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## EU Live Issues

### Explosives for civil use



On 4 February, Partners of the Explosives for civil uses Task Force, lead by UEPG, exchanged views on the latest developments for the whole supply chain before the first phase of the directive's implementation. The meeting also consisted on an update of the common action plan's recommendations and the preparation of a first draft guidance document for the whole supply chain. The next step will be to finalise the guidance document, inform members on the successful first phase implementation and to start preparing a second guidance document focused on users.

### Sectoral Social Dialogue

On 13 February, UEPG briefed Murad Wiśniewski, Policy Officer in the Social Dialogue Unit and Industrial Relations Unit of DG Employment on UEPG priorities and activities on Health & Safety.



On 22 February, the Working Group of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee of the Extractive Industry (SSDCEI) discussed the future of the Emission Trading System, EU-OSHA OIRA 'Autonomous Risk Assessment' Tool, Safer by Design, Explosives for civil uses and NEPSI. SSDCEI Partners will further exchange on the possibility to create an OIRA

tool for the Extractive Industries. The Partners welcomed the initiative and work done on Explosives for civil uses and wished to participate. They also agreed with the European Commission's proposal to use two hours of the next SSDCEI meeting on 19 April for a NEPSI meeting. This would save costs on the meeting room and interpretation.

### Non-Energy Extractive Industry

On 18 February, UEPG and other sector associations representing the non-energy extractive industries exchanged information on common key lives issues. This includes the Raw Materials Strategy and Innovation Union Partnership, the review of the Environment Impact Assessment Directive, Resource Efficiency, Taxation, the EU Policies on Water and Air Quality. On behalf of the European Minerals Foundation, UEPG presented the upcoming Parliamentary Debate on 24 April which focuses exclusively on the EIA review. NEEIP colleagues offered strong support for the event.

### Next steps

NEEIP will aim for a common position on the Environmental Impact Assessment and on taxation to strengthen the voice of the industries.

### Environment Impact Assessment



On 26 February, Arnaud Colson, UEPG President, met with Sandrine Bélier MEP (Greens, France). Sandrine Bélier will have a key role as Shadow Rapporteur on the revision of the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) Directive. This meeting was an opportunity to

present the European Aggregates Industry in its diversity, with its strength (especially its achievements on biodiversity) and its economic challenges but also with regards to reaching a level playing field.

When discussing the revision of the EIA Directive, particular items mentioned were the obligation to use accredited experts and the idea of a “one-stop shop”. UEPG will keep liaising with Sandrine Bélier MEP and likewise will be in contact with the Rapporteur and other Shadow Rapporteurs of the Directive. The organisation of a Parliamentary Debate on 24 April, organised with the European Minerals Foundation, on the topic “Smarter Regulation and Environmental Impact Assessments”, will be a major part of UEPG’s lobbying campaign in that respect.

## Sustainable Aggregates Planning



The second SNAP-SEE meeting was held in Budapest on 13-15 February, attended by Past-President Jim O'Brien on behalf of UEPG, with almost 50 attendees from 11 south-eastern European (SEE) countries present. The focus of the meeting was training for the stakeholder consultation meetings that are to be set up in each member country in the course of this year, the purpose of which is to develop roadmaps for an Aggregates Plan in each country or region. Extensive use will be made of the good experiences of such Plans already developed in several UEPG member countries. This work is leading to a much better understanding of the key role of the aggregates industry to the economic development of the SEE region, and will hopefully also lead to new UEPG members in that region. Preparations are already underway for the third SNAP-SEE meeting in Montenegro in May, as the project work schedule intensifies. More details may be seen on [www.snapsee.eu](http://www.snapsee.eu).

## UEPG News

### UEPG Task Forces and WGs

Focusing on specific policy areas, Task Force and Working Groups develop positions and strategies where detailed progress is needed.

### PR & Communication Task Force

On 5 February, Members of the Task Force discussed the new Communication Strategy, exchanged good practice, PR tools and presented upcoming events. Excellent projects were presented by Austria (FSKI), France (UNPG), UK (MPA), Spain (FdA), HeidelbergCement and Lafarge. A presentation was made by Tipik, Media consultant working mainly with EU Institutions on *EU Institutions' Relation and Communication*.

Ideas on the role and function of the PR & COM Task Force were proposed, and will be presented to UEPG Board for approval.

Participants also focused on the LIFE+ call 2013, EU-OSHA tools and the upcoming UEPG Sustainable Development Awards 2013.

### Biodiversity Task Force

On 6 February, members of the Biodiversity Task Force met in Brussels to address the following key issues:

- Cooperation with IUCN
- Development of Biodiversity Indicators suitable for SMEs: the methodology developed is based on habitats
- The European Commission’s No Net Loss Initiative

### Next steps

**17 Sept. 2013** Biodiversity Task Force meeting, Brussels

### Water Management Task Force

On 6 February, members of the Water Management Task Force met in Brussels to address the following key issues:

- Impacts of the EU water policy on the European Aggregates Industry, especially the Blueprint;
- Review of UEPG documents (guidance and position) in order to have a stronger message underlining the positive contribution of the industry;
- Indicators for water

### Next steps

**17 Sept. 2013** Water Management Task Force meeting, Brussels

### Marine Aggregates Task Force

On 7 February, Jeffrey Thompson, Chair of the UEPG Marine Aggregates Task Force led the discussion on the upcoming Maritime Spatial Planning Framework Directive to be published in March 2013.

As part of the initiative to identify common areas of interest with other sea bed users, Jeffrey Thompson invited a guest speaker from the European Wind Energy Association to present their fast growing offshore activities.

The Chair reported about several meetings with stakeholders, including the German Permanent Representation, the European Dredging Association and International Association of Oil and Gas Producers.

### Next steps

**9 Sept. 2013** Marine Aggregates Task Force meeting, Brussels

### RDS Working Group

On 22 February, Jean-Marc Vanbelle, Chair of the UEPG Technical Committee proposed a reference leaching test for aggregates for use as Armourstones, Railway Ballast or unbound and Hydraulically Bound Materials. This approach will be discussed at the UEPG Technical Committee meeting on 8 March in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

As the WG has successfully developed an Environment Product Declaration (EPD) for aggregates, the future work will focus on Regulated Dangerous Substances (RDS) only.

### UNPG Environment Committee

On 25 February, UNPG (the French Aggregates Association) hold its Environment Committee in Paris. Sandrine Devos, Secretary of the UEPG Environment Committee, was invited to present the EU developments, the UEPG related activities while Fediex (the Belgian Aggregates Association) presented the Belgian perspective. Items discussed included Life Cycle Analysis, Air quality, Water management, Biodiversity, and Environmental Impact Assessments.

### Fediex Environment Committee

On 30 January, Fediex (the Belgian Aggregates Association) organised an information day for its members on Natura 2000. Representatives from the competent authorities and Fediex’s members exchanged on the implementation progress made in Belgium, its impact on the sector and the challenges ahead.

This event was organised in the framework of Fediex’s Charter on Biodiversity, signed with the Walloon Region authorities.