WHAT IS UEPG?

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.
Health & Safety Committee
NEPSI, Evaluation of the EU Occupational Safety and Health Directives, Accident and Ill-health Prevention

Environment Committee
Natura 2000 Fitness, Mining waste BREF Revision, Biodiversity, Water Management and Marine Aggregates

PR & Communications Task Force
Exchange of best practice, promotion of the Industry image and initiatives

General Secretariat
Your team in the Brussels office, providing EU Intelligence and good practice

International Network
How UEPG benefits from international contacts with other aggregates associations

UEPG Members
Get in contact, keep in touch

Board, Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups Chairs, Portfolios and General Secretariat
Profiting from the UEPG network

Photo credits
The aggregates sector is by far the largest amongst the non-energy extractive industries in numbers of sites, companies, numbers employed and tonnages produced.

The European [EU28+EFTA, 2013] aggregates production is 2.6 billion tonnes/year, representing an annual turnover of an estimated €15 billion.

Aggregates demand is just on 5 tonnes per capita per year.

The aggregates industry comprises 15,000 companies (mostly SMEs), producing at 25,000 sites (quarries and pits) with just over 200,000 people employed (including contractors).

UEPG has Members in 29 countries.
Aggregates are indeed the core building material in all our homes, offices, social buildings and infrastructure: without aggregates these would literally fall apart.

Every new home typically requires up to 400 tonnes of aggregates.

Every new school typically requires some 3,000 tonnes of aggregates.

A new sports stadium may require up to 300,000 tonnes of aggregates.

Every 1 km of roadway requires up to 30,000 tonnes of aggregates.

Every 1 km of high-speed railway typically requires 9,000 tonnes of aggregates.

Every different application requires a different technical specification of aggregates, some with extremely demanding requirements in respect of shape, durability, abrasion, frost resistance and other factors.
Elected at the May 2015 UEPG General Assembly Meeting, I took over with enthusiasm the continuation of the action plan of my predecessor, Arnaud Colson, in order to strengthen further in Europe the potential and the visibility of UEPG, the European Aggregates Association.

My focus over that first year of mandate has been put in reinforcing UEPG Membership, in positioning UEPG as the only European Association representing the Aggregates industry, and in pushing UEPG priorities in consistency with the European Institutions Agenda and UEPG Members’ positions.

Despite the challenging economic environment for our Industry in Europe, UEPG Members have come a long way together over the past years and have clearly demonstrate that Aggregates are essential for European society in terms of preservation of our regional growth potential, life standards and values, local and well spread employment and, last but not least, our societal sustainability. The sector’s good practices from management to process have also evidenced that aggregates extraction can actively contribute to Nature and Biodiversity conservation.

As President of UEPG, I am proud of our industry commitment with European sustainability values and proud of voicing UEPG Members’ good practices and best techniques towards Stakeholders, NGOs, EU Institutions and Members States. This was for example the case at the 2015 Green Week, the WWF 2015 European Conference or with high ranking European Commission Representatives or Heads of Unit at the European Commission.

In 2015 and 2016, UEPG focused on contributing to the EU Raw Material Strategy, the Circular Economy Package, the Natura 2000 Fitness Check, Biodiversity, Safer and Healthier Workplace, and the evaluation of the 24 Occupational Safety and Health Directives, technical standards and the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation. UEPG has been insisting on the need for a better implementation and enforcement of EU legislation, rather pushing for new pieces of EU or national legislative proposals.

UEPG has implemented numerous initiatives generating value or savings for the aggregates producers. I do hope that those ones, or at least most of them, are well outlined in this Annual Review which should help in creating more visibility in those achievements.

UEPG continues to aim for a sustainable supply of aggregates essential to our European society, to contribute to the recovery of the European Aggregates Industry, its competitiveness and growth, to enhance our industry Health and Safety culture combined with a stronger European 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 the continued and close cooperation and recognised high levels of trust between all UEPG Members and obviously between those ones and our UEPG highly committed staff.

2016 will be the continuation of the UEPG action plan and core initiatives in order to preserve our industry members best interests whilst enhancing a constructive dialogue based on trust and active cooperation with our stakeholders.

You may count on my commitment and the one of the whole UEPG staff for delivering those goals.

JESÚS ORTIZ
UEPG President
UEPG Achievements in 2015-2016

UEPG monitored closely the European Commission Circular Economy Package launched on 2nd December 2015, which includes revised legislative proposals on waste to stimulate Europe’s transition towards a circular economy. UEPG positioned itself and contributed to the shaping of the proposal at the different stage of the legislative process. Over this period, UEPG with the 8 other Non-Energy Extractive Industry Associations (NEEIP), organised a Forum on this issue, which demonstrates the positive contribution of our Industries towards the Circular Economy.

The UEPG Economic Committee achieved DG Environment to reconsider whether putting an aggregates tax is the appropriate legislative tool to increase recycling rates or to raise tax revenues to finance the shift from labour costs to resource taxation. Recognising that aggregates producers have great potential to contribute to biodiversity and environmental management, the approach to sanction our industry was further challenged.

The Commission is currently evaluating the Birds and Habitats Directives to ensure that they are ‘fit for purpose’. UEPG supports the objectives of the Birds and Habitats Directives and is committed to contribute to Nature and Biodiversity conservation. UEPG Members are convinced that extraction of aggregates is compatible with a favourable conservation status of habitat types and species. This message was delivered by UEPG President Jesús Ortiz at several occasions over the year starting from the Green Week 2015, a WWF event, and meetings with the European Commission.

