

# EUROLAB NEWSBRIEFING

January - March 2017



## Foreword

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Dear EUROLAB members,

Please find below the first EUROLAB newsbriefing of 2017 with information regarding the actions carried out by EUROLAB and developments relevant to the Laboratory Community.

The year 2017 foresees significant changes in the context of trade and the global market. Considering that the economic activity developed in the TIC Sector has, as main support, the mutual recognition based on international standardization and that the creation of internal and external trade barriers is also a relevant factor for fair competitiveness, EUROLAB intends to act in the sense of promoting an adequate understanding of the role of the entities in this sector and of their contribution to society.

The clarification of concepts and objectives that supports the activity in the TIC sector is, therefore, needed to be able to express the positions of the laboratories in relation to the development of regulation, standardization, accreditation and certification, cooperating in the sense that there must be a real improvement of its content and better application, in order to reduce high context costs that are often unnecessarily and artificially generated.

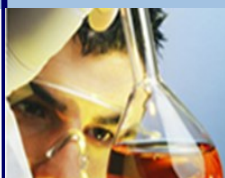
For this purpose, reference documents were developed by EUROLAB for the interpretation of primary concepts such as those that define the nature and type of performance of -first order -second order and -third order laboratories and, at the same time, a descriptive document of the mission and perspective of EUROLAB In the European and International framework, called "Policy Paper" (available on our [website](#)), with the understanding that this document, with the support of the National Laboratories Associations and their members, will serve as a reference for several initiatives that are intended to show the added-value of the TIC Sector in the global Economy.

Looking forward to increase co-operation with you, aiming to achieve the highest purpose of promoting the laboratories contribution to the improvement of safety and quality of life.

Yours Sincerely,

EUROLAB President

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro



## ***Malta Presidency of the Council of the European Union***

***(1 January – 30 June 2017)***



As Malta takes on the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in January 2017, the EU faces the toughest challenges in its 60-year history. Unprecedented waves of migration from Africa and the Middle East are exerting pressures on Malta's Mediterranean neighbourhood, while the rise of populism across the continent is challenging the political status quo. Economic stagnation in some Member States is adding to rising disenchantment and to a growing disconnect between power elites and ordinary citizens, while the repercussions of the UK's Brexit referendum in June 2016 will be felt for years to come. These are times of great global change.

As laid out in the Maltese presidency programme, the six priorities for the presidency will revolve around:

- ⇒ **Migration:** Push for the swift implementation of measures that have already been agreed upon, and to ensure that the issue remains at the top of the political agenda.
- ⇒ **The Single Market:** Improving and concluding key legislation already being negotiated with regards to the Single Market, the Digital Single Market and the Internal Energy Market
- ⇒ **Security:** Contribute towards concrete progress on proposals that address regional and global challenges, while upholding the values that underpin the very existence of the Union
- ⇒ **Social Inclusion:** Close consultation with social partners, civil society and citizens in order to advance gender equality and rights of minorities and vulnerable groups.
- ⇒ **Europe's Neighbourhood:** EU engagement on the stabilisation of our neighbourhood
- ⇒ **Maritime:** Sustainability and continuing development of the maritime sector

### **Ongoing Single Market legislative files**

- ⇒ Promotion of internet connectivity in local communities (known as Wifi4EU) 2016/0287(COD)
- ⇒ Regulation on Geo-Blocking 2016/0152(COD)
- ⇒ *Review of the Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation 2016/0148(COD)*
- ⇒ Cross border parcel delivery Regulation 2016/0149(COD)
- ⇒ Rules for wholesale roaming markets 2016/0185(COD)
- ⇒ Telecoms Reform: European Regulators for Electronic Communications 2016/0286(COD) & European Electronic Communications Code 2016/0288(COD)

On 9 February, IMCO Members voted on the 1 142 amendments tabled to the draft report on *the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles 2016/0014 (COD)* and can be expected for negotiations with the Maltese Presidency early 2017. The proposal would seek to (1) **Reinforce the independence and quality of testing that allows a car to be placed on the market** (2) **Introduce an effective market surveillance system to control the conformity of cars already in circulation** (3) **Reinforce the type approval system with greater European oversight**. Once adopted, it will be directly applicable. It will repeal and replace Directive 2007/46/EC (the 'Framework Directive').

On the subject of copyright, the Commission proposed an important package in September 2016 composed of two regulations and two directives. The proposal for a directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market, 2016/0280(COD) and the regulation on the exercise of copyright applicable to online transmissions 2016/0284(COD) will ensure better choice and access to content online.

The proposals on cross-border exchange with third countries of certain works for the visually impaired 2016/0279 (COD) and the harmonisation of copyright in the information society 2016/0278(COD) will implement the Marrakesh Treaty into EU law. (JURI is the committee responsible)

For more information: [Maltese Presidency website](#), [Programme of the Maltese Presidency](#) and [Council of the EU website](#)

## ***EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings 2017***

The EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings 2017 will take place in Bologna, Italy, on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and will be kindly hosted by ALPI ASSOCIAZIONE.

The EUROLAB events will start on Wednesday morning, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, with the TCQA Meeting, followed in the afternoon by the International Conference titled: Risk Assessment of Laboratory Activities: Working Safely in the Laboratory.

The EUROLAB Board Meeting will take place on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, being followed by the EUROLAB General Assembly, the same day.

For questions regarding the registration, programme and other practical details please contact the EUROLAB General Secretariat: [info@eurolab.org](mailto:info@eurolab.org) & ALPI ASSOCIAZIONE Secretariat: [info@alpiassociazione.it](mailto:info@alpiassociazione.it)



**News ALPI****30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the ALPI Association  
Message from the Director of ALPI Associazione, Claudio Raponi**

In July of 1987 nine testing and research Bodies had the idea to establish an independent association for testing labs. In this way ALPI Association was founded, with the aim to improve value and recognition of testing and control activities, also to support product certification. Some of the founders, in these 30 years, are still associated and someone has expanded its activities in certification of systems and products. At the same time, the industrial references and standards for testing and quality certification made a deep change, so ALPI Association has had to evolve with a very consistent trend according to the market rules.

Now ALPI is an important Italian Association, with 80 members and our Vision and Mission continued to keep as first that "measurements are the bases to improve quality as requested by global market". We are very proud that wishes of our Members and their direct participation drive the strategy of Association; also the participation in EUROLAB aisbl is very appreciate because ALPI's Members can't imagine future without international relationship and common networking.

Thank you very much to all ALPI's friends and partners, let's go ahead together for others 30 years!

**News BMTA****Upcoming BMTA Events:****BMTA AGM and ISO 17025 Seminar – 28th June**

BMTA Annual General Meeting. As part of the day BMTA will be running a seminar on the upcoming changes to ISO 17025 with expert speakers who can give a heads up on the changes and their implications

**Royal Microscopical Society Exhibition and Seminar – 6th July**

BMTA will be hosting a seminar at mmc2017 on Industrial Optical Inspection. Speakers will look at the use of microscopy and optical inspection methods and their applications in industry

For further details, please check the BMTA website: <http://www.bmta.co.uk/>

**News EUROLAB - CZ**

Technical and Test Institute for Construction Prague, SOE, member of EUROLAB-CZ is now opening a new facility for the determination of steady state thermal transmission properties - calibrated and guarded hot box MTP 01 with accessories. This test facility in our České Budějovice branch meets all the requirements of the relevant technical standard EN ISO 8990.

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**News Fenelab****Upcoming Fenelab events:****Fenelab Annual meeting and yearly "LabDay", 15th June, at Aqualab Zuid, The Netherlands (host Bernd Kroon)**

The Fenelab LabDay is an annual event for members at one of the members. An afternoon with interesting speakers and tours ending with a buffet. Guests are invited for this yearly event.

**Fenelab Annual meeting, 23 November.** (location, host not yet available).

**Fenelab answer to the Court of Audit report on CE marking**

In late January, the Court of Audit published a report on CE marking. This report went out in the media uproar.

The criticism from the Court of Audit's report focuses on a number of points:

- The self-certification system leads to (very) serious risks'
- The leaving of certain tasks to private parties
- The lack of market monitoring and surveillance of the external borders
- The lack of harmonization in the field of quality between Member States
- The lack of consumer involvement
- The relatively high cost
- The lack of information exchange.

