

EUROLAB NEWSBRIEFING

October - December 2017



Foreword

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Dear EUROLAB members,

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

The year of 2017, which now ends, was a year full of initiatives developed within EUROLAB and in cooperation with various partner entities, promoting the networking strengthened over the years. Once again, EUROLAB had a strong support of its members and of many experts, allowing to promote the development of the European Laboratory Community.

This year EUROLAB action was mainly oriented to the need to follow the revision of ISO/IEC 17025, recently published, which will have a high impact on the accreditation of laboratories in the coming years. In this sense, there was a huge effort of TC members that will be reflected in the next year in providing a large number of publications of EUROLAB, especially the revised Cookbooks, which are expected to play a relevant role in the way the laboratories will carry out the accreditation transition. However, this is only part of the action planned for next year, where EUROLAB intends to be a reference entity in this process, in particular by contributing to greater harmonization and consistency of accreditation and to the promotion of its added value.

Other expected relevant activities concern with a better communication infrastructure, the development of cooperation with other relevant entities of TIC Sector, a development of closer relations and strategic cooperation with several partner entities, increasing the impact of MoUs, and other activities, bearing in mind the need to highlight how the activity of conformity assessment is relevant for the safety and quality of life.

The increasing development of many different activities of EUROLAB is possible, also thanks to the great contribution and engagement of the EUROLAB Secretariat, which ensures that the tasks needed are performed and new ideas developed. In addition, the Secretariat also makes sure that the communication is in line with our main goals.

The year of 2018 is expected to have, again, many challenges, considering the geopolitical changes, climate changes, the impact of technologies, business models, the European strategy regarding Global Economy and Trade and the increasing development of European and international normative and legal framework.

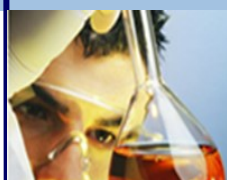
EUROLAB is once again ready to make a positive contribution to the society by emphasizing that in essence there is a fundamental commitment to contribute to the building of a better Europe, for the benefit of citizens and for the sustainable development of the European Economy and International Trade, considering that the role of the laboratory activity is a key factor for this achievement.

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.

I wish to all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous holiday season and happy New Year, may you realize all your best dreams and wishes.

Yours Sincerely,

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro



Highlights: TCQA Meeting & EUROLAB National Members' Meeting 2017



The EUROLAB National Members' Meeting 2017 and accompanying events took place on 16 and 17 November 2017, in Paris and were kindly hosted by EUROLAB - France.

The EUROLAB events started on Thursday morning, 16 November, with the TCQA Meeting. The EUROLAB Board Meeting took place on Friday, 17 November, being followed by the EUROLAB National Members' Meeting, the same day.

During the TCQA Meeting, the Members discussed the revision of the EUROLAB Cook Books in accordance with the new ISO / IEC 17025. A working group has already started working on the revision of these documents. During the meeting, some of the revised Cook Books were approved by the TCQA Members. Once all the Cook Books will be revised, they will be available on the EUROLAB website. The final version of the Cook Books can be translated in different European languages by the EUROLAB members. The TCQA meeting finished with a presentation by Laurent Vinson, the EA Laboratory Committee Chair. He gave an introduction about the EA organisational structure, the EA Multilateral Agreement (EA MLA), statistics on accreditation as well as the work done in the EA Laboratory Committee.



Laurent Vinson, EA LC Chair
Alvaro Silva Ribeiro, EUROLAB
President

The TCQA Meeting was followed by the visit of the LNE laboratories, which was a good opportunity for the participants to get some insights about the activities developed by LNE and EUROLAB-France. The Board Meeting and National Members' Meeting took place on 17 November. The National Members' Meeting was opened by the EUROLAB President, Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, followed by the presentation given by the LNE General Director, Thomas Grenon. During the National Members' Meeting the EUROLAB members discussed several topics of high importance, among which:

- policy updates, ongoing activities and projects. The ECVET-Lab Project was presented, including the background, aims and activities developed, partners and stakeholders involved. The four stages of the project are: O1. ECVET System and Qualification Assurance Framework; O2. ECVET - Lab Guide of Best Practices; O3. ECVET - Lab Qualification Standard / Competence Profile and Training Modules; O4. ECVET - Lab IT platform and Training Course Content. The final conference of the project will take place in Brussels, on 20 September 2018.



- the 2018 plan and strategy: revision and implementation of ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 17011, update the EUROLAB Communication Strategy, enhance the EUROLAB representations in various working groups, develop EUROLAB membership, revision of internal documentation guidance, monitor relevant policy developments, research opportunities for EU funded projects.
- latest updates and topics discussed in the EUROLAB Technical Committees, TCQA and JTC PTC.
- The members also discussed the closer cooperation with other organisations, such as UILI, EURAMET, IMEKO, NCSLI, NLA-South Africa and IFIA. The invited guest, Hanane Taidi, IFIA Director General, presented the joint work developed with CEOC and EUROLAB and the opportunities brought by the joint secretariat, including the activities undergone by the Combined Communication Group. Mladen Jakovčić presented the EUROLAB - IMEKO MoU, which was concluded for a period of three years, after which the parties will decide on its prolongation, amendment or termination. Through this MoU the two organisations will further enhance their communication and collaboration on topics of common interest.

The members also discussed the EUROLAB internal communications strategy and the methods to enhance a closer communication with the members and the participation of the EUROLAB representatives in the members' events organised at the national level.

The upcoming major EUROLAB events:

- The EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings 2018, 19-20 April, Varna, Bulgaria, kindly hosted by BULLAB;
- The EUROLAB National Members' Meeting 2018, 15-16 November, Berlin, invitation by EUROLAB - Germany.

The meeting ended with thanking remarks addressed by the EUROLAB President, Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, to EUROLAB-France and LNE for hosting the EUROLAB National Members' Meeting and for the very good organisation.



EUROLAB TCQA Meeting, 16 November 2017



EUROLAB National Members' Meeting, 17 November 2017

EUROLAB AND EURAMET AGREE ON JOINT ACTIONS TO PROMOTE MEASUREMENT

EUROLAB has a strong network of partner organisations at the international level. One of their Liaison Organisations is EURAMET.

In September, EURAMET's General Secretary Duncan Jarvis met with EUROLAB representatives, including EUROLAB President Álvaro Silva Ribeiro and EUROLAB Secretary General Drewin Nieuwenhuis, to agree on ways of closer cooperation between the two organisations.

"We concluded that joint actions will increase the visibility of both associations and help to promote the science of measurement at European level," says Duncan Jarvis. "In addition, EURAMET wants to encourage EUROLAB to provide input to the European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research (EMPIR)." This will be an opportunity for EUROLAB and the national laboratories to become more involved in EMPIR and bring in their added value and expertise in the research projects.

