The European Cement Association
CEMBUREAU

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EDITORIAL

ETS - CEMBUREAU calls for clear plant rationalisation rules

A sense of urgency prevails in the European Commission and many Member States as the full set of Guidance Documents on Allocation Rules are not yet completed and the deadline for Member States to propose their plans for free allocation to the Commission by end September 2011 is approaching fast.

In fact, at the time this Eurobrief goes to press, all Guidance Documents but one - Guidance

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Document 7 "New entrants and plant closures" - have been finalised. This work shows once more how the devil is in the detail. Detailed work it has been for CEMBUREAU, which is reasonably satisfied with the outcome.

One key element, however, is missing: clear rules for capacity rationalisation. From the very early stages when, back in 2003, the future ETD was discussed, CEMBUREAU stressed that industry should be allowed to close operations which are not the most CO2 efficient with the possibility to transfer the corresponding allowances, across borders, to a more efficient plant. This is very much in accordance with the spirit of the ETS. Yet no clear rules were set then and are still lacking today.

Certain Member States have up to now made their own rules, it was common sense. This was the case in Germany.

Repeated calls from CEMBUREAU and some other industries have been ignored. The last chance to get clear rules spelled out is in the Guidance Document 7, the only one still under discussion.

Will the German government stand up for this as many hope it will? No government, however strong, feels comfortable to put its neck on the block if it does not feel some support in Council. CEMBUREAU calls upon governments to take this issue seriously and get their act together for this is in the benefit, not only of all industry, but also of the environment.

Follow up to *Editorial of April 2011 Eurobrief 1*

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1 Erratum the Directive on Taxation of Energy Products was wrongly referenced as 2003/87/EC instead of 2003/96/EC

EDITORIAL

CO2 Tax - further analysis

In our last editorial we identified that the proposal to introduce a CO2 tax in the framework of the Directive on Taxation of Energy Products (2003/96/EC) would have a limited impact upon the cement industry. We raised questions to which further analysis now allows to answer.

The use of electricity in the cement industry, either in stand-alone or in integrated grinding plants, will not be taxed.

This is due to the fact that power production falls within the orbit of the ETS.

The use of energy products listed in Annex 1 Table A & B, when used for motor purposes in the cement industry and transportation of cement, will have to bear the CO2 tax. Minimum rates of

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taxation are prescribed in Annex 1.

Astrid Lulling (EPP-LU) has been appointed Rapporteur for the ECON Committee of the European Parliament, giving only a consultative opinion.

EDITORIAL

CEMBUREAU quarterly economic report, 1st quarter 2011: First signs of stabilisation of construction activity in the EU

The latest estimations from EUROSTAT show a 0.7% rise in the EU construction activity in the first quarter of 2011. Taking into account the euro area (EU17), the growth was of 1.1%. When compared to the same quarter of the previous year, the EU27 and the euro area showed 0% and -1.9% growths respectively.

These are the first signs of stabilisation in the EU construction industry after a two-year drop. This follows the positive trend observed in EU industry as a whole.

In 2010 the European economy began to recover and EU GDP reached 12 270 billion euros (11 781 billion euros in 2009)*. When taking into account GDP of the first quarter of 2011, positive trends were seen in all countries with available data: Germany (1.7%), Spain (1%), France (1.4%), Austria (1.4%), Slovakia (0.9%) and Greece (0.1%).

Accordingly, as estimated by EUROSTAT, the volume of EU industrial production showed 1.1% growth in both the EU27 and the euro area. Compared to the same period of 2010, the positive yearly trends in industrial production can be observed in both the EU27 (6.3%) and the euro area (6.5%).

However, in March 2011, compared to February 2011, the production of consumer goods fell by 0.2% in the euro area and in the EU27. Intermediate goods remained stable in the euro area and increased by 0.1% in the EU27. Production of energy fell by 0.4% in the euro area and by 1.1% in the EU27 while capital goods dropped by 0.8% and 0.9% respectively.

(Click on the image to open the graph in pdf version)

The index of new orders in the manufacturing sector, including both domestic and non-domestic orders, was positive in January and February (0.4% and 1% respectively), while in March it fell by 1.9%. However, when compared with the same period of the previous year, the first three months showed double-digit growth in new orders, corresponding to the overall yearly growth.

