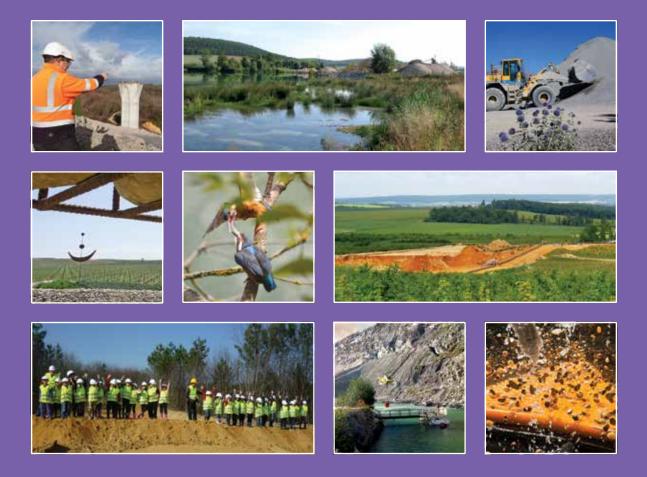
EUROPEAN AGGREGATES ASSOCIATION

A Sustainable Industry for a Sustainable Europe



Annual Review 2013-2014





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WHAT IS UEPG?



Rue d'Arlon 21 ▲ 1050 Brussels ▲ Belgium T +32 2 233 53 00 ▲ secretariat@uepg.eu ▲ www.uepg.eu EU Transparency Register: 15340821653-49 UEPG stands for "Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats" (European Aggregates Association). Since 1987, UEPG has strongly promoted the interests of the European Aggregates Industry by representing its National Member Associations on economic, technical, environmental and health & safety policy.

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 also positively promotes the profile of the European Aggregates Industry.

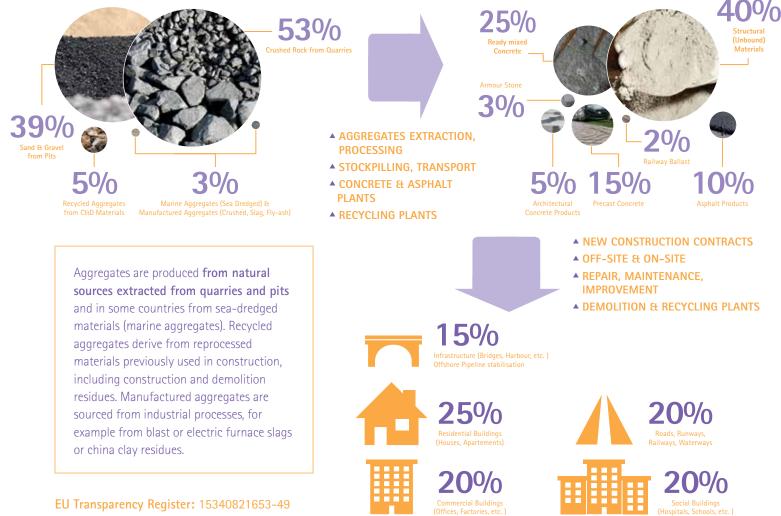


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THE AGGREGATES SECTOR IS BY FAR THE LARGEST AMONGST THE NON-ENERGY EXTRACT

Aggregates are a granular material used in construction. Aggregates are sand, gravel (including marine aggregates), crushed rock, recycled and manufactured aggregates. The diagram below illustrates the sources, intermediate and end uses of aggregates:



www.uepq.eu



Editorial

Towards better Championing the Aggregates Industry in Europe

The Annual Review for 2013-2014 illustrates yet again how UEPG continues to champion the industry for the benefit of our 30 member countries and for the industry's added value for society. Despite the economic crisis still heavily present in our sector, 2013/14 again demonstrated the continuous active commitments of our Members towards continuous improvement in terms of Health and Safety, Environment, Technical and Economical aspects. This year also demonstrated the strong solidarity and linkage between member countries and the strength of our network spanning from European to national and company level.

This year, UEPG was particularly focused on contributing to the Raw Material Strategy, the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, the report of the voluntary social dialogue agreement NePSi on reducing exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica, incoming technical standards and the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation. All our achievements are presented in detail in this document.

It goes hand in hand with UEPG core values to supply essential aggregates materials to society, to contribute to the revitalisation of European Industry, its competitiveness and growth, to enhance a Health and Safety culture and Social Dialogue, to contribute to the environment and biodiversity, and to build consistent operational standards for our sector. This work would not have been possible without continued close cooperation, shared responsibility and recognised trust. The highlight of the year 2013 was the UEPG Sustainable Development Awards Ceremony to reward companies in Europe for their excellence and share their good practices on Social, Economical, Environmental and Biodiversity stewardship.

2014 was marked by the recent European Elections and a consequent change in the coming five years legislature with a new Parliament formed by July and a new Commission by November. This is an opportunity for UEPG and its members to inform afresh the new EU decisionmakers on the sectors' expertise and its vision.

2014 also saw the publication of the European Commission Communications package on Circular Economy. This is a new deal to which UEPG will contribute to underline the operational reality and sustainability ambitions of the industry.

The pursuit of this ongoing championing on behalf of our industry will be continue to be carried on by our excellent UEPG Team based in Brussels, and will be lead by our highly-dedicated Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups, as always relying on the unflagging support of all our Members to keep UEPG on its path of continuous improvement towards true sustainability and resource efficiency.

Arnaud Colson President UEPG 2012-2015



UEPG achievements in 2013/14

Throughout the last year, UEPG worked incessantly to make sure that the interests of the European Aggregates Industry were successfully represented to and taken into consideration by the European Union Institutions. The interests included:

Environment

- The top priority in 2013/2014 was the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive. Its obligations impact directly on the aggregates producer's ability to obtain or to extend a permit.
- Biodiversity also remains a top priority. In 2013, UEPG developed and launched its own indicators.
- UEPG continued to follow very closely developments on the 7th Environmental Action Programme, on the Blueprint to safeguard Europe's waters, on soil protection, dust emissions and implementation of Natura 2000.

Technical

- UEPG maintained its monitoring of the implementation of the Construction Product Regulation (CPR) which has replaced the Construction Product Directive (CPD).
- UEPG lobbied as associated Member of CPE for Construction Products to be excluded from the scope of the Regulation on consumer product safety to avoid any unnecessary requirements and associated extra administrative burden.

- The Technical Committee keeps monitoring and actively involved in the drafting and revision of standards.
- ▲ UEPG created a Recycling Task Force, demonstrating its commitment to resource efficiency. The Task Force is at its formative stage, and has as objective to "encourage all possible use of recycled materials as aggregates, for the most appropriate application on the place of use". This implies the promotion of recycling where economically, environmentally and technically feasible.

Health and Safety

- UEPG replied to risk assessment studies and consultation of the European Commission on Respirable Crystalline Silica and promoted good results and examples of the Social Dialogue Agreement (NePSi) via successful 2014 reporting by its Members.
- ▲ UEPG actively supported the 14th European Minerals Foundation Forum on accident prevention focused on machines and equipment, where Safer by Design achieved a general consensus.
- The Explosives for Civil Uses Task Force, led by UEPG received the support of Members States in its

actions and finalised a guidance document for the whole supply chain. A second guidance document for users only, with Questions and Answers and a dedicated Task Force website were prepared and disseminated. This will ensure a smooth implementation of the Directive, contributing to security, efficiency and cost effectiveness in the use of explosives.

▲ UEPG received recognition as Partner of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work 2012-2013 Healthy workplaces Campaign called 'Working together for risk prevention' and is participating in the coming campaign on 'Stress at Work'.

Economic

- Continued high level awareness was given to sustainable access to resources when implementing the EU Raw Materials Strategy in EU Member States.
- UEPG is actively involved within EC Working Groups on exchanges of good practices and indicators.
- UEPG closely monitored the Accounting Directive and positioned clearly on resource taxation and other market based instruments. This position had been shared and strengthened

by other European Association of the Non-Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP).