UEPG Members further committed and acted to continuously improve prevention on site to reach zero accidents and to create and maintain a health and safety culture. UEPG greatly contributed to the Communication Campaign and 2016 Reporting of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Agreement on Workers’ Health Protection Through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it (NEPSI). UEPG contributed to consultations on the evaluation of 24 Occupational Safety and Health Directives. To ensure a proper implementation of the ‘Track and Trace’ Directive, UEPG lead the Explosives for civil uses Task Force. UEPG promoted the EU-OSHA Campaign on Stress at work among its Members.

UEPG strongly supported the CPR implementation and the reduction of the bureaucratic burden, especially to avoid the duplication of information through the Declaration of Performance (DoP) and CE-marking. The UEPG Technical Committee kept actively involved in the drafting and revision of standards.

UEPG was able to contribute to consultations, studies and questionnaires from the European Commission on Raw Materials Data, thanks to UEPG Sustainable Development Indicators provided by UEPG Members. UEPG also tighten its cooperation at Global level through the GAIN meeting in Cape Town in South Africa, April 2016, kindly hosted by the South African Aggregates Association (ASPASA).

I invite UEPG members and their affiliates to continue building good practices in all the aspects which evidence the contribution of our industry to the European economic and social model. I wish as well to see our European Association to continue enhancing the positioning of our industry as a key and constructive actor of sustainable development through a constant and constructive dialogue with all our stakeholders whilst trying to spread UEPG’s values among our 29 associated countries and beyond those boundaries.

Jesús Ortiz,
UEPG President 2015-2018
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.

Vision, Mission, Core Values and Ambitions

Our Ambitions are as follows:

1. To place excellence in health and safety at the centre of our activities with an objective of “Zero harm” to all Industry’s employees, contractors and sub-contractors and visitors.

2. To ensure sustainable access to primary local resources, optimising transport, with the aim of land-use for extraction to be recognised as an activity of public interest similar to agriculture, forestry, water and nature protection which should receive the same priority.

3. To develop the “circular economy” through efficiency, recycling and restoration to demonstrate the contribution of the Aggregates Industry to the Circular Economy.

4. To assist in improving a streamlined national land-use planning and permitting policy to encourage and assist all UEPG Members to have a national aggregates planning policy in place.

5. To create and maintain a level-playing-field through consistent implementation of EU law, if necessary through law enforcement of existing EU/national legislation.

6. To promote the compatibility of aggregates extraction and the environment, with the objective for UEPG to assist its Members in achieving that responsible aggregates extraction should not be automatically prohibited for environmental reasons.

7. To improve public awareness of aggregates extraction as beneficial to society for every UEPG Member to have a national public relations campaign in place to ensure positive appreciation of the benefits of the sector to society.

8. To promote the added value of the Aggregates Industry for local communities, with the objective to encourage UEPG Members to undertake public events, develop communication tools and PR training.

9. To showcase the Industry as an attractive career, in particular for young people and to encourage UEPG Members to raise awareness in public relations, job agencies and educational institutions about the career opportunities for both genders.

10. To ensure responsible sourcing and excellence in customer service and satisfaction to get Industry recognised as a trusted and responsible supplier of goods and services with all its customers in the downstream sectors, particularly the concrete and asphalt industries.
Our Organisational Structure

The Health & Safety, Environment, Technical and Economic Committees and their associated Task Forces and Working Groups are the “engine-room” of UEPG activities. These Committees meet twice yearly and report with the General Secretariat 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 strategies.
Each year, UEPG gathers and collates best available aggregates production data from right across Europe. The data for 2014 for 39 countries is presented in Table 1, together with the sub-totals for the EU 28 plus EFTA countries as well as for the EU28 countries only. Although data quality improves year by year, it is by no means perfect. However, UEPG data is now regarded as probably the most authoritative available. It remains challenging to assemble exact data for an industry that is comprised predominantly of SMEs.

Figure 1 summarises the 2014 national production tonnages by country and by type of aggregates. In 2014, Germany, ahead of Russia and Turkey, produced more than 550 million tonnes (mt), then followed by France, UK and Poland. At the other end of the scale are the smallest countries, namely Cyprus, Iceland, Montenegro, Luxembourg and Malta, with less than 5mt each.

Taking the EU28 plus EFTA countries, over the last 4 years, the percentage of sand and gravel has declined by 1% a year, while the percentage of crushed stone has increased by 0.5% a year. Overall, 46.9% of all production remains as crushed stone and the sand and gravel component has declined to 40.1% in 2014. In parallel, aggregates production from recycled and re-used materials has now risen to 8.6% of all production. Over the last 4 years, the percentage of recycled has also increased by 0.5% a year. The remaining 4.4% are almost evenly split between marine and manufactured aggregates. Surprisingly, production of Marine Aggregates declined to only 58mt in 2014 compared to 82mt in 2009. Production of Manufactured Aggregates declined also to 61mt in 2014 and demonstrated an irregular trend.

