



EU Live issues

European Minerals Forum 2008

Günter Verheugen presents new Communication on Raw Materials Supply

REACH and Recycled Aggregates

UEPG successful advocacy campaign

Natura 2000 Guidance Paper

UEPG ensures strong representation at 4th experts meeting in European Commission

UEPG News

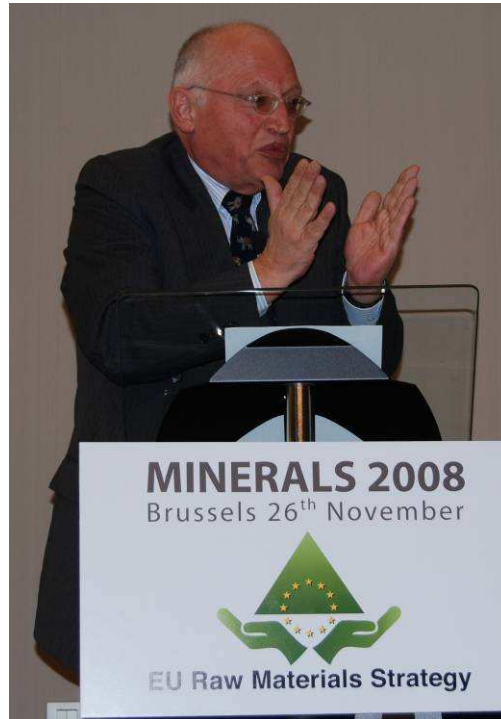
UEPG meetings in 2009

EU Live Issues

European Minerals Forum 2008

More than 130 senior executives of the European non-energy extractive industries and European Commission representatives attended the European Minerals Forum 2008.

Vice-President Günter Verheugen presented the European Commission's Raw Materials Initiative. He assured delegates that he would support the European Non-Energy Extractive Industry in improving sustainable access to resources.



Supporting the Non-Energy Extractive Industry
European Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen presenting the Raw Materials Initiative.

DG Environment and Hans Pietersen, DG Enterprise and Industry addressed topical issues.



MINERALS 2008
Brussels 26th November

Highlighting the industry's commitment

Cedric Hollinsworth, International Operations Director in Tarmac, addressed participants as the industry key note speaker.

This year's Break-out sessions tackled key issues in the Raw Materials Initiative:

- Access to Land and Better Regulation
- Security of International Supply
- Establishing an Adequate EU Knowledge Base on Raw Materials
- Increasing Public Awareness



More than 130 senior executives
Access to raw materials is the main concern of the European Non-Energy Extractive Industry.

EU Insight is edited by the UEPG General Secretariat as part of its communication service to UEPG Members.

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Other key speakers including Cedric Hollinsworth, International Operations Director in Tarmac, Stefan Leiner,

All presentations and Rapporteur Reports will be available from 8 December on the website of the European Minerals Foundation:

www.europeanmineralsfoundation.org.

Next steps

25 November 2009 European Minerals Forum 2009

REACH and Recycled Aggregates

On 26 November, Graham Willmott, Head of REACH Policy in the European Commission's DG Enterprise and Industry informed Board Members and guests that UEPG had been successful in convincing the European Commission that Recycled Aggregates are articles.



Pushing the way forward on REACH

UEPG President Denis Mertens discussing with Graham Willmott, DG Enterprise and Industry the consequences REACH might have on the European Aggregates Industry and recycling.

The European Commission has been handed over to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) an informal paper for incorporation into future updates of the relevant guidance documents.



Next steps

The current version of the document contains the views of the Commission services only and cannot be regarded as the official position of the Commission. UEPG contacted the European Chemicals Agency for the final paper and will circulate it to

UEPG members once it has been received.

Natura 2000 Guidance Paper

For the 4th experts meeting on 24 November, UEPG was strongly represented ensuring that the comments and proposals for amendments to the draft Guidance Paper were accepted.



Extraction of non-energy minerals in Natura 2000

Stefan Leiner, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Environment assured industry that extraction of non-energy minerals is not forbidden in Natura 2000 areas.

Jeffrey Thompson and Ingo Hammwöhner from the OAM-Deme Mineralien GmbH (Germany) active on Marine Aggregates extraction and César Luaces Frades, General Director of the Spanish Aggregates Federation (FdA) briefed the European Commission on the latest extraction methods on land and at sea and delivered good examples from the industry.

Background

The Nature Directives do not create an absolute exclusion from Natura 2000 sites to activities such as mineral extraction. Adequate interpretation and implementation of the Natura 2000 provisions is

essential to reduce uncertainty and avoid any deterrent effect on the industry where it might be a result of misinterpretation of the Nature Directives.

In order to clarify these provisions the Guidance Paper should provide a better understanding on the application of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive to the development of non-energy extractive activities as well as for improved dialogue between the industry and other stakeholder groups.

Next steps

The final draft version will be circulated mid December to stakeholders and EU Member States for further comments to be discussed at the last meeting in February. The date and venue will be communicated in due course.

UEPG News

UEPG meetings in 2009

- 16-17 March 2009** Committee Meetings, Istanbul, Turkey
- 14 April 2009** European Minerals Forum Dinner Debate, European Parliament, Brussels
- 15 April 2009** Board Meeting, Brussels
- May 2009** International Biodiversity Colloquium, Paris
- 15-17 May 2009** European Minerals Day
- 17-19 May 2009** Delegates Assembly, Oslo, Norway
- 29-30 October 2009** Committee Meetings, Brussels
- 25 November 2009** European Minerals Forum, Brussels
- 25 November 2009** Board Policy Dinner, Brussels
- 26 November 2009** Board Meeting, Brussels
- May 2010** UEPG Sustainable Development Awards Ceremony, Brussels