

# European Aggregates Association

Committing to Sustainable Development



# A N N U A L R E P O R T 2007



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## Core Values

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### Economic prosperity

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#### Supplying essential materials

The European Aggregates Industry supplies, and will continue to supply, materials essential for the improvement of standards of living and the quality of life in Europe.

#### Providing jobs

The European Aggregates Industry's operations are an important source of jobs and economic development, particularly in rural areas.

#### Contributing to Europe's competitiveness

The European Aggregates Industry is and will continue to be a fundamental pillar of the European Economy.

### Social Progress

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#### Ensuring Health & Safety

The health & safety of its employees, contractors and visitors is the highest priority for the European Aggregates Industry.

#### Training employees

The European Aggregates Industry will maintain and develop a well trained and skilled workforce.

#### Partnering with stakeholders

The European Aggregates Industry aims to engage with all relevant stakeholders. Its operations are an integral part of regional and local communities.

#### Contributing to Europe's Heritage

The European Aggregates Industry acknowledges the importance of our common natural and built European heritage and will continue to promote best practices throughout the sector.

### Environmental Stewardship

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#### Contributing to biodiversity

The European Aggregates Industry is committed to integrating biodiversity in its operations.

#### Managing Land

It accepts its responsibility as a land manager to prepare sites for environmental, agricultural, recreational, landscape or other community use during and after the operations.

#### Conserving Resources

The European Aggregates Industry recognises recycled aggregates as a factor of sustainability and as a valuable source of raw materials.



# President's Introduction



## Essential Materials for Constructing a Better World

As an industry we make a vital contribution to Europe's economic growth by sustainably providing the essential materials for constructing a better world. We are the building blocks of homes, hospitals, schools, flood defences, roads, bridges, and more generally transport and other infrastructure required by our European society.

Also, we increasingly contribute to curb the trend of loss of biodiversity, by providing appropriate ecosystems for both fauna and flora during and after our extraction activity.

This often takes place with the help of those NGO's that are willing to cooperate in a constructive way with our industry seeking to continuously and affordably improve best available practices.

Because of our achievements and the demonstrated credibility of our sector, I believe there needs to be greater recognition of the compatibility between extraction sites and protected areas through more flexible guidelines.

The key challenge for the European Non-Energy Extraction Industry remains access to resources. Over the last year, we launched a major campaign to secure access to aggregate raw materials for the European construction industry, that included a meeting with EU Vice President Günter Verheugen, jointly with my colleague President of CEPMC. On this occasion, UEPG's priorities for a new European Commission policy initiative were outlined.

We are calling on the Commission to classify aggregate raw materials as a strategic resource for the European Union's construction industry, and to press Member States to give higher priority to aggregate resources. Potential reserves must be better inventoried and proven resources should not needlessly be sterilised. We would like Member States to be urged to set up the necessary regulatory and administrative framework to finalise planning and authorising decisions within a reasonable timescale.

In taking over the Presidency of UEPG, I would like to pay tribute to the achievements of my predecessors: those who launched UEPG, including the late Raymond Berger, but also more recently Manfred Asamer and Didier Audibert. Under their leadership, we raised the profile of our sector: by enlarging the number of members, by shaping our public image, and through meetings held at the highest level with the European Commission on policy initiatives and strategic plans. With the outstanding support of the permanent UEPG General Secretariat, they substantially widened our network in the European Parliament.

The Committees, their members and particularly Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen also deserve our appreciation for their excellent work.

On behalf of all UEPG members, I would like to express grateful recognition to all of them.

Denis Mertens  
President UEPG



# Aggregates in Europe

## UEPG represents:

- 22 European countries
- 3 billion tonnes of aggregates per year
- 28,000 sites
- 350,000 employees (incl. sub-contractors)

*Take away aggregates and our built environment would literally fall apart.*

## What are Aggregates?

Aggregates are a granular material used in construction. The most common natural aggregates of mineral origin are sand, gravel and crushed rock. An end-product in themselves as railway ballast or armourstones, aggregates are also a raw material used in the manufacture of other vital construction products such as ready-mixed concrete (made of 80% aggregates), pre-cast products, asphalt (made of 95% aggregates), lime and cement.

Aggregates are produced from natural sources extracted from quarries and gravel pits and in some countries from sea-dredged materials (marine aggregates). Secondary aggregates are usually by-products from other industrial processes, like blast or electric furnace slags or china clay residues. Recycled aggregates derive from reprocessing materials previously used in construction, including construction and demolition residues and railway ballast.

## What are Aggregates used for?

The main end-uses of aggregates are:

### Homes

The construction of a typical new home uses up to 400 tonnes of aggregates (both end-product and concrete) - from the foundations through to the roof tiles.

