

# EUROLAB NEWSBRIEFING

January - March 2013

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## Foreword

Dear EUROLAB Members,

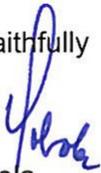
Please find below the first EUROLAB Newsbriefing for this year informing you about some developments relevant to the Laboratory Sector in the first quarter of 2013.

Some time ago, conformity assessment community was more or less not known to public and some politicians graded tests, analyses, inspections, certifications and sometimes also calibrations as an unnecessary burden for industry. Rumors were going around about exorbitant prices charged to manufacturers for tests and analyses (recent EUROLAB survey has shown the opposite). I strongly believe that we do not deserve this image and we should all try to improve it.

Recent cases of fake products on the market shown how important it is to verify compliance of products placed on the market with relevant legislation and standards. Health and safety of citizens should not be at stake when discussing free market and free movement of products. Conformity requirements are important part of business environment. Genuine manufacturers and businessmen who satisfy all requirements and provide quality products as expected by customers should not be exposed to unfair competition from those who neglect it exploring situation that there is lack of capacity in laboratories, bureaucratic approach of market surveillance, scarce resources, etc. for whatever reason.

**EUROLAB members should be in lead in positive representation our community towards public, administration and industries providing them with competent services and objective information.** It is my belief that coming general assembly of our organization will support this direction and role of EUROLAB as a voice for its members at national, European and world-wide level.

Yours faithfully

  
Jiří Soba  
President EUROLAB



### National Members News

- **EUROLAB France has organised its General Assembly on 26<sup>th</sup> March** in the presence of a representative of the French Ministry of Industry. Besides the statutory subjects, the attention was also paid to the striking work of the working groups. The group on quality assurance began with collecting the practices of preparation of COFRAC. Last but not least during the meeting was pointed out traceability with regards to nanotechnology.
- **User Council of the Dutch Accreditation Council (RvA).** As the branch organization for the Dutch Accredited laboratories, calibration – and inspection companies it is important to have good communication with the local accreditation council. A successful example is the Accreditation Commission within Fenelab, within this platform there is an open and constructive discussion with representatives of the RvA. Fenelab is also represented in the user council of the RvA with two members. This is an excellent opportunity to place observations and comments from a client perspective and the RvA can include this in its policy.  
From March 1<sup>st</sup> the Fenelab members are:
  - Henk Tolman
  - Hans van der Wart
  - Cees van 't Wout (acting member)
 The next meeting will be on April 12 and additional information can be found on:  
[http://www.rva.nl/resources/AMGATE\\_I0218\\_I\\_TICH\\_R6977I0830181I/AMGATE\\_I0218\\_0\\_TICH\\_R695435562070](http://www.rva.nl/resources/AMGATE_I0218_I_TICH_R6977I0830181I/AMGATE_I0218_0_TICH_R695435562070)
- **BAM developed new air ultrasonic transducer for materials testing.** BAM Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing has developed a new method which will help to identify damages on welded or glued materials (metals, alloys, composites and adhesives )by air ultrasonic nondestructive evaluation.
- **Eurolab Denmark is arranging meetings in 3 of its specific networks this spring period:**
  - Eurolab Denmark Network for Quality Assurance & Accreditation:  
April 16 under the theme: “Procedures – what and when? (Interpretation of standards’ requirements)”
  - Eurolab Denmark Network on Analytical Chemistry:  
May 3 under the theme: “Developments within analytical techniques”
  - Eurolab Denmark Network for Microbiology:  
May 16 under the theme: “Reliability of results from microbiological testings”
- **New initiatives of Italian laboratory association ALPI:** At their meeting of 24 January the Board of Directors of ALPI, the Italian Association of Test Institutes and Certification Bodies, approved a new structure of ALPI’s operating organization. Three technical sections have been created:
  - a. Voluntary Certification Schemes according to voluntary standards, Product or QMS;
  - b. Regulated Certification Schemes according to Italian Laws or EU Directives,
  - c. Accredited Testing and Calibration Laboratories
 Each section is coordinated by one of three vice-presidents of ALPI. President of the Section “Accredited Testing and Calibration Laboratories” is Mr Paolo Moscati. Mr Claudio Raponi has been appointed as Operational Manager, with the main task to organize the activities of ALPI ensuring the coordination between the three technical sections, the Board of Directors and others organizations, Italian or International. The ALPI Board reconfirmed its association with Eurolab and the incentive to start a new cycle of real collaboration. In this context two upcoming ALPI events in Milano (Italian Test and Calibration Laboratories in European context; differences and perspectives, 16 April) and Torino (Characterization of Materials, resource for innovation and competitiveness, 17 April) will be supported by Eurolab Board member Dr Jan Basten as a speaker.

