

EUROLAB NEWSBRIEFING

April - June 2016



Foreword

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Dear EUROLAB members,

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

Recent political developments in the European Community open a new cycle of relationship between nations, being today's instability and uncertainty, reasons to rethink many contexts associated with European integration, in particular, related to the economic, social and political cohesion, its impact on the future of the single market, the free movement of persons and goods and the harmonization of practices, essential for fair competition in international trade.

For the laboratories community represented in EUROLAB, whose basic statutes calls for action in the European area of integration of individual States in the common market, it appears as a high challenge follow the development of the relations of economic actors and the impact that they will have on economic activity, with emphasis on what falls within the laboratory setting.

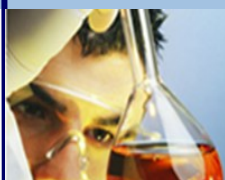
In this framework, the network structure of EUROLAB can be valuable as an instrument of dialogue and cooperation between entities of different member countries. Its role should continue to be promoting and leading actions towards a better consolidation of European economic and social development, thus being able to ensure that some fundamental expectations and values of modern society are met. This challenge 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 Society.

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

Yours Sincerely,

EUROLAB President

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro



EUROLAB General Assembly 2016, TCQA meeting & International Seminar 19th - 21st April 2016, East Kilbride, Scotland

The European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories (EUROLAB) held elections to the Board of Administrators, including the re-election of the President & two Board Members and the election of one new Vice-President, Treasurer & one new Board Member.



Participants of the EUROLAB General Assembly, 21st April, East Kilbride



EUROLAB Vice-President Kurt Ziegler, President Álvaro S. Ribeiro, Vice-President Jeff Llewellyn

The EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings 2016 took place in East Kilbride, Scotland, from 19th to 21st April 2016 and were kindly hosted by BMTA in conjunction with NEL.

The EUROLAB events started on Tuesday morning with the TCQA meeting, where, among others, the following topics were discussed:

- EUROLAB Galaxy and EUROLAB representatives in various working groups;
- TCQA documents: discussions on the '*Continuous improvement within QM systems*' – a new Drafting Group has been created by the EUROLAB members from Turkey, Bulgaria and Croatia;
- Cookbooks proposals: '*Risk Based Approach*', '*Traceability in measurement for medical laboratories*', '*Decision rules*'. Working Groups have been created for drafting these proposed cookbooks;
- TCQA projects: '*Harmonisation of Assessors*', led by TURKLAB. The aim of the project is to address the lack of harmonisation of assessors at the European level;
- Activities and developments in the TCQA Working Groups;
- TCQA actions in relation to accreditation and standardisation issues.

The second day, Wednesday, 20th April, was dedicated to the EUROLAB – BMTA International Seminar hosted by NEL. The Seminar was well attended, with representatives from the EUROLAB members as well as attendees from the British laboratory sector. The Seminar was opened by the host, Jeff Llewellyn, EUROLAB Vice-President and followed by Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, EUROLAB President, who addressed the welcome and thank you remarks to the organisers and participants. The introduction was followed by speakers from various bodies, institutes and industry such as: The UK National Accreditation Body (UKAS); The Dutch Metrology Institute; Swedish Centre for Intercomparisons, SP and LGC Group. Among others, the speakers and participants discussed topics related to: the revision of ISO 17025 and the challenges faced by the national accreditation bodies across Europe, ISO 15189 and its effect on medical laboratories, associated workshops currently being run jointly by UKAS and BMTA, inter-laboratory comparisons and proficiency testing. The Seminar concluded with a presentation of NEL, by Brian Millington, CEO, TUV-NEL Ltd, and was followed by a tour of NEL facilities.



EUROLAB – BMTA International Seminar, 20th April, East Kilbride



Tour of NEL facilities, 20th April, East Kilbride

The EUROLAB Board meeting took place on Thursday, 21st April and was followed by the EUROLAB General Assembly where various EUROLAB related issues were discussed, such as:

- Institutional representation and international cooperation;
- Policy updates on various on-going legislative developments;
- EUROLAB strategy, including the creation of EUROLAB Experts Advisory Groups and draft of the EUROLAB Policy Paper;
- EUROLAB Organization & Galaxy – the EUROLAB Members agreed with the following proposals:
 - ⇒ Representatives in EA LC: Andreas Kinzel, EUROLAB-Deutschland and Ömer Güzel, TURKLAB
 - ⇒ Representative in EAAB: Irache Visiers, EUROLAB-Spain and substitute Alexander Šafařík-Pštrosz, EUROLAB-CZ;
 - ⇒ Urs von Känel, EUROLAB-CH invited the EUROLAB Members to the National Members' Meeting 2016, which will take place from 27th to 29th September, in Lucerne, Switzerland.

The elections to the EUROLAB Board of Administrators took place during the General Assembly.

- Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, RELACRE, was re-elected for the position of EUROLAB President for 2-year term.

The EUROLAB Members also elected:

- Kurt Ziegler, EUROLAB-Deutschland, for the position of Vice-President
- Bernd Kroon, Fenelab, for the position of Treasurer

New Members of the Board of Administrators:

- Bernd Kroon, Fenelab

Re-elected members to the Board of Administrators:

- Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, RELACRE
- Pascal Launey, LNE

TCQA Vice-Chairman:

- Ömer Güzel, TURKLAB was elected as the new Vice-Chairman of TCQA.

The EUROLAB General Assembly 2016 concluded with thank you remarks addressed by the President, Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, to BMTA for the organisation of the successful EUROLAB events in Scotland.

The EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings 2017 will take place from 26th to 28th April 2017, in Bologna, Italy, and will be kindly hosted by ALPI.

News EUROLAB-CZ



The Association of Accredited and Notified Bodies of the Czech Republic (AAAO) - member of EUROLAB-CZ - organised in conjunction with its General Assembly (21-22 April 2016) a seminar with the topic of the importance of the third parties conformity assessment and how to strengthen it. The key note speaker was Franziska Kassler (EUROLAB/CEOC Secretariat) who presented the TIC community priorities and relationship on the EU level. The event was placed in a historical space of Chateau Loucen near Prague. At the seminar top representatives of the national notifying authority - the Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing, the main market surveillance body – the Czech Trade Inspection and the national accreditation body – the Czech Accreditation Institute participated. After the presentations a panel discussion followed with the members of AAAO concerning the cooperation among the notified bodies and the authorities mentioned and about the priorities for the near future (implementation of the NLF and the Blue Guide, Safety package, draft of the MD regulation, new developments in the EA etc.)

News EUROLAB-Deutschland



EUROLAB-Deutschland has published the 25th Anniversary Book, presenting an overview of the activities developed during the last years. The Anniversary Book is available on the EUROLAB-Deutschland website, at: <http://www.eurolab-d.de/deutsch/aktuell/der-jahresbericht-2015-eurolab-d-ist-da.html>

EUROLAB-D Annual Meeting & Colloquium

Combined with its Annual Meeting EUROLAB-D traditionally organized a well-attended Colloquium with current topics at the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) in Berlin on 13 April 2016.

As the first speaker Dr. Volker Czabon presented the new version of the ISO 9001 standard which resulted from a major revision of this generic quality management standard. Concerning clause structure, terminology and some common text modules the new version is aligned with the so-called High Level Structure which is used to harmonise various management standards. It was emphasised that "it is not the intent of this International Standard to imply the need for:

- uniformity in the structure of different quality management systems;
- alignment of documentation to the clause structure of this International Standard;
- the use of the specific terminology of this International Standard within the organization."

On the contrary, Dr. Czabon pointed out that the new standard gives more degrees of freedom to the organisations implementing it. One example is the required documentation which can be adjusted to the own needs of an organisation. A quality manual is not required in any case.

In order to increase the effectiveness of the quality management system (QMS) the organisation shall consider both opportunities and risks. Risk-based thinking was only implicitly addressed in the previous version of the standard, in particular in the requirement concerning preventive actions which is now omitted in the new standard. If possible, risks should be eliminated or minimized, but an organisation can also decide to retain a risk by informed decision. Actions taken to address risks shall be proportionate to their potential impact. A formal risk management (as described e.g. in ISO 31000) is not required.

The responsibility of the top management of the organisation is strongly emphasised. As elaborated in chapter 5 Leadership the management shall demonstrate leadership and commitment concerning the QMS. To appoint a management representative with responsibility for the QMS is not required anymore.

A process approach shall be used when developing, implementing and improving the QMS. When comparing ISO 9001 and ISO/IEC 17025, Dr. Czabon saw a difference in that the latter restricts the process approach just to the provision of the calibration or testing services. According to ISO 9001 laboratories should use this approach for all their activities, such as procurement, internal audits, management review or validation of test procedures.

Concluding his talk, Dr. Czabon saw an opportunity for organisations because of less formal requirements in the new standard, but also a risk that this might cause globally different quality cultures when the standard is implemented.

