

## October-December 2015



### Foreword

Dear EUROLAB members,

Please find below the fourth EUROLAB newsbriefing of 2015 with information regarding the actions carried out by EUROLAB, and relevant developments to the Laboratory Community.

The year of 2015 now ending will be remembered as a special year for EUROLAB due to the celebration of its 25th anniversary, celebrated at the General Assembly held in Copenhagen and, more recently, at the National Members Meeting held in Istanbul. In both cases, we had the contribution of fine thoughts of many distinguished EUROLAB Past-Presidents, Members and Friends who shared their experience and participated in a joint reflection on the past, present and future of the Laboratory Community.

EUROLAB regular activity was also quite relevant, increasing its level of cooperation with the various international Organizations partners, helping to promote effectively the laboratory activity in Europe and voicing the opinion of laboratories regarding economic, political and technical issues. This major task had the involvement of many Colleagues experts in different fields of activity, from different national associations, in several international Committees, being today one of EUROLAB's greatest values, enabling to promote EUROLAB opinion in broad discussions of some of the fundamental aspects of interest to the laboratory activity, highlighting in this context the revision of ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

The year of 2016 is expected to have an increase of involvement anticipated by the review of important documents in the European and international normative and legal framework, requiring a high level of competence of our Colleagues who voluntarily represent and promote the understanding of European laboratories in various committees. Expectations are also very high on the agreement between Europe and the United States (TTIP), considering that it will have a high impact on the competitiveness of the Associate members of EUROLAB.

Having started a new presidential cycle in EUROLAB in 2015, there is a natural dynamic adjustment of its internal organization, based not only on some new ideas but, above all, the need for EUROLAB to increase its flexibility in order to face the challenges of a changing world, having a reality that is itself increasingly changeable. For 2016 our commitment remains to enhance and consolidate the work done by our predecessors and to develop the capacity of EUROLAB in highlighting the role of laboratory activity in the world.

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

Yours Sincerely,

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro

EUROLAB President

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## Focus of the Month

### The European Commission presents its 2016 Work Programme

On 27 October 2015 the European Commission adopted its Work Programme for 2016 setting out the key actions that it intends to take over the next twelve months. The Commission's 'to do list' consists of a political [Communication](#) and six annexes.

- ◆ [Annex I](#) presents the **23 new initiatives**, which the Commission commits to **adopting** in 2016. The Commission will publish Roadmaps for each of them, giving further details on timing. This Annex I also lists **13 REFIT actions directly related to these key initiatives to review the quality of existing legislation**.
- ◆ [Annex II](#) lists **27 new REFIT actions, which will be launched in 2016 to evaluate existing legislation** to ensure it remains fit-for-purpose and delivers the results intended.
- ◆ [Annex III](#) identifies **17 priority pending Commission proposals**, which according to the Commission, merit **speedy adoption** by the EP and the Council.
- ◆ [Annex IV](#) identifies **20 pending Commission proposals**, which the Commission intends to **withdraw or modify in 2016** because they are no longer relevant, have been blocked or no longer meet the necessary level of ambition. The Commission will await the views of the EP and the Council on these proposals before confirming the withdrawals. The Commission intends to withdraw the proposals by April 2016.
- ◆ [Annex V](#) lists **28 existing pieces of legislation**, which the Commission proposes to **repeal** because they are no longer relevant.
- ◆ [Annex VI](#) lists **new EU legislation** that becomes **applicable** in 2016.

The second annual Work Programme of the Juncker Commission maintains the focus on the ten political priorities of its [Political Guidelines](#), committing to deliver on them in 2016.

For more information please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/noyxbom>

### The European Commission presents its Single Market Strategy

On 28th October 2015 the European Commission presented its [Single Market Strategy](#). This strategy focuses on services and product markets. It complements the Commission's efforts to boost investment, improve competitiveness and access to finance, ensure a well-functioning internal market for energy, reap the opportunities of the digital single market, promote and facilitate labour mobility whilst preventing abuse of the rules.

Initiatives relevant for the TIC sector include:

- ◆ Review of regulation (EC) No 764/2008 on mutual recognition
- ◆ Strengthening the Single Market for goods
- ◆ Strengthening market surveillance
- ◆ Modernising the standards system
- ◆ Possible introduction of an eCompliance system

For further information please visit:

Commission staff working document: <http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/13405?locale=en>

MEMO: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-15-5910\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-5910_en.htm)

## National Members' News #



### **BELAB News**

#### **BELAB-EURACHEM Workshop 'Method Validation in Analytical Science', Gent, 9-10 May 2016**

The workshop “**Method Validation in Analytical Science**”, organised by BELAB in cooperation with EURACHEM, will take place in Gent, on 9th and 10th May 2016, at NH Hotel Belfort.

The workshop will address current practices, problems and future directions of method validation. The focus is on in-house method validation in analytical science applied in different fields such as environment, food, health, forensics, pharmaceuticals and microbiology.

In addition to the presentations, participants will be given ample opportunity to discuss these subjects in detail and exchange experiences in a number of working group sessions.

For further information regarding the programme and registration please access the workshop website: [www.belab-eurachem2016.com](http://www.belab-eurachem2016.com)

**Organising committee**  
Isabelle Verrecasse - Sarah De Sanger -  
Marine De Boever - Johanna Levenage -  
Philippe Desreux - Philippe Hoesen -  
Sabine Garre - Cécile Ghys - Hilde Driessle -  
Ariette Delville - Pascale Lavigne

**Scientific committee**  
Michi Barwick (DK) - Steve Ellison (DK)  
Elin Gørgensen (Norway) - Emanuela Geronzi (Italy)  
Ralf Hoyer (Germany) - Thomas Müller  
(France) - Maria Chiriac (France)  
Marina Patrinoia (Italy) - Prof. Rolf Hübner (EU)  
Lorenz Sjöström (Germany) - Tatyana Verrecasse  
(Belgium) - Arslan Yılmaz (Turkey)

**Goals**  
The workshop will address current practices, problems and future directions of method validation. The focus is on in-house method validation in analytical science applied in different fields such as environment, food, health, forensics, pharmaceuticals and microbiology. In addition to the presentations, participants will be given ample opportunity to discuss these subjects in detail and exchange experiences in a number of working group sessions.  
The workshop will be of interest to anyone concerned with establishing the fitness for purpose of results, especially laboratory staff and managers, technical assessors, quality managers, accreditation bodies and the customers of laboratories.  
Eurachem is a network of organisations in Europe having the objective of establishing a system for the international traceability of chemical measurement and the promotion of good quality practices.  
[www.eurachem.org](http://www.eurachem.org)