Fenelab, the trade association for accredited calibration laboratories and inspection bodies in The Netherlands, has among its members many institutions that provide tests and measurements for the CE mark.

The association endorses the report on some important points. Fenelab fully agrees with the Court that the market surveillance and compliance monitoring of certification of imported products must be improved. This surveillance as the Court indicates in fact can be improved by a better exchange of information between Member States and further standardization of quality management. Fortunately, this is being worked on by the European institutions. Fenelab here with the European Commission believes that this accreditation is the appropriate means.

The good quality includes a cost, that does not depend on whether it is supported by public or private institutions. Previous studies, among others carried out by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, where a comparison between the medical devices in Europe and the US systems was made, show that there is no difference between public and private surveillance.

A system in which the certification in each country must be repeated, whether it is the monopoly of the government or a private party, will lead to even higher costs. Risk mitigation is achieved through independent accreditation, while cost control is assured by a multi-optional market.

The laboratories affiliated with Fenelab strive for safe products for consumers. Customer participation is not the highest priority, but consumer participation in the reporting about unsafe products is important to restore confidence.



## Accreditation

- Following the success of the [Public Sector Assurance website](#), which provides access to over 200 practical case studies and 70 research papers to demonstrate the value of standards and accreditation for the public sector, the **ILAC MCC / IAF CMC** are seeking ways to collect and share data that show the benefit of standards and accredited conformity assessment to businesses.
- The ILAC Executive Committee has submitted the document titled: "**ILAC Articles of Association Draft 2017-01-24**" to all ILAC members for a 30-day preliminary comment period. This preliminary comment period will be followed in due course by the usual full 60-day member comment period for both the revised Articles of Association and the ILAC By-laws.
- A new document entitled **IAF QMS-002:2017 IAF Internal Audit Procedure** has been published to provide an impartial and objective process to systematically determine effective implementation of the IAF structure and operations and compliance to IAF policies, rule, procedures and criteria.
- The following new and/or revised documents are now available on the IAF website (1) **Process to be used in the Absence of an IAF Convener or Chair for IAF or Joint IAF-ILAC meetings** (2) **IAF Management Review Procedure** (3) **Non-Public Document Responsibility List**.
- The IAF Board has now confirmed **the appointment of Mr. Pedro Alves for a second term as IAF Quality Manager**.
- The period to submit objections to the proposed document name change of the draft IAF ID document entitled **International Medical Device Nomenclature (IMDN) Including Medical Device Risk Classifications to IAF Medical Device Nomenclature (IAF MDN) Including Medical Device Risk Classifications** closed 16 December 2016 with the change being approved with no objections. A new document entitled **IAF Medical Device Nomenclature (IAF MDN) Including Medical Device Risk Classifications** has been published on the IAF website.
- The latest versions of reports and papers provided for the **30th IAF General Assembly** and **Sixteenth IAF-ILAC Joint General Assembly** held in New Delhi, India have now been posted on the Members' side of the IAF website, in addition to being available on the New Delhi meeting site.
- Registrations have been opened for the **Joint IAF and ILAC Mid-Year Meetings** to be held from Friday 31 March to Friday 7 April, 2017 in Frankfurt, Germany. An official meeting website has been developed with information regarding online registration, online accommodation booking, and details about the venue. Visit: [www.iaf-ilac-meetings.org](http://www.iaf-ilac-meetings.org)
- The next edition of ILAC News will be published in April 2017. ILAC invited the members and colleagues to contribute to this issue with news from their organisation.
- 9 June 2017 marks **World Accreditation Day** (#WAD2017), a global initiative established by ILAC and IAF to promote the value of accreditation. This year's theme focuses on how accreditation delivers confidence in construction and the built environment.
- The ILAC Inspection Committee (IC) has submitted the document titled: **ILAC GXX:XX/201X "Guidance on measurements performed as part of an inspection process"** to ILAC Full Members and Associates for a 30-day voting period.
- **Representatives from eight ASEAN countries participated in a workshop on "Accreditation Marketing and Awareness Raising at the national level" on 10-12 January in Bangkok.** This initiative was part of the strategy to promote recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results. <http://tinyurl.com/hx52p9t>
- Ballot result: - **IAF/ILAC-A1:--/2017 – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group** - Closed 18 February 2017 – Vote Passed (69 IAF members voted for, 0 against 7 abstained.)
- Ballot result: - **IAF/ILAC-A2:--/2017 – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body** - Closed 18 February 2017 – Vote Passed (69 IAF members voted for, 0 against and 7 abstained.)
- The IAF Communications and Marketing Committee is still seeking case studies that demonstrate the benefit of accreditation to business.
- At the close of the nomination period for the IAF Director Representing CAB Association Members, one nomination had been received for Marcus Long of **IIOC**. His successful nomination will be confirmed during the October 2017 General Assembly meeting in Vancouver, Canada.
- The vote on document **EA-4/09** is now over and the document has been accepted.
- As a result of the **EAAB Preparatory** Meeting held online on 14 February 2017, the EAAB Chair and Vice-Chairs, together with the EA Chair and Executive Secretary, agreed to skip the next meeting of the Board planned on 28 April 2017 and to postpone it until 12 October 2017.

## Standardisation

- The following ISO ballots have closed:
  - ⇒ **ISO/IEC TS 17021-4:2013 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 4: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of event sustainability management systems**  
The members voted in favour of the ballot.
  - ⇒ **ISO/IEC TS 17023:2013 Conformity assessment -- Guidelines for determining the duration of management system certification audits**  
The members voted in favour of the ballot.
  - ⇒ **ISO 22005:2007 (vers 2) Traceability in the feed and food chain -- General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation**  
The members voted in favour of the ballot.
  - ⇒ **ISO/TS 22002-1:2009 (vers 3) Prerequisite programmes on food safety -- Part 1: Food manufacturing**  
The members voted in favour of the ballot.
  - ⇒ **ISO/TS 22002-2:2013 Prerequisite programmes on food safety -- Part 2: Catering**  
The members voted in favour of the ballot.
  - ⇒ **ISO/TS 22002-4:2013 Prerequisite programmes on food safety -- Part 4: Food packaging manufacturing**  
The members voted in favour of the ballot.
  - ⇒ **ISO/TS 22003:2013 (Ed 2) Food safety management systems -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems**  
The members voted in favour of the ballot.
- The **2017 CASCO plenary and workshop** will take place in Vancouver, Canada from 26 to 28 April 2017 at the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel. The website with all the information regarding the venue, hotel, visa to enter Canada and the registration has just been launched and can be accessed [here](#).
- ISO CASCO has announced the publication of the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) brochure "Competency or management system based standards?"** that will provide guidance to ISO Technical Committees (TC) and help them understand the difference between the two types of standards.
- The **draft international standard ISO/IEC DIS 17025 (Ed 3) General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories** has been circulated for voting among the members.
- A 12-week ballot on **ISO/IEC 17000 Conformity assessment — Vocabulary** has opened.
- The **CASCO work programme for 2017** has been adopted by the ISO Council.
- ISO has opened a ballot on **ISO/TS 18173:2005 (vers 3) Non-destructive testing -- General terms and definitions**.
- The ballot on **ISO/IEC DTR 17028 DTR Conformity assessment — Guidelines and Examples of a certification scheme for services** has been closed. Members voted in favour of the revision.
- A proposal for a new work item on Prerequisite programmes on food safety -- Part 5: Transport and storage has been made under the committee **ISO/TC 34/SC 17**.
- An ISO CASCO Committee Internal Ballot (CIB) has opened to ask CASCO members whether document **QS-CAS-PROC 33 Common Elements** in CASCO standards that replaced the **5 ISO/PAS (ISO/PAS 17001 to ISO/PAS 17005)** shall be revised. It is a 12 weeks ballot with a closing date on 2017-04-27. This will not lead to any revision of any of the other CASCO standards. If the Common Elements document is being revised, the new wording will only be incorporated progressively into the CASCO standards when they come up for revision following a SR or NWIP ballot.
- ISO/TC 34/SC17/WG 8 resolved the comments submitted on **2<sup>nd</sup> CD 22000, Food safety management systems - Requirements for any organization in the food chain**. The draft has been updated accordingly for submission to DIS enquiry (see N451).
- **ISO DIS 22000 FSMs - Requirements for any organization in the food chain** has been updated for submission to DIS enquiry according to observed comments on 2<sup>nd</sup> CD 22000, see N450. ISO Central Secretariat will launch the DIS enquiry.
- The final version of **ISO 13485:2016** is available and companies should be planning their implementation. There are significant changes from the earlier version; they will require major modifications to the Quality Management System (QMS). The new version has better alignment with FDA's QSR, but there are still major differences that create issues for effective QMS implementation. For more details, click [here](#).
- The draft **ISO/IEC 17011 Conformity assessment - Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies** has been circulated among the members with the changes decided at the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of WG42. The meeting report will be sent along with the clean version of the standard. The final publication is expected to take place in May 2017.
- The **STADIST - Standards distribution newsletter, Week 8** has been published.
- The **European Commission released the 2017 Rolling Plan on ICT Standardisation. The plan identifies ICT standardisation activities that support EU policies**. The Rolling Plan takes a unique look at standardisation activities in the field of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) by linking them to EU legislation and policies. <http://tinyurl.com/gsqm7ok>
- **Members of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) met in the afternoon of 6 February to discuss 'European standards', and in particular the implementation of Regulation 1025/2012**. Spokespersons for the EPP, S&D and ALDE groups welcomed the work of the Rapporteur, praising how collaborative it had been. There was general consensus in favour of greater standardisation of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) within the European Union.