In a second lecture Dr. Hedrich presented experiences of the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) with its accreditation process as a reference material (RM) producer. Recently BAM, which has provided RMs since more than 100 years, had applied for accreditation as a RM producer.

As a first step this application covers only parts of all RM activities. The assessment was combined with a surveillance visit with respect to the laboratory accreditation. Thus the effort could be minimised as the same assessors could deal with the laboratory accreditation and the RM issues. Additionally only one statistician was needed. Dr. Hedrich mentioned some of the non-conformities identified, e.g. concerning partner organisations involved in the RM characterisation or safety data sheets.

As the second part of this lecture she reported on the development of the new International standard ISO 17034 on the basis of ISO Guide 34. In this process a guide is to be transferred into a standard. Metaphorically that means to change "should"-clauses (recommendations) into "shall" (requirements). Additionally the standard has to be aligned with the common structure of the other standards of the ISO 17000 series, which implies the inclusion of the so-called common elements concerning impartiality, confidentiality, complaints procedures and QMS requirements. This is not simply trivial as the production of RMs is strictly speaking no conformity assessment activity. The publication of the new standard is to be expected at the end of this year or in the beginning of 2017.

The last talk was delivered by Dr. Ellerbeck, who is an employee of the German accreditation body DAkkS. She talked about accreditation of sampling, emphasising that sampling has a very important role e.g. for environmental testing. In Germany this is a legally regulated area with specific requirements for laboratories notified for the testing of air, water, waste, soil and contaminated sites. The respective documents all deal with the sampling process, too. Regarding the horizontal standards, sampling is addressed in ISO 15189 for medical laboratories and in ISO/IEC 17025 for testing laboratories in general. If accredited inspection bodies perform sampling, this process has to be compliant with the respective clauses of ISO/IEC 17025, too.

At present it is a matter of international discussion whether an organisation can be accredited for sampling as a stand-alone activity, i.e. without performing subsequent analysis or testing. Dr. Ellerbeck referred to a decision taken by EA during its General Assembly 2015 that this type of accreditation is possible either against ISO/IEC 17025 or against ISO/IEC 17020. This question is also discussed in the course of the revision of ISO/IEC 17025. In the current draft (CD 2) sampling is mentioned in the definition of laboratory activities. DAkkS has offered accreditation for sampling as a stand-alone activity since several years. Some 60 German organisations have been granted this type of accreditation so far.

In the following annual meeting Prof. Kurt Ziegler was re-elected as chairman for two additional years. The members discussed among other issues about the revision of ISO/IEC 17025, the "Blue Guide", the DAkkS requirements on metrological traceability and on surveillance procedures.

News RELACRE

25th Anniversary of RELACRE

RELACRE celebrated its 25th anniversary on 9th of May with an International Symposium aiming at promoting the Importance of Conformity Assessment for Safety and for the Quality of Life.

The event took place at Museu do Oriente on 9th May 2016, having 126 participants and more than 20 Sponsors acting in the conformity assessment field. Related to the celebration, recognitions were made to several persons who cooperate with RELACRE, and 4 new Honorary members were associated, one of them being José Luis Sánchez Álvarez-Campana from EUROLAB-Spain, for promoting cooperation between the two entities and the two Countries for many years.



Also to commemorate this event, a film was produced to promote laboratory activity, for now in Portuguese language but, soon, translated to English.

The program of the Symposium had interesting talks by:

- Alan Bryden, first President of EUROLAB (Testing and Conformity Assessment in Support of Sustainable Development),
- Orlando Paixão, first President of RELACRE (Challenges and Framework in the beginning of RELACRE),
- José Luis Sánchez Álvarez-Campana, EUROLAB-Spain (Rethinking the Global Market: an overview of the forthcoming opportunities in the TIC Sector),
- Maria João Estorninho, Law Faculty of Lisbon University (European Directives, Public Contracts and Accreditation),
- Drewin Nieuwenhuis, CECOC General Secretariat (Global trends and Development in the Testing, Inspection and Certification – TIC – Sector),
- João Cotta, CEO of Controlvet – ALS Portugal (Challenges of Internationalization),
- Guiomar Massa Medeiros, Chair of RELACRE Sectorial Committee for Water (Competitiveness and the Value of Laboratory Activity to Economy), and
- Álvaro Ribeiro, President of RELACRE and President of EUROLAB aisbl (The Relevance of Laboratory Activity to the Economy and to the Society).



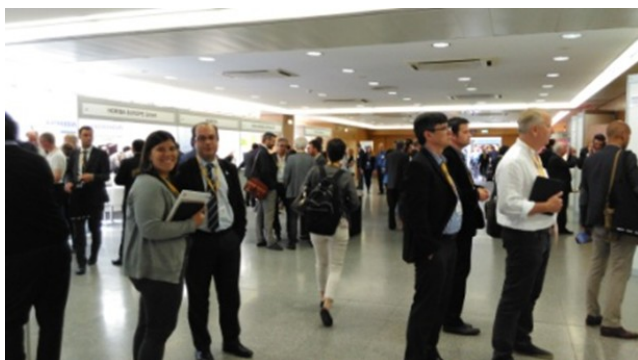
News RELACRE

RELACRE sponsored the organisation of CEM Conference held in Lisbon from 18th to 20th of May.

CEM – International conference and Exhibition on Emission Monitoring, is one of the major events on Environmental testing field. More than 300 participants worldwide and more than 60 participants in the technical exposition. During the opening section, Álvaro Ribeiro took the opportunity to promote EUROLAB as representative of conformity assessment bodies, being many of the participants from laboratories doing this type of activity.

The CEM event brought together the International emissions monitoring community to network, trade ideas and discuss technology, methods, applications, legislation and standards relevant to all atmospheric pollutants which include particulates, SO₂, NO_x VOC, trace elements and greenhouse gases.

The CEM 2016 presentations and posters presentations were addressed a wide range of testing and monitoring issues covering the latest international regulations, standards, methods and technologies in applications such as power stations, waste incineration, laboratory analysis, ship emissions and the Maritime Directive, biofuels, coal and biomass fired boilers, hazardous waste incineration, cement plants, chloralkali plants and landfill emissions.



News Eurolab-Spain**EUROLAB-España General Assembly****2nd June 2016**

On June 2nd EUROLAB-España celebrated the General Assembly 2016. With the participation of a large number of members, we treated different subjects, like EUROLAB-España Annual Report 2015, Management Plan and budget for 2016.

After the meeting took place a lunch, where all the participants could meet and exchange experiences.



News Turklab



TURKLAB Food Committee Meeting

08 April 2016, the Food Committee meeting was conducted at the Yeditepe University Research and Development and Analysis Center Laboratory auditorium with a high attendance.



TURKLAB Academy “ISO /IEC 17043 General Requirements for Proficiency Testing” Seminar

On 13-14 April 2016, TURKLAB Academy successfully conducted the “ISO /IEC 17043 General Requirements for Proficiency Testing” seminar at the Afyon Kocatepe University Engineering Faculty with high personnel attendance. Our gratitude is extended to all university personnel that attended the seminar.



26-27 April 2016, Validation of Analytical Methods Seminar

The TURKLAB Academy successfully conducted the “Validation of Analytical Methods Seminar” on 26-27 April 2016 in Ankara with high attendance. Our gratitude is extended to all participants that attended the seminar.



20 April 2016, Board of Directors Meeting

On 20 April 2016, our Board of Directors meeting was hosted by one of the members, İZAYDAŞ (İzmit Atık ve Artıkları Arıtma Yakma ve Değerlendirme A.Ş.). We extend our gratitude to the İZAYDAŞ General Manager Muhammet Saraç, as well as the member who organized the event, Erkan Baysal, for their hospitality.



The 3rd ULAG National Laboratory Accreditation and Safety Symposium and Exhibition was organized.

Organized by the Istanbul Branch of the TMMOB (Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects) Chemical Engineers Association, the "3rd National Laboratory Accreditation and Safety Symposium and Exhibition" was hosted with great attendance at the Yıldız Teknik University, Davutpaşa Campus 2010 European Capital of Culture Congress and Culture Center on 11-12-13 May 2016. The Symposium and Exhibit centered on all articles of the TS EN ISO/IEC 17025 and TS EN ISO 15189 standards, with special focus on areas in which issues arose.

The second session of the first day was presided by our Honorary Board President Dr. Ömer Güzel, and the third session was presided by our member, Bilim Laboratories General Manager Doğan Halis.

Our member at the symposium, Spc. Dr. Ebru İlhan Güner from Biruni Laboratory conducted a presentation on the topic of the "Medical Laboratories Accreditation within the scope of TS EN ISO 15189 and the problems arose in our country".

As a supporting institution, TURKLAB participated within the symposium by opening a stand.