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For the European construction industry, EUROSTAT's monthly estimations showed a 1.8% growth in the EU27 and a 0.3% fall in the euro area in March 2011 compared with February 2011. Out of fifteen countries with available data, six performed positively and nine performed negatively: the highest growth was registered in the United Kingdom (15.8%) while Belgium performed worse than other countries (-17.7%).

However, when comparing EU construction activity in March 2011 to March 2010, both the EU27 and the euro area performed negatively (-2.7% and -4.8% respectively). Negative monthly results were registered in Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia while growth trends were observed in Czech Republic, Germany, France, Austria, Poland, Sweden and UK.

First official estimates showed positive results in cement manufacturing. The index of cement manufacturing has shown a positive trend since the beginning of 2011. However, in March 2011 compared to March 2010, the manufacturing of cement fell by 0.7% in the EU27 while it remained stable in the euro area.

** In Eurobrief nÂ°193, the EU GDP was erroneously reported (12.1 billion euros, instead of 12.1 trillion euros).*

EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

Proposed EU ETS registry infrastructure rule change sent to Member States

The European Commission submitted proposals to Member States in May to change the rules governing the registry infrastructure underpinning the EU ETS. The Commission has emphasized that some amendments are required in order to implement changes to the EU ETS in the third phase, and to further enhance the integrity and security of the current system. Furthermore, a stakeholder meeting on how to tighten the security of spot trading in the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS) was held earlier this month.

CEMBUREAU believes there is a need to improve the security of the carbon market (for further details please refer to CEMBUREAU's March Eurobrief Editorial). An enhanced oversight regime

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is one of the building blocks for a more secure EU ETS. CEMBUREAU agrees with the two options proposed by the European Commission, even if the tailored regime is preferred. In any case, the exemption for ETS operators that trade emission allowances solely on their own account or on behalf of operators within the same group of companies need to be maintained, even when the revision of the MiFid regulation is carried out. CEMBUREAU also believes that the European Commission should conduct an impact assessment of the proposal, especially in relation to compliance costs (cost of intermediaries passed through) and accounting rules. At this stage, it is not yet clear whether the disclosure of serial numbers will be allowed even though this is undoubtedly an essential piece of the solution.

A draft regulation establishing a single ETS-wide registry was also recently circulated to Member States. Here also, the aim is to establish a more secure network of national registries following the recent spate of thefts and VAT frauds.

The vote of the Draft Commission Regulation on establishing a Union Registry for the trading period commencing on 1 January 2013, and subsequent trading periods, of the Union emissions trading scheme, has been postponed to mid-June. It was initially scheduled on 19 May 2011.

EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

Benchmarking decision published in Official Journal

The Commission Decision determining transitional EU-wide rules for harmonised free allocation of emission allowances has been published in the EU's Official Journal (OJ).

The Decision can be found here:
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:130:0001:0045:EN:PDF

Benchmarks are based on verified CITL data. This is the case for both the grey cement clinker benchmark and the white cement clinker benchmark.

EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

Estonia NAP rejected by Commission for third time

Estonia's national allocation plan (NAP) for the current phase of the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS) has been rejected by the European Commission for the third time. The Commission said that the current NAP would give Estonian emitters considerably more allowances than they need in 2011 and 2012, which could distort the electricity market and fail to comply with state aid rules.

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The Commission Decision can be found here:
http://ec.europa.eu/clima/documentation/ets/allocation_2008_en.htm

EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

Commission updates list of airlines to fall under EU ETS

The European Commission has updated the list of airlines expected to fall under the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS) as of 2012. The list now includes operators flying to and from Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

The updated list can be found here:
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:107:0001:0125:EN:PDF

News has also filtered out that the Commission is working on a NOx trading scheme for aviation.

EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

Environment Committee adopts draft report on "beyond 20%"

The adoption of the draft report on an Analysis of options to move beyond 20% greenhouse gas emission reductions and assessing the risk of carbon leakage took place in ENVI committee on 24th May. The Alliance of Energy Intensive Industries' (AEII) position on the report is as follows:

» A unilateral move to -30% would be extremely detrimental for EU industry. Reports show clearly that European consumption is not going down, meaning that most of the EU emission reductions are being offset by higher emissions outside Europe, from relocation of production outside EU.

» The Low-carbon economy Roadmap 2050 has only just been issued by the Commission and deserves a thorough analysis before taking its conclusions for granted. In particular, since the Communication is called a roadmap to a competitive low-carbon economy, the competitiveness aspect should not be overlooked. The compromise amendments should therefore not rely solely on the Roadmap itself.

