

EUROLAB NEWSBRIEFING

January - March 2016



Foreword

Inside this issue:

Focus of the Month	2-3
Accreditation & Standardization	4-5
National Members' News	6-10
Business News	11-13
Policy News	13-19
Personal Developments	19
Reports	20
Events	21-22

Contact details:

EUROLAB Secretariat
Rue du Commerce 20-22
B-1000, Belgium

Tel.: + 32 2 511 50 65

Fax: + 32 2 502 50 47

E-mail: info@eurolab.org

Website:

<http://www.eurolab.org/>

Dear EUROLAB members,

Please find below the first EUROLAB Newsbriefing of 2016 with information regarding the actions carried out by EUROLAB and the developments relevant to the Laboratory Community.

The laboratory activity faces today a context of high uncertainty and instability affecting the economic growth in Europe and in the World, being a real challenge to the laboratories management to plan and to develop their strategies.

This reality, coupled with the business development that converges to a concentration of the TIC market, the expectation of changing requirements for accreditation due to the revision of ISO standards, by the development of regional agreements for trade (e.g. the TTIP), where different views of the same issues still coexist, and a global market where fair competition is not always assured, makes the principles and objectives that led to the creation of EUROLAB since 1990 very present. In this sense, it is anticipated that 2016 will be a demanding year for EUROLAB.

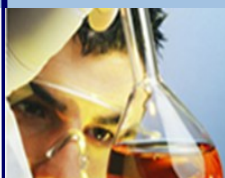
For 2016, EUROLAB will face these challenges expecting to keep consolidating its position as representative of the laboratory community. To achieve this aim, EUROLAB is focused on specific actions, namely: in actively representing its members in international organizations, voicing laboratories; setting up expert groups capable of dialogue with European entities and to promote cooperation in the regulatory and legislative documentation process; developing an effective communication strategy; and enhancing synergies with other entities that, together with EUROLAB, represent the parts of TIC Sector, strengthening the impact on governance and simultaneously promoting its importance for citizens and consumers. Naturally, these tasks of great importance to the community of laboratories can only succeed with the support and active participation of EUROLAB members, hoping that there will be the necessary joint efforts to improve the perception of added-value of laboratory activities for the society.

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

Yours Sincerely,

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro

EUROLAB President



Focus of the Month



The Netherlands Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1 January – 30 June 2016)

In the first half of 2016 the Netherlands will hold the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the twelfth time.

According to the Work Programme, three basic principles will be key during the Presidency, namely a Union that focuses on the essentials, a Union that creates innovative growth and jobs, and a Union that connects with society.

The Netherlands Presidency programme comprises two parts. The first part discusses the four key priorities on which the Presidency will focus, namely a comprehensive approach to migration and international security; Europe as an innovator and job creator; sound, future-proof European finances and a robust eurozone; and forward-looking policy on climate and energy. The second part gives an overview of the priorities of the various Council configurations over the next six months.

The priorities of the Netherlands Presidency were also outlined to the respective EP's committees by Dutch ministers at a series of meetings between [11 and 14 January](#) and [the week after](#).

With regards to the [Consumer Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package](#), which is not included in the priorities of the Netherlands Presidency, several MEPs called on the Presidency to add it to its agenda. Henk Kamp, Minister of Economic Affairs, pointed out that there was a complete deadlock within the Council. According to him, either some Member States must decide to move forward or the Commission must make new proposals on the package and the controversial issue of mandatory origin labelling.

The most relevant priorities of the Council configurations for our business which the Netherlands Presidency commits to pursuing are:

Competitiveness Council (COMPET)

⇒ Internal Market

- Aim to address the Single Market Strategy on goods and services, so that the Council can give political direction to the development of the main initiatives announced and provide input for the European Council;
- Focus on improving the implementation of the Services Directive;
- Focus on areas as construction, business services and retail;
- Make progress in the area of services and the digital single market;
- Improve the use and enforcement of rules for the internal market.

⇒ Research

- Promote research and innovation, and encourage investment in this area; evaluation of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7);
- Improve the dissemination of and access to scientific knowledge.

Relevant Meetings:

18 April [Competition and Consumer Day](#); 13 June [Single Market Forum \(EC\) and Single Market Conference](#); 22 June [Industrial technologies 2016 – Creating a Smart Europe](#).

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)

- Press for work-related cancer to be combated by expanding workers' protection against a wider range of carcinogens;
- Strive to reach agreement with the European Parliament on the two regulations concerning medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic medical devices;
- Aim to prevent any further delay in developing criteria for identifying substances as endocrine disrupters;
- Strive to achieve a stronger common approach to improving the quality of foodstuff;
- Prepare for the future EC Communication on cross-border labour mobility and the proposal for a targeted revision of the Posting of Workers Directive.

Relevant Meetings:

23-25 May [Banning work-related cancer in Europe](#).



The Netherlands Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1 January – 30 June 2016)

Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH)

- Focus on the reduction of food waste;
- Address the tackling of antimicrobial resistance, which is also a theme in the EPSCO Council.

Foreign Affairs Council (FAC)

⇒ Trade

- Concerning TTIP, work to move the process forward efficiently, while paying due regard to the public debate surrounding the agreement;
- Follow up on the 10th Ministerial WTO Conference that took place in December 2015;
- Work to arrive at a Council position on the EC proposal for a regulation on trade in conflict minerals and start interinstitutional negotiations.

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (TTE)

⇒ Energy

- Promote a strong European energy market;
- Strive for progress on the proposal on revising the Energy Labelling Directive and the expected EC proposals aiming to implement the strategy for a European Energy Union;
- Address the EC upcoming strategies on Heating and Cooling and on LNG and energy storage.

⇒ Transport

- Focus on the Aviation Package, which includes, among others, a proposal on legislation on drones;
- Take up the expected legislative package on safety rules and standards for passenger ships;
- Discuss liability and safety standards at international level;
- Make progress towards European harmonisation in the area of self-driving vehicles.

Environment Council (ENV)

- Follow up on the UN climate summit (COP21) held in Paris in December 2015;
- Make progress in the reform of the emissions trading system (ETS), which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Arrange a policy debate on Circular Economy Package resulting in Council conclusions in June 2016, which is also a theme in the Competitiveness Council;
- Strive to improve and simplify EU environmental legislation by promoting the 'Make It Work' initiative;
- Focus on innovation in technology and policy for smart and green transport.

Source: Netherlands Presidency Work Programme, Indicative Calendar of Meetings and [Provisional agendas for Council meetings](#).

For more information: [Netherlands Presidency website](#) and [Council of the EU website](#).