### Other buildings and structures

From local hospitals and schools to bridges and flood protection - all are made possible by aggregates. They provide strength but in many cases also architectural beauty. The construction of a school uses up to 3,000 tonnes of aggregates. For a sports stadium, up to 300,000 tonnes are needed.

### Roads

Aggregates feature at all levels of the road construction up to the surface, which includes aggregates resistant to polishing, ensuring skid-resistance. The construction of 1 km of motorway uses up to 30,000 tonnes of aggregates.

### Railways

Aggregates are essential as track ballast for Europe's rail network. The construction of 1 meter of railway for a High Speed train (TGV) uses up to 9 tonnes of aggregates.

## What does the European aggregates industry represent?

The European aggregates industry is the largest non-energy extractive sector in the EU with 3 billion tons produced every year. It consists of more than 28,000 extraction sites across Europe and a majority of operators in the sector are small and medium sized enterprises. The average annual aggregates production represents 7 tons per EU citizen. The European aggregates industry plays a key role by providing essential materials for the European construction sector. Take away aggregates and our built environment would literally fall apart.



### What is UEPG?

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UEPG stands for "Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats" (European Aggregates Association). Since 1987, UEPG has promoted the interests of the European aggregates industry by representing its National Member Associations on economic, technical, environmental and health & safety policy. It was incorporated in 2006 as a aisbl with its seat in Brussels, where the permanent General Secretariat is also located.

UEPG pro-actively identifies EU initiatives and policies that are likely to impact on European aggregates producers. It provides Members with brief and concise information through regular publications and ad-hoc updates, and ensures UEPG positions are considered by EU decision-makers. UEPG positively promotes the profile of the European aggregates industry.

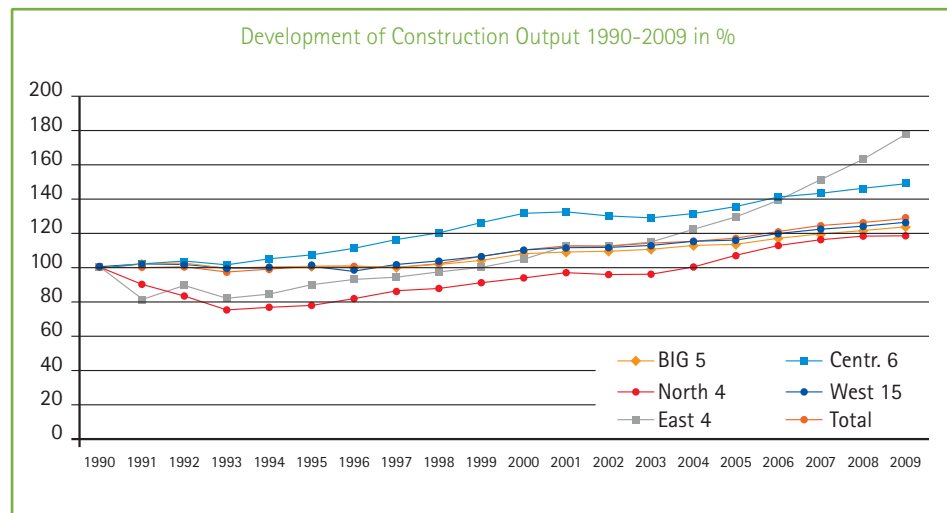


# Economic Outlook

## The year 2006 was, according to Euroconstruct, the culmination of 6 years of development in the construction industry

Statistical data for period of years 1990–2009 shows the following construction market cycles: 1993–1999 (1st cycle) and 1999–2006 (2nd cycle). The European construction market was at a peak in the 2nd cycle in 2006 and therefore it is expected to see the next peak in about 2012 (3rd cycle).

The highest growth rates were recorded in all countries observed (EC19) during the period of years 2004–2006. Construction in ten out of nineteen countries showed the highest growth rates in 2006 and total European growth reached a peak in the second cycle this year (3.7%). The year 2007 can be considered as the starting year of the third cycle hence the growth rates are currently decreasing and they are expected to decrease in all Euroconstruct countries except for 3 countries (Hungary, Poland and the United Kingdom) in 2008. The turning point is expected in 2008–2009 and afterwards the growth rates will catch up in 2012. It is possible to observe similar cycles in development in the housing market by taking a look at the number of completed new homes. This indicator is expected to be the highest in 2007 and should decrease afterwards in Western European countries.



Source: EUROCONSTRUCT, June 2007

## Housing Market

The European housing markets were good in 2006. A positive development can be observed in a majority of European countries, above all Spain and Ireland. At the end of 2007 growth is expected to slow down and it will nearly flatten in 2008 and 2009. Within Europe major differences can be observed. At the negative end are the housing markets in Portugal and Poland where the housing production was 30% lower than in 2003.