» Energy Intensive Industries accepted the ETS and its 21% target by 2020. We still oppose any modification of this target: the -25% internal must be made up of the -20% GHG target + (-5%) from energy efficiency in non-ETS sectors.

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EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

CCS proposals pass Member State stage

Some 78 proposals for large-scale demonstration projects involving innovative renewable energy and carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies have passed the Member State stage of the NER 300 programme and have been submitted to the European Investment Bank (EIB) under the EU's "NER 300" programme. These include 13 CCS projects and two that fall into the category of Industrial applications demonstrating CCS on refineries in iron and steel or aluminium production.

According to reports provided to the Commission by 25 EU Member States, applications for 22 CCS projects were received by the 9 February deadline for responses to the first call for proposals under the programme. The European investment bank has already started financial and technical assessment of the applications and aims to complete the process by 9 February 2012.

The NER 300 programme will be funded from the sale of 300 million emission allowances held in the New Entrants Reserve (NER) of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). At the current carbon price, these allowances are worth €4-5 billion, but as project sponsors must also bring funding it is expected to leverage around the same amount in addition from private or other sources.

In the cement industry, ECRA, the European Cement Research Academy, is working on a CCS project outside the NER 300 programme.

Further information can be found here: *http://ec.europa.eu/clima/funding/ner300/index_en.htm*

EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

Cement industry identified as CCS-applicable in Eurobarometer report

A special Eurobarometer report on public awareness and acceptance of CO2 capture and storage mentions cement as one of the industries to which CCS can be applied. The report, which was published earlier this month, details the findings of a survey about awareness and acceptance of carbon dioxide (CO2) capture and storage (CCS) conducted in 12 European Union countries.

The countries included in the survey are Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland, Finland, France, Greece, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Romania. Whilst a high proportion of people â€˜do not know' whether CCS technology is effective in the fight against climate change, a higher proportion thought that it is effective (39%) than those who did not

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(25%).

The Eurobarometer survey can be found here:
http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_379_360_en.htm

ENVIRONMENT

Commission adopts new strategy to halt loss of biodiversity by 2020

The European Commission has adopted a new strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020.The Commission will follow up different proposals and initiatives listed in the Strategy in 2012, and will review the strategy in 2014.

The Commission believes that the previous biodiversity strategy - the 2006 Biodiversity Action Plan - failed to halt biodiversity loss. As a result, an attempt has been made to make new 2020 strategy more focused, with a limited number of targets; six main targets, with 20 follow-up actions.

Target 1 covers implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives. It states that by 2020, 100% more habitat assessments and 50% more species assessments under the Habitats Directive should show an improved conservation status; and 50% more species assessments under the Birds Directive should show a secure or improved status.

Other targets cover:

» Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure

» More sustainable agriculture and forestry

» Better management of EU fish stocks

» Tighter controls on invasive alien species

» A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss

The 2020 strategy will not expand the Natura 2000 network, as 18% of EU territory is already covered. The global 2020 target of having at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water conserved through protected areas has therefore already been met. However, the Commission will further develop the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform and encourage greater cooperation.

The new biodiversity strategy can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

Environmental groups and Green MEPs have criticised the European Commission's 2020 Biodiversity strategy for failing to provide concrete solutions to species and habitat loss. WWF, for example, said there were doubts as to whether the political will and understanding needed to meet its six sub-targets existed. Furthermore, Green Party MEPs said that the six sub-targets were inconsistent with the strategy's wider goals.

WWF press release can be found here:
http://www.wwf.eu/?200225/Wider-EU-policy-reforms-are-key-to-protecting-Nature

ENVIRONMENT

Energy Efficiency Plan 2011 discussed at Green Week

The Commission's "Energy Efficiency Plan 2011" was discussed at Green Week on 25 May 2011. The event, organised by DG Environment in partnership with DG Energy, focused on the way forward as regards the promotion of energy efficiency in Europe.

The Commission presented its Energy Efficiency Action Plan on 8 March 2011. The aim of the strategy is to increase the EU's competitiveness, reduce its energy dependence and decrease the level of emissions in the coming years. The Energy Efficiency Action Plan is accompanied by an impact assessment of the strategy, a progress Report of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2006 and an update on the implementation of National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs).

The Communication has been sent to the Council and the European Parliament which may choose whether to formally respond to it. Concrete legislative proposals are expected to be proposed after the summer 2011.