Accreditation

- IAF has submitted the revised **IAF MLA document titled "Guidance for the Exchange of Documentation among MLA Signatories for the Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies"** to all Members for voting period. The results of the 30-Day Ballot on IAF ML1 - Guidance for the Exchange of Documentation among MLA Signatories for the Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies, Issue 3 have been published.
- IAF has submitted the revised **IAF Policy Document titled "Structure of the International Accreditation Forum Inc."** to all IAF Members for a 30-day voting period.
- IAF has circulated the **draft document IAF MDX: Information on the Migration to ISO 45001:201X from OHSAS 18001:2007** for comments. This document provides requirements for the migration from OHSAS 18001:2007 to ISO 45001:201X and has been prepared by IAF in cooperation with the OHSAS Project Group and ISO to provide advice to interested parties on migration arrangements to be considered before implementing ISO 45001.
- Further to the 30-day ballot to all IAF Members, which closed 08 October 2015, **Issue 1 of IAF ID 12:2015 Principles on Remote Assessment** is now available on the IAF website (iaf.nu), under Publications, Informative Documents.
- The **draft EA Document on the Application of ISO/IEC 17021 for the Certification of Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OH&SMS)**, achieved by an ad hoc TFG of the EA CC has been circulated for comments.
- The IAF Executive Committee (EC) has submitted the **revised IAF Policy Document titled "Memorandum of Understanding"** to all IAF Voting Members for a 30-day voting period. The proposed changes in Version 6 of PL6 are primarily through the addition of Section 4.4, which outlines what each Regional Accreditation Group Member commits itself to on joining IAF. The proposed application date for this Policy Document is immediate. This will be included in the authorship section at the time of publication.
- The IAF Technical Committee (TC) has submitted the **revised IAF Mandatory Document titled "IAF Mandatory Document For The Audit and Certification of a Management System operated by a Multi-Site Organization (where application of site sampling is not appropriate)"** to all IAF Voting Members for a 30-day voting period.
- The ILAC Accreditation Committee (AIC) has submitted the document, titled **ILAC G7:XX/2016 "Accreditation Requirements and Operating Criteria for Horseracing Laboratories"**, to ILAC Full Members and Associates for a 30-day voting period.
- The results of the 30-Day Ballot on **Approval of Principles for an IAF Database of Accredited MS Certifications** have been published. **Members voted in favour of the revision.**
- The results of the 30-Day Ballot on **IAF Mandatory Document - Accreditation Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies with Activities in Multiple Countries** have been published. **Members voted in favour of the revision.**
- At its last meeting on 25-26 November, the EA General Assembly endorsed HHC proposal for a NWI to revise the **EA Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members** (Resolution 2015 (36)12). A fast track approach has been accepted by the EA members. All HHC comments received have been considered. It has been agreed to have a fast track 30-days comment period at EA level.
- **The Draft Minutes of the Nineteenth ILAC General Assembly** have been distributed for comments.
- The ILAC Executive Committee (EC) has submitted the document **ILAC-R1: draft September 2015 - Classification and Management of ILAC Publication Documents** for a 60-day comment period.
- The ballot on the approval of the **Supplement S1 of EA-2/02 EA Policy and Procedures for the Multilateral Agreement – Selection, Training and Monitoring of Evaluators** is now closed.
- EA has sent out a reminder for comments on **EA-2/02 EA Procedure for the evaluation of a National Accreditation Body.**
- **The IAF Mandatory Document on Generic Competence for AB Assessors** is now open for voting.
- The ILAC Inspection Committee (IC) is now circulating a proposed **amendment on clause 8.1.3 of ILAC P15:06/2014 - Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies.**
- The following publications have been revised and are now available in the publications section on the ILAC website:
 - ⇒ **ILAC G7:02/2016 Accreditation Requirements and Operating Criteria for Horseracing Laboratories**
 - ⇒ **ILAC P4:02/2016 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Policy and Management**
 - ⇒ **ILAC P5:02/2016 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Scope and Obligations**
- The revised version of **EA – 1/13: EA's Relationship with Accreditation Bodies of Countries not being Members of the EU and EFTA** is now circulating
- **The draft Minutes of the 15th IAF/ILAC Joint General Assembly** are now available



Standardisation

- The European Commission has adopted the **2016 Annual Union Work Programme (AUWP) for European standardisation**. The AUWP identifies the main objectives of European standardisation in relation to the Commission priority to create new jobs and boost growth in the EU. <http://tinyurl.com/ze96dk5>
- The European Commission has released the **2016 Rolling Plan on ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) Standardisation**. This work programme is a detailed view of standardisation activities performed worldwide in the field of ICT. It includes several sectors like healthcare, cloud computing, intelligent transport systems, security, accessibility, Internet of Things, eGovernment, smart grids and many others. This year the Rolling Plan is extended to robotics. <http://tinyurl.com/je8h35j>
- 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).
- The **ISO/TMB/WG SGD Technical Management Board/SGDG** has been modified as Disbanded on the Global Directory data of ISO.
- Based upon communication among IPC, ISO Central Secretariat and the ISO/TC 34/SC 17 it has been agreed that an **official A-liaison with IPC is established**.
- The **ballots on ISO/CD 22000 - SC17 N416 are now closed**. Members voted in favour of the ballots.
- The **ISO/TC 135/SC 6 Secretariat** has nominated **Mr. Takeo Tsuchiya as the new chairman of SC 6** for a period of 3 years (2016 -2018).
- The following new documents have been posted on the ISO/TC 135 eCommittee: - **N 507 ISO TC 135 N 507 Disbandment of WG 3 Harmonization of personnel certification standards - Study of EN 473, 2008 and ISO 9712, 2005 Expected Action: INFO Due date for Expected Action: None**; - **N 506 ISO TC 135 N 506 Appointment of new Chairman of SC 6 Expected Action: INFO Due date for Expected Action: None**; - **N 505 ISO TC 135 N 505 Appointment of new Chairperson of SC 4 Expected Action: INFO Due date for Expected Action: None**; - **N 508 ISO TC 135 - Letter of thanks**; **N 509 ISO TC 135 - CEN TC 138 - Meeting documents Oct 2015**
- A new ISO ballot has opened concerning **Conformity Assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Competence requirements for auditing and certification of occupational health and safety management systems**. This NWIP is initiated following the resolution 11/2015-09 taken at the last plenary meeting of PC 283 to propose to ISO/CASCO a New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) for the development of a new Part to ISO/IEC 17021-1.
- The following new documents have been published on the **ISO/TC 34/SC 17: SC 17 N418 ISO-TC234 N235 and N236 Resolutions and report from meeting Silver Spring 2015-10-29; SC17 N417 Agricultural traceability discussion group**.
- **CEN/CLC/TC 1** is seeking further experts to participate on the **ISO/CASCO standards TG** and, where possible, to attend the first TG meeting scheduled for 09:00 to 14:30 Friday 15 April 2016, Brussels.
- The Ballot results on **ISO/DIS 17034 - General requirements for the competence of reference material producers** have been published. The document has been approved by the members.
- **CEN and CENELEC have renewed their joint Cooperation Agreement with the Standards Council of Canada (SCC)**.
- The deadline for submitting comments on **ISO/IEC CD 2 17011, Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies by SC17 experts to their National Standardisation bodies (NSBs)** has been reached.
- **Mr. Andrew Marlow (BSI) has been appointed as Co-Convenor by ISO/TC 207/SC 2 for the CASCO/JWG 34 carrying out the 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**. He will co-convene the group with Mr. Randy Dougherty.
- The result of voting on **ISO/CD 22000:2015, Food safety management systems – Requirements for any organization in the food chain** are now available. Members voted in favour of the ballots.
- **LRQA has received accreditation from the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) for two key, globally recognised Quality and Environmental Management System (EMS) standards; ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015**.
- **NMRO - Conformity assessment: proposed amendments to OIML working documents**. Proposed amendments to the OIML role of measurement uncertainty in conformity assessment decisions in legal metrology



News Maklab

MACEDONIAN ASSOCIATION OF LABORATORIES AND INSPECTION BODIES MAKLAB



According to the working program for 2016, the Macedonian Association of laboratories and inspection bodies MAKLAB, has realized the planned activities for the first quarter of 2016.

In January MAKLAB has organized training for "Challenges during implementation of MKC EN ISO/IEC 17025:2006 at laboratories for testing and calibration" and in February 2016 training for "Challenges during implementation of MKC EN ISO/IEC 17025:2006 at inspection bodies".

These trainings have aroused great interest among the Macedonian laboratories and inspection bodies and have proved the necessity for constant improvement of personal competence.

On 3rd of March, MAKLAB had the Annual Assembly for 2016.

The representatives of MAKLAB were informed about the realized activities in 2015.

In this occasion the Assembly has welcomed the new members of MAKLAB and also were discussed the planned activities for 2016.



News Turklab

TURKLAB Ordinary General Assembly

TURKLAB carried out the Ordinary General Assembly successfully on January 21, 2016 according to the announced agenda, electing the Permanent and Substitute Members of the Board of Directors and the Board of Audit Committee.



Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Marmara Region Ministerial Coordination and Sectoral Shared Vision Meeting

Food Committee President Tolga Tellibayraktar and Honorary President Dr. Ömer GÜZEL represented TURKLAB in the meeting held on January 30, 2016 in Bursa which was attended by Mr. Faruk ÇELİK, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, ministry officials and industry representatives.

TURKLAB's opinion and the industry problems and 2014-2015 Annual Report were presented to Esteemed Minister and Undersecretary. Solution proposals for the industry problems were also presented as part of the Association's opinion.



Board of Directors Meeting

The first Board of Directors meeting of the new period was held on February 10, 2016. The meeting agenda included evaluating participants' opinions on the events attended by TURKLAB board members, projects planned by the Environment, Food and Calibration Committee for the 2016-2017 period as well as future meetings and activities. Further strategic evaluations for 2016-2017 projects were also carried out.



IVD İZMİR 2016 – Turkey “In Vitro Diagnostic” Symposium

Turkey “In Vitro Diagnostic” Symposium was held on February 18-20, 2016 in İzmir Kaya Thermal Hotel, Convention Center with the cooperation of Dokuz Eylül University's Graduate School of Health Sciences, Turkish Biochemical Society's İzmir Branch and TURKLAB.

- Clear understanding of components such as appliances, reagents, devices, software, and the like falling under the scope of in vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVD TC),
- Understanding relations between medical laboratory tests and in vitro diagnostic medical devices,
- Relevant shareholders' understanding of the necessary conditions for the production and innovation of IVDs,
- Learning certain definitions and amendments made in the European Union's IVD Directive,
- Evaluating whether practices parallel with the practices in the EU and the world can be provided in Turkey,
- Comprehending that multi-disciplinary clusters are inevitable, and putting them into practice (Creating an Electronic IVD Platform),

Positioning all shareholders in the IVD Medical Devices life cycle and providing the necessary coordination.

The symposium was successfully completed with respect to the above points. Honorary President Dr. Ömer GÜZEL participated as the session moderator on behalf of TURKLAB.

<http://www.ivdizmir2016.org/>



Ministry of Environment and Urbanization Directorate General of Environmental Impact Assessment, Permits and Control Visit

The TURKLAB's Board of Directors visited Mr. Mustafa Satılmış, General Director of Environmental Impact Assessment, Permits and Control on February 5, 2016 communicating the industry problems that were previously shared by the TURKLAB members as well as proposals.

Mustafa Satılmış, General Director of Environmental Impact Assessment, Permits and Control, stated in the meeting, which proceeded positively, that they will stand by TURKLAB for the solution of the problems in line with TURKLAB's opinions and suggestions.



Calibration Committee Meeting

The Calibration Committee's first meeting of the year was held in Karaköy's historical setting on March 3, 2016 hosted by Penta Automation, one of the committee members. Attended by Ms. Neşe Güneş, the Association President, the meeting addressed the industry's problems, the calibration industry's status in the world market, relations with TÜRKAK and technical assessments.



TURKLAB Academy "ISO 19011:2011 Internal Audit" Training

TURKLAB Academy successfully completed the "ISO 19011:2011 Internal Audit" training organized on March 16-17, 2016. TURKLAB extends their thanks to all participants who attended the training.



Business news

- **Applus+ Laboratories** has recently achieved **Global Platform's (GP) qualification to test Embedded UICC (eUICC)**. With this new qualification, Applus+ widens its testing services for chip and service providers, and steps into the growing Internet of Things (IoT) market.
- **Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services (BVCPs)** announced a new partnership with **Quality Lab**, a Portuguese laboratory specializing in analytical / physical testing and fiber analysis for the textile industry located in the North of Portugal.
- **Bureau Veritas** announced that its' **Wireless/ Smartworld laboratory in Korea** has been designated as a **Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) testing laboratory in Korea** by the **National Radio Research Agency (RRA)**. With this designation (No.: KR0158), Bureau Veritas CPS ADT Korea is authorized to perform testing as well as to issue a SAR test report that can be used to attain a Korea Certification mark (aka KC mark) for market access into Korea.
- **Ceis** has been awarded the contract of analysis of dielectric oils by the **Refinery Repsol in A Coruña**. With this contract, **ceis** adds a new delegation of **Repsol Petrochemical** to Bilbao, Puertollano, Cartagena, Tarragona and Sines (Portugal), result of service that provides the chemical laboratory, that characterizes for its quick response to demands and a technical offer complete, all of that guaranteed by a technical equipment with great experience and professionalism. <http://tinyurl.com/zp2ooz6>
- **DNV GL** has completed several tests using drones to support the hull survey of two vessels. Conducted by the classification team based in Gdansk, Poland, the tests took place at the Remontowa shipyard. Using drones to visually check the condition of remote structural components has the potential to significantly reduce survey times and staging costs, while at the same time improving safety for the surveyors.
- **DNV GL** has announced the initial details of an eight-month pilot project with the **UAE Ministry of Energy**. DNV GL is to design and develop a database and energy automation system to help the UAE Ministry of Energy collect information on energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from various sectors and sources across the UAE's seven emirates.
- **DNV GL** has announced the development of a new **UCAlug conformance test programme**. The new programme is designed to test the compliancy of engineering and device configuration tools to the IEC 61850 standard.
- **Inspecta Poland (EPTSIL)** signed a contract for **NDT testing of two new boilers at the PGE Opole Power Plant**. The Opole contract is Inspecta Poland's second largest assignment in the Energy and Power sector
- **Intertek** has announced the launch of **Chemical Smart Screening**, a service designed to detect the presence of restricted substances in chemicals and auxiliaries used in the textile, apparel and footwear manufacturing process.
- **Intertek** has received formal approval as a notified body by the **Gulf Standards Organization (GSO) and Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC)** to test and certify products for the Gulf Mark (G Mark) scheme. This designation has been granted to three Intertek locations in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Singapore, with six more facilities in the Americas and Europe pending similar approval. The status will allow Intertek to deliver local service to clients across the globe seeking access to the Gulf region.
- **Intertek** has announced the expansion of its **Shanghai footwear testing capabilities**. Now featuring twice the physical lab space, it offers customers in the region a more comprehensive leather and footwear testing solution to meet a number of global quality, performance and safety standards.
- **Intertek Hong Kong** recently held its grand opening ceremony of the world's first testing laboratory for **Qi extended/basic-power wireless charging**. This was followed by a seminar on wireless charging. Qi, the wireless-charging standard developed by the Wireless Power Consortium (WPC), is a mature, open standard that enables transmission of electrical power without wires safely and efficiently. This standard has the widest global distribution and penetration. <http://tinyurl.com/zk7j2ro>
- **Intertek** has announced the launch of its first **South Asia furniture lab in Gurgaon, India**. The state-of-the-art lab has been designed and developed with a focus on serving the Indian furniture market, following international standards. <http://tinyurl.com/zr7sx23>
- **SGS**, through a technical partnership with the **Thai government**, supported the **Cambodian government** in setting up an **ISO/IEC 17025 laboratory accreditation scheme** and founding the first competent accreditation body in the country. Their technical experts provided a concrete model for running laboratories and at the same time the Thai Ministry of Science and Technology provided technical experience and know-how for accreditation management.
- **SGS** has opened a new state-of-the-art custom-built food testing and analysis laboratory in **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**. Vietnam's first commercial bio safety level 2 laboratory, SGS's new facility will help to meet the country's fast growing demand for food analyses, and at the same time increase food safety and consumer protection.
- **SGS** has announced the opening of its new footwear and leather laboratory in **Lahore, Pakistan**. Located at the heart of the country's footwear manufacturing and leather tanning zone, this ISO 17025 accredited testing facility is established to cater to the need of domestic and international clients in the footwear & leather industry.
- **SGS** announced the acquisition of **CyberMetrix Inc. (CMX) based in Columbus, Indiana, USA**. CMX provides test cells, equipment and services to meet

the complex testing requirements of engine and power systems.