## Business news

- **ALS has built a state of the art microbiological food testing laboratory has been built at Stafford (Queensland).** This offers food clients along the East Coast of Australia full testing coverage, complementing the other ALS food testing laboratories in Scoresby (Victoria) and Rydalmere (New South Wales). <https://tinyurl.com/kv8hyv3>
- **Bureau Veritas has launched in the Spanish market the e-commerce platform es.lead.bureauveritas.com.** This platform, which joins those launched in the United States and Brazil, enables BV clients to buy high quality services of the new standards: ISO 9001:2015 (QMS), ISO 14001:2015 (EMS) and the soon to be published ISO 45001 (OH&S). <https://tinyurl.com/lkntvjx>
- **Bureau Veritas has published the new version of his international guide aimed at ensuring the safety and compliance to international standards of wind turbines & wind farms for the production of renewable energy.** <https://tinyurl.com/mmvpnun>
- **Bureau Veritas has unveiled a new, disruptive approach to product cyber security testing in partnership with CEA-Leti at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain.** The company has also launched their new suite of Smart Wear testing solutions for products including Trackers, VR Headsets and Smart Clothing on 1<sup>st</sup> March in cooperation with 7layers. <https://tinyurl.com/mbuutun>
- **BPMA is calling on government to properly police illegal pumps.** Continued evidence of illegal pump imports entering the UK market has resulted in the British Pump Manufacturer's Association (BPMA) calling once again for tighter enforcement of such products. <https://tinyurl.com/lq7yp9x>
- **Camin Cargo Control, Inc. has announced the opening of a new office location outside of Chicago, Illinois.** This new location expands the Company's Midwest presence, enabling it to provide services to clientele in the Chicago region. <https://tinyurl.com/kqou9w2>
- **DEKRA is further expanding its product testing business in East Asia.** A new laboratory for the testing of automotive parts and components has opened in Hsinchu (Taiwan). It will focus on the growing demand for testing and certification for innovations relating to connected and electric driving. <https://tinyurl.com/m68ne5y>
- **DEKRA has published the tenth edition of its mileage-based Used Car Report.**
- **Taiwan-based Integrated Service Technology (iST), a joint venture of German inspection company DEKRA, recently opened a new LED lighting lab in Shenzhen, China.** <http://tinyurl.com/kp58utq>
- **Testing laboratories DEKRA Shanghai and DEKRA Guangzhou have both been ENEC approved for the category LITE.** ENEC is a European Mark for electrical products which demonstrates conformity with European safety standards. <http://tinyurl.com/kl7obxs>
- **Dublin City University's Dr Gabriel-Miro Muntean introduces NEWTON, an innovative new Horizon 2020 project aimed at improving learning experiences and outcomes using technology-enhanced methodologies and tools.** The European Parliament forecasts some seven million job openings in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) sector by 2025, but high drop-out rates and a continuing inability to attract new students to the subjects means Europe is at dire risk of running out of talent to fill them. <https://tinyurl.com/k7uqazx>
- **MPA Expands MOU with DNV GL to include Autonomous Systems and Intelligent Shipping.** The collaboration will further promote research and innovation in the maritime industry. <https://tinyurl.com/l24zdvm>

**New research by DNV GL shows oil and gas companies seeking to rebalance business portfolios and reorganizing for a new era.** In a period of drawn-out recovery, almost half (49%) of senior oil and gas professionals surveyed expect their businesses to diversify into, or invest more in, opportunities outside of oil and gas. <https://tinyurl.com/kkjt8no>

**DNV GL is launching an industry data platform to facilitate frictionless connections between different industry players, domain experts and data scientists.** <https://tinyurl.com/lluxzx>

**DNV GL released a timely research paper exploring the role of standards in helping businesses to withstand the challenges associated with climate change.** <https://tinyurl.com/ldagxh2>

**DNV GL has released findings from a comprehensive survey of nearly 500 commercial facility managers across the United States to analyse the current patterns of energy management and efficiency investments in large- and mid-sized commercial facilities.** The potential for cost-effective savings for commercial customers is a 20-30% reduction of current use levels, but utility energy efficiency programs are finding it difficult to achieve their stated energy savings goals. <https://tinyurl.com/zgm3lep>

**A new joint industry project (JIP) signed recently in Singapore between BHP Billiton, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Rio Tinto, SDARI, Woodside, and DNV GL, looks to capitalize on this opportunity to drive the development of the market.** The JIP is named "Green Corridor" and will assess the commercial potential of LNG fuelled vessels in a "green corridor" between Australian and China, culminating in the creation of a next generation Capesize design that will undergo Approval in Principle (AiP) under the new DNV GL rules. <https://tinyurl.com/lxz69ts>

**DNV GL's expanded KEMA High-Power Laboratory performs first-ever ultra-high-voltage component tests.** <http://tinyurl.com/k6vfveq>

**An international group of scientists consisting of Russian and American experts has presented the first one-dimensional semiconducting material in the world.** This material is based on the chemical compound Ta<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>3</sub>Se<sub>8</sub> (tantalum-palladium-selenium) and another compound called Ta<sub>2</sub>Pt<sub>3</sub>Se<sub>8</sub> (tantalum-platinum-selenium) obtained from a Ta-Pd(Pt)-Se crystal using a micro-mechanical cleavage technique. The above-mentioned crystal was first synthesized over 30 years ago. <https://tinyurl.com/h9yfufx>

**Eurofins Scientific has announced plans to establish a new pharmaceutical chemistry and microbiology facility in Livingston, Scotland, as part of a £4 million (US\$5m) investment.** <http://tinyurl.com/lzqoa2a>

**Eurofins Genomics announced the U.S. commercial launch of a unique DNA synthesis service based on the company's revolutionary next-generation synthesis platform.** The service, which is designed to supply small quantities of high-quality oligos for use in molecular biology and synthetic biology, among other applications, allows users to receive high-fidelity, QC-verified oligos for low cost and with industry-leading turnaround. <http://tinyurl.com/kejdtzu>

**Eurofins Digital Testing announced it has signed a strategic relationship agreement with Nokia.** Under the agreement, Nokia will resell Eurofins' suite of automated test tools and professional testing support services for TV and video services, and will leverage Eurofins' capabilities to staff and train onsite personnel to support the testing and QA needs of opera-



## Business news

tors in North America, Europe, Asia, and other regions around the globe. <http://tinyurl.com/mh7joxm>