**Eurachem**  
A focus for analytical chemistry in Europe  
Workshop  
in connection with Eurachem  
General Assembly 2016  
**Method Validation  
in  
Analytical Science**  
Current Practices  
and Future Challenges  
GENT, Belgium  
NH Hotel Belfort  
9-10<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
Second Circular  
belab

**Hotel accommodation near Workshop venue**  
• NH Gent Belfort  
Hoopstraat 63 - 9000 Gent  
Tel +32 9 238 30 00  
• NOVOTEL Gent Centrum  
Gouwerwaeghe 3 - 9000 Gent  
Tel +32 9 224 22 00  
• IBS Gent Centrum Kathedral  
Lomburgstraat 2 - 9000 Gent  
Tel +32 9 233 60 00  
• IBS Gent Centrum Opera  
Hendriksstraat 24/26 - 9000 Gent  
Tel +32 9 233 60 00

Gent is a compact, authentic city where the past and present co-exist in perfect balance. Walking through the city is like travelling through time: you find the corner and just like that, you go from the fourteenth century to the twentieth.  
In Gent you find the strong heart of a cultural city filled with music, theatre, film and visual arts.  
The city is spectacular during the day, but at night it comes to life all again. The beautiful architecture and monuments in the city centre create a magical atmosphere. Gent received three Michelin stars for its lighting plan.

### **BMTA News**



#### **Medical Laboratory Accreditation Workshop, Nottingham, 18 February 2016**

In 2016 BMTA is hosting their 5th workshop for medical laboratories seeking UKAS accreditation. This event will take the same format as in previous years, with presentation and workshops focused on Traceability, Verification and Validation, and Measurement Uncertainty.

The day will open with a presentation providing first-hand experience of the move from CPA to ISO 15189:2012. After this we will split delegates into groups to attend workshops covering the issues that laboratories need to address to obtain accredited status. These workshops are preceded by an introductory talk on the subject, and then run by our expert speakers which will include two representative from UKAS. The programme will also benefit those whose laboratories are already accredited.

**Event Cost: Members £100 +VAT Non Members £200 +VAT**

**Book before Christmas 2015 and receive 20% off the above prices!**

More information available at <http://www.bmta.co.uk/news-events/39-medical-accreditation.html>

**EUROLAB Denmark News**

**eurolab Danmark**  
Forening af laboratorier i Danmark



As one of the first national Eurolab organizations, EUROLAB Denmark took form the same year as EUROLAB a.i.s.b.l. was established.

So we have also celebrated our 25th Anniversary this year. It was marked at our Autumn Members Meeting on November 25, where "25" was the focal point, as a discussion of the revised ISO/IEC 17025 was the main theme at the meeting.

**EUROLAB Germany News**

**eurolab-Deutschland**  
Chemische Analytik; Mess- und Prüftechnik e.V.

EUROLAB-Deutschland has three permanent committees which meet twice a year and act as mirror groups of Eurachem and the Technical Committees of EUROLAB aisbl. Besides these committees there are two working groups.

The first one on measurement uncertainty in microbiology has been established about 10 years ago as the result of a workshop of EUROLAB-D on measurement uncertainty. During this workshop a need for support of microbiology laboratories was identified concerning the estimation of uncertainty of microbiological analyses e.g. of water, food and pharmaceuticals. In the following years the participants of the working group organized some interlaboratory comparisons on E. Coli, clostridia and staphylococci. The results were used to derive information on the uncertainty connected with such types of analyses. A paper was published in the Journal of Applied Microbiology on "An approach to integrated data assessment in a proficiency test on the enumeration of E. Coli". Besides the members collected a lot of relevant scientific literature in this field. The last activity was drafting a paper on duplicate determination in microbiology. During the 17th meeting the participants decided that they had completed their work programme. Thus the working group will be disbanded now after a successful working period providing important stimulus to its members.

The other working group deals with sensory testing. It is a joint activity with DGSens, the German society for sensory testing. Among others the group developed test methods for consumer goods which are in contact with food, e.g. for

- vacuum jugs,
- spatula,
- napkins,
- refrigerators.

These test methods will now be submitted to the parent organisations for final approval and publication on the respective websites. Additional test methods are under development.

EUROLAB-D's committees will meet on 21 and 22 January 2016. One day will be used for an in-depth discussion on the revision of the standards ISO/IEC 17011 and in particular of ISO/IEC 17025. EUROLAB-D's Board of Administrators will meet on 22 January 2016, mainly for a strategic discussion on the future development of the association.

**EUROLAB France News**

**eurolab**  
France

Eurolab France held on November 3, 2015 a technical day that allowed to share with the French laboratories the three topics :

- The evolution of ISO 17-025: On this matter we agreed with COFRAC to share representation in CASCO. The technical day allowed us to inform laboratories on future developments;
- The main causes of non-compliance during accreditation audits with a presentation by COFRAC and debate with laboratories on topics chosen by our quality working group;
- The current developments of GUM (global reference in metrology) by the French representative on the world working group.

The satisfaction survey showed that small laboratories had enjoyed the density of exchange between the floor and the room and the fact that examples of small structures have been addressed.

News **MAKLAB**

## MACEDONIAN ASSOCIATION OF LABORATORIES AND INSPECTION BODIES



The Macedonian Association of laboratories and inspection bodies MAKLAB has organized the Second International Conference "QUALITY AND COMPETENCE 2015".

The Conference was held in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia from 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> of September and was attended by 120 participants from Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Turkey and Russia.



The following topics were discussed:

- ♦ **Role and importance of accreditation**
- ♦ **European guidelines for quality assurance and implementation of the guidelines in the Macedonian legislative**
- ♦ **Experiences of quality systems implementation**
- ♦ **Role of laboratories in testing of food quality and safety**
- ♦ **Testing and control of the environment quality and working places conditions**

During the conference working sessions, 35 papers were presented.

Information about the conference is available at [www.maklab.org.mk](http://www.maklab.org.mk).

## **News TURKLAB**

### **EUROLAB Members' Visit to the Dolmabahçe Palace in Istanbul**

On the 6th of October, 2015, 40 persons delegation of EUROLAB members visited the Dolmabahçe Palace. The Palace visit consisted of a full tour with a guide.



### **EUROLAB TCQA Meeting**

The EUROLAB TCQA Meeting took place on the 6th of October, 2015, at Point Hotel, Istanbul. The representatives of TURKLAB, President Dr. Ömer Güzel and Board Member Neşe Güneş, were present at the EUROLAB National Members' Meeting.



### **EUROLAB Board Meeting**

The EUROLAB Board Meeting took place on the 7th of October, 2015, at Point Hotel, Istanbul. The President of TURKLAB, Dr. Ömer Güzel, was present at the Board meeting.



## EUROLAB "Transnational" Meeting

The EUROLAB Transnational "NM Meeting" took place on the 7th of October, 2015, at Point Hotel, Istanbul. President of TURKLAB, Dr. Ömer Güzel, was present at the meeting.



