

EUROLAB NEWSBRIEFING

April - June 2013

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Foreword

Dear EUROLAB Members,

Please find below the second EUROLAB Newsbriefing for this year informing you about some developments relevant to the laboratory sector in the second quarter of 2013.

The main event in April was the EUROLAB General Assembly hosted by FENELAB in Woerden, Netherlands which was well attended and elected a new Board of Administrators. The new Board met for two days for a very busy meeting on 17th and 18th June.

There is a challenging task of how to make EUROLAB more open and international, expand its membership, and get inputs from associations working outside Europe. We would like to bring a more comprehensive laboratory view to ILAC, IAF, ISO CASCO, other world-wide organisations and regional organisations working outside Europe whilst still promoting European views and keeping a focus on European problems. Special attention will be paid to potential EU candidate countries and countries in the Mediterranean neighbourhood.

Wider and closer coordination of EUROLAB activities and policies with those of Eurachem is being established in addition to existing cooperations with CEOC, UIIL, and EFNDT.

More active cooperation between EUROLAB and EURAMET raises new possibilities for metrological and calibration laboratories in the areas of innovation and research, finding new solutions for industry. Continuous attention will be paid to implementation of the ILAC P10 document on traceability of measurements parts of which are ambiguous in our opinion and could allow different interpretations by accreditation bodies. The issue has been critically discussed by the ILAC Inspection Committee.

Step by step improvements can be seen in EUROLAB's effort to speak on behalf of European laboratories and give more feedback to our members from meetings at both European and global levels. The EUROLAB Technical Committee for Quality Assurance (TCQA) will function as a hub of technical information taking care of competent EUROLAB representation as well as systematic and smart distribution of information to our members.

Last but not least let me take advantage of this Newsbriefing to express my thanks to all our members and representatives who devoted a great amount of their time and effort to improve EUROLAB services for its members and to wish all of you splendid holidays, pleasant days, safe journeys, and good luck in the coming months.

Yours faithfully

Jiří Sobola
President EUROLAB



National Members News

eurolab Sverige

EUROLAB/EURACHEM Sweden's spring meeting. EUROLAB/EURACHEM Sweden held its yearly spring meeting the 16th of May in Stockholm. Traditionally the spring meeting is devoted to discussions and information exchange between EUROLAB/EURACHEM Sweden and Swedac (the Swedish accreditation body) and this was also the case during this year's meeting.

Swedac was represented by the newly appointed General Director Peter Strömbäck, the vice General Director Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, the Technical Director Roland Johnsson and the Technical Expert Agneta Ebbesson. About 20 of the members of EUROLAB/EURACHEM participated in the meeting and the discussions.

Among the issues that were raised during the discussion were: delivery time of decisions, handling times of non-conformities, booking of surveillances, IT-system for handling of non-conformities and the technical assessors. The discussions were very fruitful and Swedac promised to try to improve especially concerning the delivery times.

After lunch a Workshop were arranged. The program included the following points:

- Effective calibration (during the presentation Swedac stated the new ILAC P 10 will not lead to any bigger changes in the Swedish interpretation of requirements

on traceability in calibration)

Use of reference materials

- Accreditation in an international perspective

The day was finalized with the annual meeting for EUROLAB/EURACHEM Sweden.

eurolab France

COFRAC (The French accreditation body) organizes meetings with accredited laboratories on a regular basis, in order to inform them about current issues. This meeting, called "forum for laboratories", gathers several hundred laboratories of different sizes and activities.

EuroLab France is represented by two seats at COFRAC's board (the laboratory directors will represent both their company as well as EuroLab France).

EuroLab France has been invited by COFRAC's Managing Director to give a speech at the next "forum for laboratories" which will take place by the end of June 2013.

EuroLab France will be represented by the Vice-President and the convener of the national association's quality working group. In their speech, they will highlight the positive developments in the French accreditation body (such as the extensive use of flexible ranges) and identify the issues for improvements (such as uncertainty about the audit durations).

turklab

Calibration and Test Laboratories Association

TURKLAB supported the IULAG Laboratory Accreditation and Safety Symposium which was organized by the Istanbul branch of the Turkish Chamber of Chemical Engineers. The event took place on 16-18 May 2013 and had more than 500 participants.



