attended the B@B Platform on behalf of UEPG and CEMBUREAU.

UEPG underlined the industry's commitment to and achievement in biodiversity through adapted extraction operations and restoration projects, but expressed concern that performance on biodiversity at site level could hardly be compared with other sites due to the different nature of local conditions. The species and habitats in a quarry in Finland are most likely very different to the one in a Spanish quarry.

Natura 2000

On 9 September, Christian Haeser and Jeffrey Thompson (MIRO, Germany) exchanged information on Natura 2000 on land and at sea with Stefan Leiner, Head of Unit and Fotios Papoulias, DG Environment. The Commission showed strong interest in the German 'Ökokonto' model which grants companies ecological points on an account for having undertaken restoration projects in partnership with NGOs.



Updates on Natura 2000 on land and at sea
From left: Christian Haeser and Jeffrey Thompson (MIRO, Germany) with Stefan Leiner, Head of Unit and Fotios Papoulias, DG Environment.

Jeffrey Thompson, from the marine aggregates producing company OAM DEME GmbH in Germany, presented the challenges on maritime spatial planning at sea and the need to have a long-term approach.



Better implementation of Natura 2000
Fotios Paoulias (centre), the principal author of the Natura 2000 Guidance with Jeffrey Thompson (right) and Christian Haeser.

Marine Aggregates

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) establishes a framework where Member States are required to take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by 2020 at the latest. UEPG is closely following developments in the context of marine aggregates.

Good Environmental Status

Sandrine Devos, UEPG General Secretariat, attended the last Good Environmental Status Working Group on 27-28 September 2011 in Brussels. One of the key implications for UEPG is the proposal from DG Environment, within its study on "Economic assessment of policy measures for the implementation of the MSFD" to propose an aggregate tax.

UEPG News

UEPG Task Forces & Working Groups

Meeting documents and presentations are available on the UEPG website (www.uepg.eu), members only section.

The key issues addressed were:

PR & Communication Task Force

On 7 September, the PR & Communication Task Force took place in Brussels. The Members of the Task Force agreed on the new UEPG website layout and supplier.



Discussions were opened on the UEPG Sustainable Development Awards 2013, the European Minerals Day 2013 was brainstormed, the new European Minerals Forum format was agreed, as well as a proposal for the UEPG 25th Anniversary logo, and the finalised proposals will be presented to the UEPG Board on 1 December.

Biodiversity Task Force



Members of the Biodiversity Task Force met on 8 September in Brussels and discussed:

- Progress Review of UEPG Biodiversity Strategy and of biodiversity indicators
- Recent developments in the Business@Biodiversity Platform
- Draft UEPG position paper on Ecological Offsets
- French pilot review of case studies conclusions and extension to other countries
- Seeking expertise through academia
- Presentation of the proposed Nature After Minerals European Project

Marine Aggregates Task Force



Members of the Marine Aggregates Task Force met on 9 September in Brussels and discussed:

- Natura 2000 at sea
- Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive – It was deemed important to stay informed at European level, but to contribute to the implementation work at national level.
- Marine spatial planning – EU policy
- Taxes and market-based instruments

Leo de Vrees, EC, DG Envi, Unit D2 - Marine Environment, participated in the meeting in order to discuss the Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Arnaud Colson, Chair of the Marine Aggregates Task Force since its creation in 2005, was pleased to hand over the chairmanship to Jeffrey Thompson (OAM Baustoffe GmbH, Germany).

Recycled Aggregates (EPRA) WG



Members of EPRA met on 13 September in Brussels and discussed:

- The possibility of the Innovation Union Partnership on Raw Materials (EIP) and other funding opportunities to bring know-how and best practice to less advanced countries
- Improving public relations and communication on recycling
- Agreeing End-of-Waste criteria

Antje Wittenberg, EC, DG Entr, Unit G3 - Metals, Minerals, Raw Materials, participated in the meeting in order to discuss the Innovation Union Partnership on Raw Materials.

