



EU Live Issues

Marine Strategy

Trilogue compromise package adopted

Soil Protection

UEPG lobbying successful - Council stopped draft Directive

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Simon van der Byl exchanges views on Marine Strategy

UEPG visits French colleagues

Dirk Fincke and Julian Gonthier brief UNPG on EU live issues in Paris

Season's Greetings

UEPG wishes Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year

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

Marine Strategy Directive

As a result of the trilogue between the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament a compromise package has been adopted during the second reading of the Parliament on 11 December.

The key point for our industry is that the critical Amendment 46, which stated that “the network of marine protected areas shall include areas of a sufficient size to be fully protected from all extractive uses”, has been removed.

Key amendments

According to the key amendments 3, 4 and 39 marine protected areas include:

- Areas “designated or to be designated in the Birds and Habitats Directive”
- Areas “designated in regional and international agreements to which the European Community or Member States concerned are parties”

The compromise package is a good development for our industry. It is more flexible, and does no longer include ‘no go areas’.

Next steps

Spring 2008 Second reading of the Council

Soil Protection

On 20 December Germany, France, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Austria voted against the draft Soil Protection Directive. This constitutes a blocking minority in the Council avoiding a qualified majority in favour of the proposal. Therefore, the project of a European legislation on soil has been stopped. It remains to be seen whether the upcoming Slovenian or French EU Presidency will reintroduce the draft Directive on the agenda. The

UEPG General Secretariat provided members with an e-mail template outlining the main concerns of our industry to be sent out to the Government representative in the Council responsible for the Soil Directive.

Next steps

January 2008 UEPG briefs Slovenian Presidency

Corporate Social Responsibility

The European Commission invited UEPG to attend a meeting on 6 December to provide advance information about its entrepreneurship and innovation 2008 programme. This provides for an EU initiative fostering Corporate Social Responsibility in European industrial sectors. Further details will be published by March 2008. Two CSR projects on a multi stakeholder basis will be selected and receive EU financial support from the Commission.

Next steps

March 2008 Publication of CSR initiative

TAIEX workshop on SDIs

In the framework of the raw materials initiative of the European Commission, the Geological survey of Slovenia and Eurogeosurveys organised, with the financial support of DG Enlargement, a workshop on sustainable development data and best practices. The event took place on 10-11 December in Ljubljana, Slovenia and hosted colleagues from Central and East European countries.



Sustainable Development indicators for the industry
Jerry McLaughlin addressing Commission workshop.

Jerry McLaughlin from the Quarry Products Association (United Kingdom) presented the results of the QPA Sustainable Development Report 2007 and related challenges to gather and analyse data. The progress made by our British colleagues is an excellent example for the Sustainable Development Indicator project launched by the European Commission.



Strengthening links with Central and East Europe
Colleagues from the new EU member states and East Europe attending the TAIEX workshop.

At European level, UEPG has received responses from 11 member associations and has been requested by the Commission to improve the response.

The European Aggregates Industry recognises the importance of the SDI scheme. It is crucial in order to measure the progress of our industry, to raise awareness of sustainable development at company level, to identify areas where improvement is necessary and to better communicate with stakeholders.

Next steps
14-15 January 2nd TAIEX workshop, Brussels

European Technology Platform

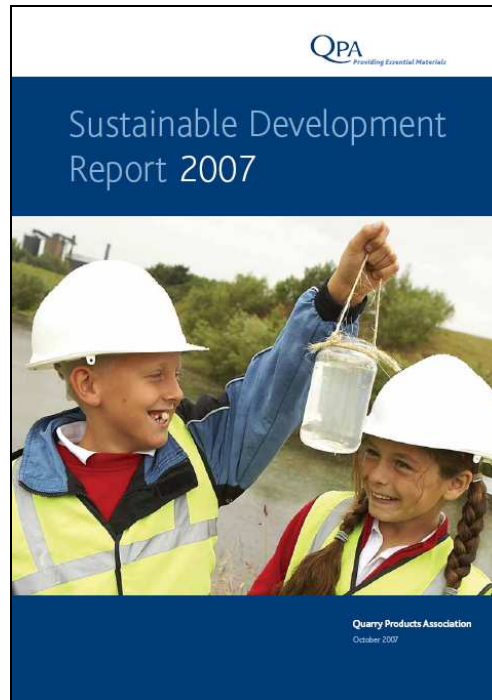
On 20 December, Julian Gonthier from the UEPG General Secretariat attended the European Technology Platform on Sustainable Mineral Resources (ETP SMR) High Level Group meeting. The agenda included a presentation of Milan Grohol from DG Research, who presented the latest developments and the future agenda of the 7th Framework Programme. As part of the call for projects the Platform successfully addressed DG Research with a first proposal and is currently working on the second step of its call. The Chairman of the Platform, Henryk Karas, briefed Herbert von Bose, Director of DG4 Industrial Technologies in DG Research on the main activities of the ETP SMR. The participants of the meeting also exchanged views on their future cooperation in 2008.

Next steps
13 March 2008 ETP SMR HLG meeting

UEPG News

QPA Policy meetings

On 11 December, Simon van der Byl, Director General of the Quarry Products Association (United Kingdom) presented the QPA Sustainable Development Report 2007 to key officials of the European Commission and the European Parliament.



The report includes social progress, environmental protection, natural resources and economic prosperity covering all aspects of sustainable development in a balanced manner. The document is available on the QPA website http://www.gpa.org/sus_report01.htm



Outlining the achievements of the industry
Simon van der Byl (left) and Ladislav Miko, the Commission Director responsible for Protecting the Natural Environment.

UEPG also arranged a meeting with Director Ladislav Miko responsible for Protecting the Natural Environment. Mr Miko was very interested in the achievements and challenges of the European Aggregates Industry. The discussion lasted for more than one hour and covered the performance in recycling, achievements in biodiversity and challenges with respect to access to resources.

With reference to the Marine Strategy Directive Simon briefed Nicole Schäfer from DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs on the industry's views on the EU Maritime Policy.

UEPG visits French colleagues

On 14 December, Dirk Fincke and Julian Gonthier from the UEPG General Secretariat briefed our colleagues from the Union Nationale des Producteurs de Granulats (UNPG) on EU live issues and outlined the UEPG priorities for 2008.

The visit served also to better understand the EU legislation impacting on the French Aggregates Industry as well as the French legislation and current challenges.

Season's Greetings

The UEPG General Secretariat Team would like to thank UEPG Members for their excellent support in 2007 in representing the industry's interests to the Commission and the Parliament. It wishes all Members a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year.



The office will be opened again on 3 January 2008.