UEPG closely participated in EU Projects such as Minventory, a database on EU Raw materials deposits, Minerals4EU, an operational raw material management network across Europe, and in the SNAP-SEE (SustaiNable Aggregates Planning for South-Eastern Europe) Project.

UEPG Sustainable Development Awards and Ceremony

▲ The Triennial Sustainable Development Awards Ceremony and a Gala Dinner were a great success and a showcase of the industry's commitments to and excellence in sustainable development. The event gathered more than 130 participants all over Europe with EU, national and regional decision-makers and media, amongst them the Vice-President of the European Parliament. The associated press release, speeches, awards and certificates are on the UEPG website: http://www.uepg. eu/mediaroom/18/30/UEPG-Sustainable-Development-Awards-2013/, as further information on this brochure p.25



Our Vision, Mission, Core Values and Objectives

Our Vision is a Sustainable Industry for a Sustainable Europe

Our Mission is to be the Industry Champion and a Trusted Partner

Our Core Values are to be Open, Transparent and Honest

Our Objectives are as follows:

Economic Objectives

Economic Survival

Many UEPG members continue to suffer highly adverse market conditions. Drastic actions were necessary to survive economically. Economic recovery in Europe is elusive and huge uncertainty remains. UEPG exhorts EU and national politicians to create better economic conditions in Europe.

Supplying essential Building Materials

UEPG member companies supply materials vital for the residential, social, transport and commercial infrastructures of modern European society. Continued long-term access to local raw materials is a vital issue for the industry, and is central to its lobbying on the Raw Materials Strategy.

Retaining Jobs

Despite the current recession, UEPG member companies continue to be an important source of long-term local jobs, both direct and indirect, particularly in rural areas.

Contributing to Europe's Competitiveness

The Aggregates Industry is highly competitive. Its activities are a key pillar of the European Economy.

Social Objectives

Promoting Health & Safety

UEPG member companies are dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of their employees, contractors and visitors. UEPG has developed further partnerships with several health and safety initiatives such as EU-OSHA, SSDCEI and the NePSi Agreement.

On safety, the industry recognises that further improvement is much needed, and it is committed to actively addressing that challenge.

Partnering with Local Stakeholders

UEPG member companies aim to engage with all relevant stakeholders. Their quarry and pit operations are an integral part of regional and local communities.

The industry is committed to Open-Door communications with its neighbours and other key stakeholders.

Contributing to Europe's Heritage

UEPG members acknowledge the importance of the common natural and built European heritage and will continue to promote best practices in its extractive and restoration activities.

Environmental Objectives

Promoting Biodiversity

UEPG members are strongly committed to promoting Biodiversity both during its extractive activities and subsequent restoration. UEPG is convinced that quarries and pits are Biodiversity havens.

UEPG has established a database of impressive Biodiversity case studies across Europe and has developed leading partnerships with IUCN, the EC B@B Platform and with local NGOs.

Sustainable Production

UEPG actively promotes the recycling of construction and demolition materials, and is strongly committed to Resource Efficiency.

UEPG also promotes the further development of marine aggregates in order to conserve land-based resources.

In all activities, the highest standards of environmental stewardship are set as an operational imperative of the Aggregates Industry

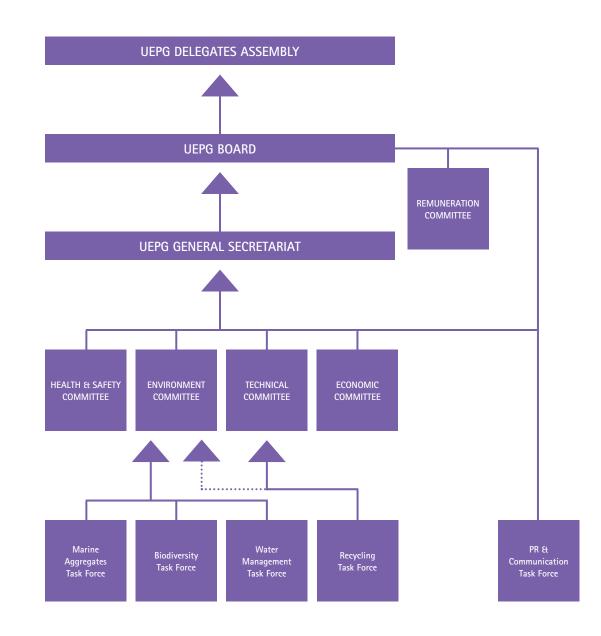
Awards

UEPG promotes triennial Sustainable Development Awards in order to recognise and further promote excellence in the Industry, the next being planned for 2016.



Our Organisational Structure

The Health & Safety, Environment, Technical and Economic Committees and their associated Task Forces are the "engine-room" of UEPG activities. These Committees meet twice yearly and report to the Board. The Board reviews progress and strategy twice yearly. The highest level meeting is the Delegates Assembly, held in May or June each year, where all Members debate and decide on UEPG activities and the way forward.





European Economic Developments

Each year, UEPG gathers and collates best available production data from 35 countries. The data for 2012 is presented for those 35 countries in the Table on page 14, together with the sub-totals for the EU 28 plus EFTA countries as well as for the EU28 countries only.

Figure 1 summarises the national production tonnages by country and type of aggregates. It is notable that Russia has now overtaken Germany in terms of tonnage, and Turkey has moved into third place. Overall in 2012, crushed stone makes up 53% of all production, followed by sand & gravel at 39% and recycled materials at 5%, the remaining 3% being manufactured and marine aggregates.

The 2012 production data clearly demonstrates the continued devastating effect of recession across Europe, with a further 10% decline in EU plus EFTA tonnages from the 2011 level. The slight uptick noted for 2011 proved a false hope. The overall 2012 tonnage was 28% below the 2007 peak. The "bail-out" countries, namely Ireland, Greece, Spain and Portugal have suffered around 80% declines from 2007 in their national markets.

Analysis also shows that, in EU plus EFTA, the number of companies has since 2007 declined by approximately 7,000 to 15,000 in 2012. Still more dramatic has been the corresponding loss of approximately 180,000 jobs (or 44%) since 2007 to figure of 230,000 employed in 2012. The total numbers of quarries and pits remained constant at just over 25,000, though many of these doubtless have been mothballed in recent years.

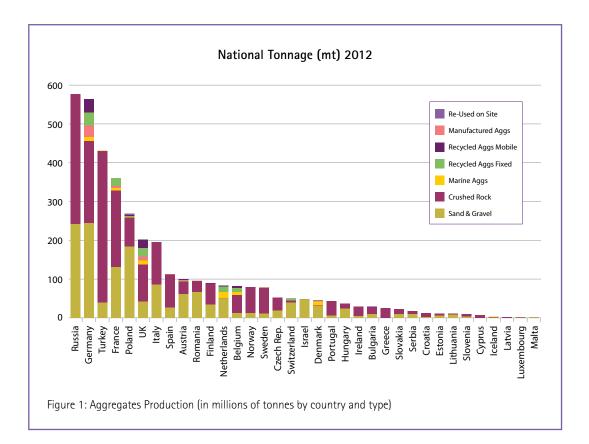
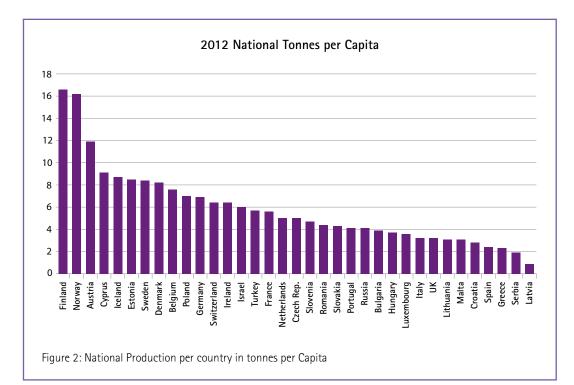




Figure 2 demonstrates the national productions in tonnes per capita. These naturally vary by geological availability, climate and building traditions. However, the average 2012 across the EU plus EFTA countries declined by 28% to 5.2 tonnes/capita compared to 7.2 tonnes/capita in 2007.







