Pressing Issues and Future Challenges for the European Aggregates Industry

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Since 1987, UEPG is strongly promoting the interests of the European Aggregates Industry and has members in 27 countries in Europe.
Our built environment - aggregates

1 Family house: 400 t
1 km of high-speed railway: 9,000 t
1 km of motorway: up to 30,000 t

- 15% Infrastructure (Bridges, Harbour, etc.)
- 25% Residential Buildings (Houses, Apartments)
- 20% Commercial Buildings (Offices, Factories, etc.)
- 20% Social Buildings (Hospitals, Schools, etc.)
Construction trend 2013-2019 will require to be supported by aggregates supply

Source: EUROCONSTRUCT (83rd conference). - Click on the individual countries in the legend on the right to get their outlook.

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What are our needs in 10+ years?

- Modern transport infrastructure – autonomous vehicles
- Electrification of auto mobility and need for recharging stations
- Greener cities, passive energy housing and decentralised production of renewable energy
- More off-shore wind parks and changing energy infrastructure: German Energiewende, Gas pipelines, end of coal for energy?
- Adaptation to climate change – beach refurbishments, dikes and dams; flood control more efficient water storage and water distribution

Source: RAND Corporation
Some currently pressing issues

- **Sustainable access to local resources vs. NIMBY**
  - Address real concerns of neighbours but avoid instrumentalisation of environment

- **Support of Circular Economy but ensure access to primary and secondary resources**
  - Need for reliable construction & demolition waste data and realistic recycling targets

- **Responsible aggregates extraction is not only compatible with biodiversity, but has the potential to create it**
  - Need to recognise concepts such as dynamic management of nature and “Temporary Nature”
A number of future Challenges

- Investment in Europe beyond Juncker Plan
- Innovation on environmental management
- Water Management vs. Dust Management on site
- Land-use planning and permitting procedures – what can we do at EU level for promoting a smarter approaches at local level?
- An ambitious EU Industrial Strategy needs to ensure a sustainable supply of aggregates
Thank you

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