ENVIRONMENT

Draft directive targets energy saving obligation schemes

Details have emerged concerning the proposal (to be released at the end of June) to combine the existing combined heat and power (CHP) and energy services directives into one single piece of legislation. The Commission believes that these laws have failed to deliver sufficient improvements.

For example, under the national energy saving obligation schemes, energy suppliers would have to achieve an annual final energy reduction of 1.5%. Other measures include mandatory audits for large firms and requirements on energy metering and billing.

Furthermore, by 2013, Member States will have to adopt national heating and cooling plans for developing high-efficiency cogeneration, defined as energy savings of more than 10%. The plans will have to be updated every five years. The Commission says that these proposed measures will help the EU to reach its 20% efficiency goal for 2020.

CEMBUREAU will continue to oppose proposals for mandatory energy audits.

BUILDINGS & BUILDING MATERIALS

Council calls for more flexibility in energy efficiency of buildings

The European Council issued draft conclusions earlier this month calling for Member States to be given more flexibility in their approaches to improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings. The Council said that the commission should now come up with alternative proposals for tackling public buildings and be more flexible about the timescale for wider improvements to existing buildings.

Draft Council conclusions can be found here:
http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st07/st07882-re03.en11.pdf

BUILDINGS & BUILDING MATERIALS

Sustainable and competitive construction sector report published

A final Commission report on the Sustainable Competitiveness of the Construction Sector has been published. According to the report, the financial crisis in 2007 had a significant impact on activities in on-site construction, with the most affected countries being the ones that had experienced the highest growth rates up to 2007. The market for buildings suffered more than the market for civil engineering.

Regarding environmental performance, the sector is characterszed by the generation of large amounts of non-recyclable waste. Even if efforts have been made during the last 10 years, it will take time to see their impact, says the study.

The study also found that the European construction sector is subject to various costly regulatory requirements. The different levels of national implementation of EU regulations and the lack of harmonisation of standards are seen as barriers to realising the internal market.

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The report identified the following challenges:

» Poor innovation performance in the sector

» Poor productivity levels

» Narrow skill sets

» General macroeconomic environment (severe drops in demand)

» Demographic change (ageing of societies)

» Labour market conditions

» Major drivers of structural change (global challenges that can become enablers of sustainable growth)

» Demands for convenience from customers

» Weak growth prospects in EU markets

» Fragmented industry structures with only very few large construction companies

» Growing international (global) competition

» Access to finance is getting difficult following delayed payments by clients, ineffective financial management and limited profitability.

The report also presented a short-term vision (by 2020) for the future European construction sector, which included pushing forward new and innovative solutions to meet the demands associated with global challenges. These solutions include being instrumental in the EU reaching its 2050 targets for energy efficiency in buildings; reaching or going beyond the 70% target for waste recycling; meeting the requirements for quality of inner climate in buildings and being an attractive partner to clients in existing and emerging growth markets.

The report also proposes the creation of a Task Force to coordinate and monitor the construction specific European policy initiatives; a horizontal Commission services coordination group to identify synergies and monitor impacts and effects of different Commission services' initiatives and country peer learning or cluster networks of Member States that share a focus on specific priorities or problems within the strategy.

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In the autumn of 2011, the European Commission will submit a communication for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector.

The report can be found here:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/competitiveness/sustainable-competitiveness_en.htm

BUILDINGS & BUILDING MATERIALS

Ecolabelling scheme could be expanded, says Commission

Several new products could be included in the EU's ecolabelling scheme in coming years, according to a draft working plan issued by the European Commission. Some products, such as heating systems, are already being considered for inclusion in the scheme. The ecolabelling regulation says that 40 to 50 product groups should be covered by 2015.

A methodology for selecting new products will be on the agenda of an EU ecolabelling board meeting in June, while a list of possible products will be put forward later. Stakeholders have been invited by the Commission to suggest new products.