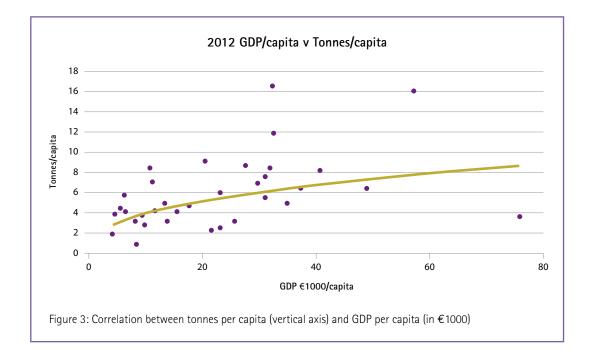


Figure 3 compares the data for national tonnes/capita to its GDP/capita. Each point on the graph represents individual countries, and the red line shows the overall trend. This graph demonstrates that the need for aggregates in tonnes/capita grows as an economy grows, which is hopefully good news for the aggregates industry, once the current deep recession is ended.

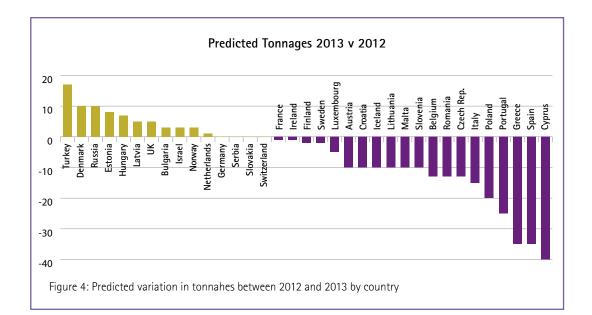
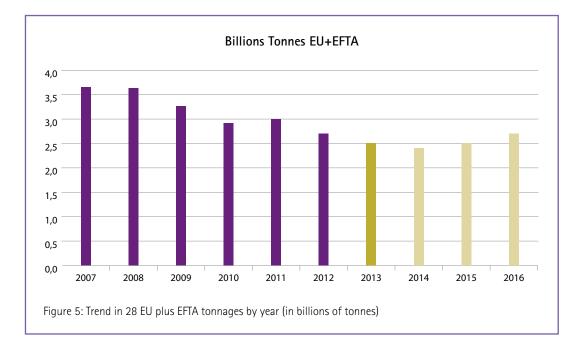




Figure 4 demonstrates the anticipated tonnages in 2013 compared to 2012. The green bars represent those countries expecting some growth in 2013. Most significant in volume terms are Turkey and Russia, indicating better growth prospects outside of the EU than within it. The many red bars indicate those countries unfortunately still in a continued downward trend.



The overall expectation is that for EU plus EFTA the overall 2013 tonnage will be another 6% down on 2012, indicating a total production of only 2. 5 billion tonnes. It is feared that 2014 will see another small decline overall, with the total EU plus EFTA tonnage possibly declining to 2. 4 billion tonnes, representing an unprecedented 35% decline since 2007. Based on the latest Euroconstruct views, it is hoped to see some return to growth in 2015 and 2016, as illustrated in Figure 5.

These devastating tonnage decline of the last seven years sends a very strong message to the European Institutions, and particularly to the newly-elected European Parliament, namely that there must now be an overarching focus on stimulating a return to economic revival and job creation across Europe.

The European Aggregates Industry, now even leaner, greener and more sustainable than ever before, is ready to play its part in that much-awaited return to growth.



Best Estimates of Aggregates Production Data for 2012

	UEPG Status	Total Number of Producers (Companies)	Total Number of Extraction Sites (Quarries and Pits)	Sand & Gravel (millions tonnes)	Crushed Rock (millions tonnes)	Marine Aggregates (millions tonnes)	Manufactured Aggregates (millions tonnes)	Recycled Aggregates (millions tonnes)	Re-Used on Site (millions tonnes)	Total Production (millions tonnes)
Austria	FM	1068	1362	62	32	0	2	4	0	100
Belgium	FM	84	112	13	46	8	1	15	0	82
Bulgaria	AM	217	295	10	18	0	0	1	0	29
Croatia	AM	170	250	3	9	0	0	0	0	13
Cyprus	FM	24	24	0	7	0	0	0	0	7
Czech Rep	NM	182	381	19	33	0	0	0	0	52
Denmark	FM	227	364	31	0	11	1	2	0	45
Estonia	AC	190	280	7	4	0	0	0	0	11
Finland	FM	572	2730	34	54	0	0	1	0	90
France	FM	1620	2572	132	196	7	5	20	0	360
Germany	FM	1580	3145	245	211	10	30	68	0	564
Greece	AC	137	189	0	25	0	0	0	0	25
Hungary	AM	473	788	24	13	0	0	0	0	36
lceland	AC	28	56	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Israel	AFM	18	35	48	0	0	0	0	0	48
Ireland	FM	110	450	5	24	0	0	0	0	29
Italy	NM	1120	1800	86	109	0	0	0	0	195
Latvia	FM	30	25	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Lithuania	NM	30	307	9	2	0	0	0	0	11
Luxembourg	AC	7	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Malta	NM	15	16	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Netherlands	FM	235	215	51	0	16	0	17	0	83
Norway	FM	1008	1110	13	67	0	0	0	0	79
Poland	AM	1733	2771	185	74	0	0	5	4	268
Portugal	FM	240	279	6	37	0	0	0	0	43
Romania	FM	975	1210	68	28	0	0	0	0	96
Russia	NM	1181	1485	242	334	0	0	0	0	576
Serbia	AC	20	65	10	7	0	0	0	0	17
Slovakia	AM	289	299	10	12	n/a	0	0	1	23
Slovenia	AC	30	40	4	6	0	0	0	0	9
Spain	FM	1140	1175	27	85	0	0	0	0	113
Sweden	FM	481	1391	12	66	0	1	0	0	79
Switzerland	FM	540	540	40	5	0	0	5	0	50
Turkey	NM	750	780	40	390	1	0	0	0	431
, UK	FM	697	1322	43	95	10	10	44	0	202
35 Countries		17221	27873	1482	1989	62	51	183	5	3772
EU28 + EFTA		15252	25508	1142	1258	62	51	183	5	2701

2569

23802 Note: FM = Full Member, AM = Associate Member, AC= Associate Company, AFM = Affiliate Member, NM = Non-Member

1088

EU28 only



Economic Committee

Chaired by Hans-Peter Braus (MIRO, Germany) with Jerry McLaughlin (MPA, UK) as Vice-Chairman, and Dirk Fincke as Secretary of the Committee, the Economic Committee focuses and lobbies on all key economic challenges facing the industry, to ensure that it can perform competitively and sustainably in the economic sense as well as environmentally and socially. Its activities are particularly important in the context of continuing severe recession in many European countries, increasingly difficult access to raw materials and the political and operational drives to improve resource efficiency.

The main focus of the Economic Committee has been on the implementation of the EU Raw Materials Strategy, in particular supporting the European Commission on improving the legal framework conditions for sustainable access to resources within Europe, the Initiatives on Resource Efficiency and developing indicators, while in parallel opposing associated taxation proposals, seeking to improve transport efficiency, further developing sustainable development indicators (SDIs).

EU Raw Materials Strategy

UEPG has contributed to the development and implementation of the EU Raw Materials Initiative since it was launched in 2007, subsequently to the 2010 Raw Materials Strategy, which latter remained on three pillars structure addressing (1) critical raw materials, (2) improving the legal framework conditions to ensure access to resources within the EU and (3) resource efficiency and recycling.

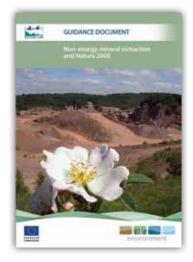


UEPG supports strongly the development of national land use planning systems and simplified, timeefficient and cost-effective permitting procedures to ensure good access to aggregates deposits, particularly for SMEs.

