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EU Live Issues



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Lithuanian EU Presidency

On 1st July, Lithuania started to assume its first Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Baltic country has a population of 3.2 million and joined the EU in 2004. The Lithuanian Presidency Programme aims at a Credible, Growing, and Open Europe.

A focus on environment

Common obligations to combat climate change, the commitment to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources and taking responsibility for possible negative consequences to future generations, will remain key tasks in the agenda of the EU Environment Council in the second semester of 2013. Therefore the EU and its 28 Member States are encouraged to switch to a low carbon economy, seek alternative energy sources that meet sustainability criteria, ensure more efficient waste management, and deal with issues related to human activities and their effect on ecosystems.

Lithuania will seek final agreement with the European Parliament on a programme for environment and climate action (Life regulation) providing the funding of environmental projects until 2020. The aforementioned programme will be an instrument encouraging faster implementation of environmental protection and climate change management objectives, and the integration of these into sector based policies.

The Presidency is ready to seek an agreement on the review of the Environment Impact Assessment Directive, seeking well-founded decisions contributing to the implementation of requirements, quality assessment, speeding up of procedures and imposing no additional administrative burdens.

Once the European Commission has submitted proposals regarding the prevention of entry and spread of invasive species,

regarding the stricter control of shipment of waste, as well as the Thematic Strategy on Ambient Air Quality and the review of related legislation, Lithuania expects to initiate discussions within the Council. The proposals would aim to reduce the negative impact of invasive species on the EU's biodiversity, ensure the sustainable use of resources and environmentally friendly waste management, assessment of more ambitious objectives on limiting pollutants in the atmosphere, as well as additional measures of pollution reduction.

Environment Impact Assessment

Members of the European Parliament Environment Committee adopted the report from Rapporteur Andrea Zanoni MEP (ALDE, Italy).

The draft report was carried with 49 votes in favour, 13 against and 3 abstentions while the draft legislative resolution was adopted with 48 votes in favour, 15 against and 4 abstentions.

Although the Rapporteur was pleased that the compromise texts had been adopted, he did not feel in a position to enter directly into negotiations with the Council. The adopted report will now go for the first reading in plenary session scheduled on 23 October 2013 in Brussels.

UEPG will follow very closely the first discussions amongst Member States under the Lithuanian EU Presidency, and will prepare for the European Parliament Plenary session vote.

No-Net-Loss Working Group

On 4 July, UEPG attended the European Commission 'No Net Loss' (NNL) Working Group meeting and represented not only the European Aggregates Industry but also a number of other non-energy extractive industries.

The aim of this last meeting was to reach an agreement on NNL WG documents for publication on the European Commission website. The European Commission raised the question of the effectiveness of Environmental

Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The EC underlined that both existing Directives focused on the process and that there were no compulsory targets, objectives or measurements. The EIA and SEA provide a procedure which often complements the framework for nature protection.

Next steps

The EC will polish the agreed documents and published them on their website in the coming weeks for stakeholders' information and comments. A public consultation will follow. The NNL Initiative is foreseen to be launched by 2015.

CPR Delegated Acts

1. What is a Delegated act?

The Treaty of Lisbon creates a new category of legal act: delegated acts. The legislator delegates the power to adopt acts amending **non essential elements** of a legislative act to the Commission.

For example, delegated acts may specify certain technical details or they may consist of a subsequent amendment to certain elements of a legislative act. The legislator can therefore concentrate on **policy direction** and **objectives** without entering into overly technical debates.

However, this delegation of power has strict limits. In effect, only the Commission can be authorised to adopt delegated acts. Furthermore, the legislator sets the **conditions** under which this delegation may be implemented. [Article 290](#) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU specifies that the Council and the Parliament may revoke a delegation or limit its duration.

2. Delegated Act in CPR

[Article 60](#) of the CPR, for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the Regulation, in particular removing and avoiding restrictions on making construction products available on the market, the following matters shall be delegated to the Commission, (...) inter alia:

- (b) the conditions on which a declaration of performance may be electronically processed, in order to make it available on a web site in accordance with Article 7;
- (e) the adaptation of Annex III, table 1 of Annex IV, and Annex V in response to technical progress;

3. Delegated acts on DoP on Website and on Annex III meetings

On July 8, the European Commission organised a meeting on the Delegated Act on DoP on Website. Jean-Marc Vanbelle, UEPG Technical Committee Chair, participated to the EC meeting. The European Commission consulted all experts from Members States at the meeting. The EC decision taking into account comments will make now an inter-service consultation. In early September the DA should pass through the Council and Parliament to approve or reject the DA, as no amendment is possible. The DA should be published in early October. The EC will draft the conditions to use website but will not address technical solutions available to fulfil those condition, as a DA should not obstruct any technological development. A DA may not modify the responsibilities of the market surveillance authorities.

On July 15, the European Commission organised a meeting on Delegated Act (DA) on Annex III. Miette Dechelle from the UEPG General Secretariat participated to the meeting. The EC proposal will be sent to experts for comments before the next meeting on 9 September. The European Commission will then consult all experts from Members States on September 9th. Then, the DA will pass through the European Commission inter-services for consultation and decision-making in mid-September and early October. It is only in autumn that the DA will pass to the Council and Parliament to approve or reject the DA. The DA should be published by the end of the year. Other DA will cover Annex V of the CPR. In future, there will be also a DA on other points.

Next Steps

The next EC meeting is on 9 September. UEPG will report all difficulties of the industry regarding implementation of CPR and comments on Delegated Acts proposed.

The European Commission has proposed a new package of legislative and non-legislative measures to improve consumer product safety and to strengthen market surveillance of products in the EU. The package, adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2013, will be discussed in the European Parliament and in the Council. It is expected that the new legislation will come into effect in 2015. The next step is the tabled amendments of the EP IMCO Committee in September, for which

CPE is raising awareness on the European Parliament Report.

UEPG News

EU network for PROMINS

At the occasion of Croatia joining the European Union as the 28th EU Member State, UEPG organised policy meetings with EU officials in Brussels for 3 July and identified upcoming key challenges for the Croatian Aggregates Industry.

The policy meetings with Gordan Šredl, Director of the Croatian Industry Association PROMINS and by Predrag Mikulčić, Director of IGM included an introduction to the person in charge within the European Commission monitoring the implementation of Natura 2000 Directives, a visit to the Croatian Chamber of Economy in Brussels and further arrangements of meetings with Croatian Members of the European Parliament and the Permanent Representation of Croatia to the EU.



From left to right: Gordan Šredl, Director of the Croatian Industry Association PROMINS, Isabel Lourenco de Faria, Policy Officer for Nature Conservation, EC and Predrag Mikulčić, Director of IGM.

Part of the programme, organised by UEPG, was to attend the official celebration of Croatia entering the EU. This high-level reception in the Council of the European Union was a unique opportunity to arrange informal chats with the



EU Commissioner for Environment Janez Potočnik (photo), the new Croatian Commissioner Neven Mimica, the Croatian Deputy Prime Minister Vesna Pusić and other national and EU key decision-makers.