Planned activities include the development of joint guides to support calibration laboratories and traceability in testing laboratories and the mutual participation in events to foster interaction and exchange of knowledge in metrology and testing.

Another way to support both communities is via the exchange of resources, for example, EUROLAB's 'Cook Books'. These are guides for the development and the implementation of quality on laboratory management to comply with ISO/IEC 17025 and accreditation requirements. The guides are intended to support higher qualification of metrologists and laboratory practitioners at the start of their careers or for newly starting businesses.

All the EUROLAB Cook Books are currently being revised according to the new ISO / IEC 17025. EUROLAB is a not-for-profit organisation grouping over 2000 conformity assessment bodies and representing over 100,000 technical experts and laboratory practitioners. It represents its members one economic, political and technical issues that have a direct impact on laboratories' activities.

EUROLAB plays an important role in addressing European legislation such as consumer protection, occupational health and safety, product certification and environmental and food safety.

EUROLAB's Cook Books are available at <http://www.eurolab.org/cookbooks.aspx>



EUROLAB and EURAMET meeting: (from left to right) Duncan Jarvis (EURAMET General Secretary), Drewin Nieuwenhuis (EUROLAB Secretary General), Laura Martin (EUROLAB International Affairs Manager) and Álvaro Silva Ribeiro (EUROLAB President)

News HMD



The Croatian Food Safety and Quality Congress

The Croatian Food Safety and Quality Congress with international participation – **"New Achievements and Future Challenges"** took place between 21 – 24 November 2017, at the Grand Hotel 4 opatijska cvijeta in Opatija.

The patron of this event was Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, the president of the Republic of Croatia, and the sponsors were The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, the Croatian Accreditation Agency, the State Office for Metrology and the Mayor of Zagreb.

The congress was organised by the Andrija Štampar Teaching Institute of Public Health, the Croatian Metrology Society, South East European Network for Food Safety and Quality Control – SEEN-FSQC, the University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture and the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology. The technical organiser was StudioHrg.

The congress gathered experts of various profiles: medical doctors, nutritionists, laboratory analysts, chemists, agronomists, veterinary doctors, biochemists and pharmacists, as well as accreditation and certification bodies, supervisory bodies and producers and distributors of food products, sanitary engineers and consumers associations.

The introductory guest lectures were held by the EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, the Croatian representative in the European Parliament, the representatives of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the representatives of the ministries of agriculture and health of the Republic of Croatia, as well as some eminent lecturers from Croatia, EU and the region. This exchange of experiences, the analysis of the results and the evaluation of its reach are of crucial importance for achieving the common aims, such as: offering reliable information concerning food safety and quality and producing guidelines and suggestions for the advancement of the food quality and safety system "From Farm to Fork".

Furthermore, the European Centre for Laboratory Excellence held a very successful seminar at the congress entitled *Challenges in the evaluation of measurement uncertainty*.

Listed below are a few technical data:

- 14 guest lectures (9 countries)
- 60 lectures in total (14 countries)
- 4 sponsored lectures
- 47 posters
- 360 attendants
- 1 seminar (*Challenges in the evaluation of measurement uncertainty*)

Even though this congress was for the first time held in Croatia, it received very positive feedback from the participants and the plan is to organise it again.

News Fenelab

Happy Holidays from Fenelab



The board and secretariat of Fenelab wish all their European colleagues a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy 2018!

News RELACRE

Workshop "Good Practices of Micropipettes Use and Calibration"
8th November 2017, IPQ

The **workshop "Good Practices of Micropipettes Use and Calibration"**, organized under the GT10 - Volume of CTR04 - Metrology, was held on **November 8, 2017**, at the Portuguese Institute for Quality (IPQ). The main objective was to present methodologies used in the calibration of micropipettes and to raise awareness of problems related to the handling of equipment and good practices. This event, which had the participation of about 35 participants, was a good opportunity to keep informed about the latest developments in calibration and use of micropipettes. Speakers of the event:

- Elsa Batista, **IPQ**
- Stefan Schork, **ARTEL**
- Isabel Faria, **NORMAX**
- Fábio Nascimento, **FRILABO**
- Ana Caçador, **EIA**
- Cristina Flores, **INSA**

In the Workshop programme was included a visit to the IPQ Volume and Flow Laboratory.



News RELACRE



7th National Meeting, "MEASUREMENTS FOR TRANSPORT" 17th November 2017, Orders of Engineers, Lisbon

The **7th National Meeting, "MEASUREMENTS FOR TRANSPORT"**, jointly organized by SPMet - Portuguese Society for Metrology, by RELACRE - National Association of Accredited Laboratories and by Portuguese Order of Engineers, took place on November 17th, 2017 in Lisbon, and had about 62 participants.

The main purpose of this technical and scientific meeting was to stimulate the discussion by the national scientific community of all topics relevant related to transport measurements and to allow to share ideas on this relevant field of economic activity. Some of the talks also presented theoretical issues of general interest and recent developments of new instrumentation and testing approaches.



TECHNICAL JOURNEY RELACRE "Overview on the new ISO / IEC 17025-Amendments and Impacts"

28th November 2017, LNEG - Alfragide

The RELACRE TECHNICAL MEETING "Overview on the new ISO / IEC 17025-Development and Impacts", was held on **November 28, 2017**, in the National Laboratory of Energy and Geology (**LNEG**) facilities, had as main purpose to provide a space for the analysis and discussion of the new ISO / IEC 17025 standard and its impact for CAB's, considering the challenges related to the known changes. It had 117 participants. The speakers of the event were:

- **Álvaro Silva Ribeiro (LNEG, RELACRE /EUROLAB)**, who presented a perspective on ILAC and the reference documents for Accreditation in the new ISO / IEC 17025 framework.
- **Noélia Duarte** –who made a presentation of the standard in relation to its current structure and contents, including an overview of main changes, impact on Laboratories activities, future perspectives of approaching solutions and the transition process.



News TURKLAB



Conformity Assessment Sector Problem Analysis Workshop October 10, 2017

On Tuesday, October 10, 2017, the TURKLAB President Neşe GÜNEŞ and Board Member Selim YÜCEL attended UDDer's Conformity Assessment Sector Problem Analysis Workshop in Ankara, hosted by the Ministry of Economy. During the workshop the participants discussed the five main problems in the sector and carried out studies around 14 tables in accordance with the workshop methodology.



Forensic Medicine Institute ISO /IEC 17025 Training



From October 10-12, 2017, employees from the Forensic Medicine Institute attended a training course provided by TURKLAB Academy entitled "TS EN ISO / IEC 17025:2012: General Requirements for the Qualification of Testing and Calibration Laboratories". The training was carried in the assembly room of the Forensic Medicine Institute's Chemistry Specialization Department. TURKLAB would like to extend their gratitude to all participants who attended the training.