DG Enterprise & Industry used the European Commission Raw Materials Supply Group (RMSG), to which UEPG is an active member, as the key tool to report on progress with two ad-hoc Working Groups on critical raw materials and land-use planning and permitting (AHWG2). In full respect of the subsidiarity principle, the European Commission developed a number of indicators with the support of Stakeholders such as UEPG, which should provide an insight into which kind of policies contribute to a fast, clear and reliable land-use planning and permitting process. In addition, DG Enterprise & Industry subcontracted a project to collect 25 good practice examples on land-use planning and permitting procedures across the EU to which UEPG Members contributed. The Commission announced a public consultation to be launched by the end of 2014 on EU Raw Materials Supply and the option to prepare a legislative proposal based on a European Commission Report (merging the indicator recommendations with the 25 good practice examples proposed by Stakeholders as UEPG) which was published at the EU Greek Presidency Conference on 20 June and where UEPG was present.

Resource Efficiency

In 2011, the European Commission published a Communication on Resource Efficiency, together with a Roadmap. The main target of the Communication was to stimulate ways of producing goods with less primary resources (so-called economic decoupling). Consequently, DG Environment had set up in 2012 a European Resource Efficiency Platform (EREP) comprised of high-level representatives from the European Commission, Members of the European Parliament, Environmental NGOs, Academia and Industry. EREP had recently presented policy recommendations including a weight-based and consumption-focused lead indicator without taking into account the environmental impact during extraction and long-term application of the raw











material, i. e. the sustainable use in construction. A number of additional indicators on land, water, soil, biodiversity and other areas intends to compensate the shortcomings of the lead indicator.

UEPG underlines that the Aggregates Industry is a local sector with hardly any international trade. What matters to aggregates producers is local access to resources to reduce the environmental and economic costs of transport. This requires a coherent land-use planning and a simplified permitting procedure allowing sufficiently long permits to extract the full economically viable deposit rather than closing a non-exhausted site. UEPG further expressed concerns that the proposed weight-based lead-indicator (EUR/tonne) would penalise the European Aggregates Industry under a one-fits-all approach.

Resource efficiency means also using modern technology to ensure the most efficient extraction, crushing and screening, minimising its land footprint, using deposits to the full extent feasible, minimising environmental impact including water usage, preserving and fostering biodiversity in both operating and restored quarries and pits, many of which are in or near Natura 2000 areas. The industry maintains local employment, aims for the highest standards of health and safety, while regularly liaising with neighbours and local communities. UEPG particularly aims at improving resource efficiency through promoting recycling of construction and demolition (C&D) materials where technically, economically and environmentally viable, thus reducing usage of natural aggregates, simultaneously minimising the amount of C&D materials going to be landfill. Several countries already recycle all suitable construction and demolition materials, and the resulting recycled aggregates typically comprise 15-25% of those national markets. Other countries are developing recycling strategies, though progress is often hindered through unnecessary permitting bureaucracy and unclear end-of-waste criteria.

Aggregates taxation

UEPG supports the European Parliament Report on an effective raw materials strategy for Europe in its belief 'that a tax on mineral resources is not an adequate (or appropriate – UEPG) fiscal tool for increasing resource efficiency'.

UEPG raised concerns on Resource taxation which is addressed by some decision-makers and studies. Although, the general policy is to shift the cost burden from labour towards resource use, the implementation of any taxation policy would strictly remain with EU Member States respecting the subsidiarity principle. At the 2014 UEPG Delegates Assembly, UEPG Members agreed to create a Working Group on taxation lead by Jerry McLaughlin (MPA, UK).







Technical Committee

With the perseverance of Brian James (Chair of the Recycled Aggregates Task Force) and the combined dedication of John B-Bullock (Secretary), Markus Schumacher (Vice-Chair) and Jean-Marc Vanbelle (Chair), the UEPG Technical Committee continued working in 2013-2014 on all technical key topics relevant for the Aggregates Industry: Recycling, Construction Products Regulation, Release of Dangerous Substances, Environmental Product Declarations and European Aggregates Standards.

The network of the UEPG Technical Committee continued to address the same key issues as in the past years, with the objective of maintaining a truly open, competitive and sustainable European market for natural, recycled, marine and secondary aggregates.

Construction Products Regulation (CPR)

Thanks to a close liaison with CPE (Construction Products Europe), the UEPG TC maintained its monitoring of the implementation of <u>Construction Products Regulation (CPR)</u> as its replacement of the Construction Product Directive (CPD).

The Declaration of Performance (DoP) is the key concept in the CPR. Each manufacturer delivers through the DoP the information about the essential characteristics of the product he wants to place on the market. The essential characteristics are specified in the <u>harmonised product standards</u> (hEN) covering the product use.

The Commission has been authorised in the CPR to adopt delegated acts in eight different fields (cf. esp. Article 60). The Delegated Regulation (EU) No 574/2014 on the conditions for making a <u>declaration of performance on construction</u> <u>products available on a website</u> was published on of 30 October 2013. The Delegated Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of Annex III on <u>the model to be used</u> <u>for drawing up a DoP on construction products</u> was published on 21 February 2014. These documents provide flexibility, simplification and guidance to Manufacturers.

CE marking was the core of the Construction Products Directive (CPD), the Construction Product

Regulation (CPR) changes the role of the CE marking and now the Declaration of Performance (DoP) is the core of the system. Nevertheless, the legal value of the CE marking content versus the DoP is still not clear for the stakeholders. CPE Manufacturers would propose a drastic reduction of the CE label to the critical information, according to the agreement in the Technical Committee, while keeping the link to the DoP as the reference document and to facilitate the use of IT tools to provide information for CE marking.

A draft template of the Implementation of the Construction Products Regulation acc. Art 67(2) Report for Members States is in preparation. The European Commission had launched in June 2014 a call for tenders to analyse the CPR Implementation process, work which should start before the end of 2014.

Environmental Products Declaration (EPD) for aggregates

A Model EPD for aggregates had been approved for general use and may, whenever desired, be adapted to local conditions by individual users. This model is on a cradle to gate basis. It includes all natural aggregates, that is, sand & gravel, crushed rock and marine aggregates as well as recycled aggregates.

It has been stated that EPDs will not automatically become obligatory after CPR implementation, but they may become "the common tool" if requested by national regulators and/or customers or decided by the Commission through a delegated act.

Additionally, EPDs could be a way to address BWR7 (Sustainable Use of natural resources). To that end, the UEPG EPD should have Product Category Rule (PCR). The UEPG network will therefore be reactivated in order to prepare a PCR.

Release of Dangerous Substances (RDS)

On RDS, the respective UEPG WG has started to refine a geological/petrographic description approach for crushed rock and to collate existing data for sand and gravel. The purpose of this geological description is to enable the formation of clusters of producers to elaborate technical dossiers proving the absence of





Construction Products Regulation







necessity for further testing of those aggregates. Up to now the Commission has not approved the dossiers presented by the construction product producers.

Robustness testing of the CEN TC 351 Draft Leaching Test Methods is completed. Based on the results of this study, CEN TC 351 WG1 has proposed two percolation tests. This possibility of choice has been rejected by TC351 and the Commission. TC351 consequently drafted a proposal for a new percolation test, different from the former two. The UEPG WG will continue to monitor TC351 WG1 in order to propose some simplifications of the test methods for aggregates for presentation to TC 154 SC6 and WG13 which will decide how to implement the TC351 tests for aggregates. Limits would have to be or could be set up by member states individually. At the same time, the UEPG WG will also monitor the developments regarding radioactivity measurement in construction products.

Recycled Aggregates

Following the Delegates Assembly of 7 June 2013 in Helsinki, a Recycling Task Force, chaired by Brian James (MPA, UK), was set up.