- **Inail signed the agreement for the operative Guide SgsI "System House and crafts "**. Inail, Cobis and CPR in collaboration with Ca 'Foscari and Ca' Foscari Challenge School through the spin off Head Up to improve safety and health in small businesses of the House System ensuring greater competitiveness through lower costs for businesses.
- **Inail renewed the agreement with Niosh, National Institute for Health and Safety at US labour, an international actor in the field of risk prevention in the workplace.** The collaboration involves the exchange of information on their plans and on national research policies and research programs and best practices.
- **Intertek has launched a microbead environmental impact assessment service comprising analytical screening programmes and environmental impact assessment assurance services.** It is the only commercial service to combine both impact assessment and multiple sample polymer testing for microplastics as one service. <https://tinyurl.com/lobb5zj>
- **Intertek Broadens Scope of Testing and Certification Services for Electrical Equipment Used in Hazardous Locations to Meet Brazil's INMETRO Requirements.** <https://tinyurl.com/mqasu8j>
- **Intertek has provided the local regulatory and assurance services integral to supporting global chemical notification strategies** including those under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). <https://tinyurl.com/md4axl9>
- **Intertek has commissioned the testing of transformer oil at its new Cargo and Analytical Assessment laboratory, becoming the only lab in India to offer this new facility.** The testing service, also known as TransoilCHECK™, which includes the analysis of transformer oils, will be undertaken in line with ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) and IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) procedures and test methods along with DGA, PCB and Furan Compound tests, which are not available in the local market. <https://tinyurl.com/lznpon9>
- **Intertek has expanded its Milton Keynes electrical safety laboratory to now offer expert IT and Audio-visual performance and safety testing.** <https://tinyurl.com/kqjs6wc>
- **A delegation of KCL (Korea Conformity Laboratories), headed by Mr. Seong Tae Chae, Executive Director of the foreign section (KCL Advanced Business Strategy Division) visited the premises of the SZU headquarters in Brno.** KCL specializes its service portfolio for certification of construction products, consumer goods, environmental-friendly appliances, but also to nanotechnologies. The main outcome of the meeting was the extension of a cooperation with KCL for the next period. <http://tinyurl.com/mpdghxz>
- **A partnership between Liftinstituut and the Elevator Test Centre (ETC) at Shanghai Jiao Tong University in Shanghai aimed at facilitating trade between European and North American Liftinstituut clients and China is sparking optimism about increasing exports of safe elevator products to and from China.** <http://tinyurl.com/koo8xx3>
- **LRQA achieves ISO 14065 accreditation to globally deliver services for the assessment of monitoring plans and verification of emissions reports under MRV Regulation.** Following an extensive audit by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), LRQA has been accredited to globally deliver services for the assessment of monitoring plans and verification of emissions reports for maritime transport that is sub-

ject to the MRV Regulation. This latest accreditation has been awarded with immediate effect. <http://tinyurl.com/mb6zjob>

- **Common Structural Rules Software LLC, a joint venture company formed by LR and ABS, has released an update that simplifies compliance with current and pending IACS Common Structural Rules (CSR).** The software provides users with an easy way to evaluate designs, enabling assessment of whole vessel structures. <http://tinyurl.com/msjrr3h>
- **Lloyd's Register (LR) and TWI are calling for partners to join two new global collaborative projects focused on two additive manufacturing challenges facing the industrial sector.** "Achieving Regulatory and Code Compliance for Additive Manufacturing" and "Joining of Metallic Additively Manufactured Products and Materials" are expected to attract considerable interest from companies worldwide, as these new projects will further explore challenges uncovered from LR and TWI's first joint industry project, "Certification of Laser Powder Additive Manufactured Components for Industrial Adoption in the Energy and Offshore Sectors". <http://tinyurl.com/kruljag>
- **The testing and certification arm of the National Collateral Management Services Limited (NCML), CommGrade inaugurated its third largest state-of-the-art Regional Laboratory at Mumbai, Maharashtra.** The lab was inaugurated by Sanjay Kaul, MD and CEO, NCML. <http://tinyurl.com/lsmgqxu>
- **Common Structural Rules Software LLC, a joint venture company formed by Lloyd's Register (LR) and ABS, has released a software upgrade that simplifies compliance with current and pending IACS Common Structural Rules (CSR).** <http://tinyurl.com/msjrr3h>
- **SGS's operation in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, has become the first independent cotton yarn testing laboratory with ISO 17025 accreditation in Central Asia.** <http://tinyurl.com/lw5z4n8>
- **SGS opened a new food testing laboratory in Uiwang City, near Seoul, South Korea.** <http://tinyurl.com/m9nfosm>
- **SGS has announced that it is expanding its elemental analysis testing capabilities at its Ville-neuve-la-Garenne, France laboratory.** <http://tinyurl.com/k7yvw69>
- **SGS in Spain has renewed its GLP accreditation in contract research for seed and crop field trials.** <http://tinyurl.com/mrjx9u4>
- **Approval has been granted to Stroma Certification to offer a UKAS accredited Group Competence Scheme (GCS).** Receiving a UKAS accredited Group Competence Scheme (GCS) enables Stroma Certification to provide Competent Management System Certification, in accordance with the recognised International Standard ISO 17021:2011 for the Gas Group Competence Scheme, for companies with a large number of gas installers. <https://tinyurl.com/m44r7ye>
- **Sidra's research branch has opened three main labs and the state-of-the-art facilities have been brought into operation recently with high calibre expert teams from all over the world.** <http://tinyurl.com/l4mz3oj>
- **TÜV Rheinland is expanding its European business and has started business operations in Switzerland.** The Swiss subsidiary of TÜV Rheinland, headquartered in Bern, primarily offers services for the railway sector and for the energy and power