At TÜRKAK's 2nd Advisory Board Meeting for the year 2017, TURKLAB underlined that the 2019-2023 Turkish Development Plan should include conformity assessment activities.

The Turkish Accreditation Agency's Advisory Board Meeting was held on October 17, 2017 with the attendance of the Advisory Board members, non-governmental organizations, several association executives, and the agency's officials. TURKLAB Chairperson Ms. Neşe Güneş and Mr. Ömer Güzel were also among the attendees representing the association. The following topics were presented during the meeting:

- The Turkish Accreditation Agency's activities from January-October, 2017, as well as the objectives of such activities.
- The European Accreditation Union's core values and practices, as well as the work aimed towards achieving the objectives stated in the Strategic Plan.
- TÜRKAK's activities aimed at auditors/technical specialists.

Moreover, some evaluations, remarks, suggestions, and recommendations regarding the **conformity assessment** sector were also presented by TURKLAB at the meeting. TURKLAB emphasized that it is a compulsory requirement to include **conformity assessment** activities within the 2019-2023 Turkish Development Plan.



Method Verification, Measurement Uncertainty, and Quality Control Training in Microbiological Analyzes

From October 23-24, 2017, TURKLAB Academy provided training on the subject of "Method Verification, Measurement Uncertainty, and Quality Control Training in Microbiological Analyzes" at the GDA Lab Services lecture hall and biocidal analysis laboratory. This microbiological training differed from other training sessions as it also involved the participation of laboratory staff working in non-food areas (such as medical, textile, and pharmaceutical fields).

The training covered the topics in its title, while also attempting to find solutions to the problems that participants come across during various microbiological analyses (cosmetics, food, pharmaceuticals, and medical). As usual, the training was offered in accordance with the relevant standards and scientific literature and included laboratory procedures such as sample contamination and microorganism quantity adjustment.



Measurement Traceability and Measurement Uncertainty Training

TURKLAB Academy gave a training course entitled "Measurement Traceability and Measurement Uncertainty", on October 24-25, 2017, in Yeditepe University's R&D and Central Analysis Laboratory assembly room. The participants were given a practical explanation about the statistical methods used to predict measurement uncertainty. Example calculations were also held regarding chemical analyses, as well as physical and mechanical tests.



Food Technical Committee Meeting

The Food Technical Committee Meeting took place on On October 27, 2017, with the attendance of the committee members. At the meeting, the goals and working plan of the committee were discussed and evaluated.

TURKLAB would like to thank all their members who attended the meeting.



Food Technology Magazine Interview with TURKLAB

An interview with our President Neşe GÜNEŞ was featured in the October 2017 issue of Food Technology Magazine.



Board Meeting

At the Board Meeting held on November 15, 2017, the necessity of providing training on the new version of the ISO 17025 standard, as well as the Food Committee's work and the Communication Committee's future events were discussed. Membership application forms and requests for changes in management positions were also discussed and accepted.



Method Validation Training

The training took place on November 17-18, 2017. The participants were provided with theoretical and practical information regarding reference documents, method validation parameters, and statistical techniques used to conduct method validation, which is the most important factor determining the performance of laboratories under the scope of the TS EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard.



Food Committee Meeting

The meeting took place on 29 November 2017 and was attended by the committee members. The issues discussed at the meeting included the visits to Ankara, the planned visit to the General Directorate of Food and Control, as well as the food laboratory regulation and market surveillance. TURKLAB would like to thank all their members who attended the meeting.



Accreditation

- The formal Observer status of the *Libyan Centre for Standardisation and Metrology* (LNCMS) in IAF has been cancelled (effective 04 Oct. 2017), due to non-payment of annual dues.
- Please see the following article by Sheronda Jeffries and Carmine Reda on *The Benefits of Accredited Conformity Assessment and the Supply Chain* at <http://www.theauditoronline.com>.
- The **Draft IAF and GFSI MLA Agreement** 30-day ballot closed 21 October 2017. At the close of the ballot, 73 Accreditation Bodies and 17 Association Members had voted. 81 Members voted in favour of the document, 2 voted against, and 7 abstained. Accordingly, the vote **passed**.
- The **Draft IAF and FAMI-QS MLA Agreement** 30 day ballot closed 22 October 2017. At the close of the ballot, 73 Accreditation Bodies and 18 Association Members had voted. 82 Members voted in favour of the document, 0 voted against, and 9 abstained. Accordingly, the vote **passed**.
- The IAF Technical Committee (TC) is submitting the draft IAF Mandatory Documents titled for a **30-day voting period**:
- *"IAF Mandatory Document for the Audit and Certification of a Management System operated by a Multi-Site Organization"*. This document is for the audit and, if appropriate, the certification of management systems of organizations with a number of sites with a single management system. This document will replace the current editions of IAF MD 1 and MD 19, and the new document will become IAF MD1, Issue 2;
- *"Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for the Certification of Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OH&SMS)"*;
- *"Requirements on the Migration to ISO 45001:2018 from BS OHSAS 18001:2007"*.
- The IAF Technical Committee is submitting the draft revised Mandatory Document titled "IAF Mandatory Document for the Use of Information and Communication Technology ("ICT") for Auditing/Assessment Purposes", to all IAF members for a 60-day comment period.
- The IAF/ILAC Joint Working Group (JWG) on A Series Maintenance is submitting the revised documents for a **30-day voting period** titled:
 - ⇒ *"IAF/ILAC-A6:XX/201X - IAF/ILAC Approval Process for IAF/ILAC A-Series Documents"* The JWG A-series revised clauses 4 and 5 of this document to allow increased efficiency in the processing of updates to the forms associated with the A-series;
 - ⇒ *"IAF/ILAC-A1:XX/201X – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group"*;
 - ⇒ *"IAF/ILAC-A2:XX/201X – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body"*;
 - ⇒ *"IAF/ILAC-A3:XX/201X – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Template report for the peer evaluation of an Accreditation Body (AB) based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and other relevant documents to be listed in the annex"*.
- The ILAC Inspection Committee (IC) is submitting the document, titled ILAC GXX:XX/201X *"Guideline for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Inspection Bodies"*, to all ILAC members for a 60-day comment period. (for more information see attached email).
- Please note the availability of the following documents on the IAF website:
 - ⇒ The IAF-FAMI-QS Agreement ([here](#)) This Agreement finalises the IAF endorsement of the FAMI-QS certification scheme;
 - ⇒ The IAF-IPC Agreement ([here](#)) This Agreement finalises the IAF endorsement of the IPC Management System Auditors certification scheme;
 - ⇒ The IAF-ILAC Tripartite MoU with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) last revised in 2014 is currently under review again to be signed ahead of an upcoming meeting with UNIDO.
- EA updated their PowerPoint presentation in accordance with EA graphic specifications. Please find it [here](#).
- The document *EA-1/17 S3: Rules of Procedure - EA Procedure for the investigation and resolution of Complaints and Appeals* has been amended and modified.
- The EA GA starts a new work item to elaborate a guidance document for the **Accreditation of Pesticide Residues Analysis in Food and Feed**.
- For your information and dissemination, a [communiqué](#) with important information for CB's regarding transition to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 has been posted on the IAF website.