### Non-residential Market

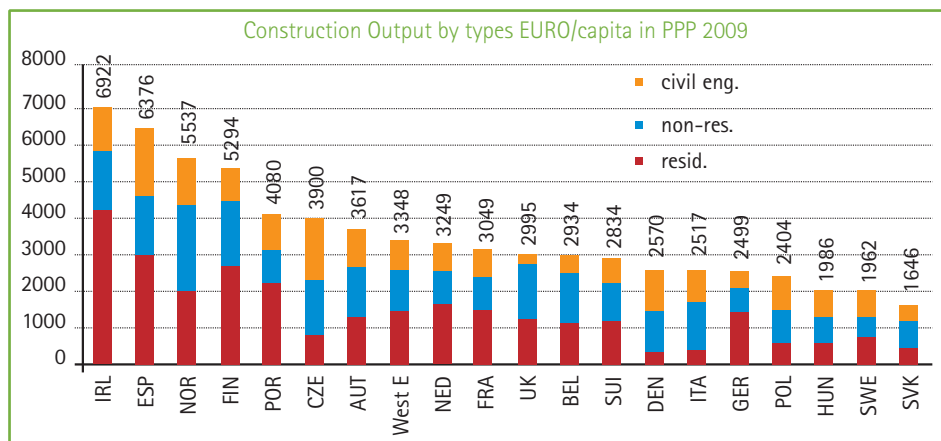
The next few years will be favourable for non-residential building mainly for two reasons: On the one hand economic growth has major stimulating effects as well as increasing corporate profits for industry and commerce. On the other hand investment in properties is winning share from other types of investment. There is an abundance of capital world-wide in search of investment opportunities, and property transactions increased quite strongly in 2006 and are likely to continue to do so. The real estate business is increasingly international. The impact of the still relatively low interest rates is very positive.

European total non-residential building remained quite stable from 2002 to 2005. In 2006 growth reached 2.4 per cent while the highest growth at 3.5 per cent was forecast for the year. In 2008 and 2009 the figure will be slightly under 3 per cent. The forecasts for the non-residential sector are now clearly better than a year ago or last December. The clear growth that started in 2006 will last for the entire period until 2009. Growth will focus on new non-residential building; renovation will increase less.

### Civil Engineering

After three years with relative little growth, new pressures in various countries are stimulating demand for civil engineering works in the forecast period. The investment outlook for European civil engineering construction in the years ahead is optimistic, with growth rates between 3 and 4% annually. The major relative contribution to this outlook clearly stems from the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries, with yearly growth rates above 10%.

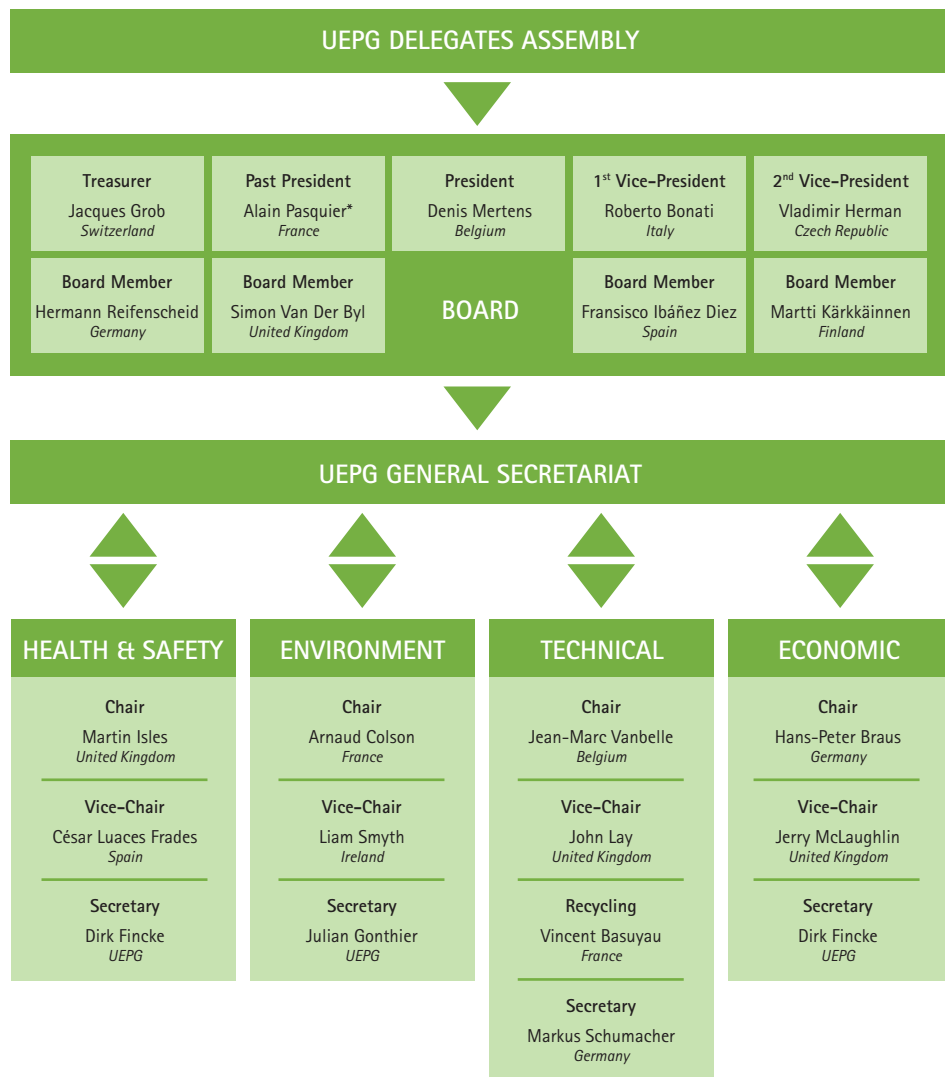
In Western Europe, only the Irish civil engineering production is rising at the same pace. Other Western European countries with a relative positive outlook are Germany, Sweden, Spain and Austria, with average yearly growth rates above 4%. A decreasing output is foreseen in Italy, Belgium and Portugal. Due to the positive development of European GDP, which stimulates private as well as public investments, civil engineering will be one of the driving forces in the construction industry. Road construction will be the most dynamic sector, which is expected to grow at an average of 4.4 % between 2007 and 2009.