- **SGS has signed a joint venture agreement with Grain Farmers of Ontario to develop a dedicated grains laboratory and panification facility in Ontario, Canada.** Building on SGS's existing network, the laboratory will provide full analytical testing for cereal crops, and be equipped to conduct panification in controlled laboratory conditions.
- **SGS announced it is the first company to receive National Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) status from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for its product safety testing laboratories in mainland China.** This will strengthen the technical alignment between the company's China and U.S.-based facilities and provide electrical and electronics manufacturers a shorter time-to-market.
- **SGS announced the acquisition of a 51 percent stake in The Lab (Asia) Ltd., based in Hong Kong.** The Lab (Asia) Ltd. is a fully independent materials testing, inspection and consulting company serving the construction, civil engineering, highways, airports and associated industries. The company has comprehensive laboratory and site testing operations, and provides materials inspection, investigation and consultancy services.
- **In the future, TÜV SÜD will hold 100 per cent of the shares in the Spanish ATISAE Group.** Involving a workforce of 1,300-plus and revenue of over EUR 80 million, the acquisition will be the largest in the 150-year history of the international provider of testing and certification services. ATISAE is one of the leading providers of testing and inspection services on the Iberian peninsula.
- **Trade sanctions against Iran have now been lifted and companies are building new business relationships.** TÜV SÜD is supporting Iranian chemical product manufacturers and German importers in implementing the European chemicals regulation, REACH.
- **TÜV SÜD Japan Ltd. has announced two certifications as to designated Specially Controlled Medical Devices (Class III medical devices) based on PMD Act,** those are Insulin pen injectors and categorized into higher risk products than Class II ones. In Japan the scope of marketing certification services for Class III Medical Devices has been expanded.
- **From Feb 2016, TÜV SÜD South Asia laboratory in India was successfully recognized by BIS for scope extension to include more products under the existing scope of IS 616:2010 and IS 13252 (Part 1):2010.** Last October TÜV SÜD South Asia lab was already accredited by BIS to perform tests for phase one products of Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS). Now the lab holds wider scope to perform test which covers household appliances, ITE equipments, Audio Video and similar electronic apparatus. <http://tinyurl.com/zcxpkjf>
- **UL has announced the launch of its new Class P LED Driver Program.** UL is the first Standards Development Organization to officially offer this type of program, giving luminaire suppliers and manufacturers of LED drivers increased flexibility in their supply chain. The program defines evaluation and testing guidelines for standardized LED driver constructions and ratings, allowing luminaire manufacturers to source alternate LED drivers without having to recertify their products. By further addressing the temperature considerations of an LED luminaire system, the Class P LED Driver Program will allow luminaire manufacturers greater flexibility in LED driver substitution.
- **UL has announced that its Suzhou lab was officially accredited by the Chinese CNCA (Certification and Accreditation Administration) as a testing laboratory to provide China Compulsory Certification (CCC) testing services for Motors – the only US-based TIC organization to earn this accreditation.**
- **UKAS awards 'BASEC' extended ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for its cable fire testing.** The British Approvals Service for Cables (BASEC), the international leader in product certification services for electrical, data and signal cables and ancillary products, has extended its United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accreditation of its UK laboratory to cover a broad range of cable fire tests. <http://www.voltimum.co.uk/articles/ukas-awards-basec-extended-isoiec-17025-accreditation-its-cable-fire-testing>
- **UL has announced the acquisition of cr360, a market leader in environment, health and safety management and sustainability software.** cr360's products help businesses gather vital data, predict trends, analyze anomalies and fulfill regulatory and company reporting requirements.
- **Vinçotte contributes to developing a new quality label "Care for Quality" label for the Belgian textile federation FBT.** The "Care for quality" label is intended for laundry services treating textile for sectors such as pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, food, health care and cosmetics. <http://tinyurl.com/joyuapm>

Business Results

DEKRA

- Revenues increase by 7% to EUR 2.7 billion in 2015
- Number of employees up by 2,400 to 37,400, more than 15,000 employees since 2010
- Focus on safety on the road, at work and at home

SGS

- Total revenues reaching CHF 5.7 billion, revenue growth of 3.6% (constant currency basis), of which 2.0% was organic and 1.6% was contributed by recent acquisitions
- Trading conditions remained difficult during the year with the fall in commodity prices, primarily impacting Oil, Gas & Chemicals, Minerals and Industrial Services
- Adjusted EBITDA reached CHF 1,191 million, up 3.4% at constant currency versus prior year.

Bureau Veritas

- Revenues of €4.6 billion, +11.1% versus 2014
- Adjusted operating margin of 16.7%, up 10 basis points versus 2014
- Record high operating cash-flow generation of €706 million, +16.4%
- Adjusted net profit of €420 million, representing €0.96 per share, +6.7%

Intertek

- Revenues of £2,166.3m
- Operating profit of £343.4m
- Operating margin of 15.9%
- Profit before tax of £319.2m
- Diluted earnings per share of 140.7p
- Dividend per share of 52.3p

Policy news

Chemicals

- The European Commission has announced that easily accessible information on more than 120,000 chemicals was now available through the new and improved website of the The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). <http://tinyurl.com/h249c45>
- ECHA has commissioned a [study](#) on global laboratory capacities to conduct extended one-generation reproductive toxicity studies (EOGRTS). In total, 22 laboratories were identified as capable to conduct the studies. Compared with a similar study in 2012, the global laboratory capacity to conduct EOGRTS has increased. <http://tinyurl.com/zatddzg>
- ECHA has announced that a new implementing regulation adopted by the European Commission defines more clearly what the terms 'fair, transparent and non-discriminatory' mean for data sharing in the REACH Regulation. It also gives ECHA the mandate to make sure that all registrants of the same substance are part of one joint registration. The regulation is applicable as of 26 January 2016. <http://tinyurl.com/h2qrkk5>
- Following the [judgement of the Court of Justice](#), ECHA has published a quick update to its *Guidance on requirements for substances in articles*. A more comprehensive update will follow in 2016. <http://tinyurl.com/h267dfp>
- ECHA has added five new substances of very high concern (SVHCs) to the Candidate List due to the carcinogenic, toxic to reproduction, persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT), and very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) properties of the substances. The Candidate List of SVHCs for authorisation now contains 168 substances. <http://tinyurl.com/zno44zq>
- ECHA has updated the [list of substances](#) that might be chosen for compliance checks. The list now includes altogether 50 new substances. Registrants are advised to check this list and, if needed, update their related registration dossiers by 29 February 2016.