## Business news

plants sector throughout the country. <http://tinyurl.com/lcuz9o>

- TÜV Rheinland has announced that Yeungnam University Photovoltaic Testing Laboratory has been designated as a KS (Korean Industrial Standards) certification performance testing agency for crystalline silicon PV module (KS C 8561) and thin film PV module (KS C 8562) from Korea Energy Agency (New & Renewable Energy center). <http://tinyurl.com/mz3zf9q>
- TÜV Rheinland Korea has announced that its Energy Efficiency testing laboratory, located in Changwon, Gyeongsangnam-do, was recognized as an accredited laboratory by KOLAS (Korea Laboratory Accreditation Scheme). This is the first KOLAS accreditation of TÜV Rheinland Korea and a big milestone for supporting the customers in the domestic air conditioning and refrigerator market. KOLAS is an organization under the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards, which evaluate the quality system and technical capabilities of a testing laboratory. <http://tinyurl.com/kenmfd4>
- The Toulon Commercial Court handed down decisions against TÜV Rheinland LGA Products GmbH in the scope of cases linked to the PIP breast implants case. The Court ordered payment of provisional amounts to persons claiming to be former foreign distributors of PIP breast implants / foreign clinics / a sales representative of PIP / and plaintiffs who allege having received PIP silicone gel breast implants. <http://tinyurl.com/ltd3xrz>
- TÜV Rheinland has announced the opening of a state-of-the-art internet of things (IoT) excellence center in Fremont, California. The new facility, which compliments TÜV Rheinland's existing Pleasanton, CA facility, will provide manufacturers complete testing services, supported by state-of-the-art equipment, to ensure their products are secure and meet industry standards for performance. <http://tinyurl.com/kxnpkxv>
- TÜV Rheinland has announced the launch of its new, stand-alone and unique mobile digital solution for the management, analysis and tracking of asset integrity data. TÜV Rheinland engineers have developed a solution called Fast Easy Electronic Data (FEED), an asset inspection and integrity data management portal designed to address the various challenges faced during testing and inspection of industrial plants, including the requirement for fast decision-making, regulatory frameworks, the need to reduce inspection time and cost and the enhancement of inspection quality. <http://tinyurl.com/ktly4v5>
- TÜV Rheinland announced that it is the first authorized long-range wireless (LoRaWAN) testing provider in the U.S., certified by the LoRa Alliance. <http://tinyurl.com/m9aeq4q>
- TÜV SÜD will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC). The two organisations will be collaborating on workshops and awareness programs relating to international quality and safety standards for GMAC corporate members, where they will be getting special offers for TÜV SÜD's testing, inspection, audit and certification services. <http://tinyurl.com/lofgtas>
- TÜV SÜD has opened a new design and development laboratory for OEMs in the Czech Republic. <http://tinyurl.com/mf4wrhq>
- TÜV SÜD has published the findings of TÜV SÜD Safety Gauge 2016, a study on product safety and quality which surveyed both consumers and business professionals. <http://tinyurl.com/knys8kb>
- TÜV SÜD and South Korea's state measurement institute, K eco (Korean Environment Cooperation) signed a cooperation agreement to this effect in Seoul. Under the cooperation agreement, TÜV SÜD is the partner of European OEMs for accessing this important Asian market. TÜV SÜD also supports K eco with the introduction of the WLTP and RDE (Real Driving Emission) exhaust gas standards. <http://tinyurl.com/k3pmzmy>
- TÜV SÜD has expanded its seafood testing business with a lab in the port city of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. It is in the process of setting up another lab at Agra for the footwear industry during the year. <http://tinyurl.com/mn5ubc8>
- TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH has announced its offering of support services for shipping companies in complying with the European Union's (EU's) Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), including the inspection and verification of monitoring concepts and emission reports. <http://tinyurl.com/m8sak5z>
- UL and Ricoh USA, Inc., a technology and services company, announced a collaboration through which the two companies will provide training to UL and Ricoh customers. The initial goal of the relationship is to promote the proper usage and advancement of Additive Manufacturing (AM) technologies via UL AM training that leverages Ricoh's services and training expertise. <http://tinyurl.com/k84y2hr>
- UL and HDBaseT Alliance launched new cable certification program to support PoH installations. This program, targeted at cable manufacturers, addresses the increased performance and safety requirements related to heating due to current levels being carried under PoH of audiovisual installations. <http://tinyurl.com/kq7xqt3>
- UL Consumer and Retail Services (CRS) has announced the debuts of the UL Toy Safety Enhanced Certification Mark and UL SmartInsights at numerous Toy Fairs around the world. <http://tinyurl.com/ke6fdbx>
- UL has announced that it has entered into a multi-year agreement with Greenhealth Exchange (GX) —a purchasing cooperative that makes it easy to source safer and healthier products and services used in health care settings. As part of the agreement, UL will license PurView, a flexible platform allowing the development of proprietary evaluative frameworks for sustainability assessments. <http://tinyurl.com/lagg9dg>
- Independent UKAS accredited testing laboratory and certification body Wintech Testing & Certification, has announce that it became the first accredited laboratory to test to PAS 24:2016. <https://tinyurl.com/mdcaeog>

**Business news****Autoscribe Informatics Release New Additions To Their LIMS**

Autoscribe Informatics have recently released two new additions to their LIMS. The Matrix Gemini Field Analytics System is a mobile app extension to extend the use of the LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System) to the field. The new Field Analytics System allows test data to be recorded off-line and uploaded to the LIMS when an internet connection can be re-established.

(Graphic available here: [http://www.autoscribeinformatics.com/images/FieldAnalyticsSystem\\_TestResults.png](http://www.autoscribeinformatics.com/images/FieldAnalyticsSystem_TestResults.png) if you want to include)

In a separate announcement Autoscribe also released its Matrix Gemini Web Portal. This allows third parties who do not use Matrix Gemini LIMS directly, but have a legitimate need to access relevant data, to be able to view and download reports and metrics produced in LIMS from anywhere via the web.

(Graphic available here: <http://www.autoscribeinformatics.com/images/SampleStatusScreenSml.png> if you want to include)

Further information can be found at <http://www.autoscribeinformatics.com>

**Business Results 2016****Bureau Veritas 2016 Full Year Results**

- Revenue of 4550 million EUR, up 1.4% at constant currency vs. 2015
- Adjusted operating margin of 16.2%, down 25 basis points organically vs. 2015
- Adjusted net profit of 409 million EUR (€0.94/share), up 3.7% at constant currency vs. 2015
- Operating cash-flow of 594 million EUR, impacted by one-off items
- Net income of 319 million EUR, up 34.2% at constant currency

**Intertek 2016 Full Year Results**

- Revenues of 2960 million EUR, +8.8% at constant currency rates, +18.5% at actual rates
- Recent acquisitions contributed 278 million EUR additional revenue
- Organic revenue of 2676 million EUR, Products +5.5%, Trade +1.3%, Resources -13.0%
- Free cash flow of 366 million EUR, +35.2% year on year driven by 139% cash conversion

**SGS**

- Revenues in 2016 reached 5627million EUR. Revenue growth of 6.0% on a constant currency basis, of which 2.5% was organic and 3.5% was contributed by recent acquisitions
- Adjusted Operating income of 862million EUR
- Profit for the period 550million EUR
- Cash flow from operating activities of 937million EUR

## Policy news

### Chemicals

- The European Union has implemented measures to regulate bisphenol A (BPA) in thermal paper under Annex XVII of REACH. The new law will become effective on January 2, 2020.
- The European Chemical Agency (ECHA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) have published an [outline of the guidance](#) they are developing on how to identify substances with endocrine-disrupting properties in pesticides and biocides.
- ECHA published the [16th update](#) of the REACH Candidate List<sup>1</sup>. Four new Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) were added. Hence, the total number of SVHCs on the Candidate List increases from 169 to 1732.
- ECHA announced the signing of a delegation agreement between ECHA and the European Commission (EC) on the European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials (EU-ON).

### Consumer Protection

- The European Parliament Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) hold a public hearing on **European Standards for the 21st Century**. The hearing consisted of two panels. Panel one was focused on innovative, interconnected and interoperable standards for the future and panel two was focused on how to make standards serve a modern inclusive society. Members had the opportunity to discuss this issue with experts present at the hearing.
- MEPs in the IMCO Committee adopted amendments to Daniel Dalton's draft report on approval procedures and market surveillance of motor vehicles by 33 voted in favour, 4 against, and no abstention. It will be put to a vote by the full House in one of the upcoming plenary sessions.
- IMCO Committee members considered the amendments of the legislative report on "cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws" as well as the Initiative reports on "EU eGovernment action plan 2016-2020: accelerating the digital transformation of government" and "a longer lifetime for products: benefits for consumers and companies".
- The Eurasian Economic Commission, which is the permanent regulatory body of the Eurasian Economic Union-EAEU, (i.e. currently Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, having a collective population of about 180 mill), has announced a Decision 154 of 15.11.2016 regarding the contents of EAC certificates and declarations.
- A Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No.: 849 announces additional requirements for electrical and electronic products to be marketed in Belarus from next year. The [new requirements](#) are described in English in a letter from the Belarus certification body Bellis.
- The European Commission published guidance to help Member States evaluate if car manufacturers use defeat devices or other strategies that lead to higher vehicle emissions outside of the test cycle and analyse whether they are technically justified. <http://tinyurl.com/h8twmq9>
- The European Commission provided the members of the TRAN Committee with information about the transposition of Directive 2014/45 on roadworthiness tests of vehicles, with a special focus on fraud in odometer readings. Manipulation of odometers presents a huge risk for road safety and consumer rights. In the debate, it was highlighted that registration of odometer data is only one of the measures to tackle this problem, others being consumer law and criminal law.