Its main deliverables will be to give clear definitions of recycled aggregates, to increase the level of reliability of data and statistics and to encourage possible use of recycling as an aggregate, for the most appropriate application on the place of use.

The Task Force promotes good practices and an adequate legislative framework.

Recycling is a key issue in resource efficiency, and an important aspect of sustainable construction, two important EU initiatives.

European Aggregate Standards

The Technical Committee has been extremely active in this area. The main developments concern the revision of harmonised product standards by TC 154.

In December 2013, the CEN Management Centre (CCMC) decided to withdraw some newly approved 2013 standards and reactivate the 2002 versions. This was a result of the situation surrounding the

2013 versions of EN 12620, EN 13043, EN 16236, EN 13139, EN 13242, EN 13383-1 and EN 13450. Indeed, the published standards contained some mistakes/errors, which were to be addressed and it was planned that TC154 would have proceeded with a corrigendum to rectify editorials errors, followed by an amendment to correct technical matters.

The French Member AFNOR saw these as technical changes. As a result the CEN Management Centre decided that a serious breach of CEN rules had taken place.

The CEN/TC 154 Chairman's Panel suggested having a joint meeting of all affected sub-committees and working groups in order to discuss the amendments of the standards. This meeting took place on 16 January 2014, convened by Jean-Marc Vanbelle, Chair of the UEPG Technical Committee and Chairman of TC154/SC6/TG12. Hence, all concerned SCs and WGs met to prepare new drafts on standards based on the 2013 versions.

The TC154 plenary meeting decided in July 2014 to present those drafts for CEN Enquiry, choosing the long road rather the quick one through UAP (Unique Acceptance Procedure). This long road enables all the technical changes to be made during CEN Enquiry which would not be possible using the UAP route, preventing the possibility of reproducing the same errors as in 2013.

After CEN Enquiry and once amended, the draft standards will be presented to final vote for publication in 2015/2016.



Health & Safety Committee

Under the Chairmanship of Martin Isles (MPA, UK), César Luaces Frades (FdA, Spain), Vice-Chair and Miette Dechelle (UEPG, Brussels), Secretary, the Health and Safety Committee's mission is to actively promote better Health & Safety across the European Aggregates Industry to improve the Health and Safety culture and move closer towards Zero Harm target in each member country. This mission in 2013-2014 was facilitated through improving awareness and knowledge sharing, acting as an industry leader in voluntary initiatives, working together with the whole supply chain, and lobbying on key policy Health & Safety issues at European level.

Further implementing the Social Dialogue Agreement on Respirable Crystalline Silica

UEPG, together with other NePSi partners, aims at promoting the European Social Dialogue Agreement (ESDA) via NePSi reporting guidelines, good practices sharing, IT tools, website and campaigns to demonstrate the increasing success of the Agreement in protecting the occupational health of workers. In 2014, despite the financial recession, UEPG Member reports demonstrated a significant increase in the number of enrolled sites and continued progress on exposure reduction measures and training of employees. In addition, UEPG contributed to studies to highlight and promote good practices on sites. Furthermore, UEPG has the strategic aim of involving the construction sector in NePSi. UEPG believes firmly that ongoing implementation of the ESDA is the best mode for further exposure reduction and hence of occupational illness prevention rather than imposition of unnecessarily punitive regulatory controls.

Liaison with European Commission on Health & Safety-related Activities

UEPG is a Member of the International Social Security Association, Mining section (ISSA-Mining), an EU Social Partner in the European Commission's Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for the Extractive Industry (SSDCEI) and is part of the Standing Working Party for the Mining and Other Extractive Industries (SWPEI). UEPG became an EU official partner of the Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2012-13 on Working Together and 2014-15 on Stress at Work.

UEPG "Safer by Design" project

The "Safer by Design" project is a UK Mineral Products Association (MPA) initiative. The aim of this project is to convince mobile plant suppliers to include all essential safety features in new equipment as standard and preferably without additional costs to eliminate accidents linked to poor or inadequate design. This voluntary guidance document is clearly set out on the "Safe Quarry" website http://www. safequarry.com/safer_by_design.aspx (see inset). Since 2010, this successful project has received top recognition at European and International level. In 2013-14, the "Safer by Design" initiative continued to be promoted successfully through several EU/EC channels including, Machinery Directive Working Group, CEN/TC151, the ADCO (Administration and Cooperation) Task Force on earthmoving machinery and noise, and the Sectoral Social Dialogue. Dr. Jost-Peter Sonnenberg from the German BG Rohstoffe und chemische Industrie, represented UEPG at the CEN/TC 151 Plenary Session in November, presenting Safer by Design and reflecting, increasingly, the will of Members to work together to convince mobile plant manufacturers to improve safety and health aspects of the design of their equipment.

On 27 November, the European Minerals Foundation, supported by the Non-Energy Extractive Industry sectors, including UEPG, organised a debate on tools to prevent accidents. The event was hosted by Christa Schweng, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee and Chair of the Governing Board of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work who underlined the necessity to work together for risk prevention. Armindo Silva, Director for 'Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue' in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) of the European Commission recommended that end users engaged with manufacturers and provided to them data based on feedback and machines' compliances, to work together on the Design Stage, recognised that risk assessment was an essential step in prevention of Occupation Safety and Health (OSH), as working together with and between social partners and supporting SMEs in OSH. After











Better implementation of the Explosives Directive.

the presentation of Martin Isles, Chair of the UEPG H&S Committee, a common accord was agreed recognising the use of good practices and initiatives as Safer by Design to trigger quicker standardisation of 'state of the art' equipment and systems.

Safety was seen as a top priority for the whole supply chain. The European Minerals Foundation Forum was a start of the dialogue between manufacturers, users, standardisation and authorities on regular basis working together toward standardisation, education and implementation in order to reach common Health and Safety thinking, behaviour and culture in the whole supply chain as a contribution towards the target of Zero Harm in Europe. In 2014, UEPG prepared a Road Map and a Guidance for users.

Safe storage, handling and use of explosives for civil use

UEPG supports the 'Track and Trace' Directive (2008/43/EC) amended in 2012 dedicated to setting up a harmonised system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil use. A Task Force on Explosives for civil uses chaired by César Luaces Frades (FdA, Spain), involving the Federation of Explosives Manufacturers (FEEM), NEEIP, EURACOAL, Software Developer (TTE) and the European Commission, was created to support full and proper implementation of the Directive by all stakeholders within a given deadline. In this frame, the Task Force prepared recommendations for a common action plan and an initial Guidance for the whole supply chain, questions and answers and a Guidance for ends users only. All can be found on the new Task Force website at www.explosives-for-civiluses.eu. Members States support this pro-active initiative and are informed on the step by step work. Other partners have been informed and welcomed to contribute to the ongoing work.

UEPG Sustainable Development Indicators

UEPG is committed to reporting Sustainable Development Indicators in order to measure industry progress under Economic, Environmental and Social Pillars. Safety is the primary indicator under the Social Pillar, and UEPG is promoting industry-wide consistent reporting of fatalities and injuries for its employees and contractors, both onsite and off-site, in the conviction that such data will induce further improvement in industry health and safety performance. The EU Aggregates Sector has a strong focus on fatality prevention, however the limited 2012 data available indicates a totally unacceptable 28 fatalities at national level and 5 fatalities at members' level. Some members rely on Eurostat safety reporting. The problem is that Eurostat figures does not provide a clear picture for the Aggregates Sector. As best practices, the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) fatality prevention Guidance for Contractors and Drivers were again promoted to UEPG members. The 2012 results also showed the need for better reporting on Lost-Time Injuries, as well as stronger Health and Safety commitment from UEPG members. All UEPG members are now urged to reach Zero Harm; form national Safety Committees, if these do not already exist; and share good practices continuously.





