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Exchanging best practice within UEPG

EU Live Issues

Online reporting software workshop

On 7 March, Martin Isles, Chairman of the UEPG Health & Safety Committee and David Yelland from the company which produced the reporting software for the Social Dialogue Agreement on Crystalline Silica, addressed national coordinators from UEPG and the European Mortar Industry Organisation (EMO). This took place in the UEPG office.



Boosting the reporting scheme at European level

Martin Isles (left) and David Yelland (right, in the back) underlined the importance of the reporting.

The workshop was timely as participants have already gained a first experience of the enrolment procedure. Most questions were raised on the import of contact lists, the production of reports and the follow-up work.

For national associations, which are in a non-EU country, the reporting software offers the same reporting scheme. The UEPG General Secretariat has enrolled all UEPG member associations including Croatia, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

Next steps

25 April Deadline for filling in site reports and company reports

1 May Deadline for National Associations

13 May Deadline for European Associations

17/18 June NePSi Council meeting for 2008 summary report

Mining Waste Directive Implementation

UEPG and IMA-Europe are organising a workshop on the implementation of the Waste Management Directive taking place on 19 June in Brussels.

As a representative of one of the major sectors of the extractive industry, UEPG followed very closely developments related to the Mining Waste Directive. In view of the ongoing implementation process of the Directive in question, the workshop will focus on this process in several Member States as well as on crucial provisions of the Directive such as the definition of inert waste and the classification of waste facilities.

Next steps

1 May Deadline for the transposition into national law

19 June UEPG/IMA-Europe workshop on the implementation of the Mining Waste Directive

Marine Aggregates

On 18 March, Arnaud Colson, Chair of the UEPG Marine Aggregates Task Force and Julian Gonthier from the UEPG General Secretariat briefed members of the French National Commission on marine aggregates in Rouen (France).

The main issue was the EU Maritime Policy, in particular the latest developments of the Marine Strategy Directive and the UEPG lobbying strategy. Members of the National Committee were also informed about the new UEPG survey on best practice in marine aggregates extraction.

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

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Background

On 11 December, after an intensive lobbying campaign by UEPG, the European Parliament agreed in its second reading on a compromise for the draft Marine Strategy Directive. 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”, was removed.



Promoting the importance of marine aggregates

Marine aggregates are becoming a more important resource for the aggregates industry

Next steps

April 2008

UEPG will send out survey on best practices in marine aggregates extraction

Revised Waste Framework Directive

The UEPG General Secretariat has been informed that the vote in the Environment Committee of the European Parliament (EP) on the amendments to the revised Waste Framework Directive has been postponed and will take place on 8 April.

Background

For the second reading the European Parliament proposes to exclude from the scope of the directive natural excavated materials that are not contaminated and which can be used in their natural state, either on the same site or another site.

The NEEIP position paper is asking for the exclusion of uncontaminated soil from the scope and it should not be limited to one specific activity such as construction but allow also for other purposes, e.g. rehabilitation activities.

Next steps

8 April 2008

Vote of the amendments in the Environment Committee of the European Parliament

UEPG News

European Minerals Forum Dinner

In close co-operation with the European Minerals Foundation, UEPG will be represented at an All Party European Minerals Forum Dinner taking place on 16 April in the European Parliament. Paul Rübiger MEP (Austria) and Abrão Carvalho from the Commission's DG Enterprise will chair the event addressing the five main challenges to the industry in the new European



Paul Rübiger MEP (EPP - Austria) is hosting the Minerals Forum Dinner

Minerals Initiative:

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

The Forum Dinner will bring together Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission as well as senior industry executives.



Abrão Carvalho, DG Enterprise is presenting the results on the Public Consultation.

The meeting is particularly timely as the European Commission is preparing a Communication which will be finalised in the second half of 2008, setting out a European strategy on non-energy raw materials. It undertook a public consultation with a

deadline of 24 March and plans to have summarised initial views in April.

UEPG President Denis Mertens will present industry views on increasing supply from European sources. For more information and registration please contact Chloe Rowlings:

info@europeanmineralsfoundation.org



Denis Mertens, UEPG President is presenting the domestic pillar of the Raw Materials Initiative.

Next steps

16 April 2008

European Minerals Forum Dinner in the European Parliament

Communication & PR Task Force meeting

On 21 May, Manfred Asamer, Chairman of the Communication & Public Relations Task Force invites UEPG members to exchange best practice on their PR policies and latest publications.

This includes examples from information sharing, maintenance of websites and the preparation of the UEPG Sustainable Development Awards Ceremony 2009.

Next steps

21 May

UEPG Communication & Public Relation Task Force meeting