TURKLAB held a practical training on calibration of Volumetric Glassware. The 2-day training from 21 March to 22 March 2013 was attended by the TURKLAB members.



Strengthening the Quality Infrastructure in Turkey with the TKAG Project, which started in 2010 and was completed 2012, TurkLab was one of the beneficiaries of this Project. At the post Project time monitoring and evaluation work is being done. The Integration GmbH team who was assigned to this job met with TURKLAB management representatives to get the idea for the project on benefits for the laboratories. The meeting took place on May 27th, 2013 at the association hall.

**eurolab-Deutschland**

Chemische Analytik; Mess- und Prüftechnik e.V.

The **26th annual members' meeting of EUROLAB-D** which was convened on 17 April 2013 focused on the transfer of the administrative secretariat from BAM to the VMPA (Verband der Materialprüfungsanstalten e.V.) (Association of materials testing institutes) at the beginning of next year. Manfred Hennecke stressed that BAM will, however, continue to support the VMPA in technical matters.

The budget for 2014 was submitted by the VMPA and the members agreed to increase the annual members' fees substantially to ensure also in future the professional services and excellent performance of the EUROLAB-D secretariat. They also agreed to redesign the EUROLAB-D website on an external server.

Manfred Hennecke who will retire as president of BAM in September was confirmed as chairman of EUROLAB-D for a shorter than normal period, i.e. for one year. Reinhard Struth and 5 other members of the board were also re-elected for another term of office. In connection with the annual members' meeting EUROLAB-D had organized the **19th colloquium on 17 April entitled**

“EUROLAB-Deutschland undergoing transformation”. This colloquium attracted some 50 participants from all over Germany. The introductory lecture was held by Heidelinde Fiege (DIBt) who outlined the legal framework of the notification process in Germany, the special requirements, the most important changes of the notification process and finally she explained the relevant transitional arrangements.

In the second lecture Manfred Golze (BAM) reviewed the successful activities of EUROLAB both at the national and European level. In the past decade EUROLAB has succeeded in cooperating more closely with the accreditation bodies in Europe. He mentioned for instance flexible accreditation, a topic which was particularly promoted by Germany. He also pointed to the fact that EUROLAB had been active in the editorial standards committee to keep the ISO/IEC 17025 unchanged for the next five years and several other important activities, such as Opinions and Interpretations in test reports, measurement traceability (ILAC P 10) and revision of the Blue Guide.

Michael Koch (University of Stuttgart), chairman of the German Committee for Chemical Analysis (EDAC) addressed the most important contributions of EUROLAB-D to EURACHEM and Elke Gehrke (Stiftung Warentest) reported on the activities of the German Committee for Quality Management (EDAQ) which is the German mirror group of the EUROLAB TCQA.

In the final lecture Manfred Hennecke, the chairman of EUROLAB-D, examined various future fields of activities for EUROLAB-D. At the national level EUROLAB-D should – through its cooperation in various committees and councils - contribute to a consolidation of the German accreditation body and its rules and regulations which stressed requires a better coordination of positions of the various associations involved. He also mentioned some other fields of activities, such as contributions to quality assurance of members, cooperation in developing rules and standards, observing education and training programmes and identification of research and development needs. He also referred to the global Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) market which is expected to grow substantially and which will mean that the laboratory community will profit from this trend. He emphasized the fact that accreditation activities will increasingly be influenced internationally (ILAC) which means that a closer cooperation of European organisations is absolutely essential in future.

RELACRE Cooperation between RELACRE and the Mozambique Association of Laboratories

RELACRE was invited by UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) to participate in meetings, in a Seminar and in a Workshop promoted by UNIDO Mozambique and European Union.

The both events took place in Maputo, the Seminar in the 20th May, organized by INNOQ (Mozambique Standardization Body) aiming to promote the Metrology Day (it had about 60 participants from industry, Laboratories and Companies) and the Workshop in the 22nd May, was promoted by the Mozambique Health Ministry and also by ALM (Mozambique Association of Laboratories), having the participation of nearly 20 Laboratories (five of them already accredited by the Portuguese NAB).



