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UEPG and FIR invite representatives of the Ready-Mix Concrete and Asphalt sector to discuss recycling

UEPG Committee meetings

UEPG General Secretariat prepares Committee meetings

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European Aggregates Association
UEPG aisbl
Rue d'Arlon 21 – B-1050 Brussels
Tel: +32 22 33 53 00 – Fax: +32 22 33 53 01
E-Mail: secretariat@uepg.eu
Internet: www.uepg.eu

EU Live Issues

Biodiversity Action Plan

On 11 February, UEPG President Denis Mertens highlighted the European Aggregates Industry's contribution to biodiversity at a Round-Table discussion during the high-level conference on the EU Biodiversity Action Plan. The event took place in the European Parliament in Brussels addressing the biodiversity 2010 target and the Biodiversity Action Plan review, focussing on defining future targets and the post 2010 vision.



The way forward – Biodiversity targets beyond 2010

Commissioner for Environment Stavros Dimas (centre) with Anders Wijkman MEP (left) and Struan Stevenson MEP, Chair of the Intergroup of Sustainable Development in the European Parliament.

The Round-Table discussion was moderated by Sebastian Winkler, Head of the Countdown 2010 Secretariat. Other main actors on the EU biodiversity policy were: European Commissioner for the Environment Stavros Dimas; Ladislav Miko, Director at DG Environment; Pavan Sukhdev who is leading the study on Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity.



Putting a price on Ecosystems

Study leader Pavan Sukhdev (right) from the Deutsche Bank calling for a change of business models.

President Mertens answered a wide range of questions from participants being the only industry representative. He took this opportunity to invite NGOs to work in partnership with the Aggregates Industry to achieve win-win solutions for biodiversity issues and received numerous positive responses. This illustrates that the European Aggregates Industry is now fully recognised as a trusted partner on biodiversity.

Next steps

14 April

Minerals Forum Dinner Debate on Biodiversity, European Parliament, Brussels

27-28 April

European Commission Biodiversity Conference, Athens, Greece

Raw Materials Initiative

On 18 February, César Luaces Frades, Managing Director of the Spanish Aggregates Federation and the UEPG General Secretariat represented the European Aggregates Industry at the Commission's Raw Materials Supply Expert Group meeting. The new Director in DG Enterprise & Industry Gwenole Cozigou chaired the meeting addressing the follow-up and implementation mechanism of the Raw Materials Initiative.



Discussing Raw Materials Supply at highest level

Members of the Commission Raw Materials Supply Group in the Berlaymont building in Brussels.

NEEIP members are currently discussing various options how to overcome the challenge of a European list of critical raw materials. It is expected that critical raw materials could be treated with priority which could counteract against the previous objective of the Communication to facilitate access to resources.



Leading the UEPG delegation

César Luaces Frades, Managing Director of FdA and Member of the Raw Materials Supply Group.

Several representatives of EU Member States were actively participating underlining not to interfere into their competence but ready to discuss ways to improve the accessibility to raw materials.

Next steps

4 March Deadline to comment on draft UEPG Position Paper on the Raw Materials Initiative

EU Environmental Policy

On 25 February, UEPG briefed European Commission representatives in charge of the Mining Waste Directive, the Revised Waste Framework Directive and the draft Soil Protection Framework Directive on the industry's concerns and informed them about issues which are addressed by more than one piece European legislation.



Aiming for a trusted partnership with UEPG

Michel Sponar and Karolina Frás from DG Environment inviting UEPG for further stakeholder consultation and workshops.

Jean-Marc Vanbelle, Chair of the UEPG Technical Committee and César Luaces Frades, Managing Director of the Spanish Aggregates Federation (FdA) accompanied by the UEPG General Secretariat discussed the key issues and any overlapping areas with Michel Sponar (Mining Waste Directive), Andreas Versmann (Waste Framework Directive), Karolina Frás (Waste Framework Directive) and Luca Marmo (Soil Protection).

The Mining Waste Directive and several of its Annexes have been adopted leaving no room for amendments. However, the Commission admitted

that further clarification is needed which will be considered in other Directives and stakeholder workshops.



Providing expertise to the Commission

Jean-Marc Vanbelle (left), Chair of the UEPG Technical Committee and César Luaces Frades, Managing Director of the Spanish Aggregates Federation (FdA).

The Commission welcomed UEPG's initiative to address three Directives at the same time and invited UEPG to further stakeholder meetings.

European Minerals Day 2009

UEPG and its members will play an important part in the European Minerals Day 2009 in partnership with other European Associations. The opening of the European Minerals Day event will start in Brussels at a Media Launch event Breakfast on 13 May, followed by a full day event on 14 May in a quarry in Prague, Czech Republic. Representatives from the Czech government and EU Institutions as well as the Industry and NGO's are attending the launch event.

For both events, UEPG President Denis Mertens will participate. UEPG members such as Austria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Spain and our colleagues from Hungary will contribute to the European Minerals Day.

UEPG News

Dinner Debate in Parliament



Inviting industry to debate with the Parliament

Paul Rübige MEP (EPP-ED, Austria) addressing participants of the last Minerals Forum Dinner Debate.

Paul Rübige MEP (EPP-ED, Austria) is hosting representatives from industry, European Commission and NGOs as well as other MEPs to assess the

extractive industry's contribution to the EC Biodiversity Action Plan.

Sebastian Winkler, Head of Countdown 2010 and DG Environment will present their expectations to industry and the outline the way forward beyond 2010.

UEPG invites its members to demonstrate and discuss the positive contribution of the European Aggregates Industry to biodiversity. The Dinner Debate in the European Parliament responds to the Biodiversity Action Plan Conference on 11 February.

Next steps

14 April

Minerals Forum Dinner Debate, European Parliament, Brussels

EPRA gets stronger

Jean-Marc Vanbelle, Chair of the UEPG Technical Committee chaired the third meeting of the European Platform for Recycled Aggregates (EPRA) on 25 February in the UEPG office.



Driving the agenda on recycling

Jean-Marc Vanbelle (fourth from left), Chair of the UEPG Technical Committee chairing the EPRA meeting.

John Gibbs from the European Ready-Mix Concrete Organisation (ERMCO) and Egbert Beving from the European Asphalt Pavement Association (EAPA) were invited and contributed to the exchange of information on policy issues impacting on recycling.

Main issues were REACH and Recycled Aggregates, the recently published study on the end-of-waste criteria, the Construction Products Regulation, the lead Markets Initiative and the coordination of activities within EPRA.

Next steps

13 May

EPRA meeting, Brussels

UEPG Committee meetings

On 16-17 March, UEPG members will address all current live issues and next steps for our sector. The Committee meetings will take place in Istanbul. Please register your participation by 2 March 2009.

More information is available on the UEPG website www.uepg.eu and from the General Secretariat in Brussels.