TURKLAB Environment Committee Meeting

On 17 May 2016, the "TURKLAB Environment Committee Meeting" was conducted with high attendance of our members.

During the meeting, feedback was provided regarding the draft documents for the regulation on laboratories Measuring, Testing and Analyzing Workplace Hygiene and regulation on laboratories providing Environment analysis service. The sector issues were discussed, and the solutions suggested by the members were put to consideration.



26 May 2016, TURKLAB Consultation Meeting

On 26 May 2016, the "TURKLAB Consultation Meeting" took place regarding the following agenda. Our President Neşe Güneş provided information on TURKLAB activities, and received feedback. The Honorary President Dr. Ömer Güzel provided information on the recent activities done by EUROLAB. The highly efficient meeting had active participation, and ended as a success. We extend our gratitude to all members for their participation and contribution.

Agenda:

- The presentation of January-April activities and ongoing projects,
- Evaluation of the 20 May 2016 TURKAK Consultative Board meeting,
- Information regarding relations and updates with EUROLAB, to which we are a member of,
- Information and developments on the “Regulatory Harmonization” project, conducted at the European level by the TCQA committee,
- Brainstorming for statistics accumulation and issues regarding regulators for the “Regulatory Harmonization” project,
- Presenting of the SWOT analysis results prepared by the Board of Directors, and the specification of strategic priorities for the Association,
- Declaration of the special agenda for the following Consultation Meeting (e.g. “How to Increase Work Potential”),

**TURKAK Consultative Board Meeting – 20 May 2016**

Two TURKLAB representatives attended the TURKAK Consultative Board Meeting and shared their opinions and gave the following suggestions to contribute to the conformity assessment sector.

- The EUROLAB updates were shared,
- A suggestion to raise awareness within the framework of repeated inspections conducted by the ministries was provided,
- Information and developments on the “Regulatory Harmonization” project, conducted at the European level by the TCQA committee was given,
- A suggestion to specify the operational performance during the accreditation period, with emphasis on the importance of such action was provided,
- The World Accreditation Day evaluation was conducted,
- We made a commitment to contribute to the 2017-2021 TURKAK Strategy Plan,
- Our Collaboration message was conveyed,
- Successful examples of the positive influences of Conformity Assessments on the economy and public welfare were shared.

**TURKAK 09 June 2016 World Accreditation Day Celebration**

World Accreditation Day is celebrated each year with the collaboration of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) with a distinct theme each year. This year, it was hosted by the Turkish Accreditation Agency on 9 June 2016 with a panel program at the Ankara Bilkent Hotel and Conference Center.

The TURKAK Board of Directors Members, TURKAK Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-Generals, TURKAK personnel and shareholder corporation/association authorities were present at World Accreditation Day events.

European Union Minister Deputy Undersecretary TURKAK Board of Directors President Ahmet Yücel presented the opening speeches, emphasizing recent activities and “The Importance and Role of Accreditation in Public Policies” in relation to this year’s theme. The presentations and panels on the recent developments and current situation regarding accreditation activities in public sector were conducted by high-ranking public representatives.



Accreditation

- The 2015 **ILAC MRA Annual Report** has been published and is available from the ILAC website: <http://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/ilac-documents/promotional-brochures/>. The report sets out the activity that is carried out as part of the peer evaluation process, developments in accreditation over the last year, new and revised publications, and signatory status updates from 2015.
- The ballot on **EA-2/02 EA Procedure for the evaluation of a National Accreditation Body** is closed. **Members voted in favour of the revision** and the document was published on the EA Website.
- The IAF/ILAC Joint Working Group (JWG) on A-Series Maintenance is submitting the documents, titled “**IAF/ILAC-A1:xx/20xx – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group**” and “**IAF/ILAC-A2:xx/20xx – IAF-ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body**” to all ILAC and IAF members.
- The ILAC and IAF JWGC produced a video as part of the supporting materials available for celebrating the **World Accreditation Day 2016 - Accreditation: A Global Tool to support Public Policy**. The video can be found through the following link: <http://ilac.org/media-centre/world-accreditation-day/>.
- The ILAC Inspection Committee (IC) has submitted the following document: “**ILAC-P15:06/2014 Draft Revision for Clause 8.1.3 – June 2016: Application of IOS/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies**” to ILAC Members for a 30-day voting period. The changes introduced in the circulated draft only relate to application notes for Clause 8.1.3.

Deadline for comments: 8th of July.

The joint document **IECEE-ILAC-IAF Guidance for the Conduct of Unified Assessments in the Electrotechnical Sector** was developed by a Joint Working Group of IEC, ILAC and IAF for assessment teams conducting unified assessments in the electrotechnical sector and is now available from the ILAC website in the Partnerships section <http://ilac.org/about-ilac/partnerships/iec/> under the ILAC-IEC Partnership heading and from the IAF website in the Publications section, Documents for General Information http://www.iaf.nu/articles/Documents_for_General_Information_/29 under the Joint Publications with other Organizations heading.

The EA Executive committee has defined a project to develop the new EA strategy for implementation over the period 2017 - 2025. The EA Strategy 2025 includes the action steps and resources needed to accomplish the defined objectives. At the EA GA in Windsor in May the conclusion was to circulate a draft strategy in order for you to compile, analyze and comment. Your written comments and adjustment proposal should be sent in the draft Word-document via intranet by 19th August 2016 the latest. The Strategy has been distributed to the EUROLAB Members on 20th June.

The revised draft EA-2/17 has been distributed to the EA members for a 30 days comment period - official deadline 3rd July. Please consider that the table of preferred standards was endorsed by the General Assembly and is therefore not subject to comments.

EA has launched a brand new brochure throwing light on the challenges of accreditation. The brochure can be found through the following link: <http://www.european-accreditation.org/promotional-information#3>

The revised document **ILAC R5:04/2016 ILAC Procedure for Handling Complaints** has been published on the ILAC website. The current version of the document is now available on the [Publications section of the ILAC website](#).

Standardisation

- The following technical entity has been created as active on the [Global Directory](#) data: **ISO/TC 304 Healthcare Administration**.
- New documents regarding the 5th WG 42 meeting are available on the **ISO/CASCO/WG 42 eCommittee**.
- The ballot on **ISO/IEC DTS 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 (ABMS) has opened. The closing date is 2016-07-15.
- The ballot on **ISO/IEC CD2 17011, Conformity assessment -- General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies** that closed on 2016-03-29 was approved with 82% of positive votes from CASCO members.
- The ballot on **ISO/IEC NP 17021-1** has closed. Members voted in favour of the ballot.
- The ballot on **ISO/IEC CD 17011.2 - Requirements for accreditation bodies** has closed. Members voted in favour of the revision.
- A 12-week ballot on **ISO/IEC 17029 Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies performing validation and verification activities** has opened on 2016-05-26 with a closing date on 2016-08-26.
- The ballot on **ISO/IEC CD 17025.2 – Requirements for testing and calibration laboratories** closed. **Members voted in favour of the revision.**
- **CEN and CENELEC welcomed the European Commission's latest proposals concerning the future of the European Standardization System.** In particular, CEN and CENELEC are satisfied to see that the Commission has committed itself to having a more consistent and unified policy towards standardization, which serves to strengthen the Single Market and also supports the implementation of EU policies and legislation. The full version of this press release can be found on the [CEN-CENELEC website](#)
- The presentations from the CASCO Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement in Dubai (5 May 2016) are available through the following link: <http://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink?func=ll&objId=17697947&objAction=browse>
- The ballot on **ISO/IEC DIS 17021-3, Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Part 3: Competency requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems (QMS)** will open on 2016-07-19.
- **CEN and CENELEC is inviting the Liaison and Partner Organizations, to participate in a half day event on the 14 and 15 July to inform them of and seek their feedback on a number of proposals to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the European Standardization System.** The event, on both dates, will run from 10:00 until 13:00 and will be held at the CEN-CENELEC Meeting Centre, Avenue Marnix 17, 4th floor. The STEER project has been running since May 2015.