The European Aggregates Industry is demonstrating its commitment to the Circular Economy through producing no less than 289mt of secondary materials in 2014, including recycled, re-used and manufactured aggregates within that overall total, which now corresponds to an impressive 11% of all aggregates production of 2.65 billion tonnes (EU+EFTA). Production of recycled and reused aggregates increased to 228mt in 2014, representing 8.6% of the total output of 2.65 billion tonnes, this also representing around 40% of total demolition materials available. Germany led with 73mt of recycled materials, followed by UK, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, Poland and Switzerland, the leaders supplying over 20% of national demand through recycling. Production of recycled materials in other countries is slowly increasing, though may not be as technically or commercially viable in countries of lower population density. It is likely that recycling is in many cases not fully reported, so that actual progress maybe greater.
National 2014 production tonnes/capita across Europe, include exports (mainly from Norway) and exclude imports. Production varies by national climate, terrain, state of economies and building traditions. The EU28+EFTA average is 5 tonnes/capita.

After 7 years in which European aggregates production declined by 30%, 2014 at last saw a stabilisation. Provisional production for 2014 was 2.65bnt versus 2.61bnt in 2013. This indicates an increase of 1.5% in 2014 compared to 2013. European cement and ready mixed concrete trends also confirm economic stabilisation at last.

The number of countries predicting some growth in 2015 is equal to the number predicting a decline, but with the percentage declines larger than percentage gains. Overall a -1.6% decline is predicted in 2015 indicating an EU28+EFTA total tonnage of 2.61bnt; the EU recession may not yet be over. The question raised is that 2016 will see a return to growth.
## Best Estimates of Aggregates Production
### Data for 2014

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<th>UEPG Status</th>
<th>Total Number of Producers (Companies)</th>
<th>Total Number of Extraction Sites (Quarries and Pits)</th>
<th>Sand &amp; Gravel (millions tonnes)</th>
<th>Crushed Rock (millions tonnes)</th>
<th>Marine Aggregates (millions tonnes)</th>
<th>Manufactured Aggregates (millions tonnes)</th>
<th>Recycled Aggregates (millions tonnes)</th>
<th>Re-Used on Site (millions tonnes)</th>
<th>Total Production (millions tonnes)</th>
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**39 Countries**

**EU-28 + EFTA**

| EU-28 + EFTA | 14679 | 25513 | 1061 | 1241 | 56 | 61 | 209 | 19 | 2647 |

**EU-28 only**

| EU-28 only | 13263 | 23955 | 1004 | 1169 | 56 | 61 | 202 | 19 | 2510 |

Note: FM = Full Member, AM = Associate Member, AFM = Affiliate Member, NM = Non-Member
Economic Committee

In 2015–2016, the UEPG Economic Committee Members focused mainly on the implementation of the EU Raw Materials Strategy and project commitments to the European Innovation Partnership for a transparent and consistent land-use planning and permitting policy to improve the legal framework conditions of sustainable access to resources in Europe. Another focus area was the proposal of the new Circular Economy Package. Much debate took place on better implementation and regulatory enforcement and further improving data on sustainable development indicators (SDIs) for the whole Industry.

The UEPG Economic Committee was chaired by Jerry McLaughlin (MPA, UK), supported by Vice-Chair, Christian Haeser (MIRO, Germany) and by the Committee Secretary Dirk Fincke.

EU Raw Materials Strategy

UEPG has contributed to the development and implementation of the EU Raw Materials Initiative since it was launched in 2008, subsequently to the Communication in 2010 till now. The three pillars’ approach of the Initiative 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 remained. DG GROW (former DG Enterprise & Industry) used the European Commission Raw Materials Supply Group (RMSG) and the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) as the key tools to achieve progress.

In the first half of 2016, DG GROW sought support for new projects to facilitate permitting procedures and land-use planning to which UEPG and other associations of the non-energy extractive industries have been invited to contribute. In that context, UEPG supports calls for raw materials commitment under the European Innovation Partnership such as the “European Network for Sustainable Quarrying and Mining” with a focus on compatibility of extraction with Natura 2000 and environmental management, “Mineland” with a focus on geological knowledge and land-use planning and a project on “National and regional roundtables on Europe’s raw materials framework conditions” aiming at streamlining the numerous studies and Reports on land-use planning and permitting.
New Circular Economy Package

After the withdrawal of the previous proposal for a circular economy model by the Juncker-led European Commission, a new package had been published on 2 December 2015 including legislative proposals on waste legislation.

The new package includes definitions of some key terms such as “backfilling” still counted for the 70% recycling target by 2020, provides a new role for Eurostat and the European Environment Agency to measure progress or to identify the lack of progress. The proposal also includes encouragements for Member States to use financial incentives (e.g. a tax on landfilling). For most industrial and extractive waste, an industry-oriented approach using Best Available Techniques reference documents (BREFs) is considered as a suitable solution. Indicators to measure resource efficiency are also recommended, but the methodology has yet to be defined, which will be a key issue for aggregates producers. With the support of the UEPG Environment Committee, the UEPG Recycling Task Force and the UEPG Working Group on Market Based Instruments, UEPG drafted Position Papers and communicated its view to main stakeholders and EU decision-makers.

UEPG is working closely together with the NEEIP on advocating for realistic targets, and, together with Construction Products Europe (CPE), on issues related to construction. UEPG will monitor the legislative procedure of the new proposal. UEPG is engaging with all relevant stakeholders, especially on items related to indicators, targets and resource taxation. UEPG is actively involved in the development of an EU Protocol on Construction and Demolition waste (CtD waste), led by DG GROW, which should be published in September 2016.

Better Implementation and Regulatory Enforcement

Aggregates producers in many European countries are facing the negative consequences of unfair competition. This includes: illegal extraction, extraction as part of civil works, illegal landfilng, illegal backfilling and dumping of waste, poor environmental performance, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, grey/black/informal markets and employment, late payments, non-compliance with accounting, overloading and exceeding working times and low quality aggregates.