INNOQ Seminar – 20th May (Metrology in the Day Life) held in Maputo, Mozambique



RELACRE is developing a MoU with ALM to be signed next July during a visit to Lisbon of the ALM President, Paula Mandlaze, starting a joint project of co-operation supported by UNIDO Office in Mozambique.

ALM – RELACRE Workshop participants (22th May) held in Maputo, Mozambique

RELACRE Workshop of Health and Safety in Laboratories

RELACRE organized a Workshop to discuss “*Health and Safety in Laboratories*”. This event took place in the 4th June, at RELACRE Offices in Lisbon, having 36 participants.

In this event the *EUROLAB Health and Safety Handbook* was presented and distributed to RELACRE members, and there were several presentations from Laboratory Experts from several types of Testing Laboratories. The keynote speaker at the workshop was the EUROLAB Board member Jan Basten, who presented the view and the motivation of FENELAB to develop and promote this OHS issue at European Level. It was also an opportunity to present, to the Portuguese associates of RELACRE, an overview of EUROLAB objectives, aims and its role in Europe.



View of the Workshop room during Jan Basten's presentation

On 1st July 2013, Croatia will join the EU as 28th European Union Member.



Croatia applied for EU membership in 2003 and the European Commission recommended making it an official candidate in early 2004. Croatia finished accession negotiations on 30 June 2011 and on 9 December 2011 signed the Treaty of Accession to become the bloc's 28th member. The accession process of Croatia was complicated by the insistence of Slovenia, an EU member state, that the two countries' border issues be dealt with prior to Croatia's accession to the EU.



New commissioner for consumer protection



Neven Mimica has received the backing from the European Parliament on 12 June, paving the way for him to become Croatia's first commissioner when Croatia joins the EU on 1 July. He has also been confirmed at the Council meeting of 27/28th June 2013. **Mr. Mimica will serve as consumer protection commissioner until the end the Commission's current mandate, which runs until next year's European elections in May 2014.**

Profile: Neven Mimica graduated from the University of Zagreb Faculty of Economics in 1976. Between 1979 and 1997 he held positions in various governmental bodies related to foreign relations and foreign trade policies, including several counselling positions at embassies in Cairo and Ankara. In 1997 he was appointed assistant to the Croatian Minister of Economy and served as Croatia's chief negotiator during the country's accession to the World Trade Organization and the European Union Association Agreement. In September 2001 he became Minister of European Integration under Prime Minister Ivica Račan, position he held until December 2003.

He was elected to the Croatian Parliament in 2003 as a representative of the Social Democratic Party, and again in 2007. Since January 2008 he serves as deputy speaker of the Croatian parliament and is also the chairman of the parliament's committee for European integration.

Accreditation

- EA CC (Certification Committee) submitted the document **EA-6/03:2013 Mandatory Document - EA Document for Recognition of Verifiers under the EU ETS Directive for final comments.**
- The document **EA-1/06 Multilateral Agreement has been reviewed** and is now being submitted for comments.
- The ILAC Arrangement Committee submitted the documents "**ILAC-P4:Draft 2013 May - ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Statement Policy**" and "**ILAC-P5:Draft 2013 May - ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement)**" to all ILAC members for a 60 day comment period.
- The document **ILAC-A5:XX/201X IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements):Application of ISO/IEC 17011:2004** has been submitted to all ILAC Full Members and Associated for a 30 day comment period.

Standardisation

- **ISO has published its Annual Report 2013.** You can find the full report here: http://www.iso.org/iso/annual_report-2012.htm
- **The following system review ballots have been opened:**
- **ISO/IEC 17000:2004** (vers 2)- Conformity assessment -- Vocabulary and general principles
- **ISO/IEC 17011:2004** (vers 2) - Conformity assessment -- General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies
- **ISO/IEC 17050-1:2004** (vers 2) - Conformity assessment -- Supplier's declaration of conformity -- Part 1: General requirements
- **ISO/IEC 17050-2:2004** (vers 2) - Conformity assessment -- Supplier's declaration of conformity -- Part 2: Supporting documentation
- **ISO/TS 18173:2005** (vers 2) - Non-destructive testing -- General terms and definitions