The EU ecolabel workplan 2011 - 2015 can be found here:
http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/eueb/library?l=/work_plan/work_2011-2015pdf/_EN_1.0_&a=d

BUILDINGS & BUILDING MATERIALS

IEA report on cogeneration and renewables published

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has published a report entitled â€˜Cogeneration and Renewables: solutions for a low-carbon energy future. It states that â€˜co-generation' is attractive to both policy-makers and private users and investors because it delivers a range of energy, environmental and economic benefits. According to the report, these include:

» Dramatically increased energy efficiency

» Reduced CO2 emissions and other pollutants - even more so when the synergies with renewables highlighted by the report are factored in

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» Increased energy security through reduced dependence on imported fuel

» Cost savings for the energy consumer

» Beneficial use of local energy resources, providing a transition to a low-carbon future

The report can be found here:
http://www.iea.org/papers/2011/CHP_Renewables.pdf

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Revision of Seveso II Directive

The Proposal for a Directive on control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances is currently being discussed by the European Parliament. Released by the European Commission on 21 December 2010, it aims to revise Directive 96/82/EC (Directive Seveso II) due to changes in the EU system of classification of dangerous substances to which the Directive refers. The exclusion from the scope of the Directive for activities of the extractive industries (Art 4(e) in current Directive 96/82/EC) is maintained (with the exception of underground gas storage). The transport of dangerous substances in pipelines or by road, rail, internal waterways, sea or air are still outside of the scope. Heavy fuel oil has been included in the entry for petroleum products.

The Environment Committee is the lead Committee in the Parliament, while the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) and Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Committees will provide an opinion. Janos Ader's draft report has been released on 19 May. It is scheduled for adoption on 4 October and in Plenary on 12 December 2011. IMCO MaÅ‚gorzata Handzlik's draft opinion has been published on 11 May and debated on 24 May. The main concerns for the Parliament are the modifications to the scope of the Directive to be done under co-decision and not through delegated acts. MEPs are also requesting more public access to information, better reporting on major accidents and more inspections.

Although it extends the obligations there is no real reason for concern. Nevertheless, it is not so much a matter of technical issues and costs, but rather political and communication perception.

The Draft Report can be found here:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+COMPARL+PE-464.978+01+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN

IMCO draft opinion can be found here:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+COMPARL+PE-464.

762+02+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Portland cement clinker: multiple entries notified to C&L inventory

CEMBUREAU recently discovered that there are 31 "different" notifications of the classification and labelling (C&L) of Portland cement clinker to the ECHA's C&L inventory. As readers may be aware, CEMBUREAU successful submitted, on behalf of its members, the notification of the C&L of Portland cement clinker in December 2010 (see December 2010/January 2011 *Eurobrief). Many of the additional notifications are not well documented as some do not contain a classification, and some do not have any references for the classification.*

Both ECHA and the European Commission are aware of this problem as it is an issue which also affects other sectors. It remains unclear whether the inventory will be cleaned as industry suggested, and these issues resolved, before its publication, scheduled for autumn of this year. Nevertheless, ECHA is likely to indicate whether a specific entry was notified by a group of manufacturers/importers (as in the case of CEMBUREAU for Portland cement clinker), in order to give the appropriate weight to the notification.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

REACH evaluation: latest news

Following on from the first REACH registration deadline of 30 November 2010, feedback on the testing plans entered with the registration dossiers is expected from ECHA by December 2012 at the latest. Flue dust from the production cement clinker, calcium sulfate, blast furnace slag, fly ash and burnt shale were successfully registered by the deadline (see November 2011 *Eurobrief).*

ECHA aims to conduct 600 dossier evaluations per year. In addition, 350 compliance checks will be concluded in 2011 and 2012, and 570 testing proposals will have to be examined by December 2012. Under the Testing Proposal Examination (TPE) ECHA will identify whether the proposed test is adequate and justified and whether unnecessary animal testing has been avoided. Under the Compliance Check (CCH), it will look at whether the information requirements have been adequately fulfilled and if the adaptations are adequately justified.

A detailed process description is available from here:
http://www.echa.europa.eu/publications_en.asp

Information on the registered substances is available from here:

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http://apps.echa.europa.eu/registered/registered-sub.aspx

WASTE

End-of-Waste criteria: latest developments

A draft Joint Research Centre (JRC) report on end of waste (EoW) criteria for waste paper has been published. The paper recommends that waste paper complying with all the criteria can lose its waste status even prior to being recycled/recovered, which means in effect that the operations prior to the recycling (sorting, separating, cleaning, or grading) are considered as the completed recovery process.

In addition, a JRC report entitled: "End-of-waste Criteria for Copper and Copper Alloy Scrap: Technical Proposals" has also just been published. The report contains a summary of end-of-waste criteria (see page 105), which are very similar to the ones adopted for iron & steel and aluminium scrap and the proposed criteria for waste paper.

