

Manifesto for the new European Institutions 2014



A sustainable Industry for a sustainable Europe

During the economic crisis, the sector has suffered tremendously and huge uncertainty remains; economic recovery, cutting red tape and smart regulation is a key priority for the European Aggregates Industry.

With this Manifesto, UEPG lays out the challenges and policy requirements on the occasion of the European Elections 2014. UEPG's vision is a sustainable Industry for a sustainable Europe.

The European Aggregates Industry can make a significant contribution to fulfil this vision.

Aggregates

that is **crushed stone, sand, gravel, marine aggregates and recycled aggregates** (from construction & demolition waste), is an essential material for the construction sector and contributing to the sustainable wealth in Europe.

The Aggregates Industry

is by far the largest non-energy extractive sector with **more than 3 billion tonnes of annual production**, produced by **15,000 companies** (mostly SMEs) **at 26,000 quarries and pits** across Europe, people directly and indirectly.

**What is needed for sustainable growth and restoring the competitiveness of our sector
- as supplier of raw materials for construction –
is predictability of legislation and simplification of the regulatory framework but also an integrated approach combining economic, social and environmental aspects**

Economic pillar



▶ Allow long-term access to local raw materials and provide long-term planning

The European Aggregates Industry supplies materials vital to construct and maintain residential, social, transport and commercial infrastructure for a modern European society. UEPG also promotes the further development of marine aggregates as an additional resource.

UEPG calls for continued long-term access to local raw materials as a vital

▶ Contribute to Europe's Competitiveness

Aggregates extraction is a key pillar of the European Economy being an important source of long-term local jobs, both direct and indirect, particularly in rural areas. The European Aggregates Industry needs certainty to allow long-term investments and to strengthen their competitiveness.

UEPG calls for enforcing existing EU and national legislation to ensure a level playing field and create better economic conditions

Social pillar

▶ **Promote 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 the objective to prevent accidents and ill-health. On safety, the industry recognises that further improvement is much needed, and actively addresses that challenge with the whole supply chain.

▶ **Partner 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.

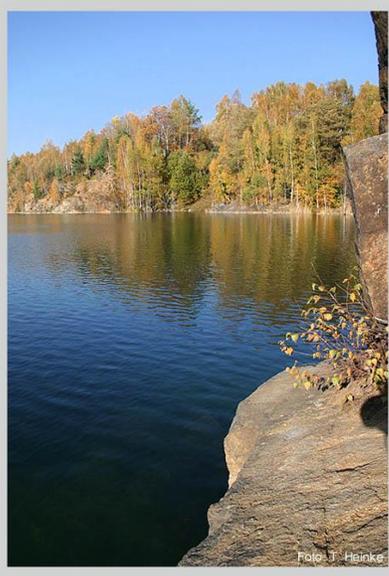
▶ **Contribute to Europe's Heritage** – UEPG members acknowledge the importance of the common natural and built European heritage, such as natural landscape, architecture and archaeology and will continue to promote best practices in its extractive and restoration activities.

UEPG calls for:
Support of UEPG Health and Safety priorities and recognition of its achievements.

UEPG calls for:
Acknowledge the Industry's added value to local communities.

UEPG calls for:
Recognition of the Industry's positive contribution to the Europe's society.

Environmental pillar



FACTS & FIGURES

Aggregates are the **third most used resource after water and air**. The question is not whether we need it, but where to get it from, in the most sustainable way.

UEPG develops a **health and safety culture** in Europe through the creation of dedicated Committees in each of its Member Association and the **share of good practice**.

More than 150 biodiversity cases studies available online www.uepg.eu demonstrate the compatibility of aggregates extraction and environmental protection.

UEPG promotes triennial Sustainable Development Awards in order to recognise and further promote excellence in the Industry in all three pillars of sustainable development as described in this Manifesto.

► Sustainable Production

In all activities, the highest standards of environmental stewardship are set as an operational imperative of the Aggregates Industry. UEPG is strongly committed to Resource Efficiency and supports the use of recycled materials provided that it is economically, environmentally and technically viable.

UEPG calls for consistency in EU Initiatives and legislation as well as realistic and reliable indicators

► Promote 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 European Commission B@B Platform and with local NGOs.

UEPG calls for recognition of the compatibility of aggregates extraction and environmental protection

► Quarry management and Restoration

The Aggregates Industry addresses water management, landscaping and soil management during extraction of aggregates through best available technologies and exchange of good practice. Worked-out quarries and pits are restored after use or converted to other uses beneficial to the local community: they can play an important role in flood prevention and protection as well as wetland creation.

UEPG calls for recognition of the Aggregates Industry's specificities such as the temporary and purely mechanical nature of its activities which needs to be reflected in the proportionality of requirements