### Energy & Environment

- The European Commission's [second State of the Energy Union report](#), shows that the EU is on track to meet its **target** of 20% **renewable energy** by 2020. However, EU countries will need to maintain their efforts to reach their national renewable energy targets. Increased use of renewable energy is integral to the EU's Energy Union strategy, and brings benefits for the environment, consumers, Europe's energy security and the European economy as a whole. <http://tinyurl.com/jldrxbs>
- **Commission offers guidance on recovery of energy from waste and works with EIB to boost investment.** One year after adopting its Circular Economy Package, the Commission today reports on the delivery and progress of key initiatives of its 2015 Action Plan. <http://tinyurl.com/zym2nsp>



- The European Commission **adopted** the first European List of ship recycling facilities safe for workers and environmentally sound.
- The European Commission is developing a new energy system model which is capable of analysing the EU's energy systems in high level of detail. The model – **METIS** – can simulate the operation of both energy systems and energy markets for electricity, gas and heat on an hourly basis for a whole year.
- The European Commission has published a new **set of proposals** on 'risk preparedness' designed to ensure that in the event of 'emergency situations' Europeans are better protected against electricity black-outs. <http://tinyurl.com/je94ggp>
- A new Memorandum of Understanding to enhance energy cooperation between the EU and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has been signed in London by EU Commissioner Arias Cañete and EBRD President Chakrabarti. <http://tinyurl.com/jyu2ph9>
- Negotiators of the European Parliament and the Council agreed on having Intergovernmental Agreements in the field of gas and oil assessed by the Commission before they are signed. <http://tinyurl.com/it9nsj8>
- The European Commission has launched a new database on the EU's building stock to monitor the energy performance of buildings across Europe. The database – called **the EU Building Stock Observatory** – provides information on buildings' characteristics including their construction period, energy use, onsite renewable energy and renovation rates. <http://tinyurl.com/jl295gv>
- The European Commission has published a proposal for a revised Renewable Energy Directive containing a set of measures designed to make Europe number one in renewable energy, slashing emissions from the energy sector, securing energy supply, creating jobs and empowering consumers along the way. <http://tinyurl.com/zn2ynw4>
- The European Commission has issued a **new report** on energy prices and costs across Europe. The report finds that, in general, wholesale prices of energy have fallen in recent years, although retail prices have not dropped. <http://tinyurl.com/qwealnj>
- The European Commission has proposed a binding 30% energy efficiency target for 2030, up from the current target of at least 27%. The new target comes as part of a package of energy efficiency measures which include upgrading the current energy efficiency Directive, measures focussing on the energy efficiency of buildings, improving the energy performance of products and informing consumers, and a smart finance for buildings proposal. <http://tinyurl.com/gt8wkux>
- The European Commission has released a set of proposals on a new rule book for the EU energy market. The proposed reform will enable a clean energy transition to take place, at the best value for consumers. <http://tinyurl.com/zlddxhl>
- The Commission adopted a report assessing Member States' monitoring programmes under the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (COM(2017) 3)**. These monitoring programmes are crucial to monitor progress towards achieving good environmental status in EU's waters. <http://tinyurl.com/z7r4e98>
- Representatives of EU institutions and industry and finance, along with local and national stakeholders, discussed how to finance energy efficiency initiatives. <http://tinyurl.com/z6k6s8y>

The negotiators of the European Parliament and the Council reached an informal agreement on the information exchange mechanism about energy supply deals between EU member states and third parties after three trilogues. <http://tinyurl.com/zsc25w6>

The environment committee of the European Parliament issued a **press release** for a stronger EU carbon market.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final assessment analysing the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") on drinking water resources. <http://tinyurl.com/jxb439p>

The European Commission starts Clean Air Dialogue with Ireland to promote action for cleaner air for its citizens. On 1 and 2 March 2017 the Commission held its first Clean Air Dialogue with Ireland, to promote actions to improve air quality and contribute to Ireland's implementation of EU clean air legislation. <http://tinyurl.com/gquk23e>

One year after adopting the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, the European Commission took stock of progress and ensures commitment from key business sectors on the Plan's three dimensions – prevention, stronger enforcement and global partnership. <http://tinyurl.com/z4qobv7>

The European Energy Council, which brings together EU Energy Ministers, European Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič, and European Commissioner for energy and climate action Miguel Arias Cañete, met in Brussels. Two main items were on the agenda: The European Commission's '**Clean Energy for All Europeans**' package and its second **State of the Energy Union report**.

The European Commission welcomes the approval by the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) of the reference documents necessary to launch the **topical peer review** of the 'Ageing management of nuclear power plants'. This is the first in a series of peer reviews into **nuclear safety** in Europe that will take place every six years, in accordance with the EU's **revised Nuclear Safety Directive**. <http://tinyurl.com/jqufgfc>

A ministerial meeting of the Southern Gas Advisory Council where European Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič and the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, along with representatives of countries located along the **Southern Gas Corridor**, attended the meeting, was held in Baku, Azerbaijan. Participants discussed bringing gas to EU markets from regions to the south and east of Europe along the Southern Gas Corridor. <http://tinyurl.com/gw394fx>

The EU and Iran held a high-level seminar on 'International Nuclear Cooperation: Expectations and Responsibilities' in Brussels on 28 February and 1 March 2017. The seminar was the result of a joint initiative of the European Commissioner for Energy and Climate Action Miguel Arias Cañete and Iranian Vice President Ali Akbar Salehi. The seminar represented an important element of the growing co-operation between Iran and the EU, following Implementation Day of the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action** (JCPOA). <http://tinyurl.com/jh6ys44>

The EU Member States agreed on the Commission's proposal to invest €444 million in priority European energy infrastructure projects. The **18 selected electricity, smart grids and gas projects** will

contribute to achieving the [Energy Union's](#) goals by connecting European energy networks, increasing security of energy supply, and contributing to sustainable development by integrating renewable energy sources across the EU. <http://tinyurl.com/jgmys8h>

- **The European Commission delivers on its promises, offers guidance on recovery of energy from waste and works with EIB to boost investment.** One year after adopting its Circular Economy Package, the Commission reported on the delivery and progress of key initiatives of its 2015 Action Plan. <http://tinyurl.com/zym2nsp>
- **The European Union and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) took steps to strengthen their cooperation in a range of nu-**

clear activities including nuclear science applications during the fifth annual Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Brussels. <http://tinyurl.com/je9qjdb>

• **The European Commission released [second State of the Energy Union report](#) and accompanying 2016 [progress report on energy efficiency](#).** Second Report on the State of the Energy Union shows that the modernisation of the European Union economy and the transition to a low-carbon era are happening. In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, [energy efficiency](#) and renewable energy, Europe is on track to reach its 2020 targets. <http://tinyurl.com/z8tsu4q>

## Food

- **Reopening of the American market for French beef.** The United States have announced the lifting of the ban on imports of beef from France. The Commission welcomes this decision, which represents a new stage in the reopening of a market which has been closed since the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic in the 1990s: <http://tinyurl.com/jx3b46c>
- **EAT Foundation and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development announced a joint initiative designed to create the “conference of parties” for food, in order to accelerate the transformation towards a healthy and sustainable global food system.** <http://tinyurl.com/j7vhfwu>
- **In view of the upcoming vote in the European Parliament on the draft report of the revised EU Waste legislation, Europe's food and drink manufacturers reaffirm their commitment to integrate food waste prevention and resource efficiency into their own operations and all parts of their supply chain.**
- **A set of new rules, proposed by the Commission, to modernise and harmonise the production and marketing chain for fruit propagating material and fruit plants, applies as of 1 January 2017.** <http://tinyurl.com/hekw5hu>
- **The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) releases a database called OpenFoodTox that provides access to a wealth of information from over 1,650 EFSA scientific outputs about the toxicity of chemicals found in the food and feed chain.** <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/170118-0>
- **A new EFSA opinion on genetically modified soybean for food and feed uses was [published](#).**
- **EFSA has published its first EU summary report on the monitoring of [Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies](#) (TSEs) in cattle, sheep and goats.** Previously, [the annual reports on TSEs](#) were compiled by the European Commission.
- **A group of Polish MPs, led by deputy Parliament speaker Stanislaw Tyszka, has submitted a draft bill to merge ten existing food research and control institutions into a new entity, the Polish Food Institute (PFI).** <http://www.eurofoodlaw.com/country-reports/>
- **In the final quarter of 2016, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) for the United Kingdom issued 34 food notices, including 17 for allergy alerts. Milk, nuts and gluten were the top three undeclared allergens named. In its wrap-up for the October to Decem-**

ber quarter, FSA reported food notices include information on investigations the agency supported that were related to potential widespread risks from food poisoning and harmful contamination. <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2017/02/fsa-releases-food-incident-details-for-final-quarter-of-2016/#.WLWO2jsrl2w>

