



## EU Live Issues

### Access to resources

EU Member States exchange good practice on permitting process in Commission

### Respirable Crystalline Silica

UEPG prepares report to Council of the Negotiation Platform on Silica

### Biodiversity

United Nations Conference, Countdown 2010 Partners' Assembly and World Conservation Union (IUCN) event

## UEPG News

### Forum Rohstoffe in Salzburg

UEPG presents live issues

### UNICEM Committee for Environment

UEPG briefs French colleagues on environmental activities at EU level

## EU Live Issues

### Access to resources

On 6 May, representatives of EU Member States exchanged good practice of permitting processes in their countries. They used the European Commission Working Group Sustainability of Extractive Industry Enterprises as a forum for the debate on the proposed Communication on Raw Materials.



### Increased productivity in the Czech Republic

Pavel Kavina from the Ministry of Industry and Trade outlining the raw materials policy of the Czech Republic.

Examples from the Czech Republic, Sweden and comments from industry representatives and an entrepreneur active in Canada enriched the discussion.

### Implementation of the Communication

Chaired by UEPG Secretary General Antony Fell, the Commission's Sustainability Working Group addressed pro-actively questions of the implementation of the Communication which is expected to be adopted by the end of 2008. The question of how to implement the Communication and who are the stakeholders in charge will be addressed by the next Working Group meeting on 25 June in the Commission headquarters, the Berlaymont. The role of the moderator for the domestic pillar will be undertaken by Simon van der Byl, Director General

of the Quarry Products Association in the United Kingdom.



**A simple but effective permitting process in Sweden**  
Ann-Christin Cederlund from the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications.

### Natura 2000 guidance paper

Invited to the Working Group, Fotios Papoulias from the Nature & Biodiversity Unit in DG Environment reported about the objectives of and the progress on the Natura 2000 guidance paper which intends to facilitate the extraction of non-energy minerals in or close by to Natura 2000 areas.

### Next steps

25 June

Sustainability  
Group meeting

Working

## Respirable Crystalline Silica

UEPG is currently preparing the first quantitative report on Respirable Crystalline Silica to the NePSi Council. Representing workers of all signatory parties, UEPG members have invested much energy and time to ensure a good coverage using the online reporting system.

It seems that the online reporting system favoured bigger companies having more staff available to fill in the Internet based form. Nonetheless, national associations have offered smaller companies to fill in completed paper questionnaires on their behalf.

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UEPG has covered more than 30,000 direct employees which represent about 48% of its work force leaving out indirect employees, transport companies and member countries which did not participate for specific reasons. However, referring to the UEPG total employment figure quoted in the Social Dialogue Agreement this figure covers only 12%.

NePSi will be reporting a multi-sectoral employee total well in excess of 400,000 workers, collating all European sector reports and discussing the results at the next Council meeting before submitting the final report to the European Commission.

**Next steps**  
**17 June** NePSi Council meeting

## Biodiversity

Committed to biodiversity and its partnership with IUCN/Countdown 2010, UEPG attended several key events in the United Nations city Bonn, Germany.

### Conference of Parties (COP9)

Antony Fell addressed the representatives of United Nations Member States at the 9th meeting of the Conference of Parties drawing their attention to the European Aggregates Industry's cooperation with IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). The meeting on the 20 May dealt with the cooperation of international initiatives and business, including biodiversity case studies and biodiversity guidelines from industry sectors.

### Countdown 2010 Partners' Assembly

On 22 May, UEPG presented its activities and achievements on biodiversity since signing the Countdown 2010 declaration on 2 May 2007. At the Partners' Assembly Ladislav Miko, Director Natural Protection and Anne Teller from Nature & Biodiversity, DG Environment, European Commission underlined the importance to halting the loss of biodiversity.

A very interesting development is the project of Pavan Sukhdev, Study Leader of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Loss (TEEBL) and Managing Director & Head of Deutsche Bank's Global Markets Business in

India to present a report on the economic value of ecosystem services.



**Underlining the importance of biodiversity**  
 Ladislav Miko, Director Natural Protection, DG Environment at the Countdown 2010 Partners' Assembly in Bonn, Germany.

The report intends to figure out for policy makers and authorities the economic costs of biodiversity loss and plans to reverse the discussion on biodiversity efforts from costs to benefits.



**Assessing the economic value of eco-system services**  
 From right: Pavan Sukhdev, Study Leader of TEEBL, Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General of IUCN and Tamás Marghescu, IUCN Regional Director for Europe.

### IUCN High level Side Event

Simon van der Byl, Director General of the British Quarry Products Association (QPA), has been invited by IUCN to highlight the industry's contribution to biodiversity and the partnership with Countdown 2010. The Roundtable with CEOs of business and non-governmental organisations dealing with the growing alliance of business and biodiversity commitments is an official side event of the United Nations conference and took place on 26 May in Bonn, Germany. Among the key guest speaker were Robert Lamb, Chair of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (provided by UNEP and the Council of Europe),

Ben Delbaere, Deputy Director of the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) and Henk Simons, Head of Ecology and Economy of IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands.

## UEPG News

### Forum Rohstoffe in Salzburg

On 7 May, UEPG presented its core activities to the Austrian colleagues. The General Assembly and the annual conference on national issues impacting on the industry organised by Forum Rohstoffe discussed the implementation of the Mining Waste Directive and a new study on the safety of quarry walls.



**How to operate with safe quarry walls?**  
 Bernd Kolenbrat, Austrian Ministry for Economy at the conference of Forum Rohstoffe.

### UNICEM Environment Committee

On 20 May, Dirk Fincke and Julian Gonthier from the UEPG General Secretariat presented activities of UEPG to members of the UNICEM Environment Committee.



**French involvement in UEPG**  
 From left: Nicolas Vuilliers, Chairman of the UNICEM Environment Committee, Yves Adam, UNPG Environment Officer and Julian Gonthier, Public Affairs Officer.

The presentation also included the live issues of the UEPG Environment Committee. The meeting was a good opportunity for the UEPG General Secretariat to be briefed on environmental issues in France.