### Events

Late December 2012, Fenelab - the Dutch federation of accredited laboratories and inspection bodies - received the request to organize the General Assembly and Annual Meetings of EUROLAB. Due to unforeseen reasons the original location was no longer available. As an active participant in EUROLAB, Fenelab responded positively to this request. At this moment, the organizing committee is working hard to make all the necessary arrangements for the meetings on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, the available time was too short to organize the subsequent congress scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup>. The meetings will take place at the facilities of one of the Fenelab members located in Woerden at the center of The Netherlands. The location has easy access to the train station and is close to the airports of Amsterdam and Rotterdam. A leaflet with more information about the social program is available through the EUROLAB General Secretariat. **Fenelab looks forward to meeting you and to a successful event in April!**



#### **EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings, Woerden, The Netherlands, 08-09 April 2013**

On behalf of EUROLAB President J. Sobola and Fenelab Chairman R.A.J. Dijkstra, we are pleased to invite you to the EUROLAB General Assembly & Annual Meeting, hosted by Fenelab. The EUROLAB event will take place in the picturesque city of Woerden, The Netherlands, close to the cities of Amsterdam, Utrecht, The Hague and Rotterdam, from 8<sup>th</sup> April to 09<sup>th</sup> April 2013. It will start on Monday morning with the TCQA meeting and will be followed by the EUROLAB General Assembly on Tuesday, 09th April.

## European Commission presents first draft of the revised Blue Guide

On 1<sup>st</sup> March the European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, presented the first draft of the revised Blue Guide during a stakeholder meeting, to which EUROLAB and CEOC International were invited.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholder Meeting: The Revised Blue Guide

On 1<sup>st</sup> March the European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, presented the first draft of the revised Blue Guide during a stakeholder meeting, to which **EUROLAB (represented by Jiří Sobola and Philippe Dewolfs)** and **CEOC International (represented by Daniel Pflumm and Franziska Kassler)** were invited. During the meeting the two associations presented their joint comments, which were well received.

Hans Ingels (Head of the responsible Unit C/I – Internal Market and its International Dimension), who chaired the meeting, explained that this document was a very first draft and that the purpose of this meeting was to collect the relevant stakeholders' input.

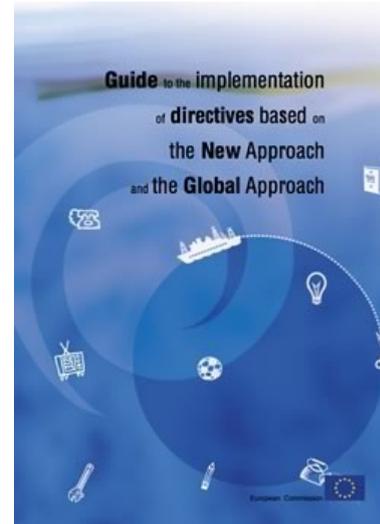
The plan is to structure and write the Blue Guide in a way that will enable the Commission to update only certain chapters if and when necessary while avoiding the revision of the whole document every time a new legislation has been adopted.

**The meeting focused on the following topics:** structure of the Blue Guide; What is missing?; What needs to be deleted?; What are the major concerns?.

#### The overall feedback of the stakeholders:

- In certain sections some clarifications were necessary, i.e. some concepts needed clear definitions (e.g. what does 'intended use' mean? What is a 'risk?').
- Additionally it was pointed out that the wording and the definitions used in the Blue Guide should always be in line with those in Regulation 765/2008 and Decision 768/2008, a point which was also reflected in the joint CEOC-EUROLAB position.
- A major point of concern was that the scope of the Blue Guide has not yet been defined. Depending on whether or not the Blue Guide will cover for example the Construction Products Legislation or environmental legislation, the comments that the Commission will receive from the stakeholders might vary greatly from a Blue Guide with the same scope as the previous one.