Sustainable Transport WG



On 21 September, Members of the UEPG Transport WG discussed its draft Position Paper. A key message is to reduce the impact of transport by promoting sustainable mix of transport means (road, rail, shipping) and having local access to resources.

Future UEPG Task Forces & Working Groups meetings (all in Brussels)

- 29 Nov. 2012** EPRA meeting
- 2 Feb. 2012** Marine Aggregates Task Force meeting
- 15 Feb. 2012** PR & Communication Task Force meeting
- 16 Feb. 2012** Biodiversity Task Force meeting

NEEIP Meeting

On 29 September, UEPG and other members of the Non-Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP) discussed common issues such as the EU Raw Materials Strategy and the recent Communication on Resource Efficiency. Members of the Panel showed strong support for the next European Minerals Forum on 30 November 2011 in Brussels.



Debating common issues of interest
Members of the NEEIP in the EUROROC office.

NEEIP continues to be a very important platform for linking non-energy extractive industry issues across the several key sectors involved, and its common lobbying position had been very successful in the final European Parliament "Report on an effective raw materials strategy for Europe".

Next steps

15 November Next NEEIP meeting, UEPG office, Brussels

Steinexpo 2011

A total of 206 exhibitors representing approximately 330 brands demonstrated new machines and service concepts for the whole process starting from raw materials extraction to processing. The quarry Nieder-Ofleiden in Germany was an excellent venue for this purpose welcoming 39,100 visitors. Highlights were the real-life demonstrations and professional shows of exhibitors.

National and European support

The important German Aggregates Federation (MIRO) and UEPG supported the event. Thanks to their continued support, this steinexpo, just as the seven prior exhibitions, has become a huge success story.



Opening the steinexpo 2011, Germany
Jim O'Brien, President, giving the opening speech.

During the opening ceremony, UEPG President Jim O'Brien addressed participants in German, a speech which had been praised by colleagues.

President O'Brien outlined three topics which call for a strong European interest representation for the non-energy extractive industries. Firstly, he presented the EU Raw Materials Strategy to improve both access to resources and resource efficiency. This Strategy needs now to be transposed into national law and improved land use planning. The importance of non-energy raw materials and the need to ensure better access to deposits has been recognised in principle. Secondly, he mentioned the Natura 2000 Guidance which should help competent authorities in their decision-making process and serve companies as a guidance making the process more transparent. UEPG proves continually at the European Commission Business & Biodiversity Platform how cooperation with the industry can result in a successful environmental policy. The experience of companies operating on 24,000 extraction sites across Europe makes the aggregates sectors as the leading industry in contributing to biodiversity. Thirdly, Jim O'Brien explained UEPG's position on resource efficiency and assured that UEPG would decline any move beyond realistic sustainable development.



Steinexpo, an aerial view of part of exhibition

Optimism versus pessimism

Although the economic situation of the European Aggregates Industry in the current financial crisis remains fragile and recovery will take time, President Jim O'Brien gave some reason for optimism. The economic situation in Australia, New Zealand and Columbia are fundamentally different to the downturn in Europe and North America. According to O'Brien, the emerging economic powers in Asia, South America and soon in Africa would drive the world economy. In addition, initiatives for better resource efficiency, energy efficiency and recycling will trigger the demand for even more efficiently running ma-

chines operating in quarries. This heralds a great opportunity for German machinery producers, traditionally marketing worldwide, to further increase exports. Therefore, the importance of steinexpo and its exhibitors becomes very evident for the international market.

Jim O'Brien thanked for the invitation to steinexpo and for the support from MIRO for their contribution and well placed experts within the UEPG structure.

After the opening ceremony, Jim O'Brien visited the exhibition and shows. The 9th steinexpo will take place on 3-9 September 2014, again strongly supported by UEPG.