Business News

- **At Hanover Fair, held from 8 to 12, BAM presented to the audience their recent developments and research** like : a deformed QR code, an analytical centrifuge, test probes for roller bearings and sensors for wind effects on overhead lines etc. All this new devices are a good example of the well-known broad spectrum of BAM in the areas of research and development, and testing.
- **CSA Group announced a new automated explosive atmospheres laboratory** located in its Cleveland, Ohio facility. The new laboratory is equipped to provide full-service explosion-proof and flameproof testing to the applicable requirements of Canadian, U.S., IECEx, and ATEX standards .
- **CSA Group expands its European operations with the opening of a new testing and certification laboratory in Frankfurt.** The aim of the lab is to support European companies seeking global market access.
- **Eurofins Agrosience Services announces the acquisition of MITOX Trial Management BV (MITOX).** The services offered by MITOX will further strengthen Eurofins' agrosience portfolio with outstanding scientific and regulatory expertise. This includes the performance of bioassays with non-target arthropods (NTA's) at all testing tiers, the identification of terrestrial arthropods and its field operations in Southern Europe.
- **Eurofins Air Toxics has successfully achieved ISO 17025 accreditation for its new Environmental Chamber emissions testing facility in Folsom, CA .**
- **Eurofins MWG Operon, Inc. announced that its quality management system has achieved certification to two ISO standards by BSI Group America Inc. for their new Louisville, KY facility.** To date, Eurofins MWG Operon is the only DNA sequencing provider offering overnight sequencing with all their functioning laboratories certified to these quality assurance ISO standards.
- **Intertek announced the opening of the first North American Center of Excellence for RoHS Directive testing in Columbus, Ohio.** This facility will help manufacturers complete RoHS testing more quickly and efficiently and ensure validity for their products to be sold throughout the European Economic area.
- **Intertek announced the opening of a lubricant and oil condition monitoring (OCM) testing laboratory in South Africa.** The lab expansion enables the company to meet increasing market demand and shorten project turnaround time for lubricants testing.
- **Intertek announced that its facility in Pittsfield**

has been recertified and added additional tests. •

Additional tests added meet client-driven demand for testing of composites and constituents including Climbing Drum Peel (ASTM D1781), Compression of Composites (ASTM D3410), Tensile In-Plane Shear of Matrix Composites (ASTM D3518), Moisture Absorption and Equilibrium Conditioning (ASDTM D5229), Mode I Fracture Toughness (ASTM D5528) •

and more.

- **Intertek Group has posted a 9.9 per cent year-on-year rise in revenue for the first four months of the year, driven by organic growth, favourable currency movements and the benefit of acquisitions made in 2012 and 2013.**
- **The National Physical Laboratory, UK is part of the Graphene Flagship consortium** that has been funded half a billion euros by the European Commission to develop the potential of graphene along with related materials for applications in computing, batteries and sensors •
- **The National Physical Laboratory's Annual Review for 2012.** The review is divided into sections on: Science; Economic Impact; Quality of Life; Working in Partnership; and Our People. It provides a review of last year's science and engineering achievements and the economic and societal benefits of NPL's work •
- **SGS has acquired MSi Testing & Engineering Inc., (MSi),** based in Melrose Park, Illinois. MSi is a leading laboratory in the fields of Metallurgical Testing and Failure Analysis. It participates in any stage of the manufacturing process, validating raw materials, solving production related problems, assessing finished and semi finished goods, or analyzing product failures as well as providing high end metallurgical engineering services. •
- **SGS Germany Extends its Testing and Certification Program for Photovoltaic Modules.** SGS Germany tests and certifies components of photovoltaic systems at the SGS Solar Testhouse and has an extensive experience in third-party testing and certification of PV modules in accordance with internationally recognized standards, such as IEC 61701, IEC 62804, IEC 62716 or even to SGS's own set of testing requirements. •
- **SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden acquires a 60 per cent stake of Processum Biorefinery Initiative AB.** The company works with the development of biorefining with forest raw materials as base. The company, which has 16 employees, was founded in 2003 and has developed into a leading biorefinery initiative that is active in both a national and international arena. The proposed name of the reorganised company is SP Processum and activities will continue to be conducted from Örnsköldsvik. Processum's current CEO Clas Engström will be remaining in his role. Processum member companies will stay as major shareholders. •

Italy's Agnelli family has sold its 15 per cent stake in SGS, for €2bn just days after pledging to remain the largest shareholder in Fiat, the Italian carmaker. Exor, the Agnelli's holding company, will bank a €1.5bn capital gain from the sale of the stake to Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, the investment group controlled by Albert Frère.