Environment Committee

Chaired by François Petry (UNPG, France) and vicechaired by Jim Rushworth (Lafarge, Greece), with Sandrine Devos (UEPG, Brussels) as Secretary, the UEPG Environment Committee continued to actively address and represent the environmental interests of the Aggregates Industry on key EU and wider stakeholder issues. It draws on the considerable professional shared expertise of its members while ensuring well-coordinated advocacy actions across Europe, in parallel growing liaison with NGOs. Its workload is shared by three Task Forces focused on Biodiversity, Water Management and Marine Aggregates respectively which report to the Environment Committee.

The 2014 UEPG Delegates Assembly approved the election of the new Chair of the UEPG Environment Committee, Didier Petetin (UNPG, France).

Review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive

Adopted 25 years ago, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (known as the EIA Directive) was codified in 2011 and has been revised.

This is an important review for the Aggregates Industry as many sites have to undergo such an assessment or part of it before obtaining a permit. This is why it was ranked as one of the top priorities for UEPG for over a year.

This review was initiated by the European Commission in October 2012, under the ordinary legislative procedure, with the objective to:

- Take into account the changes in the policy, legal and technical context in the last 25 years;
- Correct four identified shortcomings: the screening procedure, the quality and analysis of the EIA, lack of monitoring of required actions, the risk of inconsistencies with other legislations;
- Simplify the EIA process.

During the procedure, the European Parliament and the EU Council have issued many proposed amendments, some of them deviating from the original purpose of simplification. More than 500 amendments had been analysed at the European Parliament's first reading.

The discussed items included the selection criteria, the quality control of EIA information, public participation and information, and mechanisms to avoid duplication and overlapping with other requirements from European legislation.

Throughout these negotiations, the Aggregates Industry has been involved in order to share its experience with decision-makers, by mobilising significant resources at European (through UEPG) and national levels, but also in cooperation with other sectors of the Non-Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP). In its positions as in bilateral meetings or conferences, the message of UEPG was constructive and assertive: yes to simplified procedures, yes to environmental reports of quality, but taking into account the industry's real situation on the ground.

One of the proposals during the EIA review was the mandatory certification of experts: this would have prevented in-house experts to contribute to environmental reports, increasing the costs for the developer. Thanks to adequate arguments, a compromise has been found, which ensures independent and reliable reports while allowing companies to use their internal resources.

The proposal of mandatory scoping was dropped as well, as it would have created unnecessary costs and red tape.

Another major challenge was the European Parliament's proposal to extend the scope of the Directive to the exploration of mineral resources, and the deletion of the threshold of 25 hectares beyond which pits and quarries automatically have to undergo a full EIA. This disproportionate extension would have been







Non-energy mineral extraction and Natura 2000



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- New EC guidance on Natura 2000 for the non-energy extractive industry
- The non-energy extractive industry provides many of the basic raw materials for Europe's manufacturing and construction industries.
- As old quarties became exhausted, new extraction sites need to be developed in order to neet. continuing demand. Some of these sites may be located in or near areas of high nature value, such as Natura 2000 sites.
- To assist the non-energy instructive industry, the European Commission has published new quidance on hose to ensure ensuration plans and projects are in line with the sequirements of EU nature legislation.
- The guidance document seeks to promote a better understanding on how to avoid or minimise potential effects on Natura 2006 sites in particular and on how to carry out an Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitato Directive.
- The guidance document aims to give the economic operators and authorities concerned the clarity they need to ensure that the drive for further development.

a serious obstacle to the opening and expansion of extraction sites, particularly for SMEs. The rejection of this amendment demonstrates the success of UEPG's well-coordinated campaign, strongly supported by UEPG Members.

With the European elections in May 2014, the negotiations around this review have been hectic and sometimes tensed between the EU Institutions. At the end of the "trialogue" between the Council, the Commission and the Parliament, the compromise text tended to be a more balanced approach between environmental imperatives and the need to not put too heavy a burden on the European Industry.

Major changes impacting the European Aggregates Industry after the text's adoption include:

- Demolition works within the scope of the Directive;
- Possibility of joint procedures;
- Time limits imposed on competent authorities;
- Greater involvement of the public through an Internet portal;
- Consideration of reasonable alternatives to the project;
- Additional factors to take into account: land, climate, landscape, hydromorphology, biodiversity (instead of fauna and flora);
- Monitoring and mitigation measures;
- Baseline scenario.

The Parliamentary Environment Committee approved the text on 12 February, with a striking majority; the plenary vote on ran smoothly on 12 March. On 14 April 2014, the Council of Ministers of the EU Council approved the text. The deadline for transposition at national level is 16 May 2017.



Biodiversity Task Force

As one of the few industry sectors represented among major actors on the EU biodiversity policy, the European Aggregates Industry is now widely recognised as a trusted partner in biodiversity by EU Institutions and a growing number of NGOs. Chaired by François Petry, the UEPG Biodiversity Task Force is focusing its efforts towards three areas:

The development of biodiversity indicators suitable for the Aggregates Industry is one of the key issues of the Task Force, carried out by a dedicated working group chaired by Jim Rushworth (Lafarge, Greece).

Biodiversity Indicators need to be such that they can be determined by SMEs using clear guidelines without the need to possess a strong knowledge of biodiversity/ecology and ideally should be applicable to a wide range of sectors.

It has been agreed, by both external experts and the industry, to focus on a habitats approach, feasible for SMEs, considered as the most credible one. With the concern to ensure an approach which was practically feasible, cost-efficient and giving flexibility for methodologies already in place at national level, two categories of indicators have been adopted and implemented as from 2013.



Ecological offsets and the European Commission's No Net Loss Initiative planned for 2015 are closely monitored. It should be recognised that aggregates producing companies already invest millions of Euros annually in environmental restoration, biodiversity and ecosystems, and UEPG actively promotes pragmatic solutions on a case by case basis.

The Task Force is encouraging UEPG Members (most of which are SMEs) to develop and implement biodiversity promotional initiatives in their own countries.

The 2014 UEPG Delegates Assembly approved the election of the new Chair of the UEPG Biodiversity Task Force, Vanessa Ardouvin (UNPG, France).

Water Management Task Force

Chaired by César Luaces Frades (FdA, Spain), the Water Management Task Force aims at exchanging good practice in ground and groundwater management in quarries and pits, ensuring that the European Aggregates Industry maintains water quality.

Water is an increasingly important topic for the Aggregates Industry, which needs to be able get a permit when extracting below the water table and to be able to compete with other sectors for access to water and water use. Taxes also are a concern for the industry, which requires a balance between what the industry can do, the state of water, quality and consistency in the legislation.

The UEPG Water Management Task Force is monitoring the developments of the EU Water Blueprint and has developed water indicators for internal use as a management tool. Members have reviewed their position paper and guidelines in order to both promote the positive contribution of the Industry and to advocate for smart and reasonable water policies.

Marine Aggregates Task Force

The Marine Aggregates Task Force, chaired by Jeffrey Thompson (MIRO, Germany) has expanded its membership to new countries, and is developing further key contacts with the European Commission, the European Parliament and sea bed users.

The Task Force is still involved in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, with a particular focus on the definition of "good environmental status" and the associated three key indicators for biodiversity, sea floor integrity and underwater noise. Another essential task is to monitor the implementation of Natura 2000 in the marine context.

The Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management, which provides a legal framework for spatial planning at sea, has been a priority for the Marine Aggregates Task Force. The text was adopted and UEPG had managed to include marine aggregates extraction (extraction activities) as relevant economic activities listed in the Maritime Spatial Planning Framework Directive.

Other Environmental Work Areas

UEPG has continued to follow very closely developments on key items.

Mining waste and the review of the Best Available Technique Document; Land and soil protection; the review of the EU Air Quality policies and legislation; and the implementation of Natura 2000 with the upcoming Fitness Check.



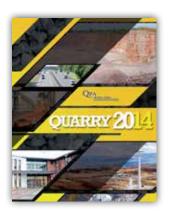


PR & Communications Task Force





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Chaired by Robert Wasserbacher (Fachverband Steine-Keramik, Austria) this Task Force continues to work towards improving Public Relations and Communications in the European Aggregates Industry. Its work is based on the conviction that the Industry has genuinely good stories to tell on the sustainability and importance of aggregates in our society. Therefore, good access to local resources, continued dedication to environmental and biodiversity stewardship, and excellence in health & safety must be promoted as hallmarks of a truly sustainable and socially responsible industry.