A dedicated UEPG Task Force, lead by César Luaces Frades (FdA, Spain), was set-up to promote better implementation and regulatory enforcement. One of its first action was to draft a UEPG Action Plan in line with the UEPG Vision 2020 and its ambition 5 to “create and maintain a level-playing-field through consistent implementation of EU law”, it is proposed to finalise this Action Plan by the end of 2016 and to start implementing its actions.

Market Based Instruments

The UEPG Economic Committee achieved DG Environment to reconsider whether putting an aggregates tax is the appropriate legislative tool to increase recycling rates or to raise tax revenues to finance the shift from labour costs to resource taxation. Recognising that aggregates producers have great potential to contribute to biodiversity and environmental management, the approach to sanction our industry was further challenged.

SDIs

UEPG Members under the lead of Jim O’Brien, UEPG Past President, provides each year Sustainable Development Indicators to know the state of play of the Industry in Europe and to be able to continuously improve efficiently and sustainably operations for the benefits of local economy, the environment and communities.
The UEPG Technical Committee continued working in 2015–2016 on Construction Products Regulation, Environmental Product Declarations and Regulated Dangerous Substances, Recycling and European Aggregates Standards. The objective is to maintain a truly open, competitive and sustainable European market for natural, recycled, marine and secondary aggregates.

The Technical Committee was run by its Chair Jean-Marc Vanbelle (FEDIEX, Belgium), Vice-Chair, Markus Schumacher (MIRO, Germany) and Secretary John B–Bullock (MPA, UK).

Construction Products Regulation (CPR)

The 2011 EU Regulation (No 305/2011), which replaced the Construction Product Directive, was designed to simplify and clarify the existing framework for placing construction products on the market. The CPR was fully applied on 1 July 2013. The delegated act to supply a Declaration of Performances (DoPs) on the website of manufacturers of construction products was published in the Official Journal of the EU in 2014. This was a first step towards simplification and cutting red tape.

Within this process of implementation, UEPG was strongly campaigning for reducing the bureaucratic burden; especially the duplication of information provided within the Declaration of Performance (DoP) and CE marking.

In 2015–2016, the UEPG Technical Committee supported strongly its view and position toward Construction Products Europe (CPE) to simplify ‘CE marking’ in a flexible way for an efficient and sustainable implementation of the Regulation within the Aggregates Industry.

Environmental Products Declaration (EPD) for aggregates and Regulated Dangerous Substances (RDS)

A Model of Environmental Products Declaration (EPD) for aggregates had previously been approved for general use and may, whenever desired, be adapted to local conditions by individual users. The UEPG EPD model is based on a cradle to gate basis. It includes all natural aggregates, that is, sand, gravel, crushed rock, marine aggregates as well as manufactured and recycled aggregates. It has been stated that EPDs will not automatically become compulsory after implementation of the CPR. They may become “the common tool” if requested by national regulators and/ or customers or regulated by the Commission through a delegated act.
Additionally, EPDs could be a way to address Basic Work Requirement 7 (Sustainable Use of natural resources) of the CPR. The UEPG Technical Committee recommends developing Product Category Rules (PCR) consistent with CEN/TC 350’s procedures.

The UEPG Regulated Dangerous Substance & Environmental Product Declaration (RDS&EPD) Working Group, led by Brian Bone (MPA, UK), will continue the work initiated to prepare a draft on Product Category Rules.

The UEPG RDS&EPD 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 aggregate sources to elaborate technical dossiers proving the absence of the necessity for further testing of those aggregates.

The UEPG WG continues to monitor the work of CEN TC 351 WG1 and apply pressure to validate the current compromise percolation test methodology on Robustness testing of CEN TC 351 Draft Leaching Test Methods. UEPG also proposed some simplifications of the test methods for aggregates for CEN TC 154 SC6 and WG13 and a guidance document on how to implement the CEN TC 351 tests for aggregates. At the same time, the UEPG RDS&EPD WG monitors the developments regarding radioactivity measurement in construction products under the Euratom Directive.

Recycled Aggregates

The main deliverables of the UEPG Recycling Task Force, chaired by Brian James (MPA, UK), are to give clear definitions of recycled aggregates, to increase the level of reliability of data and statistics and to encourage the possible use of recycled aggregates for the most appropriate application at the place of use. The Task Force promotes good practices and an adequate legislative framework. Recycling is a key issue in resource efficiency, an important aspect of sustainable construction and features significantly in the circular economy policy, all three being EU Initiatives.

The Recycled Aggregates Task Force proposed amendments to the proposal for the revision of the Waste Framework Directive, a policy action under the new EU Circular Economy Package.

UEPG has contributed to the development of an EU Protocol for the management of Construction and Demolition Waste and succeeded in providing key messages: reservations on the use of market-based instruments, the need to address illegal activities and agreement for a site visit to see recycling in action.

UEPG organised a site visit on 17 May for the two Ecorys consultants working with DG GROW on the protocol for the Management of Construction and Demolition Waste (C&DW). The site visit, close to London (UK), was kindly hosted by MPA and organised by Brian James, Chair of the UEPG Recycling Task Force, and Adam Day, a major producer of recycled aggregates.

