



NGOs, as well as DG Enterprise and DG Environment.

The future guidance paper intends to provide technical guidelines for good implementation and proper interpretation of articles 6.3 and 6.4 of the Habitats Directive in the sector of non-energy extractive industries. The Commission specified that Natura 2000 designation issues are not to be addressed by the guidance paper.

### Next steps

**13 June** Second Expert group meeting in DG Environment

## REACH

**Beware:** This short article is aimed to clarify this important issue for aggregates, but there is no guarantee of total accuracy.

### Does REACH affect the Aggregates Industry?

The answer is clearly yes. As downstream user of chemical substances, we have to check with our supplier if the use of their substance has been included in the (pre)registration.



#### Does REACH affect the Aggregates Industry?

Jean-Marc Vanbelle, Chairman of the UEPG Technical Committee giving an expert's view.

### Do we need to register aggregates?

Due to their given shape and grading, aggregates are articles. They contain minerals which are natural substances. Under the annex V of REACH, minerals are exempted from registration. We consider therefore that aggregates do not contain substances of very high concern such as asbestos which need notification. Besides, aggregates have no intended substance release.

Therefore we do not have to (pre)register substances contained in natural aggregates, ex-

panded clay, light aggregates or recycled aggregates from demolition wastes. For this latter case we assume that all potentially required registration of substances included in the demolished concrete, masonry or asphalt have been done.

Some manufactured aggregates are made with substances which were waste or by-products of other industries. It is possible that the producers of those substances (pre)register them (e.g. slags). So aggregates producers using those kinds of aggregates have to check with their supplier if the use as aggregate has been included in the registration of the substance. If not we recommend pre-registering those substances.

### More information

- The European Chemical Agency website <http://echa.europa.eu/>
- European Commission DG Environment website [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach\\_intro.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach_intro.htm)

## Waste Framework Directive

On 8 April, the Environment Committee of the European Parliament adopted the draft report by Caroline Jackson MEP (Christian Democrats, UK) for the second reading.

### Use of excavated materials

The Committee voted in favour of amendment 70 (in line with the NEEIP position paper) regarding "uncontaminated excavated materials which can be used, either on the same site or on another site".

### Notable impact on the receiving environment

The members of the Environment Committee of the European Parliament endorsed as well a critical amendment 69 in addition to the amendment 70 which constitutes a negative development for our sector: "Uncontaminated soil and other naturally occurring material excavated in the course of construction activities where it is certain that the material will be used for the purposes of construction in its natural state on the site from which it was excavated, on condition that these natural geological materials do not have any characteristics which are likely to result in a notable impact on the receiving environment".

## UEPG Action

UEPG will continue its co-operation with members of the Non-Energy Extractive Industries Panel (NEEIP). In the meantime we would welcome your views on:

- Compatibility of the two amendments
- Whether this would require testing of the geological characteristics of the excavated materials
- What are the implications of "notable impact"?

### Next steps

**17 June 2008** European Parliament Second Reading – Plenary vote

## Identification and Traceability of Explosives for civil use

On 4 April, the European Commission adopted the Directive on identification and traceability of explosives for civil use.

The new Directive aims at enabling the identification of origin and location of each explosive during its life cycle and throughout the supply chain by the undertakings in the explosives sector and will provide information to the competent authorities.

While the smallest packaging unit of explosives is interpreted by the Commission as a single cartridge provided with a unique identification by manufacturers, aggregates companies have to scan the bar code or collect the adhesive detachable copies before using explosives

### Next steps

UEPG will closely follow the decision making process and continuing its co-operation with the manufacturer association FEEM and Euromines.

## Land use

On 27 March Arnaud Colson, Chairman of the Environment Committee, attended the 1st Forum on the Future of Agriculture in Brussels. The Forum addressed the key objectives for the European agriculture in the 21 century. Arnaud Colson exchanged views with Thierry de l'Escaille, CEO of the European Landowners Organisation (ELO).



**Exchanging key issues for the future of our sector**  
Thierry de l'Escaille (left), CEO of the ELO, and Arnaud Colson, exchanged their views on the common future challenges of ELO and UEPG.

ELO shares common EU policy preoccupations with UEPG such as soil protection.

**Biodiversity**

On 9 April, our Irish colleagues from the ICF held their annual Environmental Seminar with a focus on biodiversity.

Liam Smyth, Chairman of the UEPG Biodiversity Task Force welcomed key note speaker Sebastian Winkler, Head of Countdown 2010 at IUCN.



**Committed to biodiversity**  
Liam Smyth (left) and Sebastian Winkler discussing the way forward on halting the loss of biodiversity.

While biodiversity might be a business case, Dr. Maurice Eakin of the National Parks & Wildlife Service presented numerous cases where closed or active quarries developed new habitats and rare species.

**UEPG News**

**UEPG Committee meetings**

On 31 March and 1 April, members of the UEPG Committees addressed key developments on live issues and discussed next steps.

**Health & Safety Committee**

Main issues discussed:

- Ensuring successful implementation of the Social Dialogue Agreement on Crystalline Silica
- Intensifying the involvement with the Atlantic Alliance
- New Directive on the identification and traceability of explosives for civil use
- Exploring the opportunities becoming an EU social partner

**Environment Committee**

Main issues discussed:

- Management of Waste Implementation
- Revised Waste Framework Directive
- Natura 2000 guidance paper
- Biodiversity Task Force
- Marine Aggregates Task Force
- Sustainable Development Indicators



**Strengthening the links with Croatia**  
Our Croatian colleagues welcomed a guest speaker from the Croatian Environment Ministry.

**Technical Committee**

Main issues discussed:

- Construction Product Regulation
- Dangerous substances
- European Aggregate Standards - CEN/TC 154
- Recycled aggregates

**Economic Committee**

Main issues discussed:

- IUCN film "Nature gets a price"
- EU Raw Materials Supply Initiative
- European Environment Agency - Aggregates Tax
- UEPG draft position paper on Market based instruments

**Next steps**

**23-24 October** UEPG Committee meetings, Brussels

**UEPG Board meeting**

On 17 April, UEPG Board Members and Committee Chairs gathered for 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting in the UEPG General Secretariat's office in Brussels.

Members of the Board considered the reports of the UEPG Committees and expressed their views as regards the role of UEPG in the future Communication on Raw Materials Initiative. The membership of UEPG on the European Concrete Platform and the contribution to the European Minerals Day 2009 event were confirmed.

César Luaces Frades (Spain) presented the draft programme of the next UEPG Delegates Assembly 2008 in Barcelona. It includes high level speakers at the Entrepreneurs' Forum as Jukka Takala, Director of the European Agency for Safety & Health at Work and Dr. Alfredo Pastor, from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Future UEPG meetings**

- 21 May** UEPG Communication & PR Task Force meeting
- 29-30 May 2008** UEPG Delegates Assembly 2008, Barcelona
- 23-24 Oct. 2008** Committee Meetings, Brussels
- 26 Nov. 2008** European Minerals Forum 2008, Brussels
- 26 Nov. 2008** Board Policy Dinner, Brussels
- 27 Nov. 2008** Board Meeting, Brussels
- 26-27 March 2009** Committee Meetings, Istanbul
- 15 April 2009** Board Policy Dinner, Brussels
- 16 April 2009** Board Meeting in Brussels
- 18-19 May 2009** UEPG Delegates Assembly 2009, Oslo