## TURKLAB-EUROLAB 2015 Istanbul Conference

The **TURKLAB-EUROLAB ISTANBUL 2015** conference took place on the 8th of October, 2015, at Point Hotel - Barbaros.

The conference started with speeches by the President of TURKLAB, Dr. Ömer Güzel, the EUROLAB Board President Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, TSE Secretary General Mehmet Bozdemir, TURKAK Secretary General Halil İbrahim Çetin, and the Director of Istanbul Directorate of Provincial Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Hamit Aygül.

**In the 1st Session of the Conference:** Presentations were given by, respectively, the President and Chief Executive of BMTA, Dr. Jeffrey Llewellyn, on Economic Benefits of Accreditation, Secretary General of CEOC, Drewin Nieuwenhuis, on Market Surveillance and the significance of product quality assurance testing between the EU and the USA in accordance with the Free Trade Agreements, and Board President of EUROLAB, Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, on the significance of Eurolab in its 25th year of commemoration.

**In the 2nd Session of the Conference:** Presentations were given by, respectively, the Food Control Department Head at Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Dr. Neslihan Alper, on Market Surveillance in Food Analyses and General Evaluations regarding Auditing; Virology Department Head of the Istanbul University Veterinary Faculty, Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Yılmaz, on important viruses that contaminate food: Determination Methods, Prevention and Control Strategies; Director of the Biogenetics and Food Laboratory at the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE), Meriç Karacan, on Halal Food Certifications.

**In the 3rd Session of the Conference:** Presentations were given by, respectively, the Laboratory Accreditation Department Head of the Turkish Accreditation Agency Soner Karataş on the ISO/IEC 17025 Standard and the consideration to revise EA 2/17; A representative of EUROLAB Germany, Andreas Kinzel, on the Harmonization of the Accreditation Inspection Procedures; Environment Reference Laboratory Department Head of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Soner Olgun, on Developments and Procedures for Laboratories in the Environment Analysis Sector; Occupational Health and Safety Engineer of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Kağan Yücel, on ISG Laboratory Registration Procedures under Public Authority.



The conference concluded with closing speeches by the President of TURKLAB, Dr. Ömer Güzel, and the President of EUROLAB, Álvaro Silva Ribeiro.



## TURKAK II. Advisory Committee Meeting

The 2nd annual Turkish Accreditation Agency Advisory Committee Meeting took place on the 19th of October, 2015, at the Bilkent Hotel, Ankara. The President of our institution, Dr. Ömer GÜZEL, and Board Member, Neşe GÜNEŞ, were present at the Turkish Accreditation Agency Advisory Committee Meeting. The meeting was led by the Committee's President, Ahmet YÜCEL.

The TURKAK Secretary General, Dr. Halil İbrahim ÇETİN, conducted presentations on the 2015 January-October Annual Report, the 2016 Work Program, and lastly, the recommendations discussed regarding these matters in the previous Advisory Committee Meeting.



## Analysis and Occupational Hygiene Laboratory Standardization TAIEX Workshop

TURKLAB Representative, Aysun Yılmaz, attended the workshop on 12-13 November, 2015, in Ankara. Yılmaz conducted a presentation at the workshop on "Experience Communication Between Laboratories - Comparison Tests of International Laboratories and their Qualifications".



## November 20-21, 2015 "Analytical Method Validation" Training Course

The TURKLAB Academy successfully concluded the "Analytical Method Validation" training course on 20-21 November, 2015.





## Accreditation

- The following documents have been posted in the Publications area of the IAF website, in response to a recent request that superseded documents remain available until such time as the transition periods for the new documents have expired. **IAF MD 5:2013 IAF Mandatory Document for Duration of QMS and EMS Audits**, **IAF MD 8:2011 IAF Mandatory Document for the Application of ISO/IEC 17011 in Medical Device Quality Management Systems (ISO 13485)**, **IAF MD 9:2011 IAF Mandatory Document for the Application of ISO/IEC 17021 in Medical Device Quality Management Systems (ISO 13485)**, **IAF MD 16:2014 Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the Accreditation of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies**, **IAF MD 17:2015 Witnessing Activities for the Accreditation of Management Systems Certification Bodies**, **IAF/ILAC A1:07/2010 IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group**, **IAF/ILAC A2:01/2013 IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body)**
- The **AfN Project team (PT)** has completed preparing recommendations for the preferred harmonised standard for the next batch of directives/regulations (five directives and regulations) and the recommendation have been circulated for comments.
- The result of the **30-Day Ballot - IAF Informative Document - Principles on Remote Assessment** has been published. **Members voted in favour of the revision.**
- The IAF Executive Committee (EC) has submitted the **revised IAF Policy Document titled "Bylaws of the International Accreditation Forum, Inc."** to all Members for a 30-day voting period. The proposed changes to Issue 6 of PL2 are primarily meant to clarify the membership status of the Regions within IAF. The proposed application date for this Policy Document is immediate.
- A revised version of **IAF PR4: 2015 - Structure of the IAF MLA and List of IAF Endorsed Normative Documents (Issue 7)** is now available on the IAF website under Publications, Procedural documents.
- EA has launched the project **"EA Strategy 2025"**. The established TFG, led by Peter Strömbäck (SWEDAC), started its work. It is planned to have a specific strategy session at the next EA GA in Budapest in regard to the EA Strategy 2025. In order to involve all members and stakeholders and to get their input different groupwork are envisaged for the strategy session.
- The IAF Technical Committee has submitted the revised **IAF Mandatory Document titled "Accreditation Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies with Activities in Multiple Countries"** to all IAF Voting Members for a 30-day voting period. The proposed changes to Issue 1 of MD12 are primarily meant to remove reference to cross-frontier accreditation in order to reduce legal risk to members.
- The following documents have recently been revised and are now available on the IAF website: **1. IAF Representatives, Liaisons, and Contacts List**; **2. IAF PL 2:2015 Bylaws of the International Accreditation Forum Inc.**; **3. IAF-ILAC-IEC Memorandum of Understanding**; **4. IAF Public Document Responsibility.**
- The **Draft 2 of the Principles to Be Achieved with an IAF Database of Accredited MS Certifications** has opened for a ballot period. If the ballot is successful, a detailed business case will be developed in support of the implementation of the database.