- ECHA has published an update of [Chapter R.12 of the Guidance on information requirements and chemical safety assessment \(IR&CSA\)](#) on use description. The Guidance update aims to support registrants in improving the description of uses of their chemicals mainly in the context of the registration dossier. <http://tinyurl.com/jzjqhsm>
- ECHA has announced that it would apply a two-year 'moratorium' on updates to the majority of its guidance on REACH before the 31 May 2018 deadline. It concerns any guidance that explains the registration requirements. The moratorium is set to begin on 31 May 2016. <http://tinyurl.com/hhs3mwm>
- ECHA has published its Evaluation under REACH Progress Report 2015. According to the report, in the majority of the cases, data on one or more key endpoints was missing to conclude whether the substance is of concern or not.
- The Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement has conducted a pilot project, that was limited to a compliance check of two substances: Musk xylene and 4,4'-Diamoniodiphenylmethane (MDA). Out of 421 inspections, only three non-compliances were found.
- According to the Biocidal Products Regulation, articles treated with biocidal products can only be placed on the market if the active substances are approved in the EU. The deadlines to apply for the approval of active substances, which are used in treated articles and not yet in the approval process is 1 September 2016. <http://tinyurl.com/zah8e46>
- An external report suggests that further improvements can be made to substance evaluation under REACH. The report recommends changes to improve workability and efficient use of resources for registrants and authorities.
- The European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) has been given access to certain data from ECHA's chemicals database to develop a new tool for predicting toxicity of chemicals. <http://tinyurl.com/hadk584>
- ECHA has selected nearly 300 substances from REACH registrations for further scrutiny by the Member State competent authorities. The competent authorities will carry out a manual examination of the dossiers they prioritise to decide whether there is a need for regulatory action. <http://tinyurl.com/hnpunj4>
- The sectoral 'fitness check' for the petroleum refining sector has now been published. The evaluation carried out by the European Commission of the impact on petroleum refining of ten of the most relevant pieces of EU legislation for the sector shows that the legislation has delivered its objectives at the sectoral level. <http://tinyurl.com/zdfv63v>

Consumer Protection

- The Commission has published [a study](#) which looks into the difficulties consumers face in getting the best or fairest deals. Consumers facing these difficulties may be more likely to have negative experiences when attempting to make purchases, choosing, or switching providers. The study identifies the main reasons behind this vulnerability and what can be done to enable consumers to make better use of their rights and the alternatives the marketplace offers. <http://tinyurl.com/h86amvf>
- In March 2016, the European Commission will launch a two-week information campaign on Facebook. The campaign aims to raise attention around the forthcoming "European Consumer Day" (10 March 2016) and the "World Consumer Rights Day" (15 March 2016). The initiative represents the last activity foreseen by the two-year long [Consumer Rights Awareness Campaign](#), which has been prolonged until the end of March. The campaign focuses on 5 key rights and duties stemming from EU consumer law for traders and consumers and highlights concrete actions that citizens can take when experiencing problems. <http://tinyurl.com/j8zpw25>
- The European Commission opened its new [online dispute resolution \(ODR\)](#) platform to consumers and traders. This mechanism allows consumers and traders to settle their online disputes without the need to go through court proceedings and dispute resolution bodies. It acts as a referee between the two parties to resolve the issue. <http://tinyurl.com/jh2c94m>
- Updated EU rules for personal protective equipment (such as life jackets or bicycle helmets), gas appliances (such as portable cookers or boilers) and cableway installations (such as funiculars or aerial tramways) have been approved by the European Parliament. The three regulations, already informally agreed with the EU Council of Ministers, lay down common rules aimed at better protecting its users whilst reducing red tape for its makers. <http://tinyurl.com/h7dg5bq>
- The European Commission has published [a Roadmap](#) for an upcoming overall evaluation (Fitness Check) of [EU consumer law in 2016 and 2017](#). Stakeholders are invited to send feedback on the roadmap within the next four weeks. For further info: <http://tinyurl.com/hrkel4e>
- The three European institutions have agreed a [reform of data protection](#) rules, establishing a modern and harmonised data protection framework across the EU. The Parliament's Civil Liberties committee (LIBE) and the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) of the Council approved the agreement with very large majorities. The agreement was welcomed by the European Council of 17-18 December as a major step forward in the implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy.
- Delivering on its [Digital Single Market strategy](#), the Commission has presented [proposal](#) to allow Europeans to travel with their online content and an [action plan](#) to modernise EU copyright rules. <http://tinyurl.com/qwg66yo>

Energy & Environment

- **Environment ministers have discussed the EU action plan for the circular economy.** It is part of a package which also includes four legislative proposals on waste. They have also held a policy debate on the follow-up to the Paris agreement on climate change and on endocrine disruptors. <http://tinyurl.com/zevfzve>
- **ENVI rapporteur, Marijana Petir, has presented her draft opinion to the ITRE Committee on the Renewable Energy Progress Report to the ENVI members.** The draft opinion underlines the contribution of renewable energy in achieving the goals of the Paris agreement, welcomes the progress towards the EU target especially in the heating and cooling and electricity generation sectors as well as the progress in meeting specific national renewable energy targets. The Rapporteur expresses her concern that progress has slowed in meeting the EU's 10% target for renewable energy use in the transport sector.
- **The European Commission has announced that the first call of 2016 for funding for energy infrastructure projects will open this March.** The funding, to be made available under the [Connecting Europe Facility](http://tinyurl.com/hphjcyz), is expected to amount to €200 million. <http://tinyurl.com/hphjcyz>
- **The International Energy Agency (IEA) has published a report on European electricity market design.** <http://tinyurl.com/j6sze7h>
- **The European Commission has proposed new rules for EU gas supply security.** Gas covers around a quarter of the EU's energy demand and the EU is the world's **biggest importer** of gas. The Commission has also [published a strategy](http://tinyurl.com/jrzc92m) for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and gas storage in the EU. Among others, the strategy foresees that Member States will optimise the use of gas storage across borders through increased regional co-operation. Currently, large gas storage facilities are only located in a handful of countries – Italy, France, Germany and the Netherlands. <http://tinyurl.com/jrzc92m>
- **The European Commission has launched its first ever strategy to tackle the massive use of energy, particularly fossil fuels, in the heating and cooling sector.** Heating and cooling accounts for 50% of the EU's energy consumption and renewables account for just 18% of this. The strategy includes plans to boost the energy efficiency of buildings, improve linkages between electricity systems and district heating systems which will greatly increase the use of renewable energy, and encourage reuse of waste heat and cold generated by industry. <http://tinyurl.com/hwv6u8h>
- **According to a publication issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in 2014, the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy reached 16% in the EU, almost double that of 2004 (8.5%), the first year for which data is available.**
- **The energy dependency of the EU stood in 2014 at 53.4%, meaning that the EU needed to import over half of the energy it consumed in 2014, according to Eurostat.** Eurostat has also released a [publication](http://tinyurl.com/jrzc92m) on energy

savings in the EU.

During their fourth annual Senior Officials Meeting the European Union and the International Atomic Energy Agency have exchanged views on enhancing collaboration in nuclear safety, security, safeguards, sustainable development and nuclear energy research and innovation. In particular, the two organizations have agreed to further strengthen their co-operation on nuclear safety, waste management and decommissioning as well as emergency preparedness and response. <http://tinyurl.com/jskynqx>

Energy efficiency levels in industry are expected to improve overall up to 2050, according to a new study entitled: 'Energy efficiency and energy saving potential in industry and on possible policy mechanisms'.

An EU-funded project – CELSIUS – is demonstrating efficient district heating and cooling systems for high density urban areas that make use of a broad range of sources of waste heat: from industrial centres, to heat extracted from a metro ventilation system or from sewage plants. The project demonstrates ground-breaking applications for district heating and cooling in five cities: Cologne, Genoa, London, Gothenburg and Rotterdam, including innovative technologies for reusing waste heat. <http://tinyurl.com/zka5doj>

The ITRE Committee had held an exchange of views with the European Commission on the implementation of the energy efficiency directive with a view to the forthcoming committee implementation report of the directive. The exchange of views will be followed by a consideration of Mr. Pieper's [draft report](http://tinyurl.com/jrzc92m) on 16th of March. ENVI rapporteur, Peter Liese, has presented his [draft opinion](http://tinyurl.com/jrzc92m) to the ITRE Committee on the topic to the ENVI members.

The ENVI Committee has held a public hearing on the Real Driving Emissions Tests. The European Parliament has not objected to the Commission's draft regulation relating to RDE tests and the use of portable emission measurement systems (PEMS). The most contested issue within this second package adopted in September 2015 was the conformity factor relating to RDE tests.

