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EU Live Issues

Raw Materials Initiative

UEPG briefed Paul Anciaux from DG Enterprise & Industry on the proposed action points in the Communication on the Raw Materials Initiative. The UEPG comments were:

- develop action points to improve access to European resources
- list of critical raw materials could disadvantage aggregates
- foster cooperation with European Commission on extraction in or near Natura 2000 areas
- exchange good practice on Minerals Planning
- deregulate environmental constraints to increase recycling

UEPG will raise these points with Member State Representatives on the next Commission Raw Materials Supply Group meeting. UEPG and other NEEIP members called for stronger and competent participation of EU Member States if Minerals Planning is to be improved.



Leading UEPG in NEEIP meeting

César Luaces Frades, Director General of the Spanish Aggregates Federation (FdA) in NEEIP meeting.

The Raw Materials Initiative is one of the most important achievements for our industry if followed-up and implemented appropriately. The UEPG General Secretariat calls on UEPG members to provide further comments on the proposed action points by Friday 13 February 2009.

European Minerals Forum Dinner Debate

Following the success of last year, there will be a European Minerals Forum Dinner Debate in the European Parliament on 14 April. The objective is to raise political awareness of the Communication and to stimulate debate among Members of Parliament with industry and the Commission.

Next steps

13 February

Deadline for comments by UEPG members

18 February

Raw Materials Supply Group meeting, Brussels

14 April

European Minerals Forum Dinner Debate, European Parliament, Brussels

Soil Protection

After the blocking minority in the Council delaying the Soil Protection Framework Directive in December 2007, the Czech Presidency proposes a new text. Similar to the previous versions the text contains a list of soil contaminating activities including mining installations.

The Soil Protection Framework Directive will also be discussed at the next Raw Materials Supply Group meeting on 18 February.

Next steps

18 February

Raw Materials Supply Group discussing Soil Protection

June

Vote in Council

Safer by Design

The UK's Quarry Products Association (QPA) has been successful in securing £55,000 (€61,100) of Government funding from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, for a project entitled: "Safer by Design". The aim of this project is to achieve a significant improvement in safe & efficient minerals operations by the development of a Code of Best Practice for purchasers and users of mobile plant. With a wide range of organisations supporting this Project, it is intended that the resulting **voluntary** Code

will also be of benefit to the manufacturers of mobile plant.



QPA is leading on Safer by Design project

From left: Phil Bust from the Loughborough University (UK), Michael Behm from the East Carolina University (USA) and Martin Isles, from QPA (UK).

The development of this Industry-guiding Code will allow aggregate and other mineral producing sites the ability to plan for improved operational health and safety performance by contributing to the social pillar of sustainable development. – the outcome of this project will be a series of recommendations, categorised according to type & size of mobile plant.

Dirk Fincke, as Secretary of the UEPG Health & Safety Committee, has already been involved in the first Project meeting, chaired by Martin Isles. QPA's firm intention is to maintain the valued linkage with UEPG and, similarly with our Atlantic Alliance partners.

Next steps

13 February Atlantic Alliance Preparation meeting, UEPG office

European Minerals Day 2009

Between 15-17 May 2009, UEPG and other minerals producing industries all over Europe are organising various public events. People from neighbouring communities, students, school children, as well as government officials and the media can find out more about how important and beneficial mineral raw materials are to our every day lives as well as experience how they are extracted and processed.



Tailored events will demonstrate the European Non-Energy Raw Materials Industry's central role and contribution to Europe's sustainable development by focusing on the industry's social and environmental performance. This central

message of the European Minerals Day 2009 is the protection of and contribution to biodiversity.

UEPG invites its members to encourage companies to organise a public event and link it to the European Minerals Day 2009. More information can be obtained from the UEPG General Secretariat in Brussels.

UEPG News

Biodiversity Database

As recommended by the UEPG Biodiversity Task Force and agreed by the UEPG Environment Committee, the General Secretariat is now launching the Biodiversity Database on www.uepg.eu – Public Section. The database presents to a wide audience good examples of the industry's contribution to halting the loss of biodiversity.



UEPG invites its members to send further case studies in English clearly outlining objective, context, solution and result naming the habitat or species discovered in the area.

The database is updated quarterly and will be reviewed for the UEPG Sustainable Development Awards Ceremony in 2010.

UEPG team back to its original strength

We are pleased to report that the UEPG team is now back to its original strength with a keen and dynamic team.



Focusing on Environmental issues

Arnaud Colson, Chairman of the UEPG Environment Committee and Sandrine Devos, Public Affairs Officer in the UEPG General Secretariat.

Sandrine Devos has joined us as Public Affairs Officer. She studied political sciences, European affairs and lobbying in different places across Europe: in Paris, London and Göteborg.

Her work experience gave her the opportunity to work in Dublin for 2 years as an Executive Assistant. She then worked in Financial Communications and finally in the Representation Office of an overseas French territory, which gave her the opportunity to get involved in environmental issues.

She enjoys travelling, synchronized swimming and learning Swedish.

Miette Dechelle is the new European Public Affairs Assistant. She studied at the University of Perpignan in France; then, she obtained a Master degree at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, followed by an advanced diploma in European law, economics and politics in three languages at the European College of Parma in Italy.



Supporting the Association management

Miette Dechelle, Public Affairs Assistant in the UEPG General Secretariat during the last NEEIP meeting.

Her earliest experience in the European sector was at a European Union Communications Centre to advise on EU activities and policies at the Emilia Romagna Regional Council in Bologna, Italy. Subsequently, she worked in the European Parliament, both in Strasbourg and Brussels. Her last position was as Assistant Coordinator of a transnational LIFE+ Biodiversity project for the Natural Regional Park of the Catalan Pyrenees.

In her free time she is keen on music, dance and acrobatics.

These staff changes do not involve an increase in the overall UEPG budget but will reinforce the pro-active capacity of the Brussels based team.