## Standardisation

- The finalized **ISO Strategy 2016 – 2020** has been published. It can be downloaded from the ISO website ([http://www.iso.org/iso/iso\\_strategy\\_2016-2020\\_en\\_-\\_lr.pdf](http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_strategy_2016-2020_en_-_lr.pdf)).
- The ballot on **ISO/IEC CD 17011, Conformity assessment -- General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies** that closed on 2015-10-08 was approved with 82% of positive votes from CASCO members.. The working group 42 will hold its fourth meeting from 8-10 December 2015, at the ISO Central Secretariat premises in Geneva, Switzerland to address the comments submitted during the CD ballot.
- The ballot on **ISO/DIS 17034 General requirements for the competence of reference material producers** is open.
- The **Form 8A: Committee decision for DIS concerning the ballot on ISO/DIS 17034 General requirements for the competence of reference material producers** has been distributed among members.
- **Nelson Al Assal Filho (ABNT)** has been re-elected as chairman of ISolutions (73%) and Sjoerd Feenstra (NEN) has been elected as co-chairman (24%) as of 01 November 2015.
- CASCO has launched a three-month **New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) ballot on ISO/IEC 17021-9, Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems**
- **Part 9: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of anti-bribery management systems.** The ballot closes on 9 February 2016.
- The CASCO WG21 that developed **ISO/IEC 17021-1 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 1: Requirements** has integrated all the requirements of ISO/IEC 17022 into ISO/IEC 17021-1. The committee internal ballot on the CASCO WG21 recommendation to withdraw ISO/IEC TS 17022 closed on 2015.11.08. Members voted in favour of the withdrawal.
- In the light of the recent publication of ISO 17021-1:2015 and ISO 14001:2015, TC 207 took a resolution at its September meeting to request CASCO to initiate a **revision of ISO/IEC TS 17021-2:2012, Conformity Assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems Part 2: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of environmental management systems.** CASCO will start the revision of ISO/IEC TS 17021-2 in a joint working group (JWG) with TC 207. CASCO members and organizations in liaison have been invited to nominate experts with suitable expertise for this JWG by December 13th 2015. The first meeting of the JWG will take place from 10-12 February 2016, at the ISO Central Secretariat premises

in Geneva.

- The ballot concerning the disbandment of **ISO/TC 135 WG 3 “Harmonization of personnel certification standards – Study of EN 473:2008 and ISO 9712:2005”** has opened.
- The **ISO/TC 300 on Solid recovered fuels** has been created as Active on the technical entities Global Directory of ISO.
- The ballot on **CD1 ISO/IEC 17025 - General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories** and **Question on ISO/IEC 17025 and sampling** has closed. The detailed results have been distributed among the EUROLAB members.
- In the CEN/CLC/TC 1 meeting of September 2015, it was agreed that a broader range of technical experts is needed in resolving the conformity assessment queries submitted to CEN/CLC/TC 1 by other CEN/CLC committees. More resources would mean better responses, more visibility and more awareness. Member bodies have been invited to **nominate experts to participate in resolving conformity assessment queries submitted to CEN/CLC/TC 1 by other CEN/CLC committees.**
- The **revision of PAS 1008:2014, Specification for the performance and testing of a single-use flexitank** has started. A PAS is a sponsored, fast-track informal standardization document that is developed through a consensus-building process facilitated by BSI Standards Limited. The development of PAS 1008 has been sponsored by the Container Owners Association (COA). Members have been invited to comment on the draft.

### *Business news*

- **Bruker’s NMR FoodScreener lab given ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.** Bruker’s NMR FoodScreener laboratory for food authenticity and quality determination has been granted ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation. <http://www.foodqualitynews.com/Lab-Technology/ISO-IEC-17025-accreditation-for-Bruker-lab>
- **Bureau Veritas will class the series of innovative Arctic-capable LNG carriers** which will be built in Korea’s DSME yard to service the Yamal LNG project in Russia’s high Arctic.
- **Bureau Veritas’ LCIE China has entered into a strategic partnership with ZheJiang FangYuan Electrical Equipment Testing Co., Ltd (“Zhejiang Fangyuan”)** to provide solutions for China Compulsory Certification (CCC) for low-voltage switchgear and controlgear (IEC 60947 series) with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- **Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services has announced its Electrical & Electronics laboratory in India has obtained BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS) approval for electrical & electronic products testing.**
- **The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) has granted CIBSE Certification accreditation to certify Energy Management Systems against ISO 50001.** This means that the company has the necessary accreditation to certify organisations aiming to use ISO 50001 Certification to meet the requirements of the ESOS Regulations, CIBSE explains. [http://www.house-builder.co.uk/issues/index.php?page=article&id=7962&magazine\\_section=2&orig=default](http://www.house-builder.co.uk/issues/index.php?page=article&id=7962&magazine_section=2&orig=default)
- **DEKRA has officially opened the new offices of its branch in Munich.** The Group has brought together multiple business units under one roof at the Munich DEKRA House.
- **DNV GL, in collaboration with Decom North Sea (DNS), is seeking industry partners to participate in a joint industry project (JIP).** The project will develop industry guidance to assist in effective and cost-efficient major accident hazard management for installations during late-life and end of life operations. It will also facilitate Safety Case compliance through cessation of production, well plug and abandonment, decommissioning, dismantlement and removal.
- **DNV GL is conducting the oil and gas industry’s largest ever controlled release of carbon dioxide from an underwater pipeline at its full-scale Spadeadam Testing and Research Centre, located in Cumbria, UK.** This is being done in order to fully understand the environmental and safety implications associated with the development of CO2 pipelines.
- **The amount of climate gases emitted per produced unit in the oil and gas production is increasing, despite efforts over many years to make it more efficient.** DNV GL is now leading a common industry project on behalf of the Norwegian Oil and Gas Association that aims to enhance energy management, energy efficiency and the exchange of experience and expertise between companies even further.
- **Eurofins invests in MALDI-TOF to provide same day results.** Eurofins Food Testing UK has invested in a method for micro-organism identification which will enable clients to have same-day confirmation of results for pathogens. <http://www.foodqualitynews.com/Lab-Technology/Eurofins-adopts-method-for-micro-organism-identification>
- **The newly constructed high-pressure calibration facility at FORCE Technology is built as a closed loop with low pressure loss, and it is the only one of its kind in the world.** Its design facilitates calibration of gas meters at maximum flow and maximum pressure all year round, irrespective of the season.
- **Intertek has launched the expanded GLP Bioanalytical Centre of Excellence in San Diego, California, USA** to deliver world-class bioanalysis services to clients around the globe.

