



Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats
Europäischer Gesteinsverband
European Aggregates Association

UEPG has a new President – 2012-2015

Friday 25 May 2012 - at the Delegates Assembly of the European Aggregates Association, UEPG, in Limassol, Cyprus, Arnaud Colson was elected UEPG President with a 3-year mandate. Arnaud Colson is 59 years old and is Public Affairs and Sustainable Development Director at Lafarge Aggregates & Concrete, France. He succeeds Jim O'Brien, who was UEPG President 2009-2012, now retired from CRH plc, Ireland.

In defining his presidency priorities for UEPG, which now represents 31 countries, Arnaud Colson said

« In the last 25 years, UEPG has progressively become a trusted industry partner in lobbying the EU Institutions. It is essential that our industry retains its local focus, as it is vital for the development and supply of the local market, economy and community; UEPG must act accordingly. To improve access to mineral resources, which is still nowadays difficult in many countries, our members steadfastly continue their commitment to environmental protection, especially in contributing to biodiversity, to the development of recycling, to promoting safety and furthering dialogue with stakeholders. Looking ahead, developing the Aggregates Industry's vision for 2030 is indeed today vital to assuring its sustainable future. »

Post-graduated from the Engineering French Institute 'École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées' and auditor at the Institute of National Defence Studies 'Institut des Hautes Etudes de la Défense Nationale', Arnaud Colson has worked the major part of his career at Lafarge as Environment and Mineral Resources Director. He launched and implemented in its quarries, pits and concrete production the environmental policy of the Lafarge group in France. For many years, Arnaud Colson represented the French Aggregates Association within UEPG, and since 2003 was Chair of the UEPG Environment Committee. At French level, he was also Board member since 1998 and chair of the French Water Task Force. Moreover, he was knighted by the National Order of Merit and Legion of Honour.

BACKGROUND

Aggregates are a granular material used in construction. The most common natural aggregates of mineral origin are sand, gravel and crushed rock. Aggregates are used to construct Europe's essential infrastructure including homes, roads, railways, schools and hospitals. In Europe, some 3 billion tonnes per year of aggregates are produced by 14,000 companies (the majority of which are SMEs) in 24,000 extraction sites, providing jobs for some 250,000 direct and indirect employees. UEPG now represents national aggregates associations and producers in 31 European countries, see www.uepg.eu.

Contact

For more information please contact:

Dirk Fincke

Secretary General

UEPG aisbl - General Secretariat

Rue d'Arlon 21 - 1050 Brussels

Tel +32 2 233 53 00 - Fax +32 2 233 53 01

Email: secretariat@uepg.eu – Website: www.uepg.eu

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