The Commission representatives agreed to inform about the exact scope in a separate email in the coming week. The annexes to the Blue Guide will probably also be sent with this email. After the email has been sent out a six week comment period will start, ending on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013.



### Background:

**The aim of the Blue Guide** is to ensure as much common understanding as possible of the **New Legislative Framework** so as to facilitate the effective implementation by all concerned. Additionally, new and revised EU legislation has to be taken into account, which is why some new and completely revised chapters have been included in the draft document.

The meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March was a follow up from the 1<sup>st</sup> stakeholder meeting, which took place in September 2012.

CEOC International and EUROLAB had set up several working groups and online meetings/telephone conferences so that they were prepared and able to revise the relevant chapter 5 on Conformity Assessment.

**A summary of the working groups' comments had been handed over to Mr Hans Ingels, head of the responsible Unit C/I – Internal Market and its International Dimension on 1st March 2013.**

### Next Steps

- Week 10 (04-08<sup>th</sup> March): clarification of the scope of the Blue Guide + Annexes
- 15<sup>th</sup> April: deadline for comments
- Before/after the summer break: distribution of the next draft version and 3<sup>rd</sup> stakeholder meeting

## Accreditation

- **ILAC P10:01/2013 ILAC Policy on Traceability of Measurement and ILAC P14:01/2013 ILAC Policy for Uncertainty in Calibration** have been approved.
- **ILAC-R6:02/2013 Structure of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement and Procedure for Expansion of the Scope of the ILAC Arrangement** has been revised and published.
- ILAC submitted the **Draft Minutes of its 16th General Assembly** for a 60 day comment period.

## Standardisation

- The ballot for **ISO DTS 17023 - Conformity Assessment — Guidelines for Determining Duration of Management System Certification Audits** has been opened.
- **Updated edition of ISO medical lab standard published** [http://www.manufacturingchemist.com/news/article\\_page/Updated\\_edition\\_of\\_ISO\\_medical\\_lab\\_standard\\_published/83434](http://www.manufacturingchemist.com/news/article_page/Updated_edition_of_ISO_medical_lab_standard_published/83434).

## Business News

- **Severn Trent has sold its laboratories business** in a deal triggered by competition concerns over the water company's ownership. The business, which provides analysis and sampling services to the water, construction and waste industries, has been **bought by Australia's ALS**, testing company with more than 13,000 staff.
- **Bureau Veritas has acquired 7Layers, a specialist in mobile and wireless electronics testing and certification, headquartered in Germany.** Since its foundation in 1999, 7Layers has been offering integrated solutions to mobile device manufacturers, suppliers of electronics parts and telecommunication network operators. Based in Ratingen, Germany, 7Layers employs 220 highly qualified employees and has engineering centres and accredited laboratories in Germany, China, South Korea, and the United States as well as representations in Japan, Taiwan and South Europe. Its 2012 revenue is estimated at €24 million.
- **Cofely has opened its new UK headquarters in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park** – making it the first business to establish a presence at the former Olympic site.
- **CSA Group announced a new wire and cable testing and certification laboratory in Guangzhou**, the first in the southern region of China. In addition, it also increased its product testing capabilities for US Energy Star testing. In Kunshan, CSA Group is expanding its alternative energy testing and certification services with a new photovoltaic (PV) laboratory.
- **DEKRA announces strategic partnership with KILT in Korea:** DEKRA signed an agreement with the Korean Institute for of Lighting Technology (KILT) to establish a strategic partnership in Korea. KILT is the leading LED Lighting testing institute in Korea. It provides both photometric and safety testing services to the fast-growing Korean LED Lighting industry. Through extending its laboratory network into the Korean peninsula, DEKRA has taken a further step towards consolidating its position as global leader in LED Lighting testing.
- **Eurofins has bought Dutch food testing Laboratorium Zeeuws-Vlaanderen (LZV).** LZV was founded 1991 and it has 90 employees.
- **The Eurofins subsidiary EUROFINS SCIENT acquired close to 9% stake in Cerep S.A.** and files a public tender offer for the remaining share capital. Cerep is a provider of in vitro pharmacology and ADME-toxicity testing.
- **Eurofins Scientific announced the acquisition of AROS Applied Biotechnology A/S (AROS)**, a leading provider of genomic solutions in Europe, serving the pharmaceutical industry, as well as academic and public research institutes. Founded in 2000 to provide GLP-approved genomic solutions to the pharmaceutical industry for the discovery and the development of new drugs, AROS generates revenues of about EUR 10m.
- **Eurofins Scientific announced the acquisition of an 80% majority stake in mgt-LabMark**, the largest private environmental testing laboratory network in Australia. The Group also recently acquired ELS Ltd (ELS), a food and environmental testing laboratory in New Zealand. mgt-LabMark, founded in 1975, generated revenues of about EUR 20m in 2012, and employs over 200 staff in 3 laboratories and 4 satellite offices strategically located across Australia.
- **Eurofins Scientific has acquired a 92.5% majority stake in a Finnish food safety testing firm.** Viljavuuspalvelu Oy offers food and water testing services as well as agro and feed testing.
- **Outsourcing acquisition form Eurofins:** Eurofins Scientific has announced the acquisition of AROS Applied Biotechnology as it strengthens its genomic offerings. AROS was founded in 2000 and has been a genomics solution provider to the pharma industry, recently specializing in providing Next-Generation