TÜV Rheinland Now Offers Food Testing Services. TÜV Rheinland is now getting involved in food testing, increasing transparency in the food market. Food that is analysed and certified by TÜV Rheinland has to undergo a wide range of stringent checks. The testing and certification procedure involves regularly inspecting raw materials from suppliers, checking the suitability for sale and quality statements of the end product and carrying out management certification of the manufacturer.

TÜV Rheinland is launching a new test mark worldwide that is unique in the testing sector in both form and function. It replaces all other TÜV Rheinland test seals, which have emerged over the course of the company's 140-year history.



The TÜV Rheinland Photovoltaic Testing Laboratory has launched a new power rating suite for PV modules to provide validated performance assessments under a wide range of real outdoor environmental conditions. The service would provide advanced evaluation information for banks, investors, engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractors and other stakeholders.

TÜV SÜD Zacta has been recognized in the CB Scheme to conduct testing and issue CB test reports to international standards IEC 61010-1 and IEC 60950-1. TÜV SÜD Zacta joined the TÜV SÜD group in April 2012, adding key test capabilities from their Yonezawa and Yokohama lab locations. The initial scope of acceptance covers measurement, control and laboratory equipment per IEC 61010-1, as well as IT and office equipment per IEC 60950-1.

UL Launches Premier Product Emissions Test Lab in Germany. UL launched a new product emissions testing laboratory in Cologne-Muelheim, Germany. The lab represents an expansion of UL Environment's capabilities and connects product manufacturers in Europe to UL Environment's GREENGUARD Certification, and can qualify products for use in LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) projects.

Food testing centre opens at Newcastle University. Potential research could include testing whether supermarket cornflakes taste the same as branded ones and whether tomatoes are better kept in the fridge.

Business Results 2012

- **Eurofins**
 - Revenues increased over 20% year-on-year to EUR 270m.
 - Organic growth of about 6%.
 - Growth in food testing remained solid.
 - Pharmaceutical testing achieved strong growth.
 - Environmental testing had a slower start to the year due to the severe winter in Europe and the continued challenges in restructuring IPL in France.
 - 6 acquisitions completed in the first quarter to either strengthen Eurofins' market leadership or enter new geographies.

Policy News

Health and Consumer Protection

- On 13th February 2013 the **European Commission adopted a Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package**. The European Commission's intention is to align the proposal for a regulation on market surveillance of products - 2013/0048 (COD) and the proposal for a regulation on consumer product safety and repealing Council Directive 87/357/EEC and Directive 2001/95/EC - 2013/0049 (COD) with the current legal provisions.
- **Tonio Borg**, Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, **has proposed a 5-point Action Plan to address the shortcomings identified in Europe's food supply chain**. The Action Plan is a response to the recent horsemeat affair first identified by the Irish food inspectors who had found horsemeat in foods marketed as frozen «beef burgers» in a number of UK supermarkets. http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/horsemeat/index_en.htm
- **EU-wide testing for horsemeat DNA and phenylbutazone (an anti-inflammatory drug used as a painkiller in veterinary medicine for pets and horses) requested and co-financed in line with the Action Plan by the European Commission revealed that less than 5 % of the tested products had horse DNA and that about 0.5 % of the equine carcasses tested were found to be contaminated with phenylbutazone**. These results correspond with the joint statement published by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) on 15 April 2013 which concluded that the risks associated to phenylbutazone were of "low concern for consumers due to the low likelihood of exposure and the overall low likelihood of toxic effects and that, on a given day, the probability of a consumer being both susceptible to developing aplastic anaemia and being exposed to phenylbutazone was estimated to range approximately from 2 in a trillion to 1 in 100 million." http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/horsemeat/tests_results_en.htm
- **European Commission campaign: Too good to be true: the real price of fake products**. Counterfeiting activities account for over €200 billion in losses for the world economy and it is estimated that such losses may climb further. They harm the European economy, as they damage legitimate business and starve innovation. And fake goods compete unfairly with genuine products, putting many jobs at risk in Europe. http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=6589&lang=en&tpa_id=0&title=Too-good-to-be-true%3A-the-real-price-of-fake-products
- **New rules to improve the safety regime applicable to non-food consumer products distributed in the EU**. The Commission has put forward a new package of measures to provide more consistency across the EU in relation to consumer product identification and traceability, and better coordination of the way in which national authorities check consumer products and enforce product safety rules. **The package will not apply to food products**. These measures will place additional obligations on manufacturers, importers and distributors whose products are placed on the European market or made available in the EU. These obligations are expected to come into effect in 2015.
- **The Rapex 2012 Annual Report is now available:** http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/safety/rapex/docs/2012_rapex_report_en.pdf