The objective was to show the consultants the realities in the field when recycling aggregates. The visit consisted of a tour of an aggregates processing plant near the river Thames, where C&DW is being received and treated, the visit of a demolition site in London, from where C&DW is collected, and finally a concrete plant to illustrate the beneficial end use of the recycled aggregates.

The site visit emphasised the practical difficulties, especially the transportation, and on several key aspects of recycling, including the importance of quality.

European Aggregate Standards

The main developments have been related to the revision of harmonised product standards by CEN TC 154. The formal objection of Germany (Article 18) shows the limitations of harmonisation. UEPG Members are extremely active in the CEN TCs both at European level and in the mirror Committees.
Health & Safety Committee

In 2015–2016, the UEPG Health & Safety Committee and its Members promoted a Health and Safety culture working towards Zero Harm in each member country. Within this assignment, the Committee contributed to the control of Respirable Crystalline Silica on site as part of the Social Dialogue Agreement NEPSI, the evaluation of 24 Occupational Safety and Health Directives, the prevention of accidents and the implementation of the ‘Track and Trace’ Directive on explosives for civil uses.

The UEPG Health & Safety Committee was driven by the Chair, César Luaces Frades (FdA, Spain), the Vice-Chair, Walter Nelles (MIRO, Germany), the Chair of the RCS WG, Martin Isles (MPA, UK), and actively supported by the UEPG Committee Secretary Miette Dechelle.

NEPSI

UEPG believes that prevention is crucial. UEPG is one of the founding signatory parties of NEPSI, established in 2006. The focus of the 10 years NEPSI EU Social Dialogue Agreement on Respirable Crystalline Silica lies with the good handling and use which, it is widely agreed, provides adequate control measures and workers protection guidance. NEPSI Signatories have facilitated the implementation of good practice in dust reduction measures and monitored the application of the Agreement through five biennial reports of key performance indicators. The last reporting took place in 2016, to which UEPG Members, despite the economic downturn, have strongly participated with further improvements.

In 2015–2016, the EU co-financed a UEPG supported NEPSI Communications Campaign that included setting up explanatory videos on NEPSI added value, activities and series of webinars in 8 languages targeting new sectors and NEPSI OSH Managers. In addition, the NEPSI website was renewed and the 10th Anniversary Conference took place on 16 June.

On 13 May 2016, EU Commissioner Marianne Thyssen presented a proposal to revise the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (at work). On this occasion, the Commission proposed to include in Annex I “work involving exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust generated by a work process” and to establish in Annex III a Binding Limit Value for respirable crystalline silica dust (‘respirable fraction’) at 0.1 mg/m³. The NEPSI Signatories acknowledge the Commission’s proposal for
this Binding Limit Value which aims to protect workers
while defining a clear ‘level playing field’ across the
EU. The Recital 6 of the proposed amendment of the
Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive acknowledges NEPSI
Good Practice and its role as a valuable instrument to
complement regulatory requirements and to support
their effective implementation. The newly proposed EU
Carcinogens Directive will need now to be adopted by
the EU Council and the European Parliament under the
ordinary legislative procedure (COD).

UEPG is closely monitoring the development of the proposal,
reporting and offering NEPSI guidance documents to
UEPG Members, to represent their work and support them
through a common NEPSI advocacy campaign.

Evaluation of the EU Occupational Safety
and Health Directives

In 2014-2015, a consortium was hired by the European
Commission to evaluate 24 EU Occupational Safety and
Health (OSH) Directives. UEPG was selected as a key
stakeholder in the context of the consultative process
and provided input to each step of the evaluation process
reports. The Standing Working Party for Extractive Industries,
in which Walter Nelles (MIRO, Germany) represents UEPG,
was also consulted. After the presentation of the findings of
the evaluation, the European Commission has considered
the Advisory Committee for Safety and Health’s opinion,
the Members’ States reports and an internal analysis. Since
then, a proposal for a Social Partners Consultation on the
future of the OSH Directives was announced by the European
Commission with no pending date for the moment.

Accident and Ill-health Prevention

While prevention of accidents is one of the overarching
objectives of UEPG, data on Fatalities and Lost Time
Injuries still need to be improved. If the Aggregates
Industry is to review progress on accident prevention, all
UEPG Members need to commit to provide data.

EUROFOUND, the European Foundation for the improvement
of living and working conditions, launched a study on
the representativeness of the Sectoral Social Dialogue
Partners of the Extractive Industries to which UEPG and
its Members contributed. EUROFOUND shall publish the
final report during the second half of 2016. According to
comments received, UEPG supported the decision to amend
UEPG Statutes to underline its Representativeness and
Social Partner Mandate towards UEPG Members.

UEPG is closely monitoring the work of the EC Machinery
Working Group and is a liaison observer of the Technical
Standardisation Committee CEN/TC 151 on Construction
Equipment and Building Materials Machinery Safety.
Raphaël Bodet (UNPG, France) was nominated in 2015
to represent UEPG at the CEN/TC 151 WG 9 focusing on
the safety of crushing, screening, sizing and recycling. In
2015-2016, UEPG ‘Safer by Design’ was extended to ‘Safer
and Healthier Machines and Equipment’ Campaign.