Sequencing, a field that Eurofins has been developing through its genomic service arm, Eurofins MWG Operon.

- **Intertek announced the expansion of its GMP Pharmaceutical Microbiology Testing Services** from its laboratory in Athlone, Ireland.
- **Intertek has acquired 85% of the share capital of E-TEST Laboratorio de Ensaios e Tecnologia Ltda. (E-TEST)**, a privately owned testing laboratory serving Brazil's toy market.
- **Intertek has expanded and enhanced its lubricant testing and oil condition monitoring services (OCM) in Singapore, with a new automated, robotic sampling handling system.** The robotic system improves analysis productivity and quality while allowing for faster reporting to clients.
- **Intertek Group plc (Intertek) has announced the completion of two acquisitions. E-TEST Laboratorio de Ensaios e Tecnologia Ltda (E-Test)** Intertek has acquired 85% of the issued capital of E-Test, a Brazilian toy and consumer products testing laboratory. **Food Safety Assessment (FSA)** Intertek has also acquired FSA, a food assurance services company, based in Johannesburg, South Africa. FSA was acquired for a cash consideration of ZAR 6.2 million (GBP 0.5 million).
- **Intertek's Aberdeen-based energy business has secured a £3 million contract with Maersk Oil UK.** Intertek will provide offshore chemists at three of the Danish oil giant's platforms as well as a supporting laboratory team. They will conduct services such as gathering and testing samples and monitoring process systems to support Maersk's UK North Sea operations. The three-year contract has the option for two one-year extensions.
- **LGC acquires leading bioanalytical sciences business from Quotient Bioresearch.** Quotient Bioanalytical Sciences is a leading provider of bioanalytical services across the fields of small molecules, biomarkers, biopharmaceuticals and microbiological testing to customers in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. It is based at Fordham, Cambridgeshire, UK.
- **LGC (Cambridge, UK) has acquired the Bioanalytical Sciences division of Quotient (Cambridge, UK).** The acquisition follows the sale of HFL Sport Science (Cambridge, UK) by Quotient to LGC two years ago.
- **LNE has been selected and listed by the Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTML®)** as an international reference laboratory in Medical Biology for measuring total cholesterol, glucose and creatinine in serum.
- **LNE is the only appointed body in France for ETV verification** – Innovative environmental technologies. The European Commission has introduced the ETV protocol thanks to a pilot programme regarding water treatment and monitoring, materials, waste and resources, and energy technologies. LNE has been confirmed as one of the independent bodies on the basis of its accreditation issued by COFRAC in accordance with standard 17020.
- **Mettler Toledo offer UKAS accredited weight calibration** to help clients guarantee the accuracy of their test weights. The company has a specialist test laboratory, which has been UKAS accredited for over two years, and are pleased to extend this service to their clients.
- **Markes International (Llantrisant, UK) has announced that Schauenburg International Group (Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany) has acquired the majority of its shares.** This step was taken to enhance the next stage of the company's growth and help assure the long-term future of Markes as an independent company. At the same time it strengthens Schauenburg's position in the air monitoring field and strategically positions the group to take advantage of a high growth sector of the analytical instrument business.
- **TÜV Rheinland signed a partnership with the KNX Association and will now offer product testing according to the KNX standard in Asia, Europe and North America.** Within the cooperation, TÜV Rheinland intends to support the recognition and the internationalization process of the KNX technology with its global network. TÜV Rheinland is also going to host the first KNX Forum Japan in its premises in Yokohama which took place in Yokohama, Japan, on February, 26th 2013.