MIRO Environment Committee

Representatives from the regional associations covering all German Bundesländer discussed access to resources and German environmental legislation. With the new national resource efficiency roadmap 'ProgRess' Germany aims to become one of the most resource efficient countries in the world reducing its current aggregates production from 500 million down to 200 million tonnes. Much of the German roadmap has been included in the recently published EU Roadmap on Resource Efficiency.

Members of the MIRO Environment Committee confirmed the industry's commitment to biodiversity and cooperation with NGOs. MIRO will hold a high level environment conference on 14 December in Berlin, Germany.

SARMa Conference

The President, Jim O'Brien, attended the SARMa Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on September 20-21. The conference was the crowning point of the highly successful 2.5-year SARMa project. The project was focused on establishing Sustainable Aggregates Resource Management (SARM) and a Sustainable Supply Mix (SSM) in South-Eastern Europe (SEE).

The project was led by Mr Slavko Šolar of the Geological Survey of Slovenia, with participation from 14 partners from geological institutes, universities and government authorities from SEE. The project outputs were presented at the conference, which attracted over 80 participants from Italy, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia &

Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania, Greece, Turkey, UK, US and Ireland.



Open forum at the SARMa Conference, Ljubljana
President Jim O'Brien (with microphone) and participants.

The many excellent project outputs included best practice guides on sustainable quarrying, prevention of illegal quarrying, promotion of recycling, national aggregates planning policies and permitting procedures, as well as studies of cross-border aggregates markets in the region. All these outputs are being finalised by year-end 2011, many of which are already available on www.sarmaproject.eu. When completed, these will also be made available on the UEPG website.

It was agreed that this excellent work should now be implemented in practice in SEE through a follow-up project, to be headed by Prof Peter Moser and Dr Günter Tiess of the University of Leoben.

The President's address was warmly received, focused on the desirability of stronger future cooperation between UEPG and SARMa in working towards a truly sustainable aggregates industry in SEE. The President also used the occasion to make contacts with producers in the SEE region so that these all could become members of UEPG.

Martin Isles honoured by RoSPA

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has recognised Martin Isles' "outstanding contribution, over more than 35 years, to safe and healthy working in the quarrying and mineral products sector". Martin Isles, Director of Health and Safety for the MPA, was presented with a RoSPA Distinguished Service Award in front of 500 guests at a ceremony at the Hilton Glasgow on 22 September 2011. Only three such awards are presented each year, the other two going to Professor Colin Mackay, of the Health and Safety Executive, and Steve Sumner OBE, Director of Steve Sumner Associates Ltd.

In his current role at the MPA, and also as President of the Institute of Quarrying, RoSPA described Martin's role as being "at the leading edge of the sector's UK, European and inter-continental interests in health and safety".

Martin's citation focused on his co-signing of the first 'Hard Target' in 2000 with Bill Callaghan (later, Sir Bill), and the 83% reduction in reportable injuries that followed in the subsequent 10 years. Next was reference to Martin's key role in the creation, launch and extensive development of the leading website www.Safequarry.com - now recognised across Europe and beyond as the industry's primary focus for health and safety, hosting, among its many features, output from MPA's annual H&S awards scheme, which Martin has directed since 1996. The introduction of the novel 'Safer by Design' initiative in 2009, again with Martin's personal drive has since achieved global recognition. Reference was also made to Martin's current leading role with MPA's other "Safer by" initiatives.



Martin Isles honoured by RoSPA
From left: Tom Mullarkey, RoSPA Chief Executive; Martin Isles; Lord Brougham and Vaux, RoSPA Vice-President.

On receiving the award, Martin Isles said: "When one looks at the list of past Winners of this rare accolade, I am humbled to be in such exalted company. It has re-doubled my motivation to achieve even greater strides to the benefit of all who work at the sharp end in this fascinating yet challenging industry".

UEPG Meetings

- 6 Oct. Health & Safety Committee
- 6 Oct. Environment Committee
- 7 Oct. Technical Committee
- 7 Oct. Economic Committee
- 30 Nov. European Minerals Forum 2011
- 1 Dec. Board Meeting