Business news

- **First contract of Apave Group on periodical rig inspections.** The project of HSTD Topside and In-Air Jacket Annual Inspection is in partnership between Apave Group and PV Drilling, performed by Apave Asia – Pacific in Vietnam with a team from Apave SEE (Macedonia) for Thanglong Joint Operating Company as end client.
- **Bureau Veritas has announced that it has launched an IT platform, BVE3, to support its Chemical Discharge Monitoring business.** BVE, Bureau Veritas' Environmental Emission Evaluator, is a supplementary tool to support supply chain partners in reducing the environmental impacts through the provision of a mechanism to understand factories' daily and weekly discharge potentials.
- **CSA Group announced that it has opened a new laboratory in Tokyo.** The new laboratory in Tokyo specializes in testing and certification of information technology equipment and audio / video equipment, measurement devices and medical devices.
- **Expanding its service reach throughout India, DEKRA Insight announced the formal opening of their office in Hyderabad.** The Hyderabad office will serve the process safety consulting, training and testing needs of the pharmaceutical and chemical industries in Southern India. DEKRA Insight has also recently expanded its presence in Mumbai and Delhi.
- **DELTA and FORCE Technology merge.** With the merger, DELTA and FORCE Technology create one of Denmark and Scandinavia's biggest GTS technology service companies. With approximately 1600 employees and over 1.5 billion DKK in turnover, the goal is to be the favourite Nordic impartial service- and knowledge partner within selected technology sectors.
- **The DEKRA Laboratory for Technical Textiles and Films is expanding its services.** Following its integration into the DEKRA Group, the former Labor Blum will in future use the know-how and synergies of the DEKRA laboratories.
- **DEKRA Automotive South Africa is further expanding its footprint in SA by opening a state-of-the-art vehicle test centre along William Moffett Expressway in Port Elizabeth.**
- **DNV GL - Oil & Gas has been awarded a Master Service Agreement with Statoil.** The contract includes a broad scope of studies on topics such as safety, platform technology, structural reanalysis and pipeline technology. In addition it offers hull and structural inspection services, the competent control of complex lifting equipment and software, maintenance and services for IT delivery.
- **DNV GL has been awarded a contract with Beothuk Energy Inc. to provide the constraints analysis, wind resource and energy assessment, LCOE modeling and a preliminary wind farm layout.**
- **DNV GL's blended auditor training course for quality management approved by IRCA.** The new course combines interactive e-learning and classroom sessions. Instead of five days of classroom training, participants can now cover the contents of the first two days through interactive e-learning modules.
- **Eurofins Scientific has bought a Dutch food testing firm, Bureau de Wit, to reinforce its position in the market and broaden its client base.**
- **Exova Group plc, the global testing, calibration and advisory services provider, announced today that it has entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement to sell its UK and Ireland Food, Water and Pharmaceutical business to international life sciences company, Eurofins Scientific, for a cash consideration of around £18m.** The sale consists of a portfolio of ten well-established, accredited laboratories across the UK and Ireland which provide a wide range of chemistry and microbiological testing services. Exova's Food, Water and Pharmaceutical business in the UK and Ireland generated revenues of around £20m in 2015. It is expected that the sale will complete early in the third quarter of 2016 on the satisfaction of certain conditions. <http://www.exova.com/news/newsroom/exova-agrees-to-sell-uk-and-ireland-food-water-and-pharmaceutical-business/>
- **Intertek has announced that its Milton Keynes-based Transportation Technologies laboratory has expanded its on-road vehicle exhaust emissions testing and analysis to now provide manufacturers with a wide variety of compliant test routes to maximise calibration robustness.**
- **Intertek has launched an onsite Coriolis flow meter calibration service, delivering industry leading technical expertise and cost and efficiency savings to its oil and gas clients.** Coriolis flow meters are one of the most reliable instruments with which to determine flow measurement and have become increasingly commonplace in oil and gas flow measurement systems.
- **Intertek has been appointed by FAB Link Ltd. to provide marine environmental and planning support for the France-Alderney-Britain (FAB) Project - a proposed electrical interconnector situated underwater between France and Great Britain via the island of Alderney.**
- **Intertek has announced the approval of five additional labs as notified bodies to test and certify low-voltage electrical products for the Gulf mark (G mark) scheme.** The Gulf Standards Organization (GSO) and Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) have granted the designation to two Intertek locations in the Americas and three in Europe.
- **Intertek has developed Activewear Testing Solutions, offering comprehensive performance tests for manufacturers looking to meet the growing demand of consumer expectations for fitness apparel and footwear worn for a variety of indoor and outdoor sporting activities.** The services, which include fabric function and performance testing for popular attributes like antibacterial/anti-mold properties, wind and water resistance, breathability, ultra-violet (UV) protection, thermal regulation, quick-dry capabilities, perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) testing and stretch/recovery, will be offered in apparel testing labs across the globe.
- **Intertek is now providing extensive quality and regulatory testing services for Fire Fighting Foam.** The Intertek laboratory in Antwerp, Belgium, helps clients, including shipping companies and fire departments; ensure that they have the correct grade of fire foam in their systems.
- **Intertek in partnership with the Business Environmental Performance Initiative (BEPI), announced the launch of the Supply Chain Chemical Management Module (SCCM), a new set of tools developed to support factories in managing chemicals as part of the overall effort to create more sustainable global supply chains for the textile and footwear industry.**
- **Intertek has announced the addition of its labora-**

tory in Mexico City to its list of notified bodies able to test and certify low-voltage electrical products for the Gulf mark (G mark) scheme. The Gulf Standards Organization (GSO) and Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) have granted the designation to the lab, which joins Intertek facilities in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, the United States, Brazil, United Kingdom, Germany and Sweden as approved notified bodies.

- **Intertek has launched an AgriTech laboratory based in Hyderabad, India.** High-tech DNA analyses will be performed by this purpose-built laboratory for the agri-biotech, plant seeds breeding, and plant seeds production industries.
- **Intertek and the Korean Gas Safety Corporation (KGS), the only gas safety management specialist in Korea, have expanded their partnership for the testing and certification of equipment used in explosive atmospheres.** Under the expanded agreement, the two organizations will accept testing and quality assessments for national and international certifications and compliance verifications, while also providing support for education and training, as well as exchange of technical information.
- **Intertek has partnered with Pepperl+Fuchs to pilot its ETL Hazardous Locations Panel Program.** The collaboration marks the first complete project under Intertek's new hazardous areas panel shop certification offering.
- **LRQA is the first assurance provider to have been awarded global accreditation by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) for making the transitions against the world's leading ISO management systems standards.** The scope of the accreditation covers Quality (ISO 9001), Environmental (ISO 14001), Food Safety (ISO 22000), Asset Management (ISO 55001), Business Continuity (ISO 22301), Energy (ISO 50001), Information Security (ISO 27001), IT Service (ISO 20000) and Supply Chain Security Management Systems (ISO 28000).
- **LRQA recently received accreditation by the Center for Offshore Safety (COS) to conduct safety and environmental management systems (SEMS) audits.** This full accreditation enables LRQA to evaluate the effectiveness of SEMS implementation for offshore oil and gas operators, contractors, service providers, manufacturers and suppliers.
- **LRQA broadened its verification collaboration with CDP, including deepening their working relationship globally and an increased focus on providing best practice resources for companies.** CDP is an international, not-for-profit organisation providing the only global system for companies and cities to measure, manage and disclose vital environmental information.
- **NEL completes its high capacity wet gas test facility.** NEL has announced the completion of the latest upgrade phase of its wet gas test facility – the UK's only independent commercial test service that can generate wet gas flows using water and oil simultaneously, replicating the challenges faced by industry in key production processes.
- **SGS launched Hover Board Safety Evaluation Service.**
- **SGS's Center for Vitamin and Pesticide Analysis, in Berlin, Germany, is moving to new premises and expanding its capacity to analyze more samples, faster, for clients in the food sector.**
- **SGS launches Functional Safety Training for Semi-**

conductor Development. SGS will be the first company to deliver functional safety training courses specifically focused on semiconductor development in accordance with ISO 26262 and ISO/PAS 18451.

- **SGS extends Field Trial Capabilities in Malaysia.** With the opening of a new 2.88-hectare field trial station at Bertam, Kepala Batas, on Pulau Pinang, Malaysia, SGS is aiming to extend its geographical reach and offer customers a wider range of services.
- **ANOR appointed SGS to Deliver PECAE Services on Imports to Cameroon.** SGS signed a contract with the Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development in Cameroon, for the provision of Pre-shipment Evaluation of Conformity (PECAE) services, to complement the existing Customs Modernization Program.
- **SGS has opened a new textile testing laboratory in Semarang, Indonesia, one of the most important textile and garment manufacturing sites in the region, to support surrounding cities as well as Surakarta (known as Solo) and Yogyakarta, which are known as centers of batik production.**
- **SGS has announced that it is introducing bio-layer interferometry (BLI) for the analysis of molecular interactions in real time, at its laboratory in Mississauga, Canada.** This new service leverages the capabilities of the Octet Red96 System to detect specific interactions between a biosensor and a target analyte, and offers a number of advantages over current analytical techniques.
- **SGS has been awarded the on-site laboratory contract at Roxgold Inc.'s Yaramoko gold mine in Burkina Faso.** The contract includes the design, manufacture and site installation of a modular laboratory facility.
- **SGS appointed General Assessor for Cradle to Cradle Product Certification.** SGS has been appointed General Assessor for Cradle to Cradle product certification, by the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute.
- **In New Zealand, SGS has invested in new facilities and renewed the MPI Permit for its agriculture laboratory, as part of a move to new premises in Mt. Wellington, Auckland, in early 2016.**
- **SGS has extended its GLP accreditation in Brazil and can now offer compliant residue testing as well as field services.**
- **SGS has launched mapping services in the Mediterranean region.** In the Mediterranean region, a specialized team of SGS agronomists has launched sophisticated agricultural mapping services enabling optimization of fertility and water management.
- **SZU extended the number of its commercial representations in the world.** A series of training sessions was implemented both in Brno headquarters and in the Jablonec branch that was designed for the new foreign commercial representatives of SZU. As an outcome of separate talks and business dealings, relevant agreements on cooperation were also concluded. Specifically, the new collaboration with Yasser Ghanem from Egypt, with Soroush Arvand from Iran, and with Mr. David Zhou from China and their teams was established.
- **The firm PWA, along with its brand BERNARDO, is**

receiving assistance from TÜV AUSTRIA. Together with Andreas Oberweger, a machine safety expert from the leading testing service, Holzweber completed an impressive stint in the service of the distributing company.