- **TÜV Rheinland is planning to expand its presence in India** by strengthening its employee strength and testing facilities in the country. In order to fuel the expansion plans, the company is planning to hire around 600 people within the next three years which will help the company meet the growing demand for its services.
- **TÜV SÜD has acquired 100 per cent of the shares in Italy-based pH s.r.l.** pH s.r.l. was founded in 1982. With a workforce of over 100, it is one of the leading providers of food testing services in Italy.
- **SGS announced the acquisition of Umweltanalytik RUK GmbH,** a provider of biogas, stack and fugitive emission testing services. Founded in 1992 and privately owned, Umweltanalytik RUK GmbH employs 17 experts and generated 2012 revenue in excess of Euro 2 million. This acquisition enables SGS to enter the renewable energy market (biomass, biogas).
- **SGS has acquired Herguth Laboratories, Inc., based in Vallejo, California, USA.** Herguth Laboratories, Inc. is an independent laboratory with strong expertise in lubricants, petroleum-based substance testing and tribological research, primarily serving the energy and transportation industries. Founded in 1980 and privately owned, Herguth Laboratories Inc. operates two facilities in Vallejo, CA and Naperville, IL. The company has 46 employees and is expected to generate revenues of US\$ 5.5 million in 2012.
- **SGS established a consumer testing laboratory in Chittagong, Bangladesh.**
- **Silliker Expands Canadian Network with Acquisition of Certispec Food Testing, Inc.** Silliker Canada Co., a subsidiary of Mérieux NutriSciences, has acquired Certispec Food Testing, Inc., in Montreal, Quebec. Serving the food industry since 1967, Silliker has over 45 locations in 18 countries, including operations in Ontario (Silliker Canada, Co.) and British Columbia (Silliker JR Laboratories). Silliker's acquisition of Certispec adds a third Canadian analytical laboratory to

- broaden food safety and quality services across Canada, especially in the Montreal metropolitan area.
- **UL announced the acquisition of Testtech Laboratorios**, a Brazil-based electrical safety and energy efficiency testing laboratory.
- **UL announced the expansion of the South Bend, Indiana analytical laboratory** to offer non-clinical testing services for the medical device industry.
- **SP has created a brand new research institute, SP Process Development**, which will carry out chemical and pharmaceutical process development within fields such as life science. This is as a result of the Government's focus on supporting Swedish industry within these areas. Minister for Enterprise Annie Lööf will open the new institute on 4 February in Södertälje. Around 30 people will be employed to begin with. It is planned that the institute will grow by approximately ten new employees each year.
- **SSF Swedish Theft Prevention Association transfers its testing operations to SP**. Starting January 1, 2013, SSF Swedish Theft Prevention Association will transfer all of their testing operations to SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, thereby initiating a close collaboration between the two organizations and strengthening the collective expertise in the testing of security products. Other activities of the SSF are not affected by this transfer. This collaboration makes SP

### Business Results

- **Intertek -2012 Full Year Results Announcement.** Revenue growth of 17% to £2,054m and profit growth of 19% to £335m. Strong growth came from Asia, Australia, the Middle East and the Americas.
- With revenues of **EUR 1,044m** in 2012, **Eurofins exceeded its twice-upgraded revenue objective**. Revenues increased by 20% to EUR 293m in the fourth quarter alone, driving revenues for the full year to EUR 1,044m, representing growth of 26%, over 8% of which was organic.