- **Antimicrobial resistance remains high, says EU report.** Bacteria found in humans, animals and food continue to show resistance to widely used antimicrobials, says the latest report on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in bacteria by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). The report shows that in general multi-drug resistance in Salmonella bacteria is high across the EU. However, experts note that resistance to critically important antimicrobials used to treat severe human cases of Salmonella infection remains low. <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/170222>
- **The European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) has awarded grants worth just over €1 million to three innovative research projects on methodology development in risk assessment.** By co-funding these projects EFSA is supporting advances in risk assessment methodology and encouraging scientific cooperation, innovation, and exchange of expertise in the EU. <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/170223-0>
- **Trust, transparency, and technology set the stage at the 2017 Global Food Safety Conference.** Nearly 1200 delegates from 54 countries trekked to Houston TX to collaborate resulting in record-breaking attendance to focus on the conference's theme Leadership for Growth. Trust and transparency were recurring themes, and ones the audience heard loud and clear are integrally tied to food safety. And that certain challenges the industry is facing like visibility, listeria control, regulatory implementation such as FSMA, will not go away, and that is because food safety is not a static issue. <http://www.mygfsi.com/news-resources/latest-news/660-gfsi17-round-up.html>

## International Free Trade Agreements

- The EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was **approved** by European Parliament's International Trade Committee. It will now be up to all Parliament members to vote on the deal during the next plenary session in February.
- The last of the 2016-17 U.S.-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council Work Plans have been released and are available [here](#).
- The free trade agreement between the EU and Ecuador came into effect on 1 January 2017. The agreement eliminates tariffs for all industrial and fisheries products, increases market access for agricultural products, offers opportunities in public procurement and services sectors, and further reduces technical barriers to trade. The agreement replaces the EU's earlier one-way preferences for imports from Ecuador under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences that the EU grants to developing countries. <http://tinyurl.com/id7mh5k>
- The European Commission proposed modernising Customs Union with Turkey. On 21 December the European Commission asked the Council for a mandate to launch talks with Turkey to modernise the existing 20-year-old EU-Turkey Customs Union. <http://tinyurl.com/hu8rdgo>
- EU exports to the US support 5 million jobs – new online [interactive map](#) shows where and in what sectors.
- The European Commission welcomed the **establishment of a new Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity**. Designed to address overcapacity in the global steel industry, the Forum will support the creation of growth and jobs. It comprises the Group of 20 (G20) economies, as well as other members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It will report annually to the G20 ministers within its three-year, renewable mandate.
- The European Commission published **six initial European proposals for modernising various elements of the EU-Mexico agreement**. Together with the proposals the Commission makes available the report from the second round of talks that took place in Mexico between 22 and 25 November. <http://tinyurl.com/jfn8qln>
- Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and United States Trade Representative Michael Froman have published a **joint assessment of the progress made in the negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)** since negotiations started in July 2013. <http://tinyurl.com/hrx6uqd>
- The EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was approved by the European Parliament during its plenary session in February with 408 votes in favour, 254 against and 33 abstentions. As the next step the agreement has to be ratified by the national and regional governments given that the Commission has decided to propose CETA as 'mixed' agreement.
- The European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) continued its work on revamping a two-decade-old EU-Turkey customs agreement. Members of INTA Committee debated proposals to open up agri-food, service and the public procurement markets.
- WTO — global trade facilitation agreement enters into force. A global agreement to boost trade by cutting red tape and streamlining border checks came into force, promising a 0.5 percent lift to the world economy by 2030 even as it faces renewed protectionism from the United States. <http://tinyurl.com/h93m64q>
- African states have been urged to embrace a harmonized Products Conformity Assessment to Standards (IPCA) scheme to boost intra-regional trade. Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, the Secretary General for African Organisation for Standardization (ARSO) said Africa cannot achieve macro-economic growth without harmonized standards including IPCA.

## Public Consultations and Call for Tenders

- The European Commission has launched [a call for applications](#) for the selection of members of the Commission expert group on technical requirements for inland waterway vessels. Deadline: 7 April 2017
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on the rules on liability of the producer for damage caused by a defective product. Deadline: 26 April 2017
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on Building the European data economy. Deadline: 26 April 2017
- The Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on possible activities to include in the new "One Health" Action Plan against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) it plans to adopt by summer 2017. Deadline: 28 April

## IN MEMORIAM

### Dr. B. Oliver-Rodés Clapés

7th UILI President 1978-1984

UILI Vice-President 1984-1990

Dr. Benito Oliver-Rodés Clapés (1929-2017) died at the age of 87 years on January 19, 2017 in Barcelona, Spain. He was owner of the analytical laboratory Dr. Oliver Rodés.

### Lorenzo Thione

EA Chairman from 2006 - 2009

Lorenzo Thione died on 29 December 2016 in Italy. As the former Director of SINCERT, which became the Department of Certification and Inspection in AC-CREDIA, the Italian national accreditation body, Lorenzo Thione chaired EA during four years, from 2006 to 2009.

**Kurt Ziegler participated at the 6th Meeting of CASCO /WG42 CASCO/ WG 42 which took place from 21 February to 23 February 2017, in Geneva, Switzerland.**

Main topic of discussion: 17011:2004 Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.

**Summary/Main Outcomes:**

- There was a P-Members voting about the DIS. The result was that the DIS draft proposal of the revision of ISO/IEC 17011 was accepted by the majority of 78 ISO P- Members. 78 members out of 81 were in favour, that means 96%. Only three countries voted negativ that means 4% (requirement 25%).
- In that case the member of the working group can decide by voting; there is no need to continue with FDIS and the draft can be sent directly to publishing after discussing the last comments.
- The different comments of the different countries were dicussed on the basis of the result of the drafting group.
- The Transition Period will be 3 years after publication.
- You will find the Text of the revised ISO/IEC 1011 on the ISO webside under « iso.org » « Presentation of ISO Standards ».
- The Publishing procedure will need about 68 weeks. So we can expect it will be published around middle of May.
- ISO will offer trainings course for Asic Pacific and African Members.
- ISO will establish Maintenance Group (electronical) to provide clarifications.
- The members voted and decided not to continue with an FDIS but to send the DIS with the last changes directly for publishing. The decision was taken unanimously.
- The Accreditation Circle the most discussed paragraph of the standard is now formulated as follows: "7.9.4 Before the end of the accreditation cycle a reassessment shall be planned taking into consideration the information gathered from assessments performed over the accreditation. The reassessment shall cover all the requirements of the standard the conformity assessment body is accredited for. An accreditation decision shall be made based on these results".
- The consequence is that big conformity assessment bodys with a big scope have to start early with the reassessment procedure to guaranty to be ready for reaccreditation decision at the end of the fifth year.

**Andreas Kinzel participated at the EA-IC Meeting, on 14th March 2017, in Antalya.**

**Summary/Main outcomes:**

- FAQ list (updated) was approved;
- Implementation of ISO 17020:
  - ⇒ If measurement equipment is used for inspection decisions (and measurement has signif cant influence) it shall be calibrated in accordance with ILAC P10
  - ⇒ If IBs need for their decision test results they can do the tests by subcontracting or by an in-house test. The IB has to demonstrate how the requirements of tests concerning to ISO 17025 / ISO 15189 are fulfilled. IBs can use the same subcontractor for the same evaluations on an ongoing basis.



