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EU Live Issues

Raw Materials Initiative

The members of the non-energy extractive industries (NEEIP) have agreed on drafting a Position Paper following the Public Consultation by DG Enterprise & Industry which remains open until 24 March 2008: [newsroom website](#)

The first points in a NEEIP Position Paper were discussed at a NEEIP meeting on 26 February.

Industry leaders of the non-energy extractive industries have the opportunity to discuss the initiative and to provide direct input at a Policy Dinner Debate on 16 April 2008. Paul Rübige MEP (Christian Democrats) will host the event in a salon of the European Parliament in Brussels. Presentations on each of the key points of the Consultation will be made, including to:

- increase raw materials supply from European sources on a sustainable basis
- ensure sustainable and more transparent supply from third countries
- encourage capacity building in developing countries
- encourage greater efficiency in the use of resources
- establish an adequate EU knowledge base on raw materials

Next steps

14 March	NEEIP Position Paper to be sent to European Commission
16 April	Policy Dinner Debate, Brussels
6 May	Commission Sustainability Working Group meeting
October 2008	Publication of Communication
26 November	Vice-President Verheugen to address industry leaders

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

On 24 January 2008, Martin Isles and César Luaces Frades met with the European Health and Safety Agency's Director, Dr Jukka

Takala and two of his Project Managers, at the Agency's Headquarters in Bilbao, Spain.

The Agency's main goal is to promote a genuine culture of prevention at work by providing information to aid the management of risk. Perhaps the best known 'product' of the Agency is the annual awareness campaign known as the "European Week for Safety and Health at Work". From June 2008, these campaigns are to be run on a two-yearly basis, with the theme for 2008-2010 being "Risk Assessment".



Demonstrating progress on health & safety issues
From left: Martin Isles (QPA), Director Jukka Takala and César Luaces Frades (FdA).

A factual summary of UEPG's aims, objectives, structure and activities was presented. Special emphasis was placed on the biennial UEPG Sustainable Development Awards and the close and constructive links with national health and safety regulatory authorities.

It was highlighted that "aggregates quarrying" does not feature on the Agency's website. By way of remedy, it was agreed that it would be beneficial for there to be identifiable website visibility for the European Aggregates industry. For the Agency, Dr Takala offered to consider an appropriate proposal that UEPG could put forward to achieve this aim.

Next steps

30 May Jukka Takala to be invited to UEPG Entrepreneurs' Forum, Barcelona

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

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Sustainable Development Indicators

The Commission initiative on Sustainable Development Indicators was launched in 2000 following the Communication "Promoting Sustainable Development in the EU Non-Energy Extractive Industry". The data gathered by the industry associations was published in two reports including data from 2001-2003. The third report will cover the period 2004-2005.

This initiative is important for our industry in order to measure the progress of our industry, to raise awareness of sustainable development, to identify areas where we need improvement and to improve communication with stakeholders.

UEPG received so far company data representing approx. 30 % of the total production. To increase the quantity and quality of data UEPG will propose a questionnaire adapted to the aggregates sector.

Natura 2000

UEPG was informed that the European Commission plans to draft a guideline on how to extract in Natura 2000 areas. This guideline will apply exclusively to the European non-energy extractive industries.

The European Aggregates Industry is one of the leading sectors to make a contribution to creating new habitats for endangered species and has already gained experience on extraction methods in environmental protection areas.

UEPG was asked to provide more good examples and best practices for future stakeholder meetings. We would be grateful if you could provide us with your material by 7 March 2008.

UEPG News

UEPG President visits Poland

On 30-31 January, Denis Mertens, President of UEPG, briefed our Polish and Slovak colleagues in Krakow on latest developments on EU live issues at the invitation of Aleksander Kabziński, President of Polish Aggregates Producers Association.



Strengthening the European team
Krzysztof Mączka (left) with the Site Manager and UEPG President Denis Mertens (right) at a site close to Krakow.

The President visited four quarries near Krakow and had a useful exchange of views with colleagues from Poland as well as representatives of the Slovak Aggregates Producers Association.



Briefing on EU live issues
From left: UEPG President Denis Mertens, President of the Ukrainian Aggregates Association Aleksandr Roznov and Pavol Knaze (SZVK).

The visit was also an opportunity to start cooperation with the Ukrainian Association of Aggregates Producers which have showed an interest in becoming a member of UEPG.

Launching of the European Platform for Recycled Aggregates - EPRA

On 12 February, UEPG invited the Fédération Internationale du Recyclage (FIR) to discuss details of cooperation on EU Live issues dealing with aggregates recycling. This follows a UPEG Board decision to launch a recycling platform for aggregates.

The objective is to exchange information on recycling and to create a one-voice-approach at the European level on live issues according to agreed common positions.

Under the leadership of Jean-Marc Vanbelle, Chairman of the UEPG Technical Committee, the participants proposed to name the platform "European Platform for Recycled Aggregates (EPRA)" managed by 2 associations, namely UEPG and FIR. The platform is in principle open for other associations. The parties working in EPRA describe themselves as partners.



Exchanging views on recycling policy
From left: Jean-Marc Vanbelle (UEPG), Geert Cuperus (FIR) and FIR President Michael Stoll.

The mission is to promote the best use of recycled aggregates for the highest application possible.

The cooperation of the platform will cover the definition of recycling, exchanging information on live issues, coordinating CEN/TC activities and working with the media.

UEPG Committee meetings

The next Committee meetings will take place on 31 March – 1 April 2008 in Dubrovnik. Our Croatian colleagues from the Association PROMINS are inviting UEPG experts to discuss latest developments for the European Aggregates Industry.

Monday 31 March

09h00 Health & Safety Committee
13h00 Light Working Lunch
14h00 Environment Committee
18h00 End of the meetings
19h00 Dinner in the Old City

Tuesday 1 April

08h30 Technical Committee
12h30 Light Working Lunch
13h30 Economic Committee
15h30 End of the meetings

The Registration Form (R1) and the Hotel Reservation Form (R2) are available on the UEPG website www.uepg.eu.