In December 2015, the European Parliament decided to set up a 45 member inquiry committee to investigate breaches of EU rules on car emission tests and alleged failures by EU Member States and the European Commission to enforce EU standards. The committee will present an interim report within 6 months, and a final report within 12 months, of starting its work. <http://tinyurl.com/jmd6hdr>

- **The ENVI Committee has had an exchange of views with Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.** Commissioner Vella has presented the long-awaited package on Circular Economy, which replaces the package presented last year by the previous College and withdrawn by the Juncker Commission. The package consists of an EU action plan on circular economy and the waste legislative package which amends six directives: the Waste Framework Directive, the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, the Landfill Directive, the WEEE Directive, the End-of-life Vehicles Directive and the Directive on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators.
- **The ENVI Committee has opposed the adoption of the second package on real driving emissions (RDE package), approved by the European Commission's Technical Committee on Motor Vehicles (TCMV) in October 2015.** During this month's plenary session in Strasbourg on 18 January 2016, MEPs discussed whether [diesel car emission limits](http://tinyurl.com/hze563m) for nitrogen oxides (NOx) should be raised by up to 110% with Elżbieta Bieńkowska. MEPs will vote on the proposal during the next plenary session. <http://tinyurl.com/hze563m>
- **The ITRE Committee has held a first exchange of views on the Commission's proposal for a Regulation on Energy Efficiency Labelling.** The meeting has provided a first occasion for ITRE's rapporteur, Dario Tamburrano, and for the shadow rapporteurs to present their main ideas as regards the future of the EU's energy efficiency labelling system.
- **An EU-funded project - [COMTES](http://tinyurl.com/hy5bq2n) - is working on new systems for storing solar thermal energy.** It is developing three different types of compact thermal storage technologies based on solid sorption, liquid sorption and using super cooling Phase Change Material at various sites across Europe. <http://tinyurl.com/hy5bq2n>
- **In 2014 there was no case of nuclear material being diverted from its declared purpose – or misused - according to the European Commission's [annual report](http://tinyurl.com/jr7rtkk) on the implementation of nuclear safeguards in 2014.** <http://tinyurl.com/jr7rtkk>
- **At their meeting in December, EU leaders welcomed the historic outcome reached in Paris where the world adopted the first-ever global and legally-binding climate agreement with the aim to hold the global warming well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.** The European Council also assessed progress in building the Energy Union with a forward-looking climate policy in all its dimensions. <http://tinyurl.com/j6nwjvy>
- **According to a new [study](http://tinyurl.com/zo84dc6) entitled 'Assessing the Employment and Social Impact of Energy Efficiency', 900 thousand people were employed in work relating to the supply of energy efficient goods and services in 2010.** <http://tinyurl.com/zo84dc6>
- **An EU-funded project is exploring energy storage by aiming to develop solid-state hydrogen storage units that are combined with smart grid systems to smooth out the up and down flows of variable renewable power on the grid.** [INGRID](http://tinyurl.com/h2frj8) hopes to integrate intelligent monitoring and communication systems into the grid, alongside the hydrogen storage technologies, in order to balance variable renewable electricity supply with electricity demand. <http://tinyurl.com/h2frj8>
- **A new EU-funded project, [Construct PV](http://tinyurl.com/jsdq2fo), is working on how to integrate photovoltaic (PV) systems into buildings from their very inception.** The new technology can be used to replace parts of conventional building materials, such as roofs and facades. <http://tinyurl.com/jsdq2fo>

Food

- **The United States have announced that it will lift its ban on beef from the Netherlands.** After Ireland and Lithuania, the Netherlands is the third EU country to gain access to the US market since the BSE-related ban. <http://tinyurl.com/h6vsqmb>
- **Japan has lifted its long-term ban on Danish beef based on an alleged risk of Bovine BSE.** The decision on products from Denmark follows an earlier opening of the Japanese market to beef products from France, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Poland. <http://tinyurl.com/jsda47s>
- **New pesticides guidance has been finalised that harmonises the way terrestrial field dissipation studies (TFDs) are conducted in different regions of the world.** The guidance was developed for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) by a working group led by EFSA, the US Environmental Protection Agency and Health Canada. It means that studies will be interchangeable between EU Member States and signatories to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), as well as other OECD countries. <http://tinyurl.com/helegyg>
- **According to the latest annual Europe-wide report by EFSA and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), bacteria in humans, food and animals continue to show resistance to the most widely used antimicrobials.** <http://tinyurl.com/zae9ezq>
- **The European Parliament has adopted a resolution rejecting the Commission's draft rules on baby food that would have allowed baby food to continue to contain up to three times more sugar than is recommended by the World Health Organization.** The Commission will have to come up with new proposals which are more reflective of the Parliament's resolution. <http://tinyurl.com/zlfu4sy>

- **Co-rapporteurs Glenis Willmott (S&D), Julie Girling (ECR), Anneli Jäätteenmäki (ALDE), Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Piernicola Pedicini (EFDD), Matteo Salvini (ENF) have adopted a motion for a resolution on mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for certain foods.** They refer to consumer surveys according to which a significant percentage of consumers consider it necessary to indicate the origin of milk, of meat other than beef, swine, sheep, goat and poultry as well as of meat in processed foods. Consequently, they restate Parliament's position in favour of mandatory indication of the origin of meat in processed foods.
- **The European Parliament has held a [workshop on Food Contact Materials - How to Ensure Food Safety and Technological Innovation in the Future?](#)** The EP's ENVI committee will draft an [own initiative report](#) by this summer.
- **Confusion about origin and added water labelling.** EU legislation designed to avoid consumers being misled about the country of origin of ingredients contained in compound foods they purchase is likely to cause headaches for food manufacturers, according to a legal expert. <http://www.foodnavigator.com/Policy/Origin-labelling-of-food-continues-to-cause-problems>
- **France is set to bring in mandatory country of origin labelling for processed products, with agriculture minister, Stéphane Le Foll, saying he was ready to "take the battle to the European level".** <http://www.foodnavigator.com/Policy/France-to-bring-in-mandatory-origin-labelling-for-processed-food>
- **The Supply Chain Initiative is a joint initiative launched by 7 EU level associations with the aim to increase fairness in commercial relations along the food supply chain.** The members agreed on a set of Principles of Good Practice which contain a list of examples of fair and unfair practices in vertical trading relationships. These were welcomed by the High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain of the European Commission in November 2011 and subsequently, a Framework for their implementation and enforcement was adopted in January 2013. These EU level associations represent various interests from the food supply chain. They include the food and drink industry (FoodDrinkEurope), the branded goods manufacturers (AIM), the retail sector (the European Retail Round Table (ERRT), EuroCommerce, EuroCoop and Independent Retail Europe), and agricultural traders (CELCAA). <http://www.supplychaininitiative.eu/>
- **EU Health and Food Safety Commissioner Andriukaitis, Trade Commissioner Malmström and Agriculture Commissioner Hogan have released a [statement](#) on the draft rule which paves the way for EU exports of apples and pears to the US.** The Commission welcomes the publication by the USDA of the draft rule as a necessary step in the process to facilitate the export of apples and pears from the EU to the United States.
- **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has announced that it would update its assessments of the risks to bees posed by three neonicotinoid pesticides.** The new evaluations of clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid were requested by the European Commission, which placed restrictions on the use of the substances in 2013 following assessments carried out by EFSA. <http://tinyurl.com/h4z4akc>
- **IFOAM EU has published [a position paper](#) on new genetic engineering techniques, ahead of the legal interpretation of the European Commission, expected by March 2016.** The European organic food and farming sector considers that there are no legal or technical reasons to bypass the GMO legislation and to exempt these new breeding techniques from risk assessment and other legal requirements that apply to GMOs, and warns of severe economic consequences if some of these techniques are deregulated by the European Commission.
- **The new European Regulation on novel foods ([Regulation \(EU\) 2015/2283](#)) was adopted on 25 November 2015.** The text was published in the Official Journal dated 11 December 2015. While the text entered into force on the last day of 2015, most of the regulation provisions will only become applicable from 1 January 2018. <http://tinyurl.com/zcvgovh>
- **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has launched a public consultation on two draft guidance documents in the area of novel foods.** EFSA developed the documents following the adoption in November 2015 of the [EU Regulation on novel foods](#). [The first document](#) specifies the requirements applicants need to meet when submitting applications for the authorisation of novel foods. [The second document](#) concerns the information applicants need to provide to demonstrate the history of safe use of traditional foods from third countries. EFSA invites interested parties to [submit written comments](#) by 21 April 2016. <http://tinyurl.com/jh8389j>
- **The ENVI Committee has published a [Study on Food Safety situation in Ireland](#).** This study provides an overview of the food safety situation in Ireland. It outlines the Irish food and drink industry, the structure and organisation of the food safety and control system involved in food safety in Ireland and a description of current food safety issues in Ireland. An overview of the structure and competencies of the European Food and Veterinary Office is also provided.
- **The ENVI Committee voted on the oral question on the Zika virus outbreak, the vote was followed by the consideration of a motion for a resolution.**

