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Save the Date

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## EU Live Issues

### Environment Impact Assessment

With the EU elections coming up, the EU Institutions used the usually calm summer break to push forward the review of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA).

### European Parliament

The Parliamentary Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) voted on 11 July on the [Report](#) of [Andrea Zanoni MEP](#) (ALDE, Italy) which is now publicly available. Some of the amendments approved have very significant implications for the Aggregates Industry compared with the European Commission's proposal. The ENVI Report brings, in particular, into the scope of the new EIA Directive both mineral resources exploration (currently out of the scope of the EIA Directive) and all "open-air" mining activities, regardless of the size of the operation in contradiction with the current distinction made between Annex I (compulsory EIA) and Annex II (screening on the basis of the size of the operations). However "quarries and peat extraction" below the 25 ha threshold still belong to Annex II.

The term "Independence" of experts instead of an accreditation scheme might prevent in-house experts. Furthermore, the terms "subsoil" and "biodiversity" next to "fauna and flora" were added. A new requirement is to assess the "visual impact" and the standardisation of EIA procedures.

### Next steps

The plenary vote was initially scheduled on 23 October. However, this tentative date might be replaced by the week of 9 September leaving stakeholders little time for preparation.

### EU Council

The Lithuanian EU Presidency is now working with Member States on a new Compromise Text. UEPG met with the Permanent Representation of Lithuania in order to express

our concerns over some of the ENVI Report proposals.

### Next steps

UEPG is now, in cooperation with other NEEIP members, preparing a common position which should be ideally ready before the end of August, in order to be prepared for the planned plenary vote in September. UEPG will in parallel keep contact with different Permanent Representations.

### Respirable Crystalline Silica

The European Commission has planned to publish a proposal for the revision of the Carcinogens Directive by the end of 2013 or beginning 2014. Therefore, work is currently undertaken on exposure limit values for 25 individual substances, including Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS), resulting in an impact assessment on future proposals for the revised Directive.

The 2011 SHEcan Report – '*Health, socio-economic and environmental aspects of possible amendments to the EU Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens and mutagens at work*' would be used as basis for the impact assessment. The European Commission welcomed Industry's input on data and figures on this Report. UEPG in collaboration with the NePSi Secretariat and the Silica Task Force provided comments.

The objective of the NePSi EU Social Dialogue Agreement is prevention and provides adequate control measures and workers' protection. In reality, the biennial NePSi Reporting provides unique incentives to companies to improve continuously the protection of workers. The best regulatory solution for RCS handling and use at the workplace would be to include a Binding European OEL of 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup> in the Chemical Agents Directive.

➤ The European Commission is urged to include RCS in the Chemical Agents

Directive and not in the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive.

- Contrary to certain influential parties outside the NePSi Agreement, UEPG believes that prevention is crucial and is a far better social solution than the strengthening of a claims culture.
- RCS in the Chemical Agents Directive will help conserve employment; RCS in the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive will lead to job losses.

## Maritime Spatial Planning

The European Parliament published its draft Report on the newly proposed Maritime Spatial Planning Framework Directive to be voted on in the Transport Committee on 5 November 2013.



### Lobbying in the European Parliament

Task Force Chair Jeffrey Thompson (left) with the Shadow-Rapporteur Spyros Danellis MEP (Socialists, Greece) and UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke.

The Framework Directive leaves the content of any spatial planning and permitting procedure to EU Member States respecting the subsidiarity principle. The Parliamentary plenary vote is scheduled for 10 December 2013.

## UEPG News

### UEPG Internships

Upon the initiative of President Arnaud Colson, the Brussels based UEPG team goes out to undertake an internship with Members including site visits. The purpose is to gain experience on the daily business of companies and to learn more about the impact of EU legislation on their activities.

### Danske Råstoffer

Bjarne Overgaard, Director of the medium sized company Bested Lø Grusværker in the Jutland area, and President of the Danish Association welcomed Miette Dechelle, UEPG Public Affairs Manager from 26-28 June. He organised several visits with a focus on wet extraction, life

cycle and the relevant Danish legislations on water, biodiversity and archaeological heritage.

Miette Dechelle presented to Members of the Board of [Danske Råstoffer](#) UEPG activities and learned more about the priorities of the Danish Association such as the development of a national Raw Materials Strategy, Nymbism, Recycled Aggregates, Marine Aggregates, Water Management, Biodiversity and Archaeological Heritage.



### Decision makers of Danske Råstoffer

From left: Lasse Møller Vollesen (Secretary), Jensen Søren Evald (NCC - Member), Bjarne Overgaard (Bested Lø Grusværker - President) and Jette Rohde (Sten & Grus - Member).

Jensen Søren Evald, Area Manager, NCC presented the restored site of [Hedeland](#) a 15 km<sup>2</sup> area of landscape converted into a natural and recreational area with lakes, plains, hills and forest and an open-air [amphitheatre](#) made of gravel, rocks and grass, awarded in 2002.



Christian Abildtrup, Geologist and Member of the UEPG Marine Aggregates Task Force, described marine aggregates extraction in Denmark, including a visits of a vessel.

A special thanks to Bjarne Overgaard, Lasse Møller Vollesen, Peter Svesen, Jette Rohde, Jensen Søren Evald and Christian Abildtrup.

### Polski Związek Producentów Kruszyw

On 10-12 July, the President of the Polish Aggregates Producers' Association (PZPK) Aleksander Kabziński arranged a number of site

visits for UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke. The companies visited expressed strong interest in the work of UEPG in particular on the main challenges of access to resources, raw materials planning and standardisation.



### The impact of the EU on Polish legislation

Aleksander Kabziński (right), President of the Polish Association PZPK with Zygmunt Kotula, Regional Production Manager, HeidelbergCement Poland.

Part of the programme was a meeting with Prof. Dr. Wiesław Koziol (AGH University in Krakow) who explained the economic and technical challenges of Polish Aggregates Producers.

Dirk Fincke arranged an initial meeting with Dr. Tadeusz Zając, Chair of the IUCN National Committee for Poland as part of the UEPG commitment to IUCN agreed in the Letter of Intent signed in 2012.

UEPG thanks Aleksander Kabziński, Prof. Dr. Wiesław Koziol, Zygmunt Kotula, Magdalena Grońska, Łukasz Ludwisiak and Dr. Tadeusz Zając for their time making this Internship possible and most interesting.

Sandrine Devos, Public Affairs Manager, is invited by the Romanian Member [APPA](#) to undertake her internship in October.

### Cross of Merit for Michael Schulz

On 20 June, 2013 the Federal President of Germany, Joachim Gauck, awarded UEPG Honorary President Michael Schulz the Federal Cross of Merit. This is a highly deserved distinction for Michael Schulz. UEPG President Arnaud Colson, congratulates on behalf of all UEPG Members.

### Upcoming UEPG meetings

- 10 Sept.** Recycling TF
- 12 Sept.** PR & Communication TF
- 17 Sept.** Biodiversity TF
- 17 Sept.** Water Management TF
- 10 - 11 Oct.** UEPG Committees
- 27 Nov.** EMF Forum
- 27 Nov.** UEPG SDA Ceremony
- 28 Nov.** UEPG Board