### Policy News

### Health and Consumer Protection

- **New EU Toy Guidance Documents:** The European Commission (EC) has published new and revised guidance documents. A new guidance has been published to clarify the scope of toy disguise costumes. The technical guidance document intended to help elaborate adequate technical documentation has been amended.
- The Commission has launched the “**Consultation on the cross-border transfers of registered offices of companies**” from the **14<sup>th</sup> of January 2013 to 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2013** to get more information on the costs currently faced by companies transferring their registered offices abroad and on the range of benefits that could be brought by the EU action on the cross-border transfer of them. For further information please visit : [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/consultations/2013/seat-transfer/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2013/seat-transfer/index_en.htm)
- **Toy safety cooperation:** The Netherlands (one of the EU's main entry points for toys) has teamed up with China. They signed an action plan called '**Cooperation in the field of toy safety**'. This 24<sup>th</sup> of January, Dutch Acting Inspector General Freek van Zoeren of the NWWA and AQSIO and Vice Minister Sun Dawei, signed the agreement in the presence of Minister Zhi Shuping and the European Commission's Director-General for Enterprise and Industry, Daniel Calleja.
- **The European Commission proposed new rules to improve the safety of consumer products** circulating in the Single Market and to step-up market surveillance concerning all non-food products, including those imported from 3rd countries. For more information please visit: <http://www.ceoc.com/newsarticle.aspx?NewsId=387>
- **The European Commission has proposed a new package of legislative and non-legislative measures to improve consumer product safety and to strengthen market surveillance of products in the EU.** The package, adopted by the European Commission on 13th February 2013, will be discussed in the European Parliament and in the Council. It is expected that the new legislation will come into effect in 2015. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-111\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-111_en.htm)
- **DNA testing: how to protect sensitive data about our future health:** Information gained from genetic testing can be used to improve people's health, but what about other ends? There have been concerns that insurance companies could use it to decide not to cover people at a higher risk of disease. The issue was debated at a special meeting organised by the EP's public health committee on 26 February. To prevent genetic testing being abused, experts and MEPs recommended informed consent, stronger market surveillance and protection of sensitive personal data.
- **Full EU ban on animal testing for cosmetics enters into force.** Since 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013, cosmetics tested on animals cannot be marketed any more in the EU. A Communication adopted by the Commission on 11<sup>th</sup> March confirms the Commission's commitment to respect the deadline set by Council and Parliament in 2003 and outlines how it intends to further support research and innovation in this area while promoting animal welfare world-wide.

## Chemicals

- On December 19 2012, **54 new substances were added to the Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC)** for Authorization. The European Commission has achieved its proposed goal of having 136 SVHCs on the candidate list by the end of 2012, and the list now contains 138 substances in total. The Commission has started discussing the target of getting all known and relevant SVHC substances identified by 2020, and developing a roadmap for this which is expected to be published at the end of the year.
- **The use of chemicals in Europe has become considerably safer since the REACH regulation entered into force**, according to a European Commission report published. More readily available information about chemical substances on the market and better targeted risk management measures mean that risks from substances registered under REACH have significantly decreased. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-85\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-85_en.htm)
- **ECHA-term has been updated with close to 50 scientific definitions related to the new Biocides Products Regulation**, which enters into operation in September. Users will also find an additional 31 substances of very high concern extracted from the Candidate List and 37 new terms from ECHA Guidance and other administrative documents.
- **Which companies are putting the most hazardous chemicals on the market?** The information is now publicly available in a new database called the 'SIN List' after environmental NGOs filed a lawsuit asking for greater transparency. The EU chemicals regulation REACH is providing new information about the production and use of chemicals in Europe after ChemSec and ClientEarth filed a lawsuit with the European Court of Justice.



The European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories

Special Briefing No. 01 – February 2013

### EUROLAB Briefing

Safer products and a level playing field in the internal market

**EUROLAB Special Briefing No. 01 on the new package of legislative and non-legislative measures to improve consumer product safety and to strengthen market surveillance of products in the EU.** The package, adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2013, will be discussed in the European Parliament and in the Council. It is expected that the new legislation will come into effect in 2015.