The Task Force is a platform dedicated to advising UEPG Members on an ongoing PR and Communications Strategy in order to demonstrate their operational excellence and thereby the better image the industry truly deserves.

The aim of the UEPG Task Force is to share National Good Practices in terms of PR and Communications, to work on current and new PR and Communications tools and targets in liaison with the UEPG Committees and other Task Forces, and to prepare for the next Events in terms of PR Strategy. The Task Force is also a platform for information exchange on EU News, Institutional work, structure and policies thereby better communicate to targeted audiences UEPG priorities, initiatives and events.

Exchanging Good Practices

At recent Task Force meetings, participants have shared many outstanding national examples of PR and Communications best practices, which are often then adopted for use in other Member countries. These included for example:

Austria: Forum Rohstoffe organised a roundtable with authorities to brief them on the Association's work. Posters were made as well as educative communication tools for schools. The Association is also liaising with secondary professional schools (14-19 years old) which specialise in our sector.

- Belgium: Fediex had a new communication plan, with a new logo, newsletter, and leaflet. Fediex organised with University four training days on Biodiversity for its Members.
- ▲ France: UNPG organised in 2013 Open Door events in cooperation with all sectors of UNICEM (the quarry products and construction materials association). Around 100 sites opened up for guided visits. In 2014, UNPG in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) created a practical online guidance to support companies to commit to NBS. A video summarising a work thesis on assessing impact of quarrying on landscape connectivity or the so called application of green infrastructure was made.
- Norway: Norsk Bergindustri set up a new communication strategy and met elected government representatives on the national political and industrial framework, where the Industry was pointed out as playing a key role in society. A <u>video</u> was created to inform the public at large on the importance of the sector in society.
- Spain: In 2013, the Spanish Aggregates Federation (FdA) organised a National Aggregates Congress to present a National Strategy for the sector and to mark its 35th anniversary. FdA created a new website with a newsletter in online format. FdA had its annual public event 'The Day of the <u>Trees'</u> which took place on 21 March 2014 attracting more than 3000 participants. The FdA member ANEFA prepared a brochure on 'public relations and communication' for quarry operators, providing methodology, examples, templates, a glossary and images.
- UK: The Mineral Products Association (MPA) created a new internal newsletter for its members to keep them better connected. MPA organised its Biodiversity and Health and Safety Awards 2013. The Association also created a <u>new map on MPA's National Nature Park</u> demonstrating former quarries and other former industrial locations which were



returned to nature now with public access, targeting both nature conservationists and the public at large.

UEPG launched the first European Restoration Award Scheme in 1997; in 2005, it enlarged the scope to all aspects of sustainable



Industry PR & Communications Initiative On 27 November 2013, a major UEPG triennial event, the Sustainable Development Awards Ceremony, took place in Brussels.

The Awards demonstrate Members' commitment to continuously operate with care and concern for the environment, for its neighbours and society as a whole. The aim of the Awards is also to reward aggregates companies that have successfully integrated the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development into their operations by demonstrated achievements well beyond what is expected. These Awards create a more positive understanding and appreciation of the key role played by the European Aggregates Industry, which by demonstrating excellence, can ensure sustained access to local resources and can further encourage SMEs (small medium enterprises) in particular to implement best practices in all three pillars of sustainable development.

development with the UEPG Sustainable Development Awards. In 2010, a special additional award was dedicated to Biodiversity. In 2013, an independent Jury had to judge a record number of 51 excellent entries from 14 countries, these including Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands and UK.

The 2013 Independent Jury was composed of

- Gerard Bos, Head of IUCN's Global Business and Biodiversity Programme, Switzerland
- Theodor Bülhoff, President ISSA-Mining, Germany
- Jean Claude Lefeuvre, Professor Emeritus, National Natural History Museum, France
- Peter Moser, Deputy Director at the University of Leoben, Austria

The special feature of the 2013 Awards was that in addition to the three pillars of Sustainable Development (Environment, Social and Economic) and the Biodiversity Award, companies could also be rewarded for excellence in Education, Employee Involvement, Communication and Innovation.

The Awards Ceremony was hosted by Sirpa Hertell (EPP, Finland), Member of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and Member of the CoR Natural Resources and Environment Committee in the prestigious Brussels Centre of Fine Arts (Bozar). The event was also graced by the attendance of several Members of the European Parliament, Representatives from the European Commission and from the Catalan Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Environment and Partners. The Master of Ceremonies, Jim O'Brien, UEPG Past-President, in a remarkable performance, presented the entries in sequence to an audience of almost 130 participants.

At the Ceremony, UEPG President Arnaud Colson and Secretary General Dirk Fincke, handed over the 32 Certificates of Excellence. The host of the event, Sirpa Hertell, and the Jury Members then presented the 19 top Awards. The Conclusion was made by UEPG Vice-President Elisabeth Gammelsæter. Details of all the Certificate and Award winners can be seen on the UEPG website. There will be a touring exhibition starting in later 2014 in the key EU Institutions.

After the Awards Ceremony, UEPG arranged a Gala Dinner for UEPG Members, company representatives and key EU decision makers in the Kwint Restaurant including the participation of the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Alejo Vidal Quadras, (EPP, Spain).

UEPG Sustainable Development Awards 2013



Riedler Kies und Bau GmbH & Co KG, 2. Schärdinger Granit Industrie AG, 3. Bernegger GmbH, 4. Holcim Bulgaria AD, 5. Latouros Quarries Ltd, 6. Rudus Oy, 7. Rudus Oy, 8. CEMEX Granulats Sud Ouest,
Carrières des Roches bleues, 10. Eurovia, 11. Les Sablières de la Meurthe, 12. Granulats VICAT, 13. SNEH Matériaux, 14. STB Matériaux, sablière de Hamel, 15. Granulats VICAT, Carrière de Maizière,
Kies- und Schotterwerk Kreuzfeld GmbH & Co. KG, 17. SCHAEFER KALK, 18. Quarzwerke, 19. Quarzsand Nudersdorf, 20. Gelinter Kiesbaggerei, 21. Lenz-Ziegler-Reifenscheid GmbH, 22. Holemans,
Porzner Kies, 24. Lafarge Greece, 25. Lafarge, Sepólno Gravel Pit, 26. SC Holcim Romania SA, 27. SC Lafarge Agregate Betoane SA, 28. Lafarge, Racos Quarry, 30. Hanson Hispania SA., Cantera Esperanza – Valdilecha,
Áridos Valdearcos S.L., 32. PROMSA – Queixans, 33. Arids y Serveis Gravera Can Alou S.L. – Cantera Can Centes-Mallorca, 34. CEMENTOS LEMONA S.A, 35. CEMEX España Operaciones S.L.U.,
Benito Arnó e Hijos S.L., Gravera Núria, 37. Rådasand AB, 38. Jehander, 39. Jehander, 40. Jehander, 41. Rångedala Grus AB and Chalmers, 42. Aarekies Aarau-Olten AG, 43. Netterden Zand en Grind B.V.,
Smals Berkendonk B.V., 45. CEMEX UK, 46. Hanson UK, 47. Brett Aggregates, 48. Lafarge Tarmac, 49. John Wainwright & Co. Ltd, 50. Singleton Birch Ltd, 51. Tarmac Marine Dredging Ltd, 52. Aggregate Industries



Europäischer Gesteinsverband

European Aggregates Association

Promoting good practice * Going beyond what is expected Providing examples others can follow





General Secretariat

The UEPG General Secretariat is headed by Dirk Fincke, Secretary-General, and furtherance by Public Affairs Managers, Sandrine Devos and Miette Dechelle. Through its small but highly-dedicated Brussels based staff, it has achieved tangible results for the Industry, continuously reinforcing its high visibility and trust amongst its stakeholders.

