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

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## EU Live Issues

### Access to resources

On 25 June, representatives from EU Member States, from the European Economic and Social Committee and from the Minerals Industry discussed the way forward on the Communication on Raw Materials expected to be adopted by the end of October 2008.



**Better access to resources could result in higher resource efficiency**  
Simon van der Byl, Director General of QPA.

This time the Working Group meeting included three panel discussions each with its own Chairman covering the five pillars of the future Communication. Simon van der Byl, Director General of the Quarry Products Association (QPA) chaired the panel on domestic resources and resources efficiency.



**Triggering discussion on the Communication**  
Hans Pietersen from DG Enterprise & Industry asking for further comments and input.

He drew the attention of stakeholders also on the need to reduce the Carbon footprint by

reducing transport distances including efficient minerals planning. He stated that resource efficiency implies the need to face the dilemma that a reduced use of aggregates means a thinner structure of buildings with a negative impact on their energy performance while bulk material structures require a higher use of aggregates.

Abrão Carvalho, Head of Unit from DG Enterprise, asked participants for precise examples from the industry or authorities, which could be used for the final drafting process of the Communication.

### Natura 2000 guidance paper

On 13 June, UEPG provided Fotios Papoulias from DG Environment and Concha Olmeda from the Consultancy Group ATECMA with further information on the European Aggregates Industry's problems relating to Natura 2000. In some EU Member States, Natura 2000 areas are considered by national and local authorities as 'no-go-areas' for the extraction industry.



**Inviting UEPG to provide information on Marine Aggregates extraction**  
Fotios Papoulias from the Nature & Biodiversity Unit, DG Environment.

Patrick Murphy, Head of Unit, underlined once more the view of the European Commission, that economic activities in Natura 2000 areas

can be compatible with the environmental factors.

The Second expert group meeting in DG Environment discussed the first draft of the guidance paper. Invited to the expert group, Ken Hobden, Director of Planning in QPA, reported on his experience with regional and national authorities as regards Natura 2000.

### Background

The Natura 2000 guidance paper intends to provide recommendations and case studies for competent authorities and industry on how to properly interpret articles 6.3 and 6.4 of the Habitats Directive. The paper will serve exclusively for the non-energy extractive industries and will include a separate chapter on extraction at sea. The European Commission specified that Natura 2000 designation issues are not to be addressed by the guidance paper.

### Next steps

**17 September** Third expert group meeting in DG Environment

### Green Week

From 3-6 June, Arnaud Colson, Chairman of the UEPG Environment Committee, accompanied by the UEPG General Secretariat, took part in the Green Week. It is the biggest annual conference of the European Commission and devoted to European environment policy. Under the slogan "Only One Earth – Don't waste it!" Green Week 2008 focused on the need for Europe and the rest of the world to make its use of resources more sustainable.



#### Business and Biodiversity is living reality

From left: Arnaud Colson, Chairman of the UEPG Environment Committee, Dirk Fincke, Public Affairs Manager and Micheál O'Brian, DG Environment at the Green Week.

Under the overarching theme of sustainable use of resources, the event was structured around four sessions: resources and waste management, sustainable consumption and production, nature and biodiversity and climate change. It brought together some 3,000 representatives from different levels of government, international institutions, business, NGOs and the scientific and academic communities.

### Sustainable Development

Following the agreement by the Delegates Assembly, UEPG circulated the new and simplified questionnaire to member associations.

The data collection form covers the three pillars of sustainable development: Economy, Social Progress and Environment. To facilitate the data collection for sustainable development indicators, national associations are no longer asked to contact all their member companies, but a sample of 10 big, 10 medium and 10 small sized companies.

The results will be presented to the European Commission and used for UEPG publications. It will also serve for a CD-Rom on Measuring Sustainable Development in the European Aggregates Industry, which will be produced by the end of the year.

The UEPG General Secretariat will answer any questions of definition to ensure a common understanding.

### Next steps

**18 July** Deadline for reporting back to UEPG General Secretariat

## UEPG News

### Delegates Assembly 2008 in Barcelona

On 28 May, Pasqual Roca y Riera, President of FdA welcomed UEPG Delegates in Barcelona for an important two day event including the Entrepreneurs' Forum and the Assembly of UEPG Delegates.