UEPG is maintaining a strong collaboration with the
European Commission, EU Members States and the whole supply chain on explosives for civil uses. The
UEPG-lead explosives for civil uses Task Force collected
data in 2015 on the state of play of the implementation
the Directive on ‘a system for the identification and
traceability of explosives for civil uses’. The results
of the data collected would be discussed between
Members of the Task Force and presented at the
upcoming European Commission Explosives Working
Group and Members States AdCo Market Surveillance
meetings in October 2016. For more information visit
www.explosives-for-civil-uses.eu
The UEPG Environment Committee continued to address and represent the interests of the Aggregates Industry on key EU environmental policies. It draws on the considerable professional expertise of its members while ensuring well-coordinated advocacy actions across Europe, and growing liaison with NGOs. Its workload is shared by three Task Forces dedicated to Biodiversity, Water Management and Marine Aggregates respectively, which report to the Environment Committee.

The 2015 UEPG Delegates Assembly approved the election of the Chair of the UEPG Environment Committee, Alain Boisselon (Vicat, France) and Vice-Chair, Benoit Lussis (FEDIEX, Belgium).

**Natura 2000 Fitness Check**

As part of its evolution towards smarter regulation, the European Commission is undertaking a Fitness Check of a number of pieces of legislation, including the 1979 Birds Directive and the 1992 Habitats Directive. The “Fitness Check” is a comprehensive policy evaluation assessing whether the regulatory framework for a policy sector is “fit for purpose”. The major question behind this exercise is whether the Natura 2000 Directives might or might not be revised, leading to many speculations on the opportunities and threats of either scenario.

In 2014, the Fitness Check of the Natura 2000 Directives had been identified as a number one priority for UEPG. Indeed, **UEPG welcomed very much the European Commission guidance document for the Non-Energy Extractive Industry and Natura 2000.** We have witnessed a great variety of situations from one country – or one region – to another, leading to uncertainties for business. We believe that there is potential for improvement when it comes to the interpretation and implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives; in particular with Natura 2000 often considered as “no go areas” and how to deal with protected species on-site.

UEPG and its Members contributed to the Fitness Check by providing sound replies to the “Evidence Gathering Questionnaire” and the Public Consultation, through involvement at national level and through extensive contacts with all the relevant stakeholders (European Institutions, NGOs). The final conclusions of the Natura 2000 Fitness Check are still to be published.
Mining Waste BREF Revision

The European Commission has launched the process of reviewing and adapting the Reference Document on Best Available Techniques (BREF) for the Management of Tailings and Waste-Rock in Mining Activities, to align it with the Mining Waste Directive. UEPG is part of the stakeholder consultation process. An ad-hoc UEPG Working Group, led by Benoit Lussis (FEDIEX, Belgium), had been created to work on this priority.

In parallel, UEPG is monitoring the work carried out by the European Commission on the implementation of the Extractive Waste Directive.

Biodiversity

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. The UEPG Biodiversity Task Force, chaired by Benoit Lussis (FEDIEX, Belgium) is focusing its efforts towards:

▲ The development of biodiversity indicators suitable for the Aggregates Industry and its many SMEs.
▲ Promoting the compatibility between the Aggregates Industry and nature protection, including through the publication of its Brochure.
▲ Promoting innovative concepts such as Temporary Nature.

The Task Force is closely monitoring ecological offsets and other initiatives related to financing nature (including the European Commission Business@Biodiversity Platform). It should be recognised that aggregates producing companies already invest millions of Euros annually in environmental restoration and management, biodiversity and ecosystems. Furthermore, UEPG promotes pragmatic solutions on a case by case basis.

Further than that, the Task Force encourages UEPG Members (most of which are SMEs) to develop and implement biodiversity promotional initiatives in their own countries.

Water Management

The objective of the Task Force, chaired by César Luaces Frades (FdA, Spain), is to exchange good practice for water and groundwater management in quarries and pits, ensuring that the Aggregates Industry maintains water quality. Water is an increasingly important topic for our Industry, which needs to be able to obtain a permit when extracting below the water table and to compete with other sectors for access to water and its use.

UEPG has been supportive of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development – Cement Sustainability Initiative (WBCSD CSI) Water Protocol.

The Water Management Task Force had published a leaflet to promote the contribution of the Industry to a sustainable use of water resources.

Marine Aggregates

The Marine Aggregates Task Force, chaired by Ingo Hammwöhner (MIRO, Germany), worked on the Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management Directive, which provides a legal framework for spatial planning at sea. As a result, UEPG contributed at the inclusion of marine aggregates extraction (extraction activities) as relevant economic activities listed in the adopted Directive. Moreover, UEPG had drafted a Position Paper to support UEPG Members during the implementation phase of the Directive. The Task Force is also monitoring the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the implementation of Natura 2000 in the marine context, and the European Environment Agency Report on Marine Protected Areas.
PR & Communications Task Force

The UEPG PR & Communications Task Force continues to work towards improving Public Relations, Communication and the image of the European Aggregates Industry. Its work is based on the conviction that the Industry has genuinely good stories to tell on continued resource efficient operations, local access to resources, dedication to environment and biodiversity stewardship, excellence in health & safety, all hallmarks of a sustainable and socially responsible industry.

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

This work is led by Robert Wasserbacher (FSVK, Austria), Chair of the Task Force.

Some examples of PR and Communications good practices at National level:

- **FdA** (Spain) organised in 2015 the National SDA, a National congress and the day of the trees with a Biodiversity perspective. FdA has translated the UEPG Vision 2020 brochure, the Biodiversity Brochure and the Recycling leaflet into Spanish and produced diverse own brochures. Together with partners, FdA is organising workshops at National level for the extractive industry and the challenges with Natura 2000.