- **TÜV Rheinland launches first independent tire testing laboratory in Indonesia.** In a move aimed at ensuring the quality of tire manufacturing and improving road safety, TÜV Rheinland has opened the first independent tire testing laboratory in Indonesia. Located at in Taman Tekno BSD, South Tangerang, the new 530 qm lab is fully certified by the Indonesia National Accreditation Body (KAN) and qualified to test passenger car, truck, bus and motorcycle tires to the latest national and international standards.
- **TÜV SÜD presents first drone testing programme.** TÜV SÜD has now developed a testing programme for leisure drones which consolidates the EU regulatory requirements and thus adds safety to this booming segment.
- **TÜV SÜD inaugurated its new Digital Service Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Singapore, making it the first operational centre of its kind to be established outside of TÜV SÜD's global headquarters in Germany.** With an investment of a two-digit million amount within the next three years and an expected strength of over 50 people, this CoE will specialise in providing solutions for new technologies involving predictive data analytics, industrial cyber security and functional safety for evolving smart market segments, such as smart infrastructure and Industry 4.0.
- **TÜV SÜD Water Services now offers extensive RO membrane testing services in Singapore to plant oper-**

ators, chemical suppliers and membrane manufacturers. Both 4" and 8" reverse osmosis elements can be tested for performance evaluation, fouling characterization and chemical compatibility. The new set-up allows both sea and brackish water membranes to be assessed under varying conditions and for different amounts of time.

UL Environment, a business division of UL (Underwriters Laboratories), announced that it has received approval as a Third Party Certifier (TPC) for the California Air Resources Board (ARB) Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM). As a result, UL Environment is authorized to test and assess composite wood panel products for compliance to the CARB regulation which limits the amount of formaldehyde that can be emitted from hardwood plywood, particle board and medium density fibreboard.

UL announced its new Cybersecurity Assurance Program (UL CAP). UL CAP uses the new UL 2900 series of standards to offer testable cybersecurity criteria for network-connectable products and systems to assess software vulnerabilities and weaknesses, minimize exploitation, address known malware, review security controls and increase security awareness.

UL Japan announced that it has issued the world's first GREENGUARD Certification for Homes to PanaHome Corporation's (the Panasonic Group) new residential "CASART" house.

Business Results 2015

DNV GL

- Revenue of € 2,500 million;
- Operating profit € 186 million .

FORCE Technology

- The consolidated turnover: € 160 million;
- Operating Profit: € 1.066.000.

TÜV Nord

- Group sales up to € 1,116 million (+ 2.5%);
- Operating profit (EBIT) climbs to € 62 million (+ 6%).

TÜV SÜD

- Revenue of EUR 2,200 million and earnings of EUR 190 million (adjusted EBIT).

TÜV Rheinland

- Revenues increased by 8.7% to €1,880 million (2014: €1,730 million);
- Net income for the year (EBIT) €101.4 million.

RINA SpA

- Revenues of 378 million euros (+ 14% compared to 2015);
- Adjusted EBITDA 44 million euros (+ 16%).

Policy news

Chemicals

- **The European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) has held an exchange of views with the European Commission on the outcome of the cumulative costs assessment in the area of chemical industry (REFIT).** It was carried out by DG GROW in the framework of the "better regulation initiative" and as a follow-up to the Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT) Communication.
- **The European Commission and its Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) have published the [final Opinion](#) on potential risks to human health and the environment from the use of calcium cyanamide as fertilizer.**
- **The European Parliament has adopted the European Commission proposal for the [Trade Secrets Directive](#).** This directive covers the protection of undisclosed information and business information so called "trade secrets" against unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure. An invaluable factor for jobs and growth, trade secrets are used on a daily basis by chemical companies to enhance innovation either together with patents or in isolation. <http://tinyurl.com/gvc7f39>
- **ECHA has announced that new versions of [IUCLID](#), used for creating REACH and CLP dossiers, and Chesar and preparing chemical safety reports, is now available for companies to use.** <http://tinyurl.com/jhmfz8q>
- **ECHA has announced that the second [report](#) of the SVHC Roadmap implementation is now available and describes the main achievements and progress of the activities covered under the SVHC Roadmap to 2020 (screening, generation of data and assessment and risk management option analysis (RMOA)) in 2015.** It also provides an update on regulatory risk management activities under the REACH and CLP regulations and looks ahead to activities planned for 2016. <http://tinyurl.com/j686lwy>
- **The REACH requirements for skin corrosion/irritation, serious eye damage/eye irritation, acute dermal toxicity and skin sensitisation are changing, making non-animal testing the default requirement.** The amended REACH annexes concerning skin and eye irritation and acute dermal toxicity have been published in the [Official Journal](#) of the European Union and will enter into force on 20 June. <http://tinyurl.com/zyq75mu>
- **The EU chemicals agency (ECHA) announced that the use of chemicals in Europe is getting safer.** This comes out of ECHA's second five-year progress [report](#) on the two main EU chemicals laws.
- **The update of the dossier submission and communication tool, REACH-IT, will be launched on 21 June.** To manage the update, ECHA will close the system one week before the launch, on 14 June at noon (EEST). The new REACH-IT will be simpler to use and more intuitive, which will particularly help small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) registering their chemicals for the last REACH registration deadline of 31 May 2018. The support material can be accessed within the tool itself allowing users to get targeted help while using the tool. <http://tinyurl.com/zqb9ukh>
- **ECHA has [published](#) an inventory of substances, which are likely to fulfil the criteria to be hazardous.** The inventory helps REACH registrants, who manufacture or import between 1 to 10 tonnes per year, in deciding whether they may be able to register their substance with limited information.

Consumer Protection

- **The European Commission has published the Rapid Alert System 2015 [report](#).** The report shows that, in 2015, more than 2,000 dangerous products triggered EU-wide alerts. The Commission, EU Member States and businesses are working together to ensure that these unsafe consumer goods are removed from the European market. A key challenge is the increasing share of products bought online from outside the EU. <http://tinyurl.com/zp8bxwv>
- **MEPs of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) stated that the consumers should be given more power in the energy market on their latest [press release](#).** They recommended schemes such as collective buying, home power generation by households, better price comparison tools for everyone and making it easier to switch energy providers and tariffs. In a non-binding resolution intended as an input to Energy Union legislation to be tabled by the EU Commission, MEPs also called for EU funds for energy efficiency to better focus on energy poverty.
- **On 26 May 2016 the European Parliament voted through a report which calls on the Commission to create a more consumer-friendly energy market.** The [report](#), 'A New Deal for Consumers', is a timely call ahead of a Commission legislative package due in the second half of the year, expected to cover issues related to energy bills, supplier switching, smart meters or small-scale generation of renewable energy by consumers.
- **The European Commission and its independent Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) published their [final opinion](#) on estimates of the amount of toy materials ingested by children.** The SCHER was asked to review available data on the ingestion of the three types of toy material by children, and evaluate whether the ingestion amounts which formed the basis for the migration limits of 19 elements in the [Toy Safety Directive](#) are still appropriate or whether they should be changed (e.g. to weekly limits, rather than daily).