International Free Trade Agreements

- **12th negotiating round of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) took place on 22-26 February 2016, in Brussels.** EU chief negotiator Ignacio Garcia Bercero, in his [statement](#), reported that since they seek to conclude the negotiations in 2016, this round will go beyond the usual one week negotiations and they will discuss some areas, such as rules of origin and public procurement, in the following weeks. He also stated that there would be two additional rounds between now and the summer break. In addition to that the European Commission has published [the list of documents](#) of all the texts prepared by the Commission shared with the European Parliament and the Council since the start of the negotiations.
- **At the last plenary session in Strasbourg Cecilia Malmström replied to the EP's Committee on International Trade (INTA)'s question on China's request for Market Economy Status.** MEPs want "WTO-proof" plan to protect EU firms against dumped Chinese imports. <http://tinyurl.com/zf6ynpl>
- **The INTA Committee has held an exchange of views on the Commission's [follow-up report](#), responding to the [EP's recommendations](#) on TTIP.** The discussions have taken place ahead of the 12th round of negotiations. The long list of outstanding issues includes regulatory co-operation, investment court system (ICS), financial services, geographical indications (GIs), energy and public procurement. Furthermore, the mismatch of the number and ambition of proposals by the US and by the EU is becoming more obvious. <http://tinyurl.com/jo6zyva>
- **A study commissioned by INTA Committee, which compares the EU services offer in TTIP and in the Trade in Services (TiSA), has been presented to the Committee Members.** The study does not only compare the sector-specific market access provisions, but also the rules part put forward by the EU in both negotiations. The most significant differences in sector-specific provisions are featured in the transport sector and educational services, while the highest harmonisation of provisions is in the energy sector and communications. <http://tinyurl.com/jr3qhj6>

The Dutch Presidency has convened an **informal Trade Council in Amsterdam**. Ministers have focus, among others, on the way forward in the **TTIP negotiations** in view of the 12th negotiating round; **China's request for market economy status (MES)**.

The EU Trade Commissioner, Cecilia Malmström has participated in the 16th TACD Annual Forum "The precautionary principle in TTIP: Trade barrier or essential for consumer protection". The forum brought together a number of EU and U.S. government officials, consumer advocates and industry stakeholders. As suggested in the title, the focus of this year's event was to examine the concept of precautionary principle and how it is applied in regulation in the EU and the US. The Forum hosted three plenary sessions and four thematic round tables, as well as an armchair [discussion](#) between Cecilia Malmström and Ira Rheingold (National Association for Consumer Advocates) on EU's proposed Investment Court System to replace the contentious Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS). <http://tinyurl.com/j3q38hj>

The European Parliamentary Research Service has published an [in-depth analysis](#) on the role of the US Congress in trade agreements.

Policy Department of DG EXPO has prepared for the INTA Committee the following studies on "[EU trade and investment policy](#)", and "[New trade rules for China? Opportunities and threats for the EU](#)".

BEUC, The European Consumer Organisation, has published a new [position paper](#) on chemicals in TTIP, which highlights some problems on the issue. According to the position paper, protecting consumers may become more difficult if rules to give the US government and business greater access to weigh in on the EU's regulatory decisions on chemicals standards are included in TTIP. <http://tinyurl.com/z8kqe8y>

Medical Devices

- **The proposals on medical devices and on in vitro diagnostic medical devices have been examined in the Council at Working Party level.** In addition, work has been done to prepare the next informal trilogue.
- **A tentative forecast of the upcoming events and meetings related to medical devices in 2016 has been published.** <http://tinyurl.com/ho5c8ro>
- **Since Parliament's final vote on 2 April 2014 which closed the EP first reading position regarding the Regulation on medical devices, several EU presidencies have been working on the proposals, which were released in September 2012.** Finally the Luxembourg Presidency adopted a general approach on 5/10/2015 and trilogue negotiations were opened. The ENVI Committee is the lead committee on the two related files, with IMCO part of the EP Negotiating Team under a so-called 'Rule 53+' arrangement. Four trilogues have taken place, so far, during which the following topics have been discussed, among others: in-house exemption, aesthetic devices, liability insurance, implant card, classification rules, definition of 'responsible person' and 'health institution, reprocessing. IVD specific topics include genetic counselling, prescription rules, IVD classification rules, in-house exemption and Class C, transitional measures, self-testing/near-patient testing.

Single Market

- At its meeting in February, the Competitiveness Council adopted [Council Conclusions](#) on the Single Market Strategy for services and goods focusing on key areas for creating growth and jobs: **support for SMEs, start-ups and innovative businesses**, releasing the untapped potential in **services** and the efficient implementation, compliance and **enforcement of single market rules**. <http://tinyurl.com/gvpkax7>
- The Dutch Presidency has convened an **informal Competitiveness Council in Amsterdam** to discuss the digitisation of industry, strengthening the single markets (digital and services), future-proof legislation and innovation-friendly frameworks. <http://tinyurl.com/zlvzdnh>
- The EP's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) has discussed the 210 amendments tabled to the draft report on Non-Tariff Barriers in the Single Market, with Daniel Dalton (ECR) as Rapporteur.** This report looks into the continued existence of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) which hinders the single market from achieving its full potential. It observes that not all NTBs should be removed. The vote in IMCO is scheduled on 15 March 2016.
- The IMCO Committee has considered the draft report on the Single Market Strategy with Lara Commi (EPP) as Rapporteur.** The rapporteur calls for a modern and more innovative, deeper and fairer single market and focuses on aspects aimed at helping businesses to scale up their activities grow and stay in the single market. Furthermore, the draft report calls for a strong culture of compliance and enforcement and reiterates Parliament's calls for the rapid adoption of the Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package by the Council. In addition, a public hearing on the single Market Strategy has been organised by IMCO Committee.

Public Consultations and Call for Tenders

- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on **due diligence and supply chain integrity for intellectual property protection**. Deadline: 6 April 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on **streamlining of planning and reporting obligations as part of the energy union governance**. Deadline: 8 April 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on a **sustainable bioenergy policy for the period after 2020**. Deadline: 10 May 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a [public online consultation](#) concerning a **possible change in the methodology to establish dumping in trade defence investigations concerning the People's Republic of China**. Deadline: 20 April 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on a **possible proposal to reform the procedure whereby Member States notify new regulatory requirements applicable to services providers**. Deadline: 19 April 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on the **evaluation and modernisation of the legal framework for the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR)**. Deadline: 15 April 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on the **mechanisms developed by companies to secure their supply chains and thereby protect their Intellectual Property (IP)**. Deadline: 6 April 2016.
- ECHA has launched a [public consultation](#) on 27 applications for authorisation covering **39 uses of: Chromium VI compounds; 1,2-dichloroethane (EDC); Diglyme**. Deadline: 6 April 2016.
- EFSA has launched a [public consultation](#) on **two draft guidance documents in the area of novel foods**. Deadline: 21 April 2016.