Source: EUROCONSTRUCT, June 2007



# UEPG Structure



\* Didier Audibert proposed that Alain Pasquier should represent France's seat since he will have retired



# Activities

Health & Safety   Environment   Technical   Economic

*The Social Dialogue Agreement on Respirable Crystalline Silica is a voluntary initiative from the industry to protect workers from silica dust exposure.*

Under the Chairmanship of Martin Isles (Quarry Products Association, United Kingdom) vice-chaired by César Luaces Frades (FdA, Spain), the UEPG Health & Safety Committee's mission is to contribute to shaping policy at European level and to participating in voluntary initiatives. The Committee consists of 30 Members.

## Social Dialogue Agreement on Respirable Crystalline Silica

The Social Dialogue Agreement on Respirable Crystalline Silica is a voluntary initiative from the industry to protect workers from silica dust exposure. Twelve industrial sectors including aggregates, glass, foundries, concrete, cement, industrial minerals, metal mining and ceramics signed the agreement and are represented in the NePSi Council – the Negotiation Platform on Crystalline Silica. In June 2007 the industry handed in a report on the progress of the implementation process. The first quantitative report will be delivered in May 2008. To facilitate the reporting, the NePSi Council will launch an online reporting scheme considering the confidentiality of the data in January 2008.

## Standing Working Party for the Mining and Other Extractive Industries – SWPEI

UEPG is represented by the Chairman of the Health & Safety Committee in the SWPEI, a consultative party within the Advisory Committee for Health and Safety. Its main objectives are:

- Reviewing bibliographies and screening of the most important documents adopted by the Safety and Health Commission for the Mining and Other Extractive Industries (SHCMOEI)
- Preparing a code on good practice on issues where needed
- Identifying Commission legislative tools for which the SWPEI could comment
- Promoting the exchange of information with the new countries on aspects related to the health and safety of workers in the mining and other extractive industries in the EU Member States

## Labeling and Traceability Explosives

The European Commission presented a draft Commission Directive on the labelling and traceability of explosives. The purpose of the proposal is to put in place a system which, based on an EU wide labelling scheme, will facilitate the tracing of explosives from their production through the entire distribution chain until their final use. The Directive should make it easier to notice disappearances and illicit possession of explosives. The Health & Safety Committee is closely following the developments to ensure the implementation of a feasible system.



*UEPG is supporting and encouraging the objectives of the Atlantic Alliance.*

### UEPG Health & Safety Good Practice Guide in the Aggregates Industry

This Guide is a reference document presenting 200 examples of good practices applied in our sector all over Europe other aggregate companies can follow.

### Atlantic Alliance

UEPG is supporting and encouraging the objectives of the Atlantic Alliance. The 'Atlantic Alliance' is currently a grouping of national Producers and national Health & Safety Regulators from the surface extractive industries. Founder member countries are the USA, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Ireland and Germany. Meetings are taking place every year in North America or Europe. It was the Alliance that convinced multinational manufacturers to consider the needs of their customers, so far as 'access to' and 'egress from' their equipment is concerned. For many years, these manufacturers had been perceived as 'hiding' behind the lack of EN and or ISO standards.

### Other work areas

The UEPG Health & Safety Committee is monitoring on a number of other issues including the Community strategy 2007-2012 on health and safety at work.



