



## EU Live Issues

### Raw Materials Initiative

European Commission launches Public Consultation

### Soil Protection

Slovenian Presidency considers to reintroduce Soil Directive on Council agenda

### Explosives

UEPG briefs Euromines and FEEM on Identification and Traceability Directive

### Respirable Crystalline Silica

NePSi produces online reporting software

## UEPG News

### UEPG launches Issue Tracker System

All UEPG Live Issues available online in one document

### UEPG newsletter in Spanish

Spanish colleagues produce version for their members – UEPG Actualidad

### UEPG Statistics 2006 online

UEPG General Secretariat welcomes comments and amendments

## EU Live Issues

### Raw Materials Initiative

The European Commission has launched a Public Consultation on the Raw Materials Initiative. The consultation remains open until 24 March 2008 and is available on the [newsroom website](#) of DG Enterprise.

We would be grateful if you could send us your comments which we will include in our lobbying strategy.

### Soil protection

On 17 January, UEPG attended a meeting with the spokesperson of the Permanent Representation of Slovenia in Brussels, Mrs. Maja Kocijančič. UEPG was informed that the Slovenian EU-Presidency considers reintroducing the Soil Protection Directive on the agenda of the Council of the European Union in March 2008.

### Background

Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom voted against the Soil Protection Directive during a Council meeting on 20 December 2007. The blocking minority means that the Council could not achieve a Common Position on the text and that the Second Reading of the European Parliament will be delayed.

UEPG will use this time to coordinate its lobbying strategy together with NEEIP members.

### Next steps

**February 2008** Meeting with Slovenian Presidency

### Explosives

On 10 January, UEPG briefed colleagues from Euromines and the Federation of European Explosives Manufacturers (FEEM) on

the draft Directive on the identification and traceability of Explosives for civil use. The three associations will send a common letter to the European Commission outlining the main concerns.

### Background

According to the draft Directive, the “smallest packaging unit” has to be assigned with a bar code and an adhesive label which allows the user either to scan the bar code or to attach the adhesive label in a logbook.

It is still unclear, whether the term “smallest packaging unit” could be interpreted as a single cartridge or a bigger commercially sold and sufficiently secured (sealed) package containing hundred or more cartridges.

### Next steps

UEPG will monitor the developments on the identification and traceability Directive.

### Respirable Crystalline Silica

On 22 January, UEPG attended the ad-hoc NePSi Council meeting presenting the online reporting software and addressing practical challenges.



**Collecting reports from 50,000 sites across Europe**  
The online reporting software helps the industry to reach extraction sites and to avoid double reporting.

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

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](mailto:secretariat@uepg.eu)  
Internet: [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu)

The signatory parties of the Negotiation Platform on Silica (NePSi) will invite their members to participate in the reporting process.

The software facilitates the reporting of approximately 50,000 sites across Europe and avoids double reporting. It is available online and does not require installing a programme.

UEPG will organise a workshop on the implementation software. This will take place on 7 March 2008 in the UEPG office in Brussels. The objective is to give user-friendly guidance on how to work with the online "Reporting" software for the Social Dialogue Agreement on Crystalline Silica.

As the reporting period is to be from 1 February 2008 to 1 April 2008, this is the only opportunity to see a demonstration of the site-based "Reporting" software that UEPG members will be asked to use.

David Yelland from Customised Mapping, the company that has developed the SDA software, will also address technical and practical challenges experienced by them.

The workshop is free of charge for UEPG members.

**Next steps**  
**7 March 2008** UEPG workshop on reporting software

## UEPG News

### UEPG newsletter in Spanish

The UEPG General Secretariat is pleased to announce that a Spanish version of the monthly UEPG newsletter, called UEPG Actualidad, will be now available.

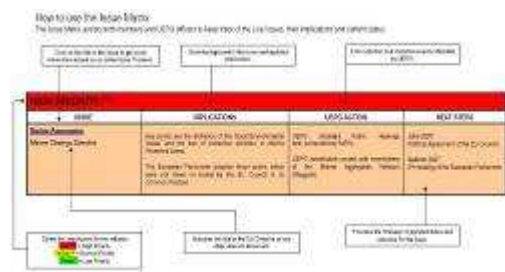


Providing members of FdA with news from Brussels  
 César Luaces Frades, Director General of the Spanish member Association Federación de Áridos (FdA).

This is thanks to our Spanish colleagues from the Federación de Áridos (FdA) and their Director General César Luaces Frades.

## UEPG launches Issue Tracker System

The UEPG General Secretariat is pleased to announce that the Issue Tracker System has been finalised and is now available on the UEPG website [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu).



### Classifying Live Issues

The Issue Matrix lists all UEPG Live Issues classified by priority.

The Issue Tracker System is an innovative tool to monitor latest developments on EU live issues having an impact on the European Aggregates Industry.