- **FEDIEX** (Belgium) started a LIFE project called “Life in Quarries” in order to demonstrate that dynamic management of biodiversity in active quarries is possible and provide benefits to biodiversity. In the project’s framework a workshop was organised in Brussels to identify pre-existing experiences linked to the management of temporary habitats and fugitive species.

- **FVSK** (Austria) focused on promoting the Association’s work toward its Members. The Association would support Members’ communication against NIMBYism. FVSK is working on a partnership with schools and started a photo competition on aggregates.

- **MIRO** (Germany) is working on a book for children to educate young generation on quarrying activities.

- **MPA** (UK) focus is nowadays on being more politically active and engages with MPs. In 2015, among many events MPA focused on Biodiversity Awards, Health and Safety Awards and Photo Competitions.

- **UNPG** (France) is preparing for the 60th anniversary of the French Aggregates Association in October in Grenoble, France. UNPG is planning to re-edit ‘Le Livre Blanc’ with a second edition to be presented at the Industry 2016 ‘SIM Congress’. UNPG is working on digital strategy on a new website and its presence on Twitter.
UEPG at Green Week 2015

Never before the European Aggregates Industry, recognised as the biggest non-energy extractive industry, had been so visible to the highest level of EU decision-makers. UEPG promoted the compatibility of aggregates extraction with biodiversity during Green Week 2015, the biggest European Environmental Conference. This included an official satellite event (site visit), two UEPG speakers, with a UEPG stand at Green Week and many UEPG Members attending sessions and networking with EU stakeholders.

UEPG and its Belgian Member FEDIEX, together with Birdlife and CEMBUREAU, organised a site visit to the SAGREX (HeidelbergCement) aggregates extraction site Quenast. Representatives from DG Environment, DG Growth, the NGOs Bird Life International and Friends of the Earth joined in to learn more about the achievements and contribution of aggregates producing companies to biodiversity and environmental management. UEPG Vice-President Thilo Juchem welcomed the group underlining that aggregates extraction is not only compatible with biodiversity, but has the potential to create it.

UEPG President Jesús Ortiz (HeidelbergCement) presented UEPG’s activities and outlined his companies’ performance on environmental management including biodiversity and monitoring indicators, the training of employees and the “Internal Guideline for biodiversity management in quarries and pits” of HeidelbergCement. Being asked at a Business Roundtable moderated by Jonathan Hughes, Chief Executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, what the Aggregates Industry could further do to help biodiversity, Mr Ortiz identified illegal extraction as a major problem addressed by UEPG.

UEPG Secretary General Dirk Fincke was invited to speak at a Panel addressing the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. He emphasised on the numerous projects of aggregates producing companies with NGOs demonstrating benefits to be gained when cooperating. Like UEPG President Ortiz, Dirk Fincke offered NGOs to combat together illegal extraction which harms environment and the competitiveness of the industry.

Thanks to its Members, UEPG was able to offer a whole range of high quality publications in several languages, videos, sample of aggregates, T-shirts, bags, games, and also showcased winners of the UEPG 2013 Sustainable Development Awards of the biodiversity and environmental categories. Being one of the three business representatives out of almost 50 exhibitors present at Green Week with 2000 visitors, the UEPG stand attracted many high-level visitors including the European Commissioner for Environment Karmenu Vella, and other representatives from the European Commission European Parliament, the Joint Research Centre, national and regional Ministries, local governments, academia, NGOs, EU Trade Associations and UEPG Members as well as a large public. It was also the perfect occasion for UEPG to hand in its new brochure on the compatibility of aggregates extraction and Biodiversity.

UEPG published also a brochure on Water Management demonstrating the compatibility with aggregates extraction.
General Secretariat

The UEPG Team in the General Secretariat office is located at Rue d’Arlon 21 in Brussels, close to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the many other European institutions. This a perfect location which enables the UEPG General Secretariat to regularly attend and participate in stakeholder consultation meetings, committee meetings in the European Parliament and other external fora.

The Brussels based Team and their services offered to UEPG Members

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-professional and dedicated Brussels based staff, it has achieved tangible results for the industry, continuously reinforcing its high visibility and trust amongst its stakeholders.

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 at the service of its Members to represent their activities in Brussels, to support them in their respective countries, and invites staff of Member Associations and Companies to share their expertise.

Coordinating EU lobbying campaigns

UEPG develops targeted advocacy strategies and acts as a coordinator in their implementation. Examples include ensuring the sustainable supply of aggregates in Europe, by supporting the EU Raw Material Strategy and improving the legal framework conditions for sustainable access to resources within Europe. UEPG demonstrates that the Aggregate Industry is an essential part of the Circular Economy. UEPG also advocates the compatibility of Natura 2000 and the aggregates extraction underlining the industry’s contribution to biodiversity. UEPG strongly promotes the prevention of accidents to achieve zero harm, especially through the NEPSI Agreement, sustainable development indicators and the campaign Safer and Healthier Machines and Equipment 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.

Cooperation with stakeholders

UEPG cooperates closely with other European Associations and NGOs, e.g. European Platform for Recycled Aggregates (EPRA), the Explosives for civil uses Task Force or NGOs such as WWF and Global Nature Fund (GNF). UEPG works closely with European Industry Associations of the Non-Energy Extractive Industry Panel (NEEIP), and organises the annual NEEIP Fora – high-level events, which allow to debate areas of common interest with EU decision makers. UEPG is a member of Construction Products Europe (CPE) and of ISSA-Mining (International Social Security Association). UEPG is an EU Social Partner in the NEPSI Social Dialogue on respirable crystalline silica and at the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee of the Extractive Industry. With Health & Safety as a key priority, UEPG became an EU official partner of the last three EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces Campaigns, the last one being on ‘Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress’. Where there are common issues, UEPG also contributes to joint advocacy with the World Business Council Cement Sustainability Initiative, the European Concrete Platform 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 policy briefings available online.