Chemicals

- **ECHA publishes its first five-year strategic plan for public consultation.** Citizens and organisations are invited to comment on ECHA's draft Multi-Annual Work Programme 2014-2018 for the coming five years, which is structured around the Agency's four long-term strategic goals. http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/echa-publishes-its-first-five-year-strategic-plan-for-public-consultation
- **By 31 May 2013, 3 215 companies submitted 9 084 registration dossiers for nearly 3 000 substances to ECHA,** for chemicals manufactured or imported in quantities from 100 to 1 000 tonnes per year. One fifth of all registrations were submitted by micro, small or medium sized companies and 80% came from large companies.
- **In a joint session, the Committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC) concluded that as part of their opinion they would recommend to the European Commission the duration of the review period for the use applied for.** The classification and labelling of all harmonised substances included on Annex VI to the CLP Regulation according to the criteria set out in the previous Dangerous Substances Directive (DSD) will now be available in the C&L Inventory. http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/harmonised-classifications-according-to-the-dangerous-substances-directive-now-available-in-the-c-and-l-inventory

Energy and Environment

- **The Commission has proposed to amend the 2009 nuclear safety directive. The proposal consists in introducing:**
 - new EU-wide safety objectives,
 - setting up a European system of peer reviews of nuclear installations,
 - establishing a mechanism for developing EU-wide harmonised nuclear safety guidelines,
 - strengthening the role and independence of national regulators,
 - increasing transparency on nuclear safety matters,
 - and including new provisions for on-site emergency preparedness and response.

At least every 6 years nuclear installations would have to undergo specific assessments on one or more nuclear safety issues. The assessments would be submitted for EU wide peer reviews. More details at: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/safety/safety_en.htm

Energy Days in Europe. The European Union Sustainable Energy Week takes place in Brussels and across Europe between **24 and 28 June 2013** including the weekends before and after.



Food

- **The European Commission has published on 10th June an annual report on EU's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF).** According to the report in 2012 were almost 50% of notifications related to food and feed rejections at EU borders due to the risk they posed to food safety. Launched in 1979, RASFF is primarily an IT tool to exchange information between national competent authorities on consignments of food and feed in cases where a risk to human health has been identified and measures have been taken. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-13-524_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-524_en.htm)

Public Consultations and Calls for Tenders

- The European Commission has launched a public consultation to gather insights and contributions from the public further to results of the evaluation of the **European Strategy on Safety and Health at Work 2007-2012**. This should help identify current and future challenges in the occupational safety and health area, and identify solutions to address these challenges. All citizens and organisations are welcome to contribute to this consultation, which is **open from 31 May 2013 to 26 August 2013**. Contributions are particularly sought from representatives of Member States' public authorities, organisations representing employees and employers, and stakeholders and experts with an interest in the area of occupational safety and health. For more information please follow this link: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release IP-13-491_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-491_en.htm?locale=en)

Economic Developments in the EU

- **The European Union and United States should aim to create 10 million new jobs by 2020** from a new trade and investment partnership, according to a study published by Brussels think tank New Direction. <http://newdirectionfoundation.org>
- **European Union and Switzerland sign Cooperation Agreement in Competition Matters.** This agreement will strengthen co-operation between their respective competition authorities, the European Commission and the Swiss Competition Commission. This is the fifth such agreement signed by the EU after agreements concluded with the United States, Canada, Japan and Korea. An innovative feature of the agreement with Switzerland is that it will enable the two competition agencies to exchange information they have obtained in their investigations.

Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- **EUROLAB National Members' Meeting**, Vienna, 07-09 October 2013.
 - TCQA meeting, 07 October 2013.
 - EUROLAB Board of Administrators Meeting, 08 October 2013.
 - EUROLAB National Members' Meeting, 08 October 2013.
 - EUROLAB Seminar, 09 October 2013 (tbc).
- **EUROLAB Board of Administrators Meeting**, Brussels, 26—27 November 2013.
- **Joint CEOC—EUROLAB Safety Seminar**, Brussels, 27 November 2013.
- **EUROLAB Board of Administrators Meeting**, Brussels, 04-05 February 2014.

Reports

- **EUROLAB president Jiří Sobola participated in the ILAC PT (Proficiency Testing) and ILAC LC (Laboratory Committee) meetings** held in Cape Town from 17th -20th April 2013.
The ILAC PT group discussed the following issues: Scope of accreditation for PT providers; MRA for PT accreditation; Workshop on PT for ILAC 2014 in Bangkok; Distribution of reference materials; ILAC P9 – participation in PT activities; ILAC P13: Implementation of ISO 17011; ILAC Brochure on PT; and reports from regional organisations.
The ILAC LC discussed the following topics: Added value of MRA; Report from the Executive Meeting; Report PT WG; accreditation committee; BIPM and ILAC; and the revision of ISO 17025.
J. Sobola also participated in the closed and opened session of ILAC LC. During the opened session ILAC P10 as well as the reports from Eurachem, NCSLI and NATA were discussed.
For further information please see the full report in the EUROLAB National Members' Area.
- **EUROLAB president Jiří Sobola participated in the ILAC IC (Inspection Committee) and ILAC ARC (Arrangement Committee) meetings** held in Frankfurt from 30th April to 01st May 2013.
ILAC IC:
 - Report from the ILAC Accreditation Issues Committee: update of ISO/ IEC 17025 to include ISO 9001; revision of ILAC P9 in 2013; ILAC G19: Guidelines for forensic laboratories: the document will provide guidance when ISO/ IEC 17020 and ISO/ IEC 17025 overlap in crime investigations.
 - Reports from the following regional organisations were presented: EA, APLAC, SADCO.
 - Reports from stakeholders: CEOC International and IFIA raised some concerns with regards to ILAC's involvement in inspection. EUROLAB was invited to participate actively in the ILAC IC work.
 - The following other issues were discussed: report on the work of WG1 on the harmonised implementation of ISO/ IEC 17020; definition of inspection scope; frequency of internal audits and on site observations; mandatory documentation according to ISO/ IEC 17020; communiqué to ISO 9001; questions officially sent to ILAC IC; overlapping between ISO/IEC 17020 and ISO/ IEC 17025.**ILAC ARC:**
 - Reports were presented by EA, APLCA, IAAC, SADAC, AFRAC and ARAC.
 - Review of ISO CASCO standards: ISO/ IEC 17050, ISO/ IEC 17000, ISO/ IEC 17011 and ISO/ IEC 17025 will be revised.
 - Maintenance of ILAC P4 and P5: revision of these documents is pertinent due to the necessity to include inspection issues and because references to the dates of standards are mentioned, which might cause confusion.
 - Reports from the workings groups on revision of ILAC P11; review of ILAC R6; maintenance of ILAC G21; review of ILAC P8 – use of accreditation logo; and PT providers and RM providers.
 - For further information please see the full report in the EUROLAB National Members' Area.
- **EUROLAB president Jiří Sobola participated in the CEOC International General Assembly and Annual Conference in London, 11th – 14th May 2013.** Among the conference speakers were Mr Hans Ingels (Head of Unit Internal Market and its International Dimension, DG Enterprise and Industry), Mr Derek Cornwell (Insurance and broking statutory inspections, AON Inspection Company), Mrs Anne-Marie Warris (Ecoreflect), Mr James Smith (Chairman of the Carbon Trust) and Llal Ilan (chairman of the ILAC Inspection Committee). For further information please see the full report in the EUROLAB National Members' Area.
- **EUROLAB representative José Luis Sánchez participated in the CAB College and EAAB meetings in Brussels** on 17th and 18th April 2013. The main topics during these meetings were the update of a document regarding the stakeholders expectations towards accreditation; EAAB's strategic input in identifying areas to be focussed by EA in light of renewed FPA for 2014-2017; Reports from the EAAB MAC and EAAB HHC observers; Relations with

