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UEPG wishes all members a happy Christmas and a successful New Year despite all the challenges we will face

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EU Live Issues

UEPG 2008 review

UEPG is a pro-active European Trade Association, which aims to alert members at the earliest stage to future developments. It is nevertheless appropriate at the end of the year to take a look back at the past year's achievements under the leadership of our President Denis Mertens:

Accessibility to Raw Materials



UEPG members campaigned successfully as a Europe-wide team towards the publication of the recently adopted European Commission Communication on Raw Materials. This was launched after a series of meetings with EC Vice President Günter Verheugen. This recognised the strategic importance to the European Union of accessibility to raw materials.

Soil Protection



UEPG achieved, together with other stakeholders, a blocking minority in the Council delaying the Soil Protection Framework Directive.

Respirable Crystalline Silica



UEPG demonstrated the effectiveness of the Social Dialogue Agreement amongst its member companies and the willingness of Social Partners to improve health conditions at work.

Sustainable Development Indicators



All 22 UEPG members committed themselves to provide the UEPG General Secretariat with data on economic development, social progress and environmental performance. This is a major step forward towards demonstrating sustainable development and has been welcomed by the European Commission.

REACH Recycled Aggregates



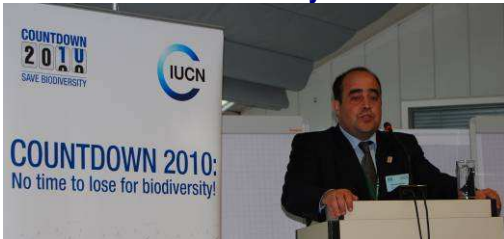
UEPG successfully convinced the European Commission that Recycled Aggregates are articles under REACH and do not need pre-registration. This was confirmed at the Board Policy Dinner with DG Environment.

European Agency for Safety and Health



UEPG strengthened its cooperation with the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work based in Bilbao, Spain.

Contribution to Biodiversity



UEPG developed a UEPG-IUCN (World Conservation Union) Programme reinforcing cooperation with the Countdown 2010 campaign. The aim of this is to halt the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and continue to be a leading industrial sector contributing to biodiversity.

Recycled Aggregates



UEPG and the International Federation for Recycling (FIR) launched the European Platform for Recycled Aggregates (EPRA). This has already attracted other stakeholders to cooperate.

Natura 2000 Guidance Paper



UEPG made a major contribution to the Guidance Paper facilitating access to resources in Natura 2000 areas underlining the industry's responsible way of operating and its contribution to biodiversity.

Atlantic Alliance – Safety of mobile plants

President Denis Mertens led a strong UEPG delegation to the Atlantic Alliance conference in the United States. This urged equipment manufacturers to develop further mobile plant which is inherently safe by design.

Spreading news in five languages

Besides EU Insight (in English), Bericht aus Brüssel (in German) and Bulletin Europe (in French), UEPG launched the monthly newsletter UEPG Actualidad (in Spanish) and Dall'Europa (in Italian) translated by our Spanish and Italian colleagues.

UEPG 2009 forecast

The main challenges in 2009 will include:

Finalising Natura 2000 Guidance Paper

UEPG will continue its successful advocacy strategy and will be represented at the final expert meeting at the beginning of 2009.

Promoting Social Dialogue

UEPG and other NePSi Partners will need to demonstrate further the success of the Social Dialogue Agreement on Respirable Crystalline Silica against certain critics in the European Parliament.

Economic Value of Ecosystems

A new study from the European Commission led by Pavan Sukhdev, Deutsche Bank aims to evaluate the costs of the loss of biodiversity and to compare it with the cost of effective conservation.

This should sharpen awareness of the value of biodiversity and facilitate the development of cost-effective policy responses.

UEPG will continue to demonstrate to both policy makers and legislators that the European Aggregates Industry makes a positive contribution to ecosystems.

Register of Interest Representatives

In 2008, the European Commission launched the one year "pilot phase" of the Register of Interest Representatives.

The register is voluntary and the Commission invited Lobbying Organisations to publish contact details, objectives of the association, fields of interest, and approximate financial data.

UEPG, which is represented on the Board of the Society of European Affairs Professionals, will register in early 2009 as part of its transparency policy to the European Commission.

UEPG News

Season's Greetings



The UEPG General Secretariat Team would like to thank UEPG Members for their excellent support in 2008 and above all for their important contribution to representing successfully our industry's interests to the European Commission and the European Parliament.

The small Brussels-based Team wishes you all a happy Christmas and a successful New Year despite the challenges we will all face.

The UEPG Office will be closed from 25 December 2008 and will re-open on 5 January 2009.