### Entrepreneurs' Forum

FdA and UEPG organised the Entrepreneurs' Forum 2008 under the global topic

"Sustainable Development and Business – The scenario of the raw materials supply". Guest speakers included representatives from industry, the Catalan regional government and Universities.



#### Recognising the environmental achievements of the European Aggregates Industry

Concha Olmeda, from the Consultancy ATECMA.

Concha Olmeda, from the Consultancy group ATECMA, working on the Natura 2000 guidance paper with the European Commission acknowledged the environmental achievements of the European Aggregates Industry, in particular with reference to biodiversity.



#### The security of minerals supply in Spain

Cesar Luaces Frades, General Director of FdA, presented the key figures and challenges for the Spanish Aggregates industry.

César Luaces Frades, General Director of the Spanish association FdA, reported on the Spanish aggregates sector in 2007 and on its role in the supply of strategic raw materials.

All presentations are available on the UEPG website [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu).

## UEPG Delegates Assembly

On 30 May, the 22<sup>nd</sup> UEPG Delegates discussed and adopted the reports of UEPG Committees, Task Forces and the UEPG General Secretariat.

President Denis Mertens thanked UEPG members for their excellent work in 2007/2008 and recommended to further strengthen the role of UEPG Committees in their policy role.



### Strengthening the role of UEPG Committees

Denis Mertens (left), UEPG President and Pasqual Roca y Riera, President of FdA.

Another important item agreed on was to postpone the UEPG Sustainable Development Awards Ceremony from 2009 to 2010. This decision was taken with regards to the partnership with IUCN/Countdown 2010 on biodiversity and to raise public awareness to the work done by the European Aggregates Industry in the area of sustainable development.



### Welcoming Delegates in 2009 to Oslo

Elisabeth Gammelsæter (third from left), Secretary General of the Norwegian Miners and Quarries Industries.

The President also warmly thanked the Spanish association for the successful preparation of the event and the outstanding programme.

Our Norwegian colleagues invited all Delegates to attend the 2009 Delegates Assembly in May 2009 in Oslo.

Presentations are available in the UEPG website [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu).

## Next steps

**17-19 May 2009** Delegates Assembly in Oslo, Norway

## Mining Waste Implementation

On 19 June, UEPG together with IMA-Europe organised Workshop on the implementation of the Directive 2006/21/EC on the management of waste from extractive industries.

In view of the ongoing implementation of the Directive, the workshop focused on the progress in several EU Member States, namely Czech Republic, Sweden, United Kingdom and Belgium (Walloon Region), as well as on crucial provisions like the criteria for inert waste and criteria for the classification of waste facilities.



### Discussing the way forward on Mining Waste

Chairman Chris Dobbs from QPA (left), together with Fotios Papoulias, DG Environment.

Guest speakers were Fotios Papoulias from DG Environment who was in charge of drafting the Directive, Hans van der Sloot from the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN) reporting on extractive waste characterisation and Ole Hjelm from DHI group reporting on the criteria for the classification of waste facilities.

## Cutting Red Tape Conference

On 20 June, UEPG General Secretariat participated in the conference 'Cutting Red Tape for Europe' organised by the European Commission in the European Parliament.

The conference engaged business, policy makers and expert advisers in a discussion about what the European Commission is doing and should do to reduce paperwork.

Alongside the plenary sessions, opened by Vice-President Günter Verheugen, the conference featured four workshop sessions which addressed the possibilities for reducing administrative burdens in relation to specific policy areas, including environment and transport.



### Increasing competitiveness by cutting red tape

European Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen at the EC conference on 20 June.

The fourth workshop discussed how to reduce administrative burdens in a more horizontal manner including the possibility of using e-government.



### Putting pressure on decision makers

Dr. Edmund Stoiber, Chairman of the High Level Group on Cutting Red Tape.

## Meeting of the Alpine countries in Zürich

On 27 June, UEPG President Denis Mertens briefed colleagues from Austria, France, Germany and Switzerland on European live issues and latest developments impacting on our industry.

The meeting addressed items including the Raw Materials Strategy of the European Commission, recycling, biodiversity, the implementation of the Mining Waste Directive and the Social Dialogue Agreement on Respirable Crystalline Silica and the results of the online reporting in June 2008.