The UEPG General Secretariat offers the Issue Tracker System, the Issue Matrix, the UEPG Website with much more information for full Members and a Newsletter published in English, French and German.

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, sets new standards of excellence and provides an inspirational example that others can follow. The UEPG tri-annual Sustainable Development Award is one illustration.

UEPG also provides to his members guidance documents to operate with care and concern for the environment, for its employees and neighbours, and for society as a whole. UEPG is promoting and disseminating good practice examples to control respirable crystalline silica on site through NEPSI. Concrete examples and cases studies on biodiversity and water management are published on the UEPG website and promoted during key EU events as well as over UEPG Biodiversity Brochure and UEPG Water Management Brochure.

UEPG supports the LIFE in Quarries project led by FEDIEX (Federation of Belgian Extractive Industry), in partnership with the Walloon authorities, Natagora (Nature NGO), University of Liege and PNPE (public sector devoted to nature conservation). This 5-year project (2015-2020) is co-funded by the EU’s LIFE program and the Walloon region. The objective of the LIFE in Quarries project is to propose a method to reconcile the hosting of pioneer nature and the legal constraints in Belgium and other countries.

Involving the Aggregates Industry in EU Policy Making

The physical proximity to the EU Institutions and day-to-day contact with policy-makers allow the UEPG General Secretariat to identify “early-bird” opportunities to become involved in the policy making process. UEPG has continuously strengthened its network of key contacts within the European Commission, European Parliament, EU Council working groups, Permanent Representations of EU Member States, EU Agencies, Academia and NGOs. Useful platforms are the UEPG Board Policy Dinners, Debates and Conferences, Awards and Exhibition opened and informal discussions with key EU policy-makers. In cooperation with different sectors of the non-energy extractive industries, UEPG organised the second NEEIP Forum on 20 April 2016 in Brussels to discuss ‘Keeping the Circular Economy rolling’. The objective of the Forum was to highlight what has been achieved already by the European Non-Energy Extractive Industry, what still needs to be done and how best to obtain a Circular Economy which serves society. The distinctive Members of this Panel debated with the participating Industry representatives and other stakeholders present at the conference.

Raising the industry’s profile

The General Secretariat continues to promote the achievements of the European Aggregates Industry by making keynote speeches at international conferences. It also developed and coordinated targeted events. Examples of successfully raising the profile of our Industry are the 2015 Green Week, the Conference on the revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the Natura 2000 Fitness Check Conference, the WWF Event on Natura 2000, the LIFE in Quarries project and the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol Workshops.

Governance

Over recent years, UEPG has grown into a highly-representative and respected association, representing the largest non-energy extractive industry. UEPG sets great value on maintaining its reputation and its transparency via the EU Transparency Register and high standard managed accounts. Each of the UEPG General Secretariat staff is a member of SEAP, the Society of European Affairs Professionals and bound by its code of conduct.
International Network

The Global Aggregates Information Network (GAIN)

GAIN was founded by UEPG in 2010, driven by the conviction that international sharing of experience and best practice promotes a more efficient and sustainable aggregates industry globally. GAIN members currently represent 60% of the global aggregates production estimated at 40 billion tonnes (see table). Many valuable insights and experiences were shared over the years on common health & safety, environmental, economic, technical and public relations challenges, with different approaches and solutions to reply to them.

The fourth GAIN meeting, kindly hosted by the South African Aggregates Association (ASPASA) took place on April 11 and 12 in Cape Town, South Africa. Representatives from Australia, China, the United States, Latin America and Europe attended the meeting, with inputs from Canada and New Zealand. Over the two meeting days, all aspects of the aggregates industry were discussed. Many issues common to different global regions were identified, yet different regions have different approaches and solutions, thus making the exchanges of experiences, "gems of wisdom" and best practices extremely valuable. Several areas were identified for ongoing follow-up, which will help strengthen the industry globally. In all countries represented, aggregates production tonnages are now either stable or increasing, which bodes well. The next GAIN meeting is suggested to take place in 2018.

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<th>Global Population and Aggregates Production</th>
<th>GAIN Members</th>
<th>Population (billions)</th>
<th>Estimated Tonnages (billions)</th>
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<td>APABC ASGA OSSGA</td>
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▲ UEPG Vice-President, Thilo Juchem, NatureFit4All, Natura 2000 Fitness Check 2015, Brussels
▲ 2016 NEEIP Forum on ‘Keeping the Circular Economy rolling’, Brussels
▲ Experts: included Magnus Gislev from the Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials Unit, DG Growth, European Commission, Hugo-Maria Schally (Head of Unit, Eco-Innovation and Circular Economy, DG Environment, European Commission), Dirk Van Asbroeck (Director, Brussels City Town Planning, Architecture Section – Procurement contracts), Stephan Raes (Head of the Economic Affairs Department, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Brussels) were moderated by Didier Jans (Secretary General, IMA-Europe)

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▲ GAIN 2016 Meeting, Cap Town, South Africa

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▲ UEPG 2016 Delegates Assembly Meeting, Berlin, Germany
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