Standardisation

- The New Proposal launched by ISO/TC 267 "Facility management" to develop *ISO/IEC TS 17021, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 11: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of facility management systems* has been **approved**.
- The date of the 1st CASCO/JWG50 meeting, that will develop *ISO/IEC TS 17021- 8, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 8: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of management systems for sustainable development in communities* has been scheduled for the 23-25 January 2018. The meeting will last 3 days and will take place at the ISO Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The New Proposal (NP) to develop *ISO/IEC TR 17032, Conformity Assessment - Guidelines and examples of a certification scheme for processes*, has been approved by
 - 96% of IEC members and 96% of ISO/CASCO members.
 - The New Proposal (NP) launched by ISO/TC 268 to develop *ISO/IEC TS 17021, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 8: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of management systems for sustainable development in communities* has been approved.
 - The New Proposal launched by ISO/TC 267 "Facility management" to develop *ISO/IEC TS 17021, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 11: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of facility management systems* has been **approved**.
 - The ISO Council reappoints Mr Franck Makamo (South Africa) as CASCO Chair for the 2018-2019 term.

Standardisation

- The CIB launched in August on *ISEAL Alliance* application for A-Liaison to CASCO closed on the 2nd October with a **positive result**: 95% of CASCO P Members accepted ISEAL Alliance application.
- The systematic reviews ballots of the following documents closed on 2017-09-06 and both of them have been confirmed:
 - ⇒ **ISO/IEC TS 17027:2014**, Conformity assessment -- Vocabulary related to competence of persons used for certification of persons;
 - ⇒ **ISO/IEC 17020** Conformity assessment -- Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.
- **EN ISO 17034** *General requirements for the competence of reference material producers (ISO 17034:2016)* is now published in the Official Journal of the European Union.
- The systematic review for **ISO/IEC 17007:2009 (ver 2)** has opened and will end March 08, 2018.
- The FDIS ballots for **ISO/IEC 17025** and **ISO/IEC 17011** were both **approved**.
- The ISO Council reappoints Mr Franck Makamo (South Africa) as CASCO Chair for the 2018-2019 term.
- The CIB launched in August on *ISEAL Alliance* application for A-Liaison to CASCO closed on the 2nd October with a **positive result**: 95% of CASCO P Members accepted ISEAL Alliance application.
- CSA Group's Shawn Paulsen was elected as IEC Vice-President and Chair of Conformity Assessment Board.
- The systematic reviews ballots of the following documents **closed** on 2017-12-06 and **all of them** have been **confirmed**:
 - ⇒ *ISO/IEC 17024:2012 (Ed 2), Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*
 - ⇒ *ISO/IEC 17065:2012, Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*
 - ⇒ *ISO/IEC TS 17021-5:2014, Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Part 5: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of asset management systems*
 - ⇒ *ISO/IEC TS 17021-6:2014, Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Part 6: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of business continuity management systems*
 - ⇒ *ISO/IEC TS 17021-7:2014, Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Part 7: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of road traffic safety management systems*
- The following standards have been published:
 - ⇒ *ISO/IEC 17025:2017, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*
 - ⇒ *ISO/IEC 17011:2017, Conformity assessment - Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*
- Following the CASCO circular letters N650/N647, the deadline to nominate experts has been extended until **the 5th of January 2018** for the following working groups:
 - ⇒ **JWG 50**, that will develop ISO/IEC TS 17021-Part 8: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of management systems for sustainable development in communities and
 - ⇒ **JWG 51**, that will work on ISO/IEC TS 17021-Part 11: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of facility management systems.
- The Draft Technical Specification (DTS) ballot of *ISO/IEC 17021-10 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 10: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of occupational health and safety management systems* **has opened on 2017-11-28** with a closing date on **2018-01-25**. (please see attached Circular for more information)
- A CASCO Committee Internal Ballot (CIB) opened on the **17th of November** for the revision of ISO 14065:2013, *Greenhouse gases – Requirements for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation or other forms of recognition*. ISO Liaison members are invited to provide comments on *ISO/CD1 14065, Environmental information — Requirements for bodies verifying and validating environmental information for use in accreditation or other forms of recognition*.
- CSA Group's **Shawn Paulsen** Elected as IEC Vice-President and Chair of Conformity Assessment Board (more information [here](#))
- The New Proposal (NP) launched by ISO/CASCO to develop *ISO/TS 17033, Ethical claims - Labels and supporting information - Requirements* has been **approved** by 93% of ISO P-Members.