# Activities

Health & Safety   Environment   Technical   Economic

Under the chairmanship of Arnaud Colson (UNPG, France) and the vice-chairmanship of Liam Smyth (ICF, Ireland), the UEPG Environment Committee has continued to address key EU environmental issues for the sector, drawing on the professional expertise of its Members while ensuring well-coordinated advocacy actions across Europe.

*The European Aggregates Industry has become one of the leading industries in biodiversity management*

## Biodiversity

The European Aggregates Industry has become one of the leading industries in biodiversity management. Our sector recognises that its activities have a potential impact on the area in which it operates. It is therefore committed to enhancing biodiversity before, during and after the extraction takes place, enabling the creation of new nature conservation areas and habitats. Building on its unique expertise and know-how gained on the ground, a UEPG Biodiversity Task Force was launched in October 2006. Led by Liam Smyth (Ireland), Vice-Chair of the UEPG Environment Committee, it aims at promoting the sector's positive contributions and disseminating good practice.

On 12-13 November 2007 UEPG participated in the EU Presidency Conference on Business and Biodiversity in Lisbon. This illustrates the way in which the European Aggregates Industry is committed to contributing to halting the loss of biodiversity. In its Declaration, UEPG committed itself to communicating the IUCN 2010 biodiversity target and disseminating Countdown 2010 materials, making every effort towards a net positive impact of the Aggregates sector on biodiversity, and promoting compatibility between extractive sites and Natura 2000 areas.

## Mining Waste Implementation

During the last twelve months, UEPG environment experts have continued to focus their work on the implementation of the Directive on the management of waste from the extractive industries. This has been a high priority for the Committee. By 1 May 2008, the Commission will adopt provisions necessary for implementation, including: completion of the technical requirements for waste characterisation; interpretation of the inert waste definition; definition of the criteria for the classification of waste facilities; technical guidelines for the establishment of the financial guarantee and determination of harmonised standards for sampling and analysis methods.

The European Commission is assisted by a Technical Adaptation Committee (TAC) consisting of representatives of the Member States and chaired by Directorate-General Environment. UEPG has worked closely with other members of the Non Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP) to coordinate industry's inputs to the implementation preparatory work. Outstanding key issues for the European Aggregates Industry include the interpretation of the inert waste definition and definition of the criteria for the classification of waste facilities.



*Key issues for the aggregates industry include: definition of waste, provisions related to unexcavated contaminated soil and uncontaminated excavated materials, by-products for example overburden and topsoil, as well as end-of-waste criteria.*

*The Marine Aggregates Task Force is also involved in the Marine Aggregate Network (Maggnet) which brings together research, governments and industries from countries across Europe.*

### Revised Waste Framework Directive

The European Commission proposed on 21 December 2005 a new strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste aiming to set recycling standards and to include an obligation on EU Member States to develop national waste prevention programmes. Key issues for the aggregates industry include: definition of waste, provisions related to unexcavated contaminated soil and uncontaminated excavated materials, by-products for example overburden and topsoil, as well as end-of-waste criteria.

The European Commission also adopted a Communication on by-products. Its objective was to guide competent authorities in making case-by-case judgments on whether a given material is a waste or not, and to give companies information on how these decisions should be taken. In the context of the implementation of the Directive on Management of Waste from the Extractive Industries, the Communication aims to clarify what is waste and what is not by defining terms such as production residues and by-products.

### Soil Protection

In September 2006, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive. In its current form, Annex II is likely to impact on the European Aggregates Industry. The EC Soil Strategy is set out in a Communication, accompanied by an Impact Assessment and a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive.

Key issues for UEPG are that the inclusion in Annex II would lead to disproportionate additional administrative requirements including a soil status report; and the negative impact on the image of the European Aggregates Industry if it should be considered as a polluting activity.

### Marine Strategy Directive

In October 2005, the Commission proposed a strategy to protect Europe's marine environment. It aims to ensure that all EU marine waters are environmentally healthy by 2021. The European Parliament will conclude its second reading of the Directive in December 2007. The key issue for the marine aggregates industry is the definition of marine protected areas in which areas of a sufficient size may be protected from all extractive uses.

Led by Arnaud Colson, the UEPG Marine Aggregates Task Force has had multiple contacts with the European Commission and key Members of the European Parliament to present its views. The Task Force is also involved in the Marine Aggregate Network (Maggnet) which brings together research, governments and industries from countries across Europe.

### Other Work Areas

The Environment Committee also worked on other issues including the Sustainable Development Indicators or the implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive.



# Activities

Health & Safety   Environment   **Technical**   Economic

Chaired by Jean-Marc Vanbelle (Gralex, Belgium) and vice-chaired by John Lay (Cemex, United Kingdom), members of the UEPG Technical Committee have continued to work over the last twelve months as a well coordinated European team on key technical issues likely to impact on the sector. They have particularly benefited from its Secretary Markus Schumacher (BKS, Germany).