- **LGC acquires Maine Standards Company.** Life sciences and measurement firm LGC has acquired **Maine Standards Company, which provides calibration verification materials for clinical laboratories in the US.** The acquisition bolsters LGC's growing portfolio of reference materials and proficiency testing (PT) schemes for the clinical market.
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- **Lloyd's Register Energy has signed a co-operation framework agreement with Nuclear Power Institute of China.** This new Framework Agreement is a powerful alliance to support the safe development of floating nuclear power generation.
- **LR has released a new study revealing the need for greater collaboration, data analysis and cultural change to address the innovation challenges in oil and gas.** The Technology Radar 2015 report combines in-depth interviews with senior industry figures and a survey of more than 450 oil and gas industry professionals from across the global industry.
- **North Somerset Council's highways material testing was praised for the work it does by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).** [http://www.northsomersettimes.co.uk/news/business/laboratory\\_wins\\_praise\\_with\\_accreditation\\_tag\\_1\\_4301002](http://www.northsomersettimes.co.uk/news/business/laboratory_wins_praise_with_accreditation_tag_1_4301002)
- **The laboratory plays an important role in ensuring the materials used to build roads in North Somerset are both safe and durable.**
- **SGS has announced a partnership with H&M to deliver a Hazardous Substance Control (HSC) Workshop to their suppliers.** This is a pioneering workshop developed by SGS to train personnel and professionals to advance the industry's knowledge and best practices in chemical management. This is to support H&M and their supply chain to move one step towards achieving their zero discharge goal by 2020.
- **SGS Life Science Services has announced that it has installed and validated instrumentation which uses frequency modulation spectroscopy (FMS) for headspace oxygen analysis of biopharmaceutical container closure systems,** as well as imaged capillary isoelectric focusing (icIEF) for analysis of charge distribution and heterogeneity in biopharmaceuticals, at its facility in Mississauga, Canada.
- **TÜV SÜD is adding a new service scope of Leather and Footwear Physical Testing to its existing**
- **Softlines Testing Laboratory in Ho-Chi-Minh City in Vietnam.** With that new service TÜV SÜD strengthens its support for global customers and manufacturers to optimize their global supply chain and to meet their ever evolving product safety requirement.
- **TÜV SÜD is providing support and assistance with the approval and placing into service of the Talgo Moscow-Berlin Hotel Train.** The testing required for approval is being coordinated by TÜV SÜD Rail GmbH at its locations at Görlitz and Halle (Saale), Germany, and span braking technology, running characteristics, aerodynamics, acoustics and electromagnetic compatibility (EMC).
- **TÜV SÜD and Wearable Technologies Group AG (WT AG) have developed a programme for the testing of smart watches and activity trackers. Products identified with this new TÜV SÜD certification mark have been tested for all relevant quality criteria.** Before the certification mark can be affixed, products are tested for mechanical, technical and chemical safety and for certain aspects of usability according to defined and established criteria.
- **UL has opened a printed wiring board (PWB) performance testing lab in Taipei.** Incorporating the widely tested **UL746 and UL796 safety certification,** the lab will benefit local PWB businesses across the downstream and upstream sectors by providing a full suite of product performance testing and authentication services.
- **UL has announced partnerships with Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health to study the impact of 3D printing on indoor air quality.** The research is designed to scientifically characterize chemical and particle emissions of 3D printing technologies and to evaluate their potential impact on human health.
- **UL has announced the official opening of the newest UL combustion performance testing facility for appliances and equipment in Newton, IA.** This laboratory complements UL's existing service portfolio with a custom-designed energy efficiency and performance testing facility.
- **Intertek, has launched an expert Campylobacter testing facility for all poultry processors and manufacturers,** to support the supermarket industry and help reduce the more than 280,000 suspected cases of Campylobacter food poisoning in the UK, every year.

## Business Results

### ⇒ EUROFINS Q3 2015

- Revenues grew 36.5% in Q3 2015 to EUR 505m, bringing revenues in the first nine months of 2015 (NM 2015) to EUR 1,347m, a 32.9% increase compared NM 2014 (25.4% at constant currency exchange rates).
- Organic growth\* in Q3 2015 was 8%, above the Group objective of 5%. For NM 2015, organic growth stood at 6.5%.
- Year to date, Eurofins has completed 17 acquisitions for a total annualised revenues of EUR 570m1.
- Eurofins is raising its objective for full year 2015 reported revenues to EUR 1.9bn, from the recently-upgraded objective of EUR 1.8bn.

## Policy news

### Chemicals

- **Under the REACH Regulation companies manufacturing or importing the same substance need to work together to prepare their registration.** ECHA advises companies preparing for the 2018 registration deadline to find their co-registrants and establish substance sameness early enough. Step-by-step instructions are now available on ECHA's [website](http://tinyurl.com/pvexp9h). <http://tinyurl.com/pvexp9h>
- **The Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement has decided on two new pilot projects – in 2016, a pilot project will focus on internet sales of chemicals; the pilot project for 2017 will focus on enforcing the provisions for substances in articles in REACH.**
- **ECHA has started requesting additional information from registrants who submit new testing proposals for vertebrate animal tests.** This aims to ensure that testing on animals is only done as a last resort and follows the European Ombudsman's recent [decision](http://tinyurl.com/ogcfnzd) about ECHA's role in evaluating testing proposals. <http://tinyurl.com/ogcfnzd>
- **The European Commission and Member States have repealed the Manual of Decisions concerning the old Biocidal Products Directive.** Companies who, on the basis of the manual, considered their product to be excluded from the scope of the biocides legislation can contact their national helpdesk to check whether the status has changed. If the product could now fall under the new Biocidal Products Regulation, companies can submit a declaration of interest to notify to ECHA until 3 October 2016. <http://tinyurl.com/nph7qjk>
- **ECHA has announced that an update of the IT tool used for submitting export and import notifications under the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation had been published.** It includes a change for companies notifying mixtures which contain a substance included in an Annex I group entry. <http://tinyurl.com/q67fjxx>
- **ECHA has published a leaflet informing workers in chemical companies about the upcoming 2018 REACH registration deadline.** Workers are encouraged to check with their employer whether the chemical substances used in the workplace are intended to be registered by 2018. The leaflet has been produced together with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the EU's Information Agency for Occupational Safety and Health (EU-OSHA). It is available in 23 languages. <http://tinyurl.com/opx8w3d>
- **ECHA has made available the presentations from a scientific workshop on soil risk assessment it had hosted together with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).** <http://tinyurl.com/nolto6>

- ECHA has published a [proposal](#) to update the Community rolling action plan (CoRAP) for 2016-2018. The Member States are planning to evaluate 138 substances, out of which 53 are newly selected. The final plan will be adopted in March 2016. <http://tinyurl.com/p6lwt26>