Business news

- **AmSpec has announced the expansion of its existing Alaska operations by opening the first independent testing laboratory in Kenai, Alaska.** <https://tinyurl.com/ybuh82v4>
- **Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services has announced the opening of a new footwear laboratory in Putian, Fujian Province, China.** The new lab expands their footwear testing portfolio in the southern mainland while meeting the growing demand of local safety footwear testing for exports and domestic consumption. <https://tinyurl.com/ybe775l6>
- **Cotecna has been mandated by the Ministry of Trade, Handicrafts and SME Promotion to implement the Verification of Conformity (VOC) program for goods imported into the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.** <https://tinyurl.com/y9vj47n8>
- **As part of CSA Group's ongoing efforts to help advance the safe deployment of clean energy – specifically hydrogen and fuel cell technologies – CSA has developed on-site evaluation testing equipment for hydrogen fueling stations.** CSA Group's mobile hydrogen dispenser testing apparatus (HDTA) and weights and measures device (WAM-D) validates hydrogen dispenser performance in accordance with ANSI/CSA HGV 4.3 and verifies point of sale accuracy following NIST Handbook 44. <https://tinyurl.com/ydb55n2c>
- **DEKRA officially opened its connected car test area in Malaga, Spain, as part of its international network for connected, automated, and electric driving.** At the opening, DEKRA's experts organized two live connected car demos that showed test scenarios designed for specific V2X technologies. <https://tinyurl.com/yvcvfpfp>
- **DNV GL published its first Energy Transition Outlook (ETO): Renewables, Power and Energy Use. The industry implication report is part of DNV GL's new suite of Energy Transition Outlook publications.** The report reviews global energy demand and energy supply and summarizes the implications for the power and renewables sector and large industrial energy users. <https://tinyurl.com/y8m628t4>
- **DNV GL has opened the first control hardware in loop (CHIL) test facility for renewable energy generation plants.** The facility connects physical power plant controllers to a real-time simulator, allowing the controller to be fully tested and validated without the need for an actual generation facility or power grid. This enables cost-effective, low-risk testing under realistic conditions for all forms of renewable energy control systems. <https://tinyurl.com/y9dsm4fk>
- **DNV GL launches Battery XT, the world's first testing-based verification tool for battery lifetime.** <http://tinyurl.com/y7pf5twu>
- **DNV GL opened its expanded and upgraded KEMA High-Power Laboratory (HPL).** Following a EUR 70 million in-vestment, the newly extended test lab is the world's first – and currently only – facility capable of testing ultra-high voltage (UHV) electrical grid components. <http://tinyurl.com/y78tv5vv>
- **Intertek has been approved by Fiat Chrysler Automotive (FCA) to undertake testing for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in supplier materials.** FCA's suppliers now have a third-party option to verify that a variety of interior materials and composites meet FCA's VOC specifications. Intertek's laboratories in Grand Rapids, Michigan, U.S.; San Antonio, Texas, U.S.; Geleen, The Netherlands and Shanghai, China have all been approved to conduct the testing, aiding FCA suppliers across the globe. <http://tinyurl.com/yafzuu8x>
- **Intertek has announced the expansion of its building and construction operations in Canada with the rollout of geotechnical and construction materials testing services.** These new offerings follow Intertek's 2015 acquisition of PSI—an engineering consulting and testing firm focused on the construction sector—that brought a robust testing and assurance service portfolio across the project and building lifecycle to a broader customer base in the U.S. The services will now reach the Canadian market via Intertek's facility in Coquitlam, British Columbia. <http://tinyurl.com/yab59zfb>
- **Intertek has approved the ABB laboratory in Ratingen, Germany as the first Intertek SATEL-LITE™ Data Acceptance Program laboratory for ETL and ASTA.** ABB is a global company specialized in power and automation technologies. The ABB Ratingen lab, which is ABB's global lab for medium voltage, is certified to perform testing for medium voltage (MV) and low voltage (LV) products. <http://tinyurl.com/yc2e55zn>
- **Intertek has announced that it has entered a strategic partnership with Macao Investment and Development Hengqin Limited (MIDH).** The partnership, which was signed at the 2017 China (Macao) Traditional Chinese Medicine International Cooperation Forum, will see the two parties co-build a testing service platform at the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park ("GMTCM Park"), to serve Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong. <http://tinyurl.com/y7be4tew>
- **Hyundai Mipo Dockyard (HMD) has received approval in principle (AiP) from Lloyd's Register (LR) for a cargo handling system design for a 6,600 m³ LNG bunkering vessel.** HMD and the Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) Corporate Research Centre jointly developed the cargo handling system design based on their extensive experience of building gas carriers. <http://tinyurl.com/yd4wesb9>
- **Lloyd's Register (LR) has classed the Deep-Flight Super Falcon 3S in accordance with its Rules for the Construction and Classification of Submersibles and Diving Systems, making it the first personal, composite submarine to enter into LR class.** <http://tinyurl.com/ybugxylw>
- **Lloyd's Register (LR) has issued a global call for partners active in the area of innovative digital technologies related to the safety and performance of marine vessels.** <http://tinyurl.com/ybtjwl5q>
- **Lloyd's Register (LR) has announced a strategic partnership with SuppliHi, the leading vendor management digital platform for complex industrial goods and services.** <http://tinyurl.com/yb6zwk88>
- **Israel-based cyber security specialist Naval Dome has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LR aimed at establishing standards and guidelines for maritime cyber defence.** As part of the collaboration agreement, LR will carry out a series of pilot tests using the company's cyber security software onboard a LR-classed vessel. The Naval Dome system is the first multi-layer cyber defence solution developed specifically for maritime applications. <http://tinyurl.com/y8vpv0lp>
- **Revised update of LR's Cyber-enabled ships ShipRight procedure has been launched.** The update incorporates experience gained from involvement in a number of cyber-enabled ship projects, including guidance on autonomous operation and remote operation. It details LR's process for

the assessment of cyber-enabled systems onboard LR classed vessels. <https://tinyurl.com/ydafmfry>