*The UEPG Technical Committee has followed very closely the work of CEN/TC 351 (Dangerous substances).*

## Dangerous Substances

The UEPG Technical Committee has followed very closely the work of CEN/TC 351 (Dangerous substances). TC 351 aims at designing testing criteria and test methods to measure the potential release of dangerous substances from construction products. This could potentially lead to a greater testing burden for UEPG members as a majority of EU Member States do not have formal systems of test for such releases.

The potential impact on the European Aggregates Industry is difficult to assess at this stage. The general consensus within the UEPG Technical Committee is that protection of hygiene, health and the environment are vital, but the measures adopted should be proportionate to the risks involved. The "Without Testing" concept is applied where there is evidence that the risk posed by a product is extremely low. In this case, no testing is necessary. The "Without Further Testing" concept allows that if initial type testing shows that the risk posed by a product is low, then no further testing is necessary.

On the other hand, if the initial type testing shows any kind of risk, then the product must be routinely tested under a system of factory production control ("Further Testing"). The difficulty arises in the application of these concepts. Clearly, aggregate producers consider that most aggregates in most applications should be classified "Without Testing". Others may take a more precautionary approach, and at the very least supporting evidence will be required.

The Technical Committee has also monitored the works of TC154 TG13 which is in charge of the preparation of the adaptation of TC 154 standards to the standards which will be issued by TC 351.

## Standards Revision: CEN/TC 154

Members of UEPG Technical Committee made a key contribution to amending TC154 products and test standards to better address the characteristics of recycled and secondary aggregates.

A UEPG ad-hoc Task Force has been set up in October 2006 to identify dangerous substances that are relevant for aggregates and develop constructive proposals. This Task Force also prepared a positive list of aggregates which could be submitted to TC 154 TG 13 for consideration as "without testing" or "without further testing"



In June 2007 CEN TC154 launched the 5 years revision of the harmonised products standards. The challenge for aggregates producer will be to improve the consistency between the different standards and include ad-hoc conformity criteria.

*The UEPG Technical Committee shares the main concerns highlighted in the Stakeholder consultation, on the revision of the Construction Products Directive.*

#### Revision of the Construction Products Directive

In view of revising the Construction Product Directive (CPD), the Commission launched in 2006 a wide stakeholders consultation on important features of the Directive in order to make it more simple and transparent, improve its effectiveness, and reduce the costs of its implementation.

The UEPG Technical Committee shares the main concerns highlighted in the stakeholder consultation, including the need for a harmonised legislative framework, an absolute need for clarification, clear scope for simplification and serious concern about the potential specific effects of the CPD on small and medium enterprises.

The European Commission plans to propose a Regulation to replace the current CPD Directive. A Regulation is directly applicable. This means that it creates law which takes immediate effect in all the Member States in the same way as a national instrument, without any further action on the part of the national authorities, unlike a Directive. Key issues for UEPG have included electronic CE marking, testing laboratories and attestation of conformity.





# Activities

Health & Safety   Environment   Technical   Economic

*The UEPG Economic Committee is the main instrument to collect and analyse economic data.*

Chaired by Hans-Peter Braus (BKS, Germany) and vice-chaired by Jerry McLaughlin (Quarry Products Association, United Kingdom) the UEPG Economic Committee is the main instrument to collect and analyse economic data. This is to demonstrate the valuable contribution of the European Aggregates Industry to the EU economy and quality of life. The Economic Committee was established by the Delegates Assembly in Paris in 2006. It takes over and continues the work of the Statistical Committee.

The Committee addressed issues such as:

## Access to resources

The European Aggregates Industry supplies, and will continue to supply, materials essential for the improvement of standards of living and the quality of life in Europe. The pre-condition to do so is access to resources. To maintain the minerals supply and to minimise the environmental impact, the industry needs to have access to resources close to areas of demand. Sound data and case studies including studies from national associations will demonstrate the challenge and help to ensure a balance between environmental, social and economic interests. Members of the Committee are responding to requests of the European Commission launching an initiative to improve access to resources.

## Market based instruments

The European Environment Agency has published a report on market based instruments for managing natural resources called "The case of taxes /charges on sand, gravel and rock". The paper concluded that tax on aggregates, if properly designed and combined with other instruments, could have positive effects on the environmental impacts of aggregates and construction. The members of the Economic Committee decided to produce a Position Paper on market based instruments.

## Economic added value

The aggregates industry is triggering economic growth, employment and social welfare. National studies from Germany and Austria are underlining the thesis providing productivity factors and figures of re-investment.

## Improving accuracy of UEPG statistics

Since 2006 UEPG presents its Annual Statistics not only in the Annual Report but also on the website [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu) giving member associations another opportunity to amend figures if necessary. For the first time the production of marine aggregates have been included demonstrating the potential in this sub-sector.