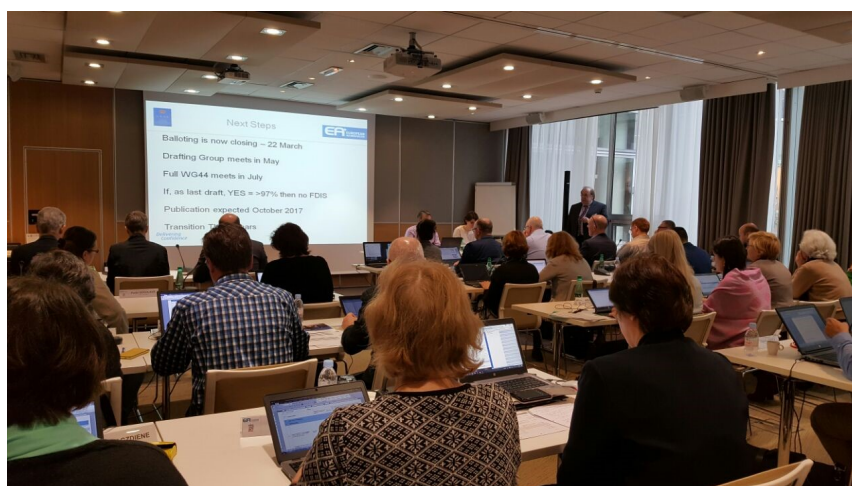
- EA Technical Network:
  - ⇒ Car Inspection: Commission has made a proposal for a regulation which tells that type approval authorities should be in accordance with ISO 17011 because they are acting like an AB. It is in decision of each member state to decide if the technical service in car inspection will be approved by accreditation or not.
  - ⇒ CITA (international Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee) is discussing if they want to become an EA stakeholder.
- Ship related Directives:
  - ⇒ Ship Inspection: Based on an EU directive, but there are strange requirements in regulation (in addition a certificate due to ISO 9001 is necessary). UKAS has discussed this situation with their authority and they will accept all accreditation issued by MRA members if the Commission is agreeing to this. EA (Andreas Steinhorst) will address this to the Commission.
  - ⇒ TURKAK has given some information concerning how accreditation of ship inspection bodies is done.
- Short Update from EA GA:
  - ⇒ EA Strategy is a standing point on the agenda of EA-IC but a certain look will be taken just on the next meeting.
- Next meetings
  - ⇒ 2017-09-14/15 held in Riga (Latvia) hosted by LATAK
  - ⇒ 2018-03 held in Windsor Area (UK) hosted by UKAS
  - ⇒ 2018-09 held in Warsaw (Poland) hosted by PCA

**Andreas Kinzel and Ömer Güzel participated at the EA LC meeting that took place on 8 and 9 March 2017, in Paris.**

Summary / Main outcomes:

- EA-GA agrees to EA-LC recommendation concerning review EA-2/14 (EA-Resolution 2016 (38) 19)
- EA-GA (EA GA 2016 (38) 23) approves ILAC resolution GA 20.14 / 20.15 (3 years transition period for ISO 17034 and ISO 17025)
- EA-GA (EA GA 2016 (38) 24) approves JGA resolution 1 (also 3 years transition period for ISO 17011)
- EEE PT:
  - ⇒ Tasks for 2017 are guidelines for assessment of inter-laboratory comparisons with few participants, guidance for accreditation of PTs for sampling and survey on implementation of EA-4/18.
  - ⇒ Hans D. Jansen (DANAK) is new representative from EA for EEE PT WG
  - ⇒ Draft paper on ILAC in PTs with few participants: A big discussion was held concerning if "measurement audits" are mandatory for PTs with few participants. Measurement audits are one possible assessment technique which is covered by new ISO 17011. The EURO-LAB comment concerning the possible increasing of assessment was discussed. A possible solution may be that this document is just a guideline for organising PTs but not for assessing / accrediting. Decision of EA LC is that the EEE-PT is revising the document and withdrawing the measurement audit completely. After this the approved document will be published as a guidance document. A new work item will be created for doing measurement audits.
  - ⇒ EA-4/14 concerning RM need to be reviewed, because ILAC G9 has been withdrawn

- TN Food and Feed:
  - ⇒ Guidance on pesticides residues analysis because there is a need of harmonization (demanded by EU-commission / EU 882/2008) basing on situation that test reports have a big impact in regulatory and food safety fields.
  - ⇒ TFG by several NABs: 1st draft in 2016-02, 2nd draft in 2017-01 and 3rd draft in 2017-03.
  - ⇒ Draft includes management requirements (review of request, tender and contracts / testing reports), flexible scope (need of harmonization beyond EA-2/15, validation, public list of testing) and technical requirements (SANTE document should be taken into account, optimizing of proper function of test methods).
  - ⇒ Decision of LC is to recommend that the document should be a “guidance” but a reference to some mandatory documents will be implemented.
- WG Health Care:
  - ⇒ Accreditation of medical laboratories is recommended due to ISO 15189 but it is also possible to use ISO 17025. But promoting just one level 3 standard can lead to some troubles if we should stick further to both possibilities.
  - ⇒ The transition of ISO 17025 can be used also for this transition to ISO 15189, but maybe this transition period of 3 years is too short. Maybe also the ISO 15189 will be in revision in future (expected starting in this year but also it is possible that there will be no revision). It is expected that this revision will be in tendency to the new ISO 17025. This may be in line to come to one level 3 standard.
- WG ILC Calibration:
  - ⇒ Main topics will be discussed at next meeting in Athens.
  - ⇒ The withdrawn of EA-2/14 is not welcomed in the community but the highlighted PTs are not in subject of the NABs anymore. The NABs don't welcome this situation, so they are looking for other possibilities which will be discussed with EURAMET.
- TN PTP / RMP:
  - ⇒ Question: Is it permitted to mark the accreditation symbol on the CRM or RM? ILAC P8 is permitting marking calibrated items. The convenor of this TN is proposing to permit marking with some restriction as just for the inspected batch and CRM (there are 3 kinds: RM, CRM and accredited RM/CRM). This is discussed in relation to calibrated items. APLAC is permitting the use. Decision is that this will be allowed.
- Next meetings
  - ⇒ 2017-09-26/27 held in Berlin (Germany) hosted by DAkkS
  - ⇒ 2018-03 held in Madrid (Spain) hosted by ENAC
  - ⇒ 2018-09 held in Tallin (Estonia) hosted by EAK



EA LC meeting in Paris

### Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- **JTC PTC**, in Munich, 4 & 5 April 2017
- **TCQA Meeting**, in Bologna, 2 May 2017
- **EUROLAB Board Meeting**, in Bologna, 4 May 2017
- **EUROLAB General Assembly**, in Bologna, 4 May 2017
- **EUROLAB Board Meeting**, in Brussels, 30 June

### International Events

#### Course on "Use of reference materials and the estimation of measurement uncertainty"

The European Commission's science and knowledge service will hold an instance of the course "[Use of reference materials and the estimation of measurement uncertainty](#)" on 11 - 12 October 2017. During 1 ½ days participants will learn the basics of estimating measurement uncertainties and the use of reference materials and will apply their new knowledge to exercises done in small groups.

The course provides participants with the theoretical basis for the estimation of measurement uncertainty and establishment of traceability. The course is intended for laboratory managers and practitioners in analytical laboratories who use reference materials for statistical quality control, method validation and calibration and need to assess measurement uncertainties on customer's demand or as requirement of ISO 17025.



*International Events***18th International Metrology Congress 2017**

18th International Metrology Congress will take place on 19-21 September 2017 in Paris. The conference will present the technologies in measurement, explore industrial challenges and the latest innovations through a diversified conference programme, round tables sessions, technical site visits, demonstrations, and an exhibition showcasing innovations.

Some key topics at the conference will be: dynamic measures, data metrology, new ISO 17025, pharmaceutical industry, smart grids, sources and energy consumption

For further information please visit the website: <http://www.cim2017.com/index-en.html>



- **Joint IAF-ILAC Mid-term meetings** in Frankfurt, 31 March - 07 April 2017
- **ISO CASCO and PASC / COPANT meetings** in Vancouver, 24 April - 5 May 2017
- **EUROLAB General Assembly & Annual Meetings 2017** in Bologna, 03-04 May 2017
- **2017 IEEE Symposium Product Compliance Engineering** in San Jose (CA), 8-10 May 2017
- **The World Congress on Global Markets for Medical Devices (MAMD2017)** in Amsterdam, 15-16 May 2017
- **EA General Assembly** in Bled, Slovenia, 23-24 May 2017
- **Eurachem Week 2017** in Nicosia, Cyprus 29 May - 03 June 2017
- **XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2017** in Singapore, 03-06 September 2017
- **The 14<sup>th</sup> International conference "Application of Contemporary Non-destructive Testing in Engineering"** in St. Bernardin/Portož, Slovenia, 04-06 September 2017
- **WOS2017 - 9th International Conference on the Prevention of Accidents at Work** in Prague, 03-06 October 2017
- **The 6th International Proficiency Testing Conference** in Cluj-Napoca, 04-06 October 2017
- **Joint IAF-ILAC Annual Meetings** in Vancouver, 21-30 October 2017