stakeholders - New applications for Recognised Stakeholder status; New EA projects and work items; Establishment of European ABs competing with the NABs: formal opinion from the EC legal service; and the outcome of ballot on ILAC P10. For further information please see the full report in the EUROLAB National Members' Area.

- **EUROLAB president Jiří Sobola participated in the EA General Assembly in Paris, 29th – 30th May 2013.** Reports from various EA committees were presented – HHC, EA LC, EA IC, EA CC and MAC and CPC report. Moreover there has been announced a new COFRAC General Director, Mr Bernard. New EA stakeholders are EDQM (European Directorate for Quality in Medicine), EFNDT, FAM-QS. The next General Assembly will take place on 20th - 21st November in Oslo.

Resolutions:

- All referenced documents must be available along with resolution regardless their level.
- Document 2/17 will be revised taking into account EAAB document.
- EA 1/22 - sectoral schemes - will be revised.
- ILAC P10 was approved. CEOC proposed explanation of LC committee to be referenced but it was refused noting that CEOC position will be minuted.
- EA will not support revision of ISO 17011 and ABs should instruct standardisation bodies to promote EA position. Eurolab should make position to this issue.

For further information please see the full report in the EUROLAB National Members' Area.

- **EUROLAB president Jiří Sobola participated in the Eurachem General Assembly in Helsinki, 23th May 2013.** Eurachem presented its strategic plan 2013-2017 where the key mission is to promote the best practices in testing and measurement wherever the chemistry is used. National members presented their reports and finally it has been decided that the next General Assembly will take place in Lisbon. For further information please see the full report in the EUROLAB National Members' Area.

Upcoming Events

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| • EA Laboratory Committee meeting in Brussels, 18-19 September 2013. | • 16 – 25 October 2013. |
| • EA Horizontal Harmonization Committee meeting in Brussels, 24-25 September 2013. | • CAB College meeting in Brussels, 29 November 2013. |
| • EA Certification Committee meeting in Madrid, 01-02 October. | • EAAB meeting in Brussels, 30 November 2013. |
| • EA Inspection Committee meeting in Madrid, 03 October 2013. | • EA General Assembly in Oslo, Norway, 20-22 November. |
| • IAF – ILAC meetings in Incheon (South Korea), | • EA Laboratory Committee meeting in Malta, 12-13 March 2013. |

Recruitment and Personnel Matters

- **Helene Jones has been named general manager of one of the country's leading corrosion testing facilities, operated by global group Exova.** Ms Jones joins Exova to lead the group's two Dudley facilities – including the mechanical testing laboratory, and the new £3m Exova Corrosion Centre currently in development – from a role within Eurofins Environmental Testing..
- **Tim Robinson joined LGC in 2013 as Chief Executive.** He was previously Chief Executive of Talaris (ex De La Rue), the global leader in technology-based solutions for cash management. Mr Robinson has followed an international career in the technology and services sectors, spanning Engineering, Marketing and Corporate Leadership. Following a decade with IBM in Asia and Europe where he finished as a Director of IBM UK, He joined Silicon Graphics (SGI) as European Marketing Director, before becoming Managing Director of SGI in the UK & Ireland. After his appointment as Chief Executive of DSC Group, he led the company into the FTSE250 and was subsequently appointed Senior Vice President of the global Civil Security Division of Thales, based in Paris. Mr Robinson was then appointed CEO for Xafinity, the privatised Office of the Paymaster General. He has also been a non-executive Board Member of UK Trade & Investment, a Member of the Association of Oxfam, serving on their Audit Committee, and a non-executive Director of Camelot Group.