*The aggregates industry is triggering economic growth, employment and social welfare.*



# General Secretariat

Located in Brussels, at the centre of the European Union quarter, the UEPG General Secretariat works closely with European Union legislators to contribute to all stages of the policy making process on behalf of the European Aggregates Industry.

## Providing EU intelligence

The UEPG General Secretariat's first mission is to provide UEPG Members with advance notification of policy initiatives that may impact on the European Aggregates Industry. Its small and effective team keeps UEPG Members informed of any relevant EU policy developments at all stages of the legislative process through timely and concise email reports.

The UEPG General Secretariat has monitored emerging proposals or initiatives such as the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR), the Ambient Air Quality Directive and the Communication on Biodiversity. The UEPG General Secretariat maintains daily and close contacts with UEPG Members so that it can respond quickly to any issue of national concern. It also briefed Members directly by participating in national events. In 2007 these were in Austria, Germany, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Since its inception in 2003, the monthly e-newsletter EU Insight has proved a popular tool which offers a succinct summary of recent policy developments. It outlines the next steps, so that UEPG Members can anticipate future developments of any EU initiative and provide constructive inputs to influence the outcome. To ensure a further distribution of this communication tool, the newsletter is now available on the UEPG website [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu) in English (EU Insight), German (Bericht aus Brüssel) and French (Bulletin Europe).

The UEPG General Secretariat is equally well placed to attend and participate in Commission Stakeholder consultation meetings, committee meetings in the European Parliament and external fora.

## Involving the Aggregates Industry in EU Policy Making

The proximity to the EU Institutions and day-to-day contact with policy-makers allow the UEPG General Secretariat to identify opportunities for the European Aggregates Industry to become involved in the policy making process. For example, UEPG was invited to chair the European Commission Sustainability Working Group of the Raw Material Supply Group (WG SEIE). This provides an exceptional opportunity to contribute to the direction of EU policy at the earliest stage.

The UEPG General Secretariat has continuously strengthened its network of key contacts within the European Commission, European Parliament and EU Council working groups. Useful platforms are the UEPG Board Policy Dinners where open and informal discussion with key EU policy-makers takes place. Speakers have included Patrick Murphy, Head of Biodiversity Unit, DG Environment, and Sebastian Winkler, Head of Countdown 2010 from the World Conservation Union IUCN.



To ensure a further distribution of the UEPG newsletter is now available on the UEPG website [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu) in English (EU Insight), French (Bulletin Europe) and German (Bericht aus Brüssel).



*The UEPG General Secretariat acts as a facilitator between EU policy-makers and UEPG Members and provides valuable networking opportunities.*

The UEPG General Secretariat acts as a facilitator between EU policy-makers and UEPG Members and provides valuable networking opportunities. Over the last twelve months, it has organised timely meetings with François Wakenhut (Marine Environment), Fotios Papoulias (Mining Waste), Paul Speight (Waste Framework Directive), Claudia Olazabal (Soil Protection), Herbert Aichinger (SMEs and Environmental Policy), Werner Bosmans (Sustainable Use of Natural Resources) of DG Environment, as well as Hans Pietersen and Paul Anciaux (Minerals) of DG Enterprise and Industry and John Richardson and Iain Shepherd (Maritime Policy) from DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs.

*The UEPG General Secretariat designs targeted lobbying strategies and acts as a coordinator in their implementation.*

#### Coordinating EU lobbying campaigns

The UEPG General Secretariat designs targeted lobbying strategies and acts as a coordinator in their implementation. Examples include the positive outcome on the Mining Waste Directive, where a well-coordinated pan-European action led to environmental improvements without imposing a disproportionate burden on the companies. The excellent cooperation between members of the Non-Energy Extractive Industries Panel (NEEIP) as well as the effective support of UEPG Members ensured a comprehensive briefing of key Members of the European Parliament through telephone calls and face-to-face meetings. The UEPG General Secretariat works closely with other European Industry Associations of the Non-Energy Extractive Industry. Where there is a consensus on a particular issue, the UEPG General Secretariat contributes to joint advocacy work. Examples of this coordinated approach included the joint position papers on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR), on Soil Protection and on Groundwater.

*The General Secretariat has continued to promote the achievements of the European Aggregates Industry by making keynote speeches in international conferences.*

#### Raising the industry's profile

The General Secretariat has continued to promote the achievements of the European Aggregates Industry by making keynote speeches in international conferences such as the EU High Level Conference on Business & Biodiversity in Lisbon in November and the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Unit Workshop (TAIEX Workshop) in Ljubljana in December. It also develops and coordinates targeted events. A successful example is the close cooperation with the European Minerals Foundation (EMF) organising the European Minerals Forum 2006. The theme was "Social Challenges". The event had been especially designed to enable the industry to be more pro-active and to develop constructive recommendations on key policy issues and share them with EU policy-makers. High-level representatives from the European Commission included Pedro Ortún, Director from DG Enterprise & Industry, Agata Zdanowicz, DG Environment, François Ziegler and Jackie Morin from DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Paul Anciaux, DG Enterprise & Industry. The European Minerals Forum 2006 represented a key opportunity for the industry to formulate and present in a pro-active manner its recommendations for future policies. UEPG demonstrated that it was in a position to contribute in an authoritative way to public policy issues impacting on the European Aggregates Industry.