- **RINA Intermodal and CMC Intl. Ltd.**, a technical services and intermodal fleet management company, announced their cooperation agreement for global services. <http://tinyurl.com/yd3crzzk> **SGS** has expanded its testing facilities in Naucalpan, Mexico State, Mexico, creating a major testing hub for textiles and apparel in Central and South America. <http://tinyurl.com/y7evqdv1>
- **SGS** in Malaysia has established two new services to assist the agricultural industry – a bioassay testing service for insects and, together with logistic partners, a shipping service for sending insect samples to laboratories in the USA. <http://tinyurl.com/y7yov2fv>
- **Carrefour** and **SGS** launched the Visual Trust initiative during the National Food Safety Week in Beijing on July 1, 2017, in the presence of Chinese authorities, business associations, large retailers and the media. Visual Trust is an end-to-end digital solution that allows Chinese shoppers to check the quality and origins of their purchases by scanning food with their smartphones. When shoppers scan products, they gain immediate access to quality certificates, test results, locations and pictures of farms, as well as nutritional advice. <http://tinyurl.com/yaaeuof8>
- **SGS** launches new large molecule bioanalytical services in Wavre, Belgium. The facility has invested in new and dedicated LC/MS-MS instruments and is currently validating internal methods within the laboratory, ensuring that services will be available by the end of 2017. <https://tinyurl.com/ydy6pohh>
- **SGS** has expanded its testing facilities in Naucalpan, Mexico State, Mexico, creating a major testing hub for textiles and apparel in Central and South America. <http://tinyurl.com/y7evqdv1>
- **SGS** has announced that it has entered into a partnership with Nature's Fingerprint, a Connecticut-based division of Molecular Isotope Technologies LLC, specializing in product and process authentication via natural tracers, to mitigate identity theft of bio/pharmaceutical products and the patented synthetic pathways by which they are produced. <http://tinyurl.com/yct32jew>
- **SGS** has invested in a new agriculture testing center utilising a greenhouse and phytotrons planned as walk-in rooms, to enable customers to achieve quick registration and approval of compounds and products. <https://tinyurl.com/ybe46prg>
- **SGS** has announced that it has entered into collaboration with Bavarian Nordic A/S, an international biotechnology company specializing in vaccines, to develop a new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) challenge strain. <http://tinyurl.com/ya5owp69>
- **Sucofindo** cooperates with state-owned pharmaceutical company, PT. Kimia Farma Diagnostik, a subsidiary of PT. Kimia Farma Apotik. The cooperation is a co-operation in the field of business development of Clinical Laboratory and medical examination. "The cooperation is done in order to expand the services of Sucofindo Laboratory which is known more in the field of commodity goods and environmental laboratories". <http://tinyurl.com/y9x6lc9m>
- **TÜV SÜD** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Taiwan's Metals Industry Research & Development Center (MIRDC), CR Classification Society, Electronics Testing Center, Taiwan Electronic Research and Testing Center and Taiwan Institute of Economic Research. <http://tinyurl.com/ydy1pbnh>
- **TÜV SÜD** expands electromobility laboratory services. The influence of electromobility is spreading throughout the world. In response to this development, TÜV SÜD is expanding its laboratory capacities in the sector in Germany, the USA and Asia. <https://tinyurl.com/y7qa3t5v>
- **Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB)**, in partnership with TÜV SÜD, launched The Singapore Smart Industry Readiness Index to help industrial companies harness the potential of Industry 4.0 in a systematic and comprehensive way. <http://tinyurl.com/y8xn4tw7>
- **TÜV SÜD Product Service** is embarking on a collaboration with security consulting company **Limes Security**. The partners' objective is to offer maximum security in product development and system integration for industrial environments and critical infrastructures. In the field of industrial IT security, Limes Security focuses on consulting and testing services. <https://tinyurl.com/y8xn4tw7>
- **TÜV Rheinland** announced it has entered into a three-year collaboration with **Goee**, a US-based enterprise-scale Internet of Things (IoT) platform and ecosystem developer. Under terms of the agreement, inked in London at lighting industry event LUXLIVE, Goee will engage TÜV Rheinland to examine its portfolio of products and services against critical data protection and data security requirements. <http://tinyurl.com/ychx9bbb>
- **TÜV Rheinland** and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have entered into a Public Private Partnership to deliver Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) Training to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). <https://tinyurl.com/ydez43a9> **TÜV SÜD Product Service GmbH** is cooperating with Dortmund-based **VERISCO GmbH**. The company specialises in the testing and verification of communication systems of electric vehicles and charging stations. In future, VERISCO and TÜV SÜD Product Service will provide conformity and interoperability tests for charging interfaces according to CCS (Combined Charging System, including DIN 70121 & ISO 15118). <http://tinyurl.com/ybzf2zc3>
- **TÜV SÜD** is further developing its Heimsheim-based exhaust emissions laboratory into a mobility lab, doubling its capacities in the process. In future, the lab's six dynamometers will be used to carry out type-approval testing of electric and hybrid vehicles and combustion-engine vehicles for all relevant markets, including the USA, China and Korea. <http://tinyurl.com/y9clmbf1>
- **UL** has announced a joint venture with Saudi-based **GCC Lab** aimed at strengthening the Middle East's Renewable Energy Infrastructure. UL's regional base operates out of offices in Dubai and its new, state-of-the-art lab facility in Abu Dhabi. The joint venture will operate as a UL and GCC Lab Company and will be based in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, to cater to customers in parts of the Middle East, including Egypt. <https://tinyurl.com/y8qw6xsb>
- **UL** and **IEEE** recently signed a Joint Standard Development agreement to develop a consensus-based standard for wireless diabetes device security. The Standard for Wireless Diabetes Device Security (DTSec) has been provided by the Diabetes Technology Society (DTS) for use in this effort. <http://tinyurl.com/yb25qaj6>
- **UL** announced that its wire and cable division has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Korea's leading testing and certification service provider **Korea Testing Certification (KTC)**. The agreement is to establish a laboratory in Gokseong as a UL designated sub-contracted laboratory and to act as its non-exclusive representative in the Republic of Korea to perform testing services and to promote the services of UL. <https://tinyurl.com/y7fqyxcx>

Business Results

- **ALS result up 18% as commodities recovery continues**
 ⇒ H1FY18 Underlying Net Profit After Tax within guidance at EUR 44.7 million
 ⇒ Goodwill impairment charges of EUR 40.2 million
 FY18 underlying profit expected to be EUR 86.2 – EUR 92.6 million <https://tinyurl.com/y99tu8lt>

Policy news

Chemicals

- **EU ministers adopted on Monday, 4 September, the European Commission's draft criteria for endocrine disruptors in plant protection products, laying the foundation for a comprehensive strategy to limit citizens' exposure to harmful substances.** The EU voted to ban endocrine disruptors in 2009. But so far the ban has not come into effect due to a lack of criteria defining the chemicals that it should cover. <https://tinyurl.com/ybd7k9g3>
- **The European Commission has notified the WTO of proposed amendments to its Regulation on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.** The changes reflect further scientific opinions from the European Food Safety Authority (Efsa) on particular food contact materials (FCM) substances, as well as on the permitted use of already authorised substances. The proposals intend to amend Annex I of the Regulation to authorise four new FCMs and extend the uses of others. <https://tinyurl.com/y7xj6bv5>
- **The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) are inviting interested parties to comment on the draft guidance document for the identification of endocrine disruptors under EU legislation for pesticides and biocides by 31 January 2018.** <https://tinyurl.com/ya8m2kds>
- **Companies have been asked to communicate their registration intentions clearly to the whole supply chain to avoid potential disruptions in supply after the 31 May 2018 registration deadline.** <https://tinyurl.com/ya5hf9vg>
- **The Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement has started a pilot project to verify compliance with the notification and communication obligations of substances in articles in REACH.** The project is being launched as a result of national enforcement actions, reports from authorities or NGOs, and a low number of notifications being made to ECHA. They all indicate that the obligations of industry would not be adequately met. The operational phase of the project started in October 2017 and will run until the end of June 2018. A report of the results is expected by the end of November 2018. <https://tinyurl.com/y9ab2zps>
- **The European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) has voted on a new objection to the revised Commission act, which proposes approval of the highly-controversial glyphosate until 15 December 2022.** The European Parliament has already objected to previous version of the Commission draft act, which was proposing renewal of the substance until 2027.