## Consumer Protection

- Commissioner Věra Jourová has addressed MEPs on the consequences of the ECJ ruling invalidating the Commission's Safe Harbour decision at the European Parliament plenary session in Brussels. <http://tinyurl.com/q7nzkf>
- Following the ECJ ruling invalidating the Commission's Safe Harbour decision, the Commission has issued guidance on the possibilities of transatlantic data transfers and has urged the swift establishment of a new framework. <http://tinyurl.com/qj58q23>
- Commissioner Bieńkowska has presented the new Single Market Strategy to the members of the European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO). She informed that 22 targeted actions will be delivered between now and 2018 in order to make the best use of the Single Market. Amongst them guidelines on collaborative economy and regulated professions, new rules on business insolvency, European Pact for start-ups, a new electronic Services Passport, and a modern framework for standards, procurement procedures and intellectual property. The strategy focuses on services and product markets, and complements the Commission's efforts in areas such as digital single market, internal market for energy and labour mobility. IMCO has already decided to respond to the strategy through an own-initiative report.
- Following the consideration of the Council position at first reading on Package travel and linked travel arrangements, the European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) has adopted by 29 votes in favour and 2 against the [draft recommendation](#) for second reading, proposing to approve the [Council position at first reading](#) without amendments. According to the recommendation adopted at the October plenary session in Strasbourg, travellers booking a flight, hotel or rental car as a package online will be given the same degree of legal protection as travel agency customers already enjoy. <http://tinyurl.com/oh92ql6>
- Ministers in the Justice Council have sealed an overall agreement on the EU's Data Protection Directive for the police and criminal justice sector. The agreement means the EU is fully on track to finalise its data protection reform by the end of this year. <http://tinyurl.com/nvqxclo>
- The European Commission has adopted implementing legislation that lays down more detailed technical specifications for the [layout, design and shape of the combined health warnings](#) for tobacco products for smoking, and, the position of the general warning and information message on [roll-your-own tobacco in pouches](#). <http://tinyurl.com/on7nrnk>

## Energy & Environment

- Council has given its green light to the adoption of the first package of rules on real driving emission (RDE) tests to measure pollutants emissions of light vehicles. This first package introduces the concept of RDE procedures with a portable emissions measurement system that will be connected to the vehicles tested. It will apply from 1 January 2016. At this initial stage the system will be used for monitoring purposes. It will therefore not yet have any implications on the approval of new models. <http://tinyurl.com/ngaag5j>
- In the context of the ongoing Volkswagen case, the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) has had an exchange of views with Commission representatives on the state of play on the real driving emissions procedure (RDE). The Commission intends to adopt the new RDE test procedures in 4 packages, under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny (RPS). The first RPS measure was adopted on 19 May by the Technical Committee on Motor vehicles (TCMV) and transmitted to Parliament late in September. A second draft measure, mainly dealing with portable emission measurement systems, is being discussed by the TCMV. It seems that the Commission has recently also put forward a draft proposal addressing the sensitive issue of the conformity factor. Comments from Member States on this proposal are awaited soon and the adoption of the proposal by the committee is expected for end of October.
- MEPs have [debated](#) the Volkswagen exhaust emissions scandal during the plenary session in Strasbourg at the beginning of October. The plenary debate has taken place on the basis of a [parliamentary question](#) from committee chairs Jerzy Buzek, Michael Cramer, Giovanni La Via and Vicky Ford. Their question notes that in view of the importance of protecting citizens, their health and the quality of air, as well as consumer trust and confidence in the standards and type approval mechanism used in Europe, it is essential that information be provided to assess

whether European testing regimes have also been adversely affected by manipulation.

- **At the request of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), Policy Department A has provided a [study](#) analyses the current status and potential of energy storage in the European Union.** It aims at suggesting what market designs and regulatory changes could foster further cost reduction and further deployment of energy storage technologies to provide services supporting the Energy Union strategy.
- **The 13th Energy Community Ministerial Council took place today in Tirana under the Albanian Presidency in office of the Energy Community.** The ministerial council adopted 20% headline target on energy efficiency and trans-European energy infrastructure regulation. This year's Ministerial Council meeting also marked a special occasion which agreed upon an ambitious set of reforms that will strengthen the Energy Community and bring it closer to the EU. <http://tinyurl.com/nzpaxzb>
- **Poland and Lithuania have signed a grant agreement on the GIPL (Gas Interconnector Poland – Lithuania), the first pipeline connecting the two countries.** The gas interconnector will end the long lasting isolation of the Baltic Sea region and bring the energy needed for a new economic dynamism to the region. <http://tinyurl.com/pfqttsh>
- **Miguel Arias Cañete, European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, and Abdelkader Amara, Moroccan Energy Minister, have launched a new Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) platform for cooperation on regional electricity markets.** <http://tinyurl.com/oaevc95>
- **The Technical Committee on Motor Vehicles, a European Commission body where all Members States are represented, has voted on the second package of measures on the regulatory not-to-exceed (NTE) emission limits applicable in RDE testing, which needs to enter into force so that RDE testing has implications on the conformity certificate issued by the national type-approval authority (TAA).** The Commission shall now submit this second package to the Council and to the Parliament for scrutiny. <http://tinyurl.com/zrydpkt>
- **The European Parliament has approved a [resolution](#) condemning strongly any fraud on emission measurements.** Concern is expressed about the delay to act upon the evidence of breaches of emissions limits, while calling for swift redress for the consumers. In parallel to this, the Member States are reflecting on the details of the necessary recall of the affected vehicles produced by Volkswagen. The European Commission and the Member State authorities are also designing a new testing, based on the normal use of the vehicles by a standard driver (Real Driving Emissions test). A portable measurement system (PEMS) attached to the car will measure emissions while it is driven on the road. Threshold values to be respected as a precondition for type-approval will be implemented on a gradual basis. <http://tinyurl.com/q32b5n3>
- **The European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) has adopted its draft report '[Towards a European Energy Union](#)'.** Industry MEPs underlined the need for an integrated energy market with clear targets and secure supplies. <http://tinyurl.com/ng6znfx>
- **At the last Transport, Telecommunications and Energy (TTE) Council, EU Energy Ministers, European Commission Vice-President Maros Sefcovic and European Commissioner for Energy and Climate Action, Miguel Arias Cañete, have adopted [conclusions](#) on the governance system of the Energy Union.** A general approach on the proposal for a regulation setting a framework for energy efficiency labelling has also been reached. The Council held an orientation debate, in public session, on a new energy market design and on a new deal for energy consumers, as part of the follow-up to those two related Commission communications. Legislative proposals on both issues are expected for the second half of 2016. <http://tinyurl.com/jux97kg>
- **Progress has been made on reducing energy consumption in the EU, according to a new [progress report](#) published by the European Commission.** Final energy consumption decreased by 7% between 2005 and 2013. Primary energy consumption decreased by 8% in the same period and early estimates suggest a continuation of the decline in consumption in 2014. <http://tinyurl.com/h4l8vvy>
- **The European Commission has adopted a list of 195 key energy infrastructure projects which will help deliver Europe's energy and climate objectives and form key building blocks of the EU's [Energy Union](#).** The projects – known as Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) – will enable the gradual build-up of the Energy Union by integrating the energy markets in Europe, by diversifying the energy sources and transport routes. <http://tinyurl.com/p6qevvw>
- **The European Commission has published the [State of the Energy Union report](#).** It shows that much progress has been made since the adoption of the Framework Strategy nine months ago. The Commission has committed to present these reports annually in order to address the key issues and steer the policy debate. <http://tinyurl.com/qeltgn4>
- **The International Energy Agency (IEA) has launched its [2015 World Energy Outlook](#).** The report says that there are "clear signs" an energy transition is underway, in particular since renewables powered almost half of the world's new power generation capacity in 2014. Moreover, pledges that have already been submitted in advance of the climate summit are "rich in commitments on renewables and energy efficiency." <http://tinyurl.com/pmetowj>
- **A new online platform [cityinvest.eu](http://cityinvest.eu) has been launched. It supports innovative financing models for energy efficiency renovations in public buildings.**