Consumer Protection

- **The European Commission unveiled a proposal to improve the way authorities at national level cooperate to protect consumers.** The Commission is proposing to give more investigative powers to national consumer authorities so that all of them can, for example, request and obtain information from other bodies (e.g. domain name providers, bank details) or take down websites or suspend payments to companies that are being investigated. <http://tinyurl.com/huym2yq>
- **The European Commission has proposed to boost consumer and business trust in e-commerce by making it easier for authorities to enforce consumer rights and by clarifying the rules on unfair commercial practices.** With the revision of the Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation, the Commission aims to strengthen consumer and business trust in cross-border e-commerce by ensuring a strong and equal enforcement of consumers' rights across the EU.
- **The European Commission unveiled a proposal to improve the way authorities at national level cooperate to protect consumers.** The Commission is proposing to give more investigative powers to national consumer authorities so that all of them can, for example, request and obtain information from other bodies (e.g. domain name providers, bank details) or take down websites or suspend payments to companies that are being investigated. <http://tinyurl.com/huym2yq>

Energy & Environment

- **The European Union has signed the Paris Agreement on climate change in New York.** The signing ceremony, convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, followed the adoption of the world's first universal [climate change agreement](http://tinyurl.com/zkqls3j) by 195 countries in Paris on 12 December 2015. The EU was the first major economy to table its commitment in the run up to the Paris climate conference (COP21) and now looks forward to the swift ratification and entry into force of the Agreement. <http://tinyurl.com/zkqls3j>
- **ITRE Committee has published a study on Energy Union: Towards the Realisation of a Fully Integrated Energy Market.** This study gives an overview and analysis of the main EU policies, measures and instruments that contribute to the realisation of fully integrated and well-functioning electricity and gas markets in Europe. Detailed case studies explore capacity remuneration mechanisms, electricity market coupling, and cross-border gas trade between Hungary and its neighbours.
- **EU ministers discussed the future design of Europe's electricity market at the informal meeting of energy ministers.** Investing in energy solidarity and bridging missing links in energy infrastructure are essential for the completion of the [Energy Union](http://tinyurl.com/zkqls3j), a key priority of the Juncker Commission.
- **European Environment Agency (EEA) has published a report Reduction of CO2 emissions from new vans.** According to the report, the fuel efficiency of new vans registered in the European Union (EU) increased slightly in 2015 compared to the previous year and the average emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) fell by less than 1 gramme (g) of CO2 per kilometre.
- **According to provisional data published by the European Environment Agency (EEA), emissions from official testing reported by national authorities show that new cars sold in the European Union (EU) are increasingly more fuel-efficient.** Last year, new passenger cars emitted on average 119.6 grammes (g) of carbon dioxide (CO2) per kilometre, 8% below the official EU target set for 2015. <http://tinyurl.com/zn6ssmw>
- **EU Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete participated in the meeting of G7 Energy Ministers.** G7 representatives from France, Germany, Italy, the UK, the US, Japan and Canada also participated. The main items on the agenda were global energy security, energy investment for global economic growth and sustainable energy. The meeting also focused on cyber security of energy infrastructure, innovation and deployment of new energy technologies, as well as on support for energy sector reforms in Ukraine. <http://tinyurl.com/jyjh9>
- **European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) organised a public hearing on "The Gas Package - how to strengthen the EU's energy security", following the presentation of the "Gas Package" by the European Commission.** ITRE is the lead committee in the adoption of the four proposals included in this package.
- **EU Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete travelled to Algiers to strengthen the EU's energy cooperation with Algeria.** Together with the Algeria's energy Minister Mr. Salah Khebri, he opened the very first EU-Algeria Business Forum dedicated to energy. The Forum, a concrete follow-up of the EU-Algeria Political Dialogue on Energy launched by the Commissioner in May [last year](http://tinyurl.com/jyjh9), gathers more than one hundred European and Algerian energy companies, industrial and financial associations to discuss ways to facilitate much-needed investment in Algerian gas exploration and exploitation, renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors.
- **European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) has published a study on Energy Union: Key Decisions for the Realisation of a Fully Integrated Energy Market.**
- **European Environment Agency (EEA) released a report; "The direct and indirect impacts of EU policies on land".** According to the report, the environmental impact of land used for building new roads, houses or energy grids should be better integrated into European Union policies. <http://tinyurl.com/gmpdn5r>

Food

- **ENVI Committee has held an exchange of views the European Commission on food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation for the year 2014.** The [Directive](#) on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation, requires Member States to forward to the Commission every year the results of checks carried out in the ionising radiation facilities, and the Commission to publish in the Official Journal of the European Union the details of the approved irradiation facilities in the Member States, as well as any changes in their status and a report on the information provided every year by the national supervisory authorities.
- **The European Commission has announced that it welcomes the opening of Mexican market to Spanish pig meat.** The Mexican market is now open for fresh pig meat from Spain, with a number of other EU Member States expected to follow in the coming months. <http://tinyurl.com/z9xc9ol>
- **Agriculture and Fisheries Council was held in Luxembourg.** The Commission informed the Council about the latest developments in those agriculture sectors that are currently facing particular difficulties such as the pig meat, dairy and fruit and vegetables sectors. <http://tinyurl.com/zjdmbon>
- **After 15 years, Japan lifted an embargo on Italian beef, following an earlier opening of its market to beef products from other EU Member States (France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Denmark and Sweden).** <http://tinyurl.com/znwsgji>
- **EFSA presented draft guidance documents on novel and traditional food to stakeholders following last year's adoption of a new European regulation on novel food.** <http://tinyurl.com/zmmml8c>
- **EFSA has published an [opinion](#) on genetically modified cotton 281-24-236 × 3006-210-23 × MON 88913 for food and feed uses, import and processing.**

International Free Trade Agreements

- **The 13th round of EU - U.S. negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement took place in New York on 25-29 April.** The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) hosted a stakeholder forum on Thursday 28 April to provide an update on negotiations and solicit input and feedback from interested stakeholders, as well as a press conference on 29 April to discuss outcomes from the negotiations.
- **The [report](#) on the 13th round of TTIP negotiations and the EU's [proposal](#) for pharmaceuticals have been published.**
- **The independent consultant, Ecorys, carrying out a Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) for the European Commission on the trade agreement being negotiated between the EU and the United States published its [draft interim report](#).** The 400-page report indicates that all Member States' economies would grow as a result of the new trade agreement. The study also predicts that EU exports to the US would rise by 27% and a mix of social indicators shows a combined benefit both for European and US citizens. <http://tinyurl.com/j3cfq9f>
- **The Commission has published a [report](#) which presents a detailed break-down of progress made in the ongoing negotiation of a trade agreement between the EU and the United States, TTIP.** The report shows that negotiators are making good progress in many TTIP chapters, while significant strides remain to be made in some areas in order to have the main elements of a deal finished this year.
- **The European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) held jointly with the IMCO Committee a public hearing dedicated to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement (TTIP) and public procurement.** Substantially improving access to the Trans-Atlantic public procurement markets is a key objective of TTIP, however, advancing the issue in the TTIP negotiations has proved to be very challenging. **INTA Committee discussed granting of up to 0.5 billion euros worth of macro-financial assistance to Tunisia, held an extensive exchange of views on the implementation of the EU investment policy and heard debriefings from the INTA missions to Canada and Ecuador.** Members also considered the limited progress in the interinstitutional trilogue negotiations on the Antitorture and the Conflict Minerals regulations.
- **The European Union and Tunisia are jointly making public the [initial texts](#) of the future Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA).** It was proposed by the European Union (EU) and presented to Tunisian experts during the preliminary discussions in Tunis in October 2015 and during the first round of negotiations on 18-21 April 2016.
- **The EU and China held [talks](#) on key aspects of their economic and trade relationship in the framework of an annual Economic and Trade Working Group (ETWG).** The talks covered both high-level and technical issues, including the EU-China investment negotiations, as well as specific issues affecting trade in goods and services, in particular various non-tariff barriers.
- **Canadian Minister of International Trade, Ms Chrystia Freeland addressed INTA Members, following up on a delegation visit from INTA Committee to Canada, which took place from 21 to 23 March 2016.** With CETA being a priority in her mandate as a Minister, the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between the EU and Canada, set to be referred to Parliament in autumn, was the main focus of the discussion.

International Free Trade Agreements

- **EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Foreign Minister of Uruguay, which currently holds the rotating presidency of Latin American trading bloc Mercosur, agreed in Brussels on the next steps in the negotiations on an EU-Mercosur trade agreement.** In the second week of May, the EU and Mercosur will exchange market access offers specifying ways to increase mutual openness to each other's goods and services, including access to public tenders. The meeting also resulted in the adoption of a roadmap for talks during the rest of the year. <http://tinyurl.com/htpf3t7>
- **In 2015, the US (€619 bn, or 18% of total merchandise trade) and China (€521 bn, or 15%) remained the top goods trading partners of EU, well ahead of Switzerland (€253 bn, or 7%) and Russia (€210 bn, or 6%).** Machinery & transport equipment accounted for more than 40% of all extra-EU exports, followed by other manufactured goods and chemicals.
- **The EU and Mercosur exchanged offers on access to their respective markets of goods, services and establishment and government procurement.** This was the first exchange of offers since 2004, and a necessary step to move the negotiating process forward. Both sides will now examine in more detail the offers. <http://tinyurl.com/z3vuypp>
- **EU Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström met today the Secretary of Economy of Mexico Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal to mark the beginning of new trade and investment negotiations between the two commercial partners.** The objective of these talks is to modernise and broaden the scope of the existing 'global agreement' from 1997 to mirror other ambitious agreements that the EU and Mexico have since negotiated with other partners. <http://tinyurl.com/jaqdrhj>
- **On 2 June 2016, trade Ministers and senior officials from seven Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) members - Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and the United States - met in Paris to discuss progress in the negotiations and to chart a path toward successful conclusion later this year.** This group has been working closely together with the aim of concluding an ambitious EGA with all participants ahead of when G20 Leaders meet in Hangzhou in September for the G20 Summit.