Energy & Environment

- **The European Commission has proposed to update the EU Gas Directive, in order to ensure that all major gas pipelines entering EU territory comply with EU rules, are operated with the same levels of transparency, are accessible to other operators, and are operated in an efficient way.** The proposal aims to improve the functioning of the EU internal gas market, increase competition between suppliers, and boost Europe's energy security. <http://tinyurl.com/y9u6336e>
- **The European Commission has found the Spanish scheme supporting electricity generation from renewable energy sources, high efficiency cogeneration of heat and power and waste to be in line with EU State aid rules.** The scheme will further EU energy and climate goals whilst preserving competition. <http://tinyurl.com/yccas6cn>
- **A second cooperation agreement on a statistical transfer of renewable energy amounts was signed between two EU Member States, Estonia and Luxembourg.** It follows a first arrangement on a [statistical transfer](http://tinyurl.com/y9xoxe7h) that was signed between Lithuania and Luxembourg just a few weeks ago. <http://tinyurl.com/y9xoxe7h>
- **A Memorandum of Understanding between the EU Covenant of Mayors and the World Alliance for Efficient Solutions was signed on 16 November 2017 during the EU Energy Day conference in Bonn, in the margins of the COP 23 UN Climate Change Conference hosted by Fiji and Germany.** <http://tinyurl.com/yw2j7wv>
- **The ENVI-ITRE joint committee voted in favour of the draft report on Governance of the Energy Union (rapporteurs: Michèle Rivasi / Claude Turmes).** In total, 1700 amendments had been tabled to the Commission's proposal, which proposes a governance mechanism for the implementation of the Union's 2030 climate and energy targets and for the reporting to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement secretariats. Ahead of the vote, political groups had tabled 93 compromise proposals.

- **A study on "The Impact of Brexit on the EU Energy System" has been published.** This study provided by Policy Department A at the request of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) shows that the energy-system related impact of Brexit on EU citizens and companies will be limited.

Food

- **How Europe ensures that pesticides are safe?** The European Union has an authorisation procedure involving three partners: EFSA, the European Commission and Member States. Pesticide applications from industry pass along a chain formed of these three parties – with each one carrying out specific tasks. EFSA's role is to carry out risk assessments of pesticides and to provide the European Commission and Member States with scientific support in the decision-making process. To find out how does this work, please follow the link: <https://tinyurl.com/y8hz4saq>
- **EFSA has published the 'Assessment of listing and categorisation of animal diseases within the framework of the Animal Health Law (Regulation (EU) No 2016/429): contagious bovine pleuropneumonia'.** The document is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/yc437mjc>
- **EFSA has published the 'Assessment of a decontamination process for hydrocyanic acid in linseed intended for use in animal feed'.** The document is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/yc7ueslv>
- **Training the next generation of food safety risk assessors – EFSA's fellowship programme.** EFSA's EU -FORA initiative is up and running. The fellowship programme supports the building of the EU's scientific assessment capacity and knowledge community. It gives early and mid-career scientists the opportunity to increase their expertise in food safety risk assessment within a European national risk assessment institute. <https://tinyurl.com/ybwlm93>
- **The Environment Committee of the European Parliament has voted to object to the proposed European Commission criteria to identify endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) with 36 supporting/26 against and 0 abstentions.** MEPs of the committee recognised that the proposal is both: insufficient to protect human health and the environment and unlawful, thereby acknowledging the warning signals coming from international scientific societies, the EDC- Free Europe coalition, public health voices, various legal analyses as well as the concerns raised by some 300,000 citizens over the last days. WECF welcomes that first step which might open the door for better criteria and more protection from EDCs. <https://tinyurl.com/ya72zl5g>
- **EU Draft Regulation proposes revision on the use of bisphenol A in food packaging.** The EU Commission has also proposed additional changes to the use of bisphenol A (commonly referred to as BPA) in varnishes and coatings used in food packaging.
- **According to the terms of a draft Regulation issued in late August 2017, the Commission proposes to set new, more strict, maximum migration limits connected with the use of BPA in varnishes and coatings applied to food package materials.** Further, the Commission is proposing an outright ban against the use of BPA in packaging materials used in food and food products intended for infants and young children. <https://tinyurl.com/y9zmpam5>
- **The EU Commission has proposed implementing maximum levels of glycidyl fatty acid esters in a variety of foods.** Glycidyl fatty acid esters are a kind of food contaminant found in refined vegetable oils and fats. However, recent research by the Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has found that glycidyl esters are genotoxic and carcinogenic. Accordingly, the Commission has issued a draft Regulation modifying Regulation (EC) No 315/93 related to contaminants in food to incorporate margin of exposure (MoE) limits for the presence of glycidyl esters. <https://tinyurl.com/y98sswqc>
- **The Commission of the European Union (EU) has adopted internationally-accepted testing methods for the evaluation of campylobacter in poultry carcasses.** In a draft Regulation issued earlier this year, the Commission proposed amending Annex I of its Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 to adopt the testing methods detailed in EN ISO 10272-2 as the reference method for verifying compliance with its requirements for the presence of campylobacter in poultry carcasses. The final Regulation was published in the Official Journal of the European Union in late August, 2017 and is applicable as of January 1, 2018. It is available [here](https://tinyurl.com/ya92rb6e). <https://tinyurl.com/ya92rb6e>
- **The Commission of the European Union (EU) amended its regulations applicable to food additives to approve the use of silicon dioxide as an anti-caking agent in potassium nitrate, a meat additive.** Published in July in the Official Journal of the European Union, Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1271 modifies Annex III of its Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008, which details additives which are approved for use in food products. Under the revised Annex, silicon dioxide is now approved for use in potassium nitrate in accordance with prescribed levels. <https://tinyurl.com/yc6qlas8> The complete text of the Commission's Regulation on the use of silicon dioxide is available [here](https://tinyurl.com/yc6qlas8).
- **The French government signed a decree backing the voluntary adoption of the 'Nutri-Score' front-of-pack nutritional labelling scheme** (31 October). <https://tinyurl.com/y9hsbyen>
- **The European Commission says it will begin the process of establishing a legal definition of vegetarian and vegan food in 2019, an announcement that has been welcomed by food manufacturers.** <https://tinyurl.com/ydhllfnp>
- **EFSA's latest data report summarises the monitoring data from 2015, including compliance rates with EU residue limits, for a range of veterinary medicines, unauthorised substances and contaminants found in animals and animal-derived food.** <https://tinyurl.com/y9auatjs>
- **EFSA has decided to extend the pilot phase of its support initiative for applicants from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).** Since last June, SMEs preparing applications in the areas of feed additives and novel foods (excluding traditional food) have been able to request an administrative check of their draft dossiers by EFSA prior to the official submission. With the recent decision SMEs now have time until 23 February 2018 to send their draft dossiers. <https://tinyurl.com/ya3dezxd>