Update: 17 January 2008

### Soil Protection

Directive "Environment" strategy for the protection and sustainable use of soil (amend. direct. 2004/35/EC) – COD/000696

**Timeline**

- 22 Sept. 2006 Commission Proposal transmitted to European Parliament and the European Council
- 23 July 2007 Deadline for amendments on Environment Committee Report
- 9 Oct. 2007 Adoption of Environment Committee's Report
- 13 Nov. 2007 Vote of European Parliament in Plenary Session
- 20 Dec. 2007 Environment Council meeting
- Mar. 2008 The Slovenian Presidency is planning to re-introduce the issue on the agenda of the ENVI Council

**Key Points**

- The EU thematic strategy for soil protection puts forward measures to protect soil and to preserve its capacity to perform its functions in environmental, economic, social and cultural terms. The strategy includes setting up a legislative framework for the protection and sustainable use of soil, integrating soil protection into national and EU policies, improving knowledge in this area and increasing public awareness.
- This legislative framework is based on the principles of preserving soil functions, preventing soil degradation, mitigating the effects of soil degradation, restoring degraded soils and integrating soil issues into other sectoral policies.
- It determines 7 dangerous areas for the prevention of soil degradation: sealing, erosion, soil organic matter decline, compaction, herbicides, and contamination.
- It calls for prevention of soil degradation processes and prevention or minimisation of soil adverse effects.
- Annex II (in making an analysis by risks, covering the 6 first areas for soil preservation, Annex II considers a list of potentially soil polluting activities, concerning the area 7 (contamination).
- On October 9, the EP's ENVI Committee voted for the **adoption of Annex II**.
- On 13 November, members of the Parliament reintroduced mining installation as potential pollution activities in the first reading.
- On 20 December, Environment Council failed to reach political agreement on EU legislation on soil protection (adopted majority – 10E, 10L, N, 7R).

**Implications**

- Annex II includes on the point 8 mining installations, which cover quarrying activities. This list has been made by a non-consultation process.
- The European Aggregates Industry discusses the relevance of such legislation for quarrying industries; no existing legislation is already covering this sector.
- Set 12 requires a soil status report without further detail on it.

**UEPG action**

- Meeting with the EP Rapporteur Mrs. Guilleme-Corines
- NEEP position paper calling for deletion of Annex II
- UEPG circular e-mail to members calling to vote against the Directive at the Environment Council meeting

**Next steps**

- Jan-Feb. 2008 Lobby the Slovenian Presidency not to re-introduce the issue on the agenda

**EU legal actors**

Commission	DG Environment – Directorate B1	Director: Ladislav Mikš Head of Unit: Michael Herndl
European Parliament	Committee Environment	Chairman: Guilleme-Corines (EPF-ED) – Rapporteur: Sarmosa Martinez (PES) – Shadow Rapporteur: Hilthud Brewer (Greens) – Shadow Rapporteur

**Documents**

Commission proposal	<a href="http://www.uepg.eu/uepg/actualidad/uepg/2006/09/20060923/2006092302032">http://www.uepg.eu/uepg/actualidad/uepg/2006/09/20060923/2006092302032</a>
NEEP Position	<a href="http://www.uepg.eu/uepg/actualidad/uepg/2006/11/20061109/2006110902032">http://www.uepg.eu/uepg/actualidad/uepg/2006/11/20061109/2006110902032</a>

UEPG Global - General Secretariat - Rue d'Arden 21 - 1050 Brussels - Tel: +32 22 33 53 00 - Fax: +32 22 33 53 01  
 Email: [secretariat@uepg.eu](mailto:secretariat@uepg.eu) - Website: [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu)

### Concise information on a single sheet

The UEPG Issue Tracker provides members with key information on live issues for the industry.

An Issue Tracker is a one-page document which presents, in a precise and concise way,

Directives, Communications and EU Initiatives. Each paper provides the background, key points, UEPG actions and next steps. The UEPG General Secretariat produced 24 Issues trackers, classified by high, normal and low priority.

The Issue Matrix offers the user an overview of all UEPG Live Issues leading via hyperlink directly to the Issue Tracker. The Matrix classifies the issues in three categories according to the level of priority.

Available on the website, these new monitoring tools give UEPG members the opportunity to be briefed on all relevant EU legislations related to our industry in a precise and effective way, whenever needed.

## UEPG Statistics 2006 online

As a result of the support of UEPG members, the General Secretariat uploaded the Statistics 2006 to its website [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu).

The European Aggregates Industry - Annual Statistics 2006

Country	Companies	MtA	Employees	Stand. 0	Crushed	Blended	Aggregates	Aggregates	Manufactured	Total
Belgium	140	360	1100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Denmark	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
France	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Germany	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Italy	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
Spain	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
UK	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
<b>Total</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>1880</b>

### Figures on Marine Aggregates extraction included

The UEPG Statistics 2006 consider the increased activity in Marine Aggregates extraction.

The European Commission, Research Institutes, journalists and other key stakeholders are now working with UEPG statistics. The developments of sound figures are important and include for 2006 the production of Marine Aggregates.

To ensure the accuracy of the figures available to the public we would be grateful if you could provide us with any comments or amendments as soon as possible.