Medical Devices

- **The proposals on medical devices and on in vitro diagnostic medical devices have been examined in the Council at Working Party level.**
- **Plans for stricter monitoring and certification procedures to ensure that medical devices such as breast or hip implants comply fully with safety and traceability requirements were informally agreed by MEPs and the Dutch Presidency of the Council on 25 May 2016.** MEPs also secured tighter information and ethical requirements for diagnostic medical devices, e.g. those used for pregnancy or DNA testing. The agreement provides for: random inspections on the producers after devices have been brought out on the market, stricter checks on notified bodies, which will have to employ medically skilled people, an additional safety check for high-risk devices, such as implants or HIV-tests. Not only a notified body, but also a special committee of experts, will check that all requirements are met, an "implant card" for patients, enabling patients and doctors to trace which product has been implanted, and a requirement for medical device manufacturers to provide clinical evidence of the safety of their products, especially in the case of higher risk classes. The European Commission published the proposal in 2012, and the European Parliament already agreed on its [position](#) two years ago. However, it was not until last autumn that member states agreed a position, thus enabling negotiations with MEPs to start.
- **Council and Parliament representatives confirm agreement on medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices regulations.** The Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee of the European Parliament and Council's Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) voted to endorse the trilogue agreement. Plans for stricter monitoring and certification procedures to ensure full compliance and traceability of medical devices, such as breast or hip implants, were backed by Health Committee MEPs on Wednesday, 15th June. MEPs also approved legislation to tighten up information and ethical requirements for diagnostic medical devices used for example in pregnancy or DNA testing. Both files were informally agreed with the Dutch Presidency of the Council. The consolidated texts are expected to undergo legal review and language translations in the next coming months and are expected to be formally adopted at the end of 2016. The regulations would then apply to the medical devices and to the in vitro diagnostics sectors by 2020 and 2022 respectively. The texts can be downloaded and viewed on the [European Parliament website](#).
- **The new lists of references of harmonised standards for medical devices have been published (OJ C 173 of 13 May 2016).** They can be found on the European Commission website at: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=8815&lang=en&title=New%2Dlists%2Dof%2Dharmonised%2Dstandards%2Dfor%2Dmedical%2Ddevices%2Dare%2Dnow%2Davailable

Single Market

- **European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) published a [report](#) on the Single Market Strategy.** The Single Market strategy report proposes ways to unleash the full potential of the single market to the benefit of consumers, employees and businesses, in particular start-ups. The report recalls that good legislation requires effective and efficient working across the whole policy cycle. It highlights the importance of proper transposition, implementation and enforcement of Single Market regulations, which form an integral part of efforts to realise the benefits of the stimulate growth in Europe. The report on non-tariff barriers in the Single Market observes that the continued existence of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) hinders the single market from achieving its full potential. It also observes that not all NTBs should be removed. Both reports were voted by the EP during its plenary sittings of 26 May. **The final [report](#) regarding an improved Single Market regulation** was approved by 387 votes in favour, 293 against and 26 abstentions.
- **The European Commission presented its vision on how European standard setting should evolve in the light of technological developments, political priorities and global trends.** It also announces next steps on the Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS), which aims to reinforce the partnership between the European institutions and the standardisation community. European standards need to keep pace with the changing economy, the increasing importance of services, and the digital revolution thus the European Commission has adopted a Communication, announced in the [Single Market Strategy](#), to ensure that Europe remains a global hub for standardisation. <http://tinyurl.com/ztnywtv>

Public Consultations and Call for Tenders

- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) for the evaluation of Directive 2009/81 on public procurement in the fields of defence and security. Deadline: 8 July 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on a space strategy for Europe. Deadline: 12 July 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on the harmonised classification and labelling proposal for Glyphosate. Deadline: 18 July 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on evaluation of Regulation (EU) 913/2010 concerning a European rail network for competitive freight. Deadline: 21 July 2016.
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on how to make it easier for service providers to work across the EU. Deadline: 26 July 2016.

Personal Developments

- Jean -Luc LAURENT, President of EUROLAB-France since 2010, has retired. He was named the Honorary President of EUROLAB-France by the Board of Directors for all his work and added value brought to EUROLAB-France. Christophe RICHARD, CEO of LCIE , and member of the EUROLAB-France Board of Directors has been elected as new President.

Prof. Dr. Ing Kurt Ziegler participated at the 5th Meeting of ISO-CASCO-WG42 which took place in Geneva, Switzerland from 30th May to 2nd June.

Summary/ Main outcomes: The CD 2 draft proposal of the Revision of ISO/IEC 1701 accepted by the majority of the ISO member countries except Germany. The main outcome is that the revised CD 2 is now sent for DIS.

The different comments of the different countries were discussed on the basis of the result of the drafting group. The outcome was a new paper as proposal for DIS.

Issues of the discussions:

- ⇒ **Legal Entity:** There was a big discussion about the problem whether all governmental AB are automatically legal entities and independent from the government.
- ⇒ **Accreditation Symbol:** It may not be placed on products as some countries required.
- ⇒ **Impartiality:** Special emphasis was taken about activities to guarantee impartiality of ABs.
- ⇒ **Competence of assessors:** Detailed requirements were developed and part of the standard to guarantee the competence.
- ⇒ **Accreditation Cycle:** The biggest trouble and fighting started in connection with this issue. There is still no unit decision for all ABs how to handle the following:
 - The ABs can decide whether the CAB receives a new accreditation document or not after reaccreditation;
 - The AB can decide whether the accreditation document has an expiry date or not.

The biggest difference is that the reassessment decision shall take in consideration the information gathered from assessments performed over the assessments within the accreditation cycle. After a heard and strong and powerful discussion the following compromise formulation was agreed:

"7.9.4 Before the end of the accreditation cycle a reassessment shall be planned taking into consideration the information gathered from assessments performed over the accreditation. The reassessment shall cover all the requirements of the standard the conformity assessment body is accredited for. An accreditation decision shall be made based on these results"

Prof. Dr. Ing Kurt Ziegler participated at the 37th EA General Assembly which took place from 24th to 26th of May in Windsor, UK.

Summary/ Main outcomes:

- Strengthening the relations between EUROLAB and EA.
- Getting information about the future planned developments of EA.

EA Strategy 2015:

The establishment of the EA strategy 2015 is in progress. The strategy will be designed to support the two tasks of EA: serving the members and providing the infrastructure as defined in regulation 765/2008 EU § 14.

EA Executive Committee wants to take care that the same conformity assessment should be provided by the same kind of CAB. Differences e.g. due to legal requirements should be phased out as much as possible.

The possibility to provide voting rights to all MLA/BLA signatories in the MAC will be the first step of the AoA revision. The members present voted against.

As Rózsa Ring director of the Hungarian Accreditation Body is not further an employee of an accreditation body because Hungary founded a new accreditation body and she was replaced by somebody else. She consequently left the EA executive committee.

An agreement with SCC has been prepared to provide the starting point of the cooperation between SCC and EA for the implementation of the CETA agreement in relation to the acceptance of accreditations/conformity assessment results based on regulations of the other party (EU/Canada).

TTIP – Agreement USA - EU

EA has prepared a policy document to outline positions how the acceptance of accreditation/conformity assessment results could be achieved if the accreditation system does not follow the European accreditation policy as defined in regulation 765/2008 EU.

There are problems when members of EA have complaints between each other. Until now there is only the possibility via a peer assessment. A special working group will be established to solve the problem.

The results of the different Working Groups will be part of the minutes. There was nothing of special interest for EUROLAB.

Álvaro S. Ribeiro, participated at 10th General Assembly EURAMET and Research Council Meeting which took place from 23 May 2016 to 27 May 2016 in Oslo, Norway.

Summary/ Main outcomes: General Assembly Meetings

Main topics:

- Strategic activities;
- Joint research activities EMRP & EMPIR;
- EMRP Impact analysis;
- Capacity building;
- Communication strategy;
- Integration of Dis in EURAMET activities;
- Presentations of TCs Chairs (reports);
- Report from BIPM;
- Reports from Liaison Organizations (COOMET, SIM, NCSLI, EUROLAB, EURACHEM, CEN-CENELEC; and WELMEC).

Research Council Meeting

EMPIR Focus trends: Health, Energy, Environment, Industry and Capacity Building.

Topics for discussion:

- Impact of projects;
- Cooperation with Liaison Organizations;
- Establishing a roadmap for the future framework.