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- **EFSA's updated risk assessments on the potential risks to bees from neonicotinoid pesticides will be finalised in February 2018.** The assessments for clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam will be finalised following a final round of consultation with pesticide experts in the Member States. <https://tinyurl.com/y6wv2u9p>
- **EFSA has opened applications for the 2018/2019 cycle of its European Food Risk Assessment (EU-FORA) Fellowship Programme, a key initiative for building the EU's scientific assessment capacity and knowledge community.** Following the successful launch of the programme earlier this year, EFSA is preparing a second 12-month round to start in September 2018, and is calling for applications from potential fellows and hosting sites. <https://tinyurl.com/ycrkekqg>
- **Producers of free range eggs will be allowed to continue to market their products as such** even if their hens have restricted access to open-air runs because of influenza outbreaks following further changes to EU egg marketing standards. <http://tinyurl.com/ycts852>
- **EU beef and sheep meat exports to Iran will soon be significantly facilitated,** after the country adopts a single health certification system for exports from all EU Member States. <http://tinyurl.com/y7fa6nqg>

International Free Trade Agreements

- **WTO reverses "prohibited" subsidies ruling, EU calls on US to respect obligations as main dispute continues.** The World Trade Organisation (WTO) Appellate Body has today published a report reversing a previous WTO panel ruling of 28 November 2016. That ruling said that subsidies provided by Washington State to Boeing for its 777X aircraft were 'prohibited' due to local content requirements. The EU disagrees with the Appellate Body assessment of the scheme. <https://tinyurl.com/y78vq36u>
- **EU launches global Alliance for Torture-Free Trade.** EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström today announced that the EU will launch an international Alliance for Torture-Free Trade. The initiative – a joint effort with Argentina and Mongolia – aims to end the trade in goods used for capital punishment and torture and will be formally launched on 18 September during United Nations General Assembly week in New York. <https://tinyurl.com/yc6kgvrv>
- **Following the signature by both EU legislators, European Parliament and the Council, the EU's additional trade concessions for Ukraine is available as from 1 October 2017.** The Regulation on Autonomous Trade Measures (ATMs) for Ukraine was signed on 13 September 2017 in Strasbourg, by Mr Antonio TAJANI, the European Parliament President and Mr Matti MAASILAS, the Deputy Minister for EU Affairs for the Estonian Council Presidency. <https://tinyurl.com/c4aw2wq>
- **Members in plenary will debate and vote next week on three files to reinforce EU's trade and economic relations with Chile.** An agreement on organic trade, a Protocol to fully take on board Croatia's accession to the EU in bilateral relations, and Parliament's Recommendations to the other institutions about the forthcoming negotiations with Chile to modernise the existing Association Agreement. For INTA's Rapporteur, Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero, this 2002 agreement has been successful but needs to adapt to modern trading and investment patterns, to find the right balance between the need to boost economy and to protect the general interest, among other measures, with the inclusion of an enforceable chapter on sustainable development. <https://tinyurl.com/c4aw2wq>
- **Commission unveils initiatives for a balanced and progressive trade policy.** Following the State of the Union speech by President Jean-Claude Juncker, the Commission has today unveiled a weighty package of trade and investment proposals for a progressive and ambitious trade agenda. The proposals include the creation of a European screening framework to ensure that foreign direct investment does not compromise the EU's strategic interests when it comes to security and public order, as well as draft mandates to open trade negotiations with Australia and New Zealand. <https://tinyurl.com/y777mhv7>
- **The European Commission published a report summarising the progress made during the latest negotiating round for the trade part of the Association Agreement between the European Union and Mercosur.** <https://tinyurl.com/y9kbs3n9>
- **The sixth round of trade negotiations with Mexico took place in Mexico City from 25 November to 1 December.** Over the course of the week the negotiating teams had talks on all issues, with progress made on key issues like market access for goods, services and public procurement as well as trade, the investment court system and sustainable development. Discussions also took place on energy and raw materials or trade and anti-corruption. The teams will next meet in Brussels in the week beginning 18 December. <https://tinyurl.com/yab8wkrr>
- **Cecilia Malmström, European Commissioner for Trade, Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative met in Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic on the 12th of December 2017 and agreed to strengthen our commitment to ensure a global level playing field.** <https://tinyurl.com/ycxalrzf>
- **The EU and Chile formally launched today in Brussels the negotiations to modernise the existing EU-Chile Association Agreement.** The modernisation of the Association Agreement is an expression of both Chile and EU's willingness to deepen the already excellent bilateral relations and expand to new areas of collaboration. <https://tinyurl.com/ycrwy2ys>

- Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono announced the successful conclusion of the final discussions on the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). <https://tinyurl.com/ybueghkr>
- At a key stage of the EU-Mexico negotiations aiming at revamping the existing Association Agreement with Mexico, The European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) held a public exchange on the state-of-play of the trade talks with Mr Mauro Petricionne, Deputy Director General of DG Trade in the European Commission. The exchange allowed to understand if the negotiations are ripe enough to deliver an ambitious, balanced and fair deal, including Parliament's key demands, within the initial targeted calendar (end of 2017), or if more time will be needed to pursue substantive discussions. <http://tinyurl.com/yd4e6j78>
- INTA held an exchange of views on EU –Singapore Free Trade Agreement. The EU-Singapore FTA negotiations have started in March 2010 and INTA expects to vote on the agreement and accompanying Safeguard Regulation in the first half of 2018. <https://tinyurl.com/oqrp6j3>
- INTA Members held an in-depth discussion in the presence of the Commission on the implementation of the EU's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). The implementation of trade agreements is a key priority for the European Parliament and should also become a key priority of the Common Commercial Policy. MEPs welcomed therefore that the Commission adopted on 9 November its first Report on the Implementation of Free Trade Agreements. <https://tinyurl.com/y7ddp625>
- INTA held public exchange on the state-of-play of the EU-Mercosur trade talks with the EU's Chief Negotiator, Director Sandra Gallina. The participation of INTA's Standing Rapporteur and shadows, the Mercosur Ambassadors and the EEAS fostered broader understanding at a key stage of the negotiations. <https://tinyurl.com/ycl3bgpf>

Public Consultations and Call for Tenders

- EFSA has launched a public consultation on its draft guidance on the assessment of the efficacy of feed additives. Deadline for comments: 28 January 2018.
- The European Commission has launched a public consultation to gather views of the broader public on setting up a European Labour Authority and the introduction of a European Social Security Number. <https://tinyurl.com/y8h6phq4>

Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- JTC PTC Meeting, 17-18 April 2018, place tbc
- EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings, in Varna, 19 - 20 April 2018
- TCQA Meeting, in Varna, 19 April 2018
- EUROLAB National Members' Meeting, 15-16 November, Berlin

International Events

- International Petroleum Week, London, 21-23 February 2018
- 10th International Cybersecurity Forum 2018, 23-24 January 2018, Lille <http://tinyurl.com/y9vr8ohj>
- The 2018 IAF-ILAC Joint Mid-Term Meetings, Frankfurt, 04 - 11 April 2018