The report is available from here:
http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/publications/pub.cfm?id=4259

Regarding waste derived fuels, the European Commission awarded a study on suitability of different waste derived fuels for end-of-waste status to Umweltbundesamt GmbH, Austria, to assess the suitability of different types of waste-derived fuels for end-of-waste. In this regard, CEMBUREAU will take part in a stakeholder consultation in September and, amongst others, will provide data as input for the study. The results of the study may be used by the JRC in order to produce end-of-waste criteria for waste derived fuels.

In relation to aggregates, a study on methodological aspects regarding limit values (control of release) for pollutants in aggregates has been awarded by the Commission to DHI consultancy (Denmark). In this respect CEMBUREAU notes that the list of aggregates is very large, and includes aggregates from material previously used in construction and from industrial processes (in particular fly ash, bottom ash and boiler ash from household waste incineration).

CEMBUREAU will provide information on aggregates which can be used as a cement constituent and as an aggregate for concrete according to the standards and technical specifications to the consultant.

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OTHER NEWS

International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement to be held in Madrid

The 13th International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement will be held in Madrid from 3 to 8 July 2011. Some 650 delegates have so far registered from all over the world. The Congress is an opportunity to increase modern society's awareness of the importance of cement.

Some 460 research papers from 50 countries have been received. These will form the scientific content for the meeting. These papers - a complete listing of which can be found on the congress website - cover the many areas in which cement chemistry is involved in. In addition to the technical sessions, complementary technical activities are also scheduled, including visits to the El Alto cement plant and the BASF Construction Chemicals facility in Madrid.

CEMBUREAU will be participating and give a presentation during the conference.

The Congress website can be found here:
www.icccmadrid2011.org

OTHER NEWS

Green group holds seminar on raw materials strategy

The European Parliament's Green group recently held a seminar on raw materials in order to help form the group's position on the EU's raw materials strategy. "It is important to develop longer-term policies and perspectives, while there is pressure to act also in the short-term," said Reinhard Butikofer (Greens/EFA, Germany). "There is a degree of urgency especially concerning rare earths, but also food security should be urgently addressed."

During a panel discussion on trade and development (with a focus on metals), Obadiah Mailafia (Head of Cabinet, Secretariat of ACP states) pointed out that Africa's trade with China is rapidly increasing and that China has become the most important trading partner for raw materials, while Isabelle Ramdoo (European Centre for Development Policy Management) said that forecasts indicate there will be more raw materials produced from now to 2050 than ever before in history. Franziska Keller (Greens/EFA, DE) remarked that the EU raw material strategy should be discussed with African partners. "The devil is in the implementation of the EU strategy; it remains to be seen what activities it will bring," she said.

The second panel discussion focused on resource efficiency (with again a focus on metals). Kurt Vandenberghe (Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Potocnik) said that recycling and resource

efficiency are linked to the raw material strategy, but that the time frames for those actions are different, recycling being longer term. The roadmap will be published this summer.

The third panel discussion was on commodity markets and speculation (with a focus on food and metals). Jasper Jorritsma (Security Markets Unit, DG Internal Market and Services) said that derivative markets have to be made stronger. Regulators should have the power of limiting positions and exemptions to reporting should be limited. These commission proposals will come forward in July.

The Conference programme can be found here:
http://www.greens-efa.eu/raw-materials-3583.html

OTHER NEWS

Commissioner Potocnik addresses European Minerals Day 2011

European Minerals Day 2011 took place on 13 May this year at the Kaolin JSC quarry site in Vetovo, Bulgaria. The event was attended by more than 200 guests, including representatives from the European Parliament, the Bulgarian government, the European Commission and industry.

At the event, Janez PotoÄ•nik, European Commissioner for the Environment, expressed his readiness for joint work on implementing a resource-efficient European roadmap as part of the Europe 2020 Strategy. "The quarrying and mining sector can preserve our environmental assets," he said. "The extractive industry has the experience in integrated planning, management and restoration - the things that are good for biodiversity and for business."

Further information on Minerals Day can be found here: *http://www.mineralsday.eu/launch-event/*

CEMBUREAU

CEMBUREAU team takes part in Brussels 20km!

At the end of May, several members of the CEMBUREAU secretariat took part, as either runners or walkers, during the Brussels 20km.

After months of training and mutual support, the team enjoyed taking part in the most important race in Belgium. In addition, the team was clearly visibly thanks to the shirts designed, in particular, for this event.

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The European Cement Association

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We take this opportunity of congratulating the CEMBUREAU participants for their achievement!

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