Future opportunities:

- Develop a cooperation between EURAMET and EUROLAB concerning the evaluation of the impact of EMPIR projects and concerning the development of better cooperation with Laboratory Community and Conformity Assessment Bodies as participants or users in research activities developed in future frameworks of European Projects.
- Increase cooperation between EUROLAB and EURAMET at technical level related with the use of Metrology knowledge to support the activity of CABs and Laboratories.

Drewin Nieuwenhuis and Laura Martin participated on behalf of the EUROLAB General Secretariat at the EURACHEM General Assembly, which took place from 12 to 13 May 2016 in Gent, Belgium.

Summary/ Main outcomes:

Main topics discussed:

- Proposed new or updated Eurachem policies;
- Eurachem Guides & Status of Eurachem guides, overview : Revision of Eurachem/CITAC Guide Quality Assurance for Research and Development and Non-routine Analysis; Revision of Eurachem/ Guide to Quality in Analytical Chemistry: An Aid to Accreditation; Status of the Guide Selection and Use of Reference Materials; Revision of the Eurachem "Traceability Guide"; Development of the Eurachem Guide on "Qualitative analysis"; Review/revision of the guide 'Terminology in Analytical Measurement';
- Discussion forum: "Guidance on the Use of Reference Materials";
- Communication within Eurachem;
- Presentations of the EURACHEM Working Group reports;
- Elections & Handover Chairmanship & Secretariat;
- Revision of ISO/IEC 17025 – now a Committee draft (CD);
- Future Eurachem workshops & meetings: Planning and arranging GA 2017 and workshop;
- Presentation of the International/European stakeholder/liaison organizations;

Drewin Nieuwenhuis presented the EUROLAB activity report including information about:

- Services provided by EUROLAB General Secretariat;
- EUROLAB dialogue with European/International Institutions;
- EUROLAB events: General Assembly 2016, TCQA meeting & EUROLAB - BMTA International Seminar took place in East Kilbride, Scotland, from 19th to 21st April 2016, kindly hosted by BMTA in conjunction with NEL
CEOC – EUROLAB – IFIA International Safety Conference 2016, 8 November 2016, Brussels;
- Decisions & Discussions taken within TCQA: TCQA documents, proposed cookbooks, future TCQA projects, activities and developments in the TCQA Working Groups – revision of ISO / IEC 17025;
- EUROLAB Activity Highlights for 2016: Communication & Strategy 2020; Improve visibility & Promote meetings with European Commission DGs; Demonstrate the added value of the EUROLAB membership for national associations and for their members; Develop institutional representation and international co-operation; Identify new areas of interest for EUROLAB & Create Experts Advisory Groups (EAGs) in key areas.

Drewin Nieuwenhuis pointed out during his presentation that EUROLAB is further looking into possible cooperation models with other organisations sharing similar objectives and interests. A possible model of such cooperation could be the Safety Alliance.

The Safety Alliance model would imply a loose umbrella organisation (without any legal structure) that could gather associations such as EUROLAB, CEOC International, IFIA, EFNDT, EFAC, ETICS, and other interested associations which cooperate and coordinate all regional activities, with a main focus on lobbying.

Master Class on Quality Assurance in Analytical Measurements

The Master Class on Quality Assurance in Analytical Measurements took place on 10 - 11 June 2016 in Zagreb, Croatia and was jointly organized by the European Centre for Laboratory Excellence and the TrainMiC® training community.

This Master Class targeted those teaching or training in this area, either regularly (as teachers) or occasionally (e.g. adult learning).

The aim was to:

- Offer a continuing professional development course to keep trainers' technical knowledge up to date;
- Raise knowledge on adult learning strategies and active learning theories by means of training, discussion and sharing ideas to enhance training effectiveness and efficiency;
- Establish a long term community of practice.

It was also an opportunity for the participants to network with the TrainMiC® and EC4LE communities and participate in the TrainMiC® convention and celebrate its 15th Anniversary.

What is TrainMiC®?

The TrainMiC® community connects those teaching metrology in chemical and biochemical analytical measurements and how to implement the ISO/IEC-17025 and ISO 15189 standard. Trainers come from 30 countries spanning Europe, Asia and Africa.

Zagreb - a city with a million hearts
The city of Zagreb, illustrates both the continental and Mediterranean spirit of the nation it spearheads. Zagreb is a city whose doors are always open; a city with a tumultuous history teeming with interesting personalities; a city that warmly invites all those who wish to get to know it, and a city that will surely fulfil your expectations. <http://www.infotourzagreb.hr/>
Zagreb was voted as one of the best European destinations with the explanation: **a large city which managed to stay romantic and safe.** There are unlimited possibilities for visiting music and theatre events, art exhibitions, museums, sporting events and enjoying pleasant walks, interesting architecture, plentiful parks in the centre of the city, pedestrian zones and the atmosphere. Spacious pedestrian zones with many cafes having their own garden and street terraces scattered all over the city add to the charm of Zagreb hospitality.
<http://www.europeanbestdestinations.com>
Welcome to Zagreb!

EC4LE
EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
LABORATORY EXCELLENCE

Organised by the European
Centre for Laboratory Excellence

Practical information:
16 December 2015: Event registration opens
4 May 2016: Event registration closes
11 May 2016: Confirmation to selected contributors
31 May 2016: Registration fee payment deadline
Master Class dates: 10-11 June 2016 (2 days)
Starting with a reception on the evening of 9 June 2016
Contact: Zagreb2016@ec4le.eu
Tel: +385 1 4872 485
Fax: +385 1 4872 487

TrainMiC
Training in Metrology in Chemistry

Continuing professional
development

Master Class
Quality Assurance in
Analytical Measurements

Coinciding with
2016 TrainMiC® Convention
and
TrainMiC® 15th Anniversary

1st circular

9-11 June 2016

Venue:
Hotel Palace
Trg Josipa Jurja Strossmayera 10
Zagreb, Croatia

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The 2016 UIIL LABMEETING



The International Union of Independent Laboratories (UIIL) will organize the '2016 UIIL LABMEETING' on October 28th, 2016 in New Delhi, India.

The '2016 UIIL LABMEETING' is an initiative to raise awareness of the importance of testing laboratories in today's society. From this perspective at the meeting are included workshops on major social and economic aspects involving laboratory tests developed by prominent speakers from around the world.

The '2016 UIIL LABMEETING' will give a valuable contribution to the image and authority of the laboratory sector and I invite you to reserve Friday October 28th, 2016 in your calendar.

For further information and documentation concerning the UIIL LABMEETING please visit the website of UIIL (www.uili.org) or please contact Mrs. Melissa Fernández Valero at secretariat@uili.org.



UNION INTERNATIONALE DES LABORATOIRES INDÉPENDANTS

FOUNDED 1961

OBJECTIVES

TO REPRESENT THE PROFESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF PRIVATE SECTOR LABORATORIES AND SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANTS ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS.

*

TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST INCLUDING, FOR EXAMPLE, LABORATORY QUALITY ASSURANCE, LABORATORY ACCREDITATION, PRODUCT CERTIFICATION, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, AND INTERNATIONAL BARRIERS TO TRADE.

*

TO PROMOTE THE INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF LABORATORIES AND SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANTS AND EMPHASIZE THEIR IMPORTANT ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

*

TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCIENTIFIC CONTACTS TO ACT IN THE PROFESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF ITS MEMBERS.

*

Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- **TCQA Meeting**, 27 September, Lucerne, Switzerland
- **EUROLAB-CH International Seminar**, 28 September, Lucerne, Switzerland
- **EUROLAB Board meeting**, 29 September, Lucerne, Switzerland
- **EUROLAB National Members' Meeting**, 29 September, Lucerne, Switzerland
- **7th International Safety Conference**, 8 November 2016, Brussels
- **JTC PTC**, 9 November 2016, Brussels
- **EUROLAB Board meeting**, 9 November, Brussels
- **JTC PTC**, 4 & 5 April 2017, Edinburgh, Scotland (tbc)
- **EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings 2017** in Bologna, 26-27 April 2017.

The EUROLAB TCQA, International Seminar „Revision of ISO/IEC 17025 and its new aspects of leading a test laboratory“ and the National Members' Meeting 2016 are kindly hosted by EUROLAB-CH and will take place in Lucerne, Switzerland in conjunction with the Swiss Association for Standardization on 27th, 28th and 29th September. For registration please contact the EUROLAB General Secretariat: info@eurolab.org and the EUROLAB-CH Secretariat: barbara.guder@snv.ch.



International Events

- **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
- **European Weeks for Safety and Health at Work** in Brussels, 24-28/10/2016-2017
- **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
- **International Product Safety Week (IPSW)** in Brussels, 14-18/11/2016.
- **EA General Assembly** in Boras, 23-24/11/ 2016
- **IAF - ILAC mid-term meetings** in Frankfurt, 20-26/04/2017
- **EA General Assembly** in Bled, 23/24/05/ 2017-05