## Food

- The Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), has adopted its [report](#) regarding the possibility for Member States to restrict or prohibit the use of EU-approved genetically modified food or feed on their territory. Environment Committee MEPs have opposed the EC proposal. Members are concerned that the proposal might prove unworkable and lead to the reintroduction of border controls between pro and anti-GMO countries. The EC proposal was also rejected by the EP at the October plenary session in Strasbourg. According to MEPs, the decision to allow or ban human food and animal feed containing GMOs should only be taken at the EU level in order to avoid excessive border controls within the Union. <http://tinyurl.com/numxzn1>
- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the cancer agency of the World Health Organization, has evaluated the carcinogenicity of the consumption of red meat and processed meat. Experts have classified the consumption of red meat as probably carcinogenic to humans, based on limited evidence that the consumption of red meat causes cancer in humans and strong mechanistic evidence supporting a carcinogenic effect. Processed meat was classified as carcinogenic to humans, based on sufficient evidence in humans that the consumption of processed meat causes colorectal cancer. <http://tinyurl.com/ot5nffq>. The ENVI Committee has also held an exchange of views with IARC, on the determination on the potential risk of carcinogenicity of the consumption of red meat and processed meat.
- The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has announced that it was assessing the results of experiments carried out in Apulia on the susceptibility of grapevine (*Vitis*) to *Xylella fastidiosa* CoDiRO, the strain of *X. fastidiosa* that has been spreading in southern Italy since 2013. <http://tinyurl.com/qc89nn4>
- The EFSA expert Panel on Food Additives (ANS) has delivered a [scientific opinion](#), according to which isoflavones at levels typically found in food supplements do not cause harm to post-menopausal women.
- The Council has adopted the regulation on novel food. The new rules will be applicable in EU countries two years from the date of entry into force of the new Regulation (around end 2017). <http://tinyurl.com/palkfo6>
- The EP's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) has held an exchange of views on a fitness check (initial results of the analysis of gathered information and possible ways forward which the Commission considers in follow-up to this Fitness Check), which covers Regulation (EC) 178/2002 setting up general principles and requirements, and basic objectives of food law, establishing EFSA and providing for the management of emergencies and crisis.
- The European Commission has launched a dedicated IT tool, known as the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (AAC) system to facilitate the exchange of administrative information between national authorities working to combat cross-border violations in Europe. Cross border cooperation helps to improve the capability of national authorities to: detect and prevent cross border breaches of EU food chain rules; and if necessary collect the information that is needed to refer a case for further investigation and to ensure appropriate enforcement action. The system will be used in the first phase by the Food Fraud Network. At a later stage, it will be made available also to the liaison bodies working on cases of Administrative Assistance and Cooperation not related to fraudulent practices. <http://tinyurl.com/naox219>
- EFSA has announced that, together with the EU Member States, it had finalised the re-assessment of glyphosate, a chemical that is used widely in pesticides. The report concludes that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans and proposes a new safety measure that will tighten the control of glyphosate residues in food. <http://tinyurl.com/om7z3pm>
- EFSA has announced that it had renewed its memorandum of cooperation with the Food Safety Commission of Japan. The [agreement](#) supports scientific cooperation on collection and sharing of data related to risk assessment.
- According to [Oceana](#), an international organization focused solely on oceans, almost a third of seafood was mislabelled in Brussels with economic reasons the main driver behind the fraud. <http://tinyurl.com/pgy6syc>

## Medical Devices

- The ENVI Committee has had an exchange of views on medical and *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices in view of interinstitutional negotiations.
- The Presidency has briefed the Council's Permanent Representatives Committee on the outcome of the trilogue discussions with the European Parliament regarding the proposals on medical devices and on *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices. The next Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council meeting is scheduled for 07-08 December 2015.
- The proposals on medical devices and on *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices have been examined in the Council at Working Party level.

## Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

- The European Commission has **presented** the new trade and investment strategy for the European Union, entitled '**Trade for All: Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy**'.
- EU Trade Commissioner, Cecilia Malmström, has joined Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel, European Parliament President Martin Schulz and others to discuss the benefits of TTIP for the EU's social partners. She pointed out that the EU wanted TTIP to include the most advanced provisions ever on labour rights in a trade agreement. <http://tinyurl.com/ooqxegh>
- The European Commission has finalised its new and reformed approach on investment protection and investment dispute resolution for TTIP. This follows another round of extensive consultations with the Council and the European Parliament. The proposal for the Investment Court System has been formally transmitted to the United States and has been made [public](#).
- The EC published an extensive **progress report from the 11<sup>th</sup> negotiating round** (19-23 October 2015, in Miami). During this round negotiators discussed all three pillars of the future agreement – market access, regulatory co-operation and trade rules, with the exception of investment protection and an Investment Court System.
- The EC has **made** available its **textual proposal for sustainable development**, including labour and environment. The EC was supposed to present this legal text by the 10<sup>th</sup> round in Brussels, but only tabled it during the last 11<sup>th</sup> negotiating round in the US. The chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development in TTIP is part of the rules pillar and offers the most ambitious provisions ever put forward on these issues to any trading partner. This approach follows the new EU trade strategy, '**Trade for all**'.
- The European Parliament's Committee on International Trade has held a **public hearing** on the new **EU Future Trade and Investment Strategy**. Cecilia Malmström has argued that most reactions to the strategy from civil society and the Member States had been positive, but there was an understanding that the real challenge would be to implement the strategy. She has also explained that she would like to set a deadline of Autumn 2017 to review the strategy. Besides from the strategy itself, the issue of whether or not to grant China market economy status was also raised. In this regard, Commissioner Malmström noted that the Commission was aware of ongoing issues, but cannot launch new cases overnight, specifically in relation to the flooding of the EU market with Chinese steel.
- The European Commission has welcomed the agreement reached by members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) - including the EU - to substantially limit the export-related support for coal-fired power plants and to encourage the use of the most advanced technology in energy production. The outcome of two years of intense discussions represents a first important step forwards in aligning export credits policies with the global push for cleaner energy generation. The compromise reached by the OECD partners requires still a formal endorsement from the EU Member States. <http://tinyurl.com/qdh7w6k>
- Senior officials of the European Commission and the U.S. Department of State have gathered to review progress, discuss new opportunities, and take steps to re-energise joint collaboration under the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), which brings together officials from external trade, regulatory, commercial and scientific agencies in the EU and the United States government to support innovation and growth. <http://tinyurl.com/okcwhlr>