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Vice-Chair	César Luaces Frades	FdA, Spain
Secretary	Dirk Fincke	UEPG General Secretariat

### Environment

Chair	Arnaud Colson	Lafarge/UNPG, France
Vice-Chair	Liam Smyth	ICF, Ireland
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### Technical

Chair	Jean-Marc Vanbelle	Gralex/FEDIEX, Belgium
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Secretary	Markus Schumacher	BKS, Germany

### Economic

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**Biodiversity Task Force:** Liam Smyth, ICF, Ireland

## UEPG PORTFOLIOS

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**RMSG Working Group: Sustainable Development Indicators:** Arnaud Colson, Jerry McLaughlin

**RMSG Working Group: Sustainability of Extractive Industry Enterprises:** Ulrich Hahn

**Non Energy Extractive Industries Panel (NEEIP):** César Luaces Frades

**European Network on Silica (NePSi):** Martin Isles

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**European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (Bilbao):** César Luaces Frades

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**CEN/TC 154:** Jean-Marc Vanbelle

**CEN/TC 227:** Ulrich Hahn

**CEN/TC 292:** Ulrich Hahn, Jean-Marc Vanbelle

**CEN/TC 351:** John Lay





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We would like to thank UEPG members for their contributions.

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 Top, centre..... European Commission, Berlaymont Building, Photograph by UEPG  
 Top, right..... European Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen, Bavarian Representation, 2007, Photograph by UEPG  
 Centre, left..... Viaduc de Millau bridge, Photograph by UNPG, France  
 Centre..... Biodiversity, Photograph by UNPG, France  
 Centre, right..... ICE High Speed Train, Germany (web)  
 Bottom, left..... Miroslav Ouzký, Chairman of the Environment Committee of the European Parliament, UEPG Sustainable Development Awards 2007, Photograph by UEPG  
 Bottom, centre... European Parliament in Brussels, Photograph by UEPG  
 Bottom, right..... Didier Audibert (left) and Sebastian Winkler (right), UEPG Sustainable Development Awards 2007, Photograph by UEPG

## Core values

- Left..... Modern architecture, La Defense, Paris, Photograph by Lafarge, France  
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 Right..... Restoration of quarry, Photograph by Lafarge, France

## President's Introduction

- Left..... Porvoo Bridge, Photograph by INFRA, Finland  
 Centre..... Roads, Photograph by Irish Concrete Federation, Ireland  
 Right..... Modern hospital, Photograph by Lafarge, France  
 Centre, right..... President Denis Mertens, Photograph by ALC Productions

## Aggregates in Europe

- Left..... Aggregates, Photograph by UNPG, France  
 Centre..... Truck on a quarry, Photograph by UNPG, France  
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 Left..... Transport of Aggregates, Paris, Photograph by UNPG, France  
 Centre..... Transport of Aggregates, Paris, Photograph by UNPG, France  
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## Economic Outlook

- Left..... President Denis Mertens, Biodiversity Conference in Lisbon, November 2007, Photograph by UEPG  
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## UEPG Structure

- Left..... Vladimír Hermann, Czech Republic, Committee meeting in Prague, Photograph by UEPG  
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 Right..... Brian James (left) and Özgür Öztürk (right), Committee Meeting, Bucharest, Photograph by UEPG

## Health Et Safety

- Left..... Martin Isles, UEPG Sustainable Development Awards 2007, Photograph by UEPG  
 Centre..... Safety instruction, Czech Republic, Photograph by AC KR  
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 Right..... Martin Isles (left), Didier Audibert (centre) and César Luaces Frades (right), Committee Meeting, Bucharest, Photograph by UEPG

## Environment

- Left..... Patrick Hennessy (European Commission), UEPG Sustainable Development Awards 2007, Photograph by UEPG  
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 Right..... Arnaud Colson and Patrick Murphy (European Commission), 2007, Photograph by UEPG  
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- Left..... Jean-Marc Vanbelle (left) and Robert Wasserbacher (right), Committee Meeting, Brussels, 2007, Photograph by UEPG  
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- Left..... Antony Fell, Committee Meeting, Brussels, 2007, Photograph by UEPG  
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 Centre..... Steffen Wiedenfeld (left), Peter Wessel (centre) and Matthias Schlotmann (right), Committee Meeting, Brussels, 2007, Photograph by UEPG  
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