The General Secretariat office is located at Rue d'Arlon 21 in Brussels, close to the European Parliament, within easy distance of the Commission and the many other European Institutions. This a perfect location which enables, the UEPG General Secretariat to regularly attend and participate in Commission Stakeholder consultation meetings, Committee meetings in the European Parliament and other external fora.

On the one hand, 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. On the other, the General Secretariat is fully available to support its Members activities in Brussels or in their respective countries, and invites extra support from staff in Member Associations where they have particular expertise.

Coordinating EU lobbying campaigns

UEPG targets advocacy strategies and acts as a coordinator in their implementation. Examples include ensuring the sustainable supply of aggregates in Europe; influencing the Raw Materials Strategy by contributing to draft Reports and presenting UEPG positions at the European Commission's Raw Materials Supply Group; contributing to the EC Biodiversity Strategy by ensuring representation in the Green Infrastucture and No-Net-Loss working groups and promoting Safer by Design through CEN and DG Employment with the support of the EU Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for the Extractive Industry and the Standing Working Party for the Mining and Other Extractive Industries. UEPG works closely with other European Industry Associations of the Non-Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) identifying areas for cooperation. UEPG is a member of Construction Products Europe (CPE) and of the International Social Security Association (ISSA-Mining). UEPG is an EU Social Partner in the NePSi Social Dialogue on respirable crystalline silica. UEPG became an EU official partner of the last three EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces Campaigns. Where there are common issues, UEPG also contributes to joint advocacy work with the World Business Council Cement Sustainability Initiative (WBC-CSI), the European Concrete Platform (ECP) and EuroGeoSurveys.

Providing EU intelligence and regular news updates

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 highly dedicated team keeps UEPG Members informed of any relevant EU policy developments at all stages of the legislative process through timely and concise email reports and issue trackers available online.

The UEPG General Secretariat offers full members the **Issue Tracker System**, which is an essential tool to monitor latest developments on live issues having an impact on the European Aggregates Industry. An Issue Tracker is a one-page document which presents, in a precise and concise way, Communications, Directives, Regulations and EU initiatives.

The **Issue Matrix** offers the user an overview of all UEPG Live Issues leading via hyperlink directly to the Issue Tracker. These monitoring tools give UEPG members the opportunity to be briefed on all important EU legislation related to our industry in a precise and effective way, whenever needed.







minerals



The **UEPG website** <u>www.uepg.eu</u> Members' only section is accessible by UEPG Full Members. The public section offers UEPG Position Papers in a new format delivering a clear industry message and databases for biodiversity case studies and water management good practices.

The **monthly e-newsletter** EU Insight has proved a popular tool which offers a succinct summary of recent policy developments and UEPG work. It outlines the next steps, so that UEPG Members can anticipate future developments on any EU initiative and provide constructive inputs to influence the outcome. It also promotes Members' work and good practices. The newsletter is available on the UEPG website in English (as EU Insight), in French (as Bulletin Europe) and in German (as Bericht aus Brüssel).

Raising excellence in sharing good practices

UEPG supports and promotes the spread of best practice and by encouraging projects that go well beyond what is required by planners or regulators, set new standards of excellence and provide an inspirational example that others can follow. UEPG tri-annual **Sustainable Development Award** is one illustration.

UEPG also provides to its members guidance documents to operate with care and concern for the environment, for its employees and neighbours, and for society as a whole. The UEPG General Secretariat drafted via recommendations on the implementation phases of the Track and Trace Directive 2008/43/EC and 2012/04/EU for the whole supply chain and users only. UEPG is promoting and disseminating good practices in terms of control of respirable crystalline silica via the NePSi Platform and members' **concrete examples' initiatives**, and **cases studies** on biodiversity and water management.

Involving the European Aggregates Industry in EU Policy Making

The physical proximity to the EU Institutions and day-to-day contact with policy-makers allows the UEPG General Secretariat to identify "early-bird" opportunities to become involved in the policy making process. UEPG President Arnaud Colson met EU decision-makers, among whom, Armindo Silva, Director for 'Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue' in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) of the European Commission, the MEP Sandrine Bélier (Green, France), IUCN Brussels Representative, Luc Bas.

UEPG has continuously strengthened its network of key contacts within the European Commission, European Parliament, EU Council working groups, EU Agencies, Academia and NGOs. Useful platforms are the UEPG Board Policy Dinners, Debates in the European Parliament and the Fora events where open and informal discussions with key EU policy-makers take place. In November 2013, key note speakers at the European Minerals Foundation Forum debated on tools to prevent accidents. Such occasions provide valuable networking opportunities to start the dialogue between manufacturers, users, standardisation experts and authorities to working together towards a common Health and Safety culture for the whole supply chain for zero accident targets in Europe.

Raising the Industry's profile

The General Secretariat continues to promote the achievements of the European Aggregates Industry by making keynote speeches in international conferences. It also developed and coordinated targeted events. A successful example was the UEPG Sustainable Development Award Ceremony, hosted by Sirpa Hertell (EPP, Finland), Member of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and Member of the CoR Natural Resources and Environment Committee, show casing 51 cases studies of excellence in Europe.

Governance

Over recent years, UEPG has grown into a highlyrepresentative and respected association, representing the largest non-energy extractive sector, in numbers of locations, tonnages and number of employees. UEPG sets great value on maintaining its reputation and its transparency via the EU Transparency Register and high standard audited accounts. Each of its key Secretariat staff is a member of SEAP, the Society of European Affairs Professionals and bound to its code of conduct.



International and European Networks

UEPG maintains very constructive network links with counterpart international aggregates associations, driven by the conviction that the sharing of experience and best practice promotes a stronger and more sustainable industry globally. Its main links currently are with the UEPG led Global Aggregates Information Network (GAIN) and the Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South Eastern Europe (SNAP-SEE) project. The goal of this landmark project is to help establish and grow a truly sustainable aggregates industry in South-East Europe that produces quality products with high standards of environmental stewardship, health and safety, community and stakeholder liaison. The project involves an impressive 27 partners (highlighted on the map) from 14 countries.

Country	Association	Website
Australia	CCAA	http://www.ccaa.com.au/
Brazil	ANEPAC	http://anepac.org.br
Canada	APABC	http://www.gravelbc.ca/
	ASGA	http://www.asga.ab.ca/
	OSSGA	http://www.ossga.com/
China	CAA	http://www.zgss.org.cn/index.html
Columbia	ASOGRAVAS	http://www.asogravas.org/
Iberoamericana	FIPA	http://www.fiparidos.info/
New Zealand	AQA	http://www.aqa.org.nz/
South Africa	ASPASA	http://www.aspasa.co.za/
USA	NSSGA	http://www.nssga.org/

The Global Aggregates Information Network (GAIN)

UEPG has established excellent communication links with international aggregates associations as listed above, designated as the Global Aggregates Information Network (GAIN). GAIN, chaired by UEPG Past-President Jim O'Brien, these together representing some 50% of the global aggregates production of around 30 billion tonnes.

Due to the travel distances involved, meetings are held only every 2-3 years, the coming meeting will take place on 10 October 2014 in Brussels, Belgium, the issue to be discussed will be economic, safety, technical and environmental trends and management. In between meetings, there are regular exchanges via emails and Newsletter.

Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South Eastern Europe (SNAP-SEE)

This 2-year European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)supported project follows on the Sustainable Aggregate Resource Management (SARMa) project, and is focused on implementation of SustaiNable Aggregates Planning in South-Eastern Europe (SNAP-SEE). Past-President Jim O'Brien is providing active industry support on behalf of UEPG to the Leoben University team.



National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association

National stakeholder meetings started in 2013 organised in the countries and regions involved in order to kick-start the development of Aggregates Plans throughout the Balkan region, also involving local UEPG members. The project will strengthen the existing UEPG memberships, and will also hopefully stimulate the formation of new national aggregates associations, creating new UEPG members in the region. See website at http://www.snapsee.eu/.



UEPG Members

💳 Austria

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