Personal Developments

- Thomas GRENON has been appointed the new Managing Director of LNE (Laboratoire National de Métrologie et d'Essais) as from 1st of April**, succeeding Jean-Luc LAURENT, general mining engineer, appointed for new functions at the General Council for the Economy, Industry, Energy and Technologies
- CSA Group President and CEO David Weinstein announced three appointments, effective March 1, 2016.**
 - Gianluca Arcari**, who currently leads the Standards organization, **is appointed to a senior and critical interim role as Vice President, Special Advisor to the CEO, to provide guidance in refocusing current global testing and certification business.**
 - Magali Depras**, currently Chief Operating Officer, **is appointed President of Standards.**
 - Rajiv Rajput** was appointed to the newly created role of **Executive Vice President of Strategic Development.**

The EUROLAB representative Wilfried Hinrichs participated at the EA Certification Committee (EA CC) which took place from 9 to 10 March 2016 in Vilnius.

Summary/ Main outcomes:

EA CC has been made clear that certification bodies working in product certification may issue certificates for products that are not in their accredited scope. In such cases it is not allowed to use the accreditation logo on the documents.

FAQ are going to be published after the next meeting. Before that some examples shall be prepared in order to check how it works.

In a workshop the task was to choose the preferable standard on which certification programs for different purposes should be based. The choice was between ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO/IEC 17065, possibly making reference to ISO 9001 and ISO 17067. In general, a scheme owner has to decide on the right basis for the intended purpose but Accreditation Bodies (Abs) should have their own approach to this.

This workshop was the starting point for a TF which shall develop guidance. The intention was not to make conclusions but only to have first results for the start of a discussion, i.e. to compare of the aims of certification and the nature of operation on the basis of existing standards and of a clear description on the purpose of the system. It shall be designed to answer the questions: What do we want to communicate to the market with a certificate? How difficult is it to withdraw a certificate?

The EUROLAB representative Wilfried Hinrichs participated at the EA Inspection Committee which took place on 8 March in Vilnius.

Summary/ Main outcomes:

As regards the FAQ it was highlighted that they are useful for training purposes on ISO/IEC 17020 but the decisions may be revised (e.g. sampling under ISO/IEC 17020) or not appropriately be taken into account by the AB.

The new version of ISO/IEC 17020 is said to be 'weaker' on the requirement of impartiality of persons performing internal audits. Participation of a technical director would be possible.

There were discussions on the independency of highly specialized organizations when the items inspected cannot be clearly enough separated from other activities. This raises the question about the usefulness of a ranking of Types A, B and C because it may be impossible to find technically fit inspectors. The problem becomes crucial when governments make regulations requiring, for example, Type A. The Chair has clearly expressed the opinion that impacts on the AB by economic circumstances cannot be taken into account.

After the VW scandal EA also wants to restore the citizen's trust in the capability of the regulatory system to ensure an adequate level of protection of health and the environment with the "New proposal for a regulation on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers etc."

It has been pointed out that this approach is similar to that in the Medical Device Regulation. It is said to be some more signs for a political trend moving from accreditation to 'closed clubs'. The National Accreditation Bodies (NABs) should approach the Commission to inform them about their respective concerns. The role of accreditation in important product areas with type approval is supposed to be in jeopardy.

On the Work plan (WP) of the Inspection Committee (IC) for 2016 the number 9 directly addresses testing: Testing issues in inspection (is on-going and will also be used to get a common understanding for IL): The question is how to find a common understanding what to consider as "testing", how it stands in relation to inspection work and how it should be assessed on the basis of ISO/IEC 17020.

The EUROLAB Annual Report 2015 has been published!

The EUROLAB Annual Report 2015 has been published and can be downloaded from our [website](#).

The EUROLAB Annual Report 2015 provides an overview of the major trends and developments in the laboratory sector and the EUROLAB activities over the last twelve months.

The year 2015 was a special year for EUROLAB marked by its 25th Anniversary. The main EUROLAB Anniversary activities and events took place during the General Assembly in Copenhagen, Denmark and the National Members' Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. You will find the highlights of these events in the Annual Report.

We wish you enjoyable reading!



UILI Inter Laboratory Practice Program 2016-2017

The Union Internationale des Laboratoires Indépendants (UILI), ILP Committee is organising the Inter Laboratory Practice Program 2016-2017, a global comparative study of laboratory analysis. The UILI ILP Program will focus on 8 different materials and the methods of testing for each lab are free.

The UILI ILP for 2016 comprises the following four programs:

- 10th UILI ILP 2016: Cations and anions in natural water;
- 11th UILI ILP 2016: Fat, Acidity, Dry Matter, Protein, Ash, Content, pH in milk;
- 12th UILI ILP 2016: Esterols, Erythrodol+Uvaole, Wax, Acidity, Peroxide index, UV spectrophotometric test, Delta ECN 42 and insoluble impurities in olive oil;
- 13th UILI ILP 2016: Nutritional labelling.

The UILI ILP for 2017 comprises the following four programs:

- 14th UILI ILP 2017: Phosphate, Silicate and Nitrate in water;
- 15th UILI ILP 2017: pH, Density, Alcoholic Strength, Total Acidity and Total Sugars in wine;
- 16th UILI ILP 2017: Dimensional Stability during laundering and domestic drying, Force by Traction and lengthening at rupture point, Abrasion Resistance – Martindale in textiles;
- 17th UILI ILP 2017: Conductivity, Sedimentable solids, Solid soluble sulfides, COD, BOD, Hydrocarbons, Coliforms, Detergents, Phenolics and Metals in river water.

For more information about the Inter Laboratory Practice please download the official announcement from the [link](#). If you have any further questions regarding the Program you can contact the UILI Secretariat at: secretariat@uili.org.

Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- **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
- **7th International Safety Conference**, 8 November 2016, Brussels

The EUROLAB TCQA, Gala Dinner, and General Assembly 2016 are kindly hosted by BMTA and will place in Scotland in conjunction with NEL on 19th, 20th and 21st of April. For registration please contact the EUROLAB General Secretariat: info@eurolab.org and BMTA Secretariat: enquiries@bmta.co.uk.



International Events

- **IAF - ILAC mid-term meetings** in Frankfurt, 29/03—07/04/2016
- **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
- **CEN/CENELEC TC 1, Criteria for conformity assessment bodies**, Brussels 14/04/2016
- **ELA Conference** on the theme 'Lifts and Escalators in Smart Cities', Rome, 18/04/2016
- **CAB College meeting** in Brussels, 28/04/2016
- **EA Advisory Board (EAAB) meeting** in Brussels, 29/04/2016
- **ISO CASGO WG 42 meeting** in Geneva, 10-12/05/2016
- **Eurachem General Assembly** in Ghent, 12/05/2016
- **ETPIS General Assembly** in Brussels, 12/05/2016
- **EA General Assembly** in London, 25-26/05/2016
- **31st CASCO plenary and workshop** in the United Arab Emirates, 3-5/5/2016
- **ISO CASGO WG 42 meeting** in Geneva, 31/05-02/06/2016
- **CEOC General Assembly** in The Hague, 28-31 May 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
- **CAB College meeting** in Brussels, 11/10/2016
- **EA Advisory Board (EAAB) meeting** in Brussels, 12/10/2016
- **Twelfth International CROLAB Conference of Laboratory Competence** in Vinkovci, Slavonia, Croatia, 19-22/10/2016
- **UILI LABMEETING – Governing Board and Working Group Meetings** in New Delhi, 27-28 /10/16
- **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