## Public Consultations and Call for Tenders

- The European Commission has launched a **public consultation** on a possible restriction of hazardous substances (CMR 1A and 1B) in textile articles and clothing for consumer use under Article 68(2) of Regulation EC No 1907/2006 (REACH). Deadline: 22 January 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a **public consultation** on geo-blocking and other geographically-based restrictions when shopping and accessing information in the EU. Deadline: 28 December 2015.
- The European Commission has launched a **public consultation** on the regulatory environment for platforms, online intermediaries, data and cloud computing and the collaborative economy. Deadline: 30 December 2015.
- The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the Review of Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency (EED), foreseen for the second half of 2016. Deadline: 29 January 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a **public consultation** on the new renewable energy directive (REDII) for the period 2020-2030, foreseen before the end of 2016. Deadline: 10 February 2016.
- The European Commission had launched a **public consultation** on the revision of the existing information and procedural requirements under Articles 41 to 44 of the Euratom Treaty. Deadline: 25 January 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a **public consultation** on exemptions from the substance restrictions in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS Directive). Deadline: 8 January 2016.



**The EUROLAB President, Álvaro S. Ribeiro, participated at the ILAC-IAF Annual Meetings 2015: 19th ILAC GA and ILAC TC and WG meetings (IC, AIC, LC, ARC), from 28 October 2015 to 06 November 2015, in Milan.**

Summary/ Main outcomes:

The ILAC GA had the presentation of joint cooperation projects of ILAC and IAF, strategy and internal organization issues, Regional activities, reports from International Organizations and reports from the ILAC TC's meetings.

The most relevant discussions were at the TC's meetings, regarding some hot topics of ISO 17011, ISO 17020 and ISO 17025 (sampling topic had no consensus, impartiality was not highly developed, competence of auditors was often mentioned as a problem).

Cooperation of EUROLAB was asked in AIC and LC TC's in order to obtain examples that can illustrate problems or support the improvement / development of documents under discussion (e.g., AIC WG 3 and 4). Several contacts were established with International and Regional Organizations during the meetings.

The participation of Jiri Sobola in the meeting was very useful in promoting contacts with other stakeholders and specially with ILAC and IAF Chairs.

According to the strategic plan discussion, ILAC is analyzing their Committees structure and asked TC's to create WG's for this purpose.

Peter Unger (ILAC Chair) address to LC - Mentioned the problems arising from 17020 and 17065; the most important issue is the competence of assessment, control of that variability is a major task, all needed to give sustainability to accreditation. EA presented a resolution on accreditation of organisations performing stand-alone sampling (document to discuss).

NCSLI proposed the development of cooperation namely related to educational projects to promote measurement good practices. Cooperation will be developed with EUROLAB regarding conformity assessment risk decision. Joint WG IC/AIC; working group being set up; ToR to be agreed; starting point EA-4/15.

For further information please see report.

**Álvaro S. Ribeiro and Diana Popa participated on behalf of EUROLAB to the Revision of the Blue Guide on the implementation of EU product rules, on 28 October 2015, in Brussels.**

Summary/ Main outcomes:

On 28th October the European Commission (EC), DG GROW, invited all interested stakeholders for the presentation and discussion of the latest draft of the revised Blue Guide. The EC stressed once more that the Blue Guide will reflect the Commission's position. The Blue Guide is understood as a horizontal guide and that thus no sector specific issues were included. The representatives from Member States and trade associations welcomed the progress that had been made in clarifying certain aspects in the Blue Guide, while pointing out that there were other parts that still had to be brought in line.

The Commission took note of all the comments made during the meeting. Written comments can be submitted by **Friday, 6th November**. These comments should however focus on fundamental issues.

It is foreseen to finalise and publish the English version of the revised Blue Guide by the end of the year. Translations will follow later.

For further information please see report.

### Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- **EUROLAB Board Meeting**, 10 February 2016, Brussels
- **JTC PTC (Product Testing and Certification) meeting**, 11-12th April 2016, Essen
- **TCQA meeting**, 19 April 2016, East Kilbride, Scotland
- **EUROLAB - BMTA Seminar**, 20 April 2016, East Kilbride, Scotland
- **EUROLAB Board Meeting**, 21 April 2016, East Kilbride, Scotland
- **EUROLAB General Assembly**, 21 April 2016, East Kilbride, Scotland
- **EUROLAB Board Meeting**, 20th June 2016, Brussels
- **EUROLAB Communication Group**, 21 June 2016, Brussels

The EUROLAB TCQA, Gala Dinner, and General Assembly 2016 are kindly hosted by BMTA and will place in Scotland in conjunction with TUV-NEL on 19th, 20th and 21st of April. Further details will be available soon.



### International Events

- **ISO CASCO WG 44 meeting** in Geneva, 16-18/02/2016
- **EA Inspection Committee (IC) meeting** in Vilnius, 08/03/2016
- **EA Certification Committee (CC) meeting** in Vilnius, 09-10/03/2016
- **EA Laboratory Committee (LC) meeting** in Prague, 16-17/03/2016
- **IAF - ILAC mid-term meetings** in Frankfurt, 29/03—07/04/2016
- **ILAC AIC meeting** in Frankfurt, 30th-31st March 2016
- **ILAC LC meeting** in Frankfurt, 01-02/04/2016
- **ILAC IC meeting** in Frankfurt, 02/04/2016
- **EA Horizontal Harmonisation (HHC) Committee meeting** in Brussels, 12-13/04/2016
- **CAB College meeting** in Brussels, 28/04/2016
- **EA Advisory Board (EAAB) meeting** in Brussels, 29/04/2016
- **EA General Assembly** in London, 25-26/05/2016
- **EA Certification Committee (CC) meeting** in Tallinn, 13-14/09/2016
- **EA Inspection Committee (IC) meeting** in Tallinn, 15-16/09/2016
- **EA Horizontal Harmonisation Committee meeting** in Brussels, 20-21/09/2016
- **EA Laboratory Committee meeting** in Copenhagen, 28-29/09/2016
- **EA Advisory Board (EAAB) meeting** in Brussels, 12/10/2016
- **Joint Annual IAF- ILAC meeting** in New Delhi, 26/10—04/11/2016
- **EA General Assembly** in Boras, 23-24/11/ 2016
- **IAF - ILAC mid-term meetings** in Frankfurt, 20-26/04/2017