**EUROLAB Special Briefing No. 02: MEPs called for more tests along the food chain** in the wake of the horsemeat scandal during a debate in the food safety committee on Monday, 18 February 2013. Many voiced concern over member states' level of commitment to enforcing the EU's existing rules on labelling and urged the European Commission to step up controls.



The European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories

Special Briefing No. 02 – February 2013

### EUROLAB Briefing

EU debates tighter food labelling rules and more control on food products

## Energy and Environment

- **Study on EU product label options:** The purpose of the study was to investigate the possibility of creating a product label which provides consumers with information about the environmental lifecycle performance of the product. This information may be added to the current Energy Label which already displays the energy efficiency rating of the product as well as other product specific characteristics (such as spin speed, noise level and capacity on a washing machine). The research has tested two options for a new label:
  1. Proposed Energy and Environmental Label - the current Energy Label plus four additional environmental lifecycle indicators (carbon footprint, water footprint, resource depletion and water eco-toxicity).
  2. Proposed Energy and Carbon Footprint Label - the current Energy Label plus only the lifecycle carbon footprint indicator. [See full study here](#)
- On 23 November, the Chinese authorities, AQSIQ and CNCA jointly announced a **scope extension to the mandatory China Energy Label (CEL) scheme, including personal computers for general use** (so called "microcomputers" according to definitions in the Chinese standard GB/T 9813).
- **Energy Efficiency in Buildings:** The Commission sent Reasoned Opinions to Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Portugal, requesting them to notify to the Commission their implementation measures for the **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive**. Directive 2010/31/EU had to be transposed into national law by 9 July 2012. The Directive requires Member States to ensure that by 2021 all new buildings are so-called 'nearly zero-energy buildings'.
- **On 21st March, the Council of the EU adopted energy infrastructure regulation.** The regulation gives priority to twelve strategic trans-European energy corridors and areas. The Commission will adopt the first Union-wide list of projects of common interest on the basis of the regional lists by 30 September 2013. Subsequently, the Union list will be drawn up every two years. [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/trans/136374.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/trans/136374.pdf)

- **On 27th March, the European Commission adopted a Green Paper “A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies” which launches a public consultation on the content of the 2030 framework.** The Commission also published a Consultative Communication on the future of carbon capture and storage (CCS) in Europe, aimed at initiating a debate on the options available to ensure its timely development. Finally, the Commission adopted a report assessing Member States' progress towards their 2020 renewable energy targets and reports on the sustainability of biofuels and bioliquids consumed in the EU. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-272\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-272_en.htm?locale=en)

### Food

- A new report into the food colours market combining market expertise from Mintel and Leatherhead **Food Research reveals that, for the first time in 2011, the value of natural colours have overtaken that of artificial/synthetic colours globally.** In 2011, global sales of natural colours amounted to an estimated USD600m, up by almost 29% from 2007 and demonstrating annual growth in excess of 7%. The share of the total food colours market taken by natural varieties has increased from just over a third (34%) in 2007 to nearly 39% in 2011. <http://foodanddrinktowers.com/features/new-research-from-mintel-and-leatherhead-food-research-reveals-n/>
- **The Food Standard Agency have revealed that traces of jockey DNA have been found in Supermarket Value Horse Burgers,** to the shock of meat industry experts and consumers alike. Food tester Fatima Eton found the DNA, and claimed that it could not easily have entered the food chain. She said, "In order to get into the burgers, it must have passed over a number of hurdles." <http://www.thespoof.com/news/uk/112491/traces-of-jockeys-found-in-horse-burgers>
- **Horsemeat: MEPs demand tougher controls and stricter labelling.** MEPs called for more meat tests along the food chain in the wake of the horsemeat scandal during a debate in the food safety committee. Many voiced concern over member states' level of commitment to enforcing the EU's existing rules on labelling and urged the European Commission to step up controls. Most Members felt that the issue was one of labelling and traceability rather than food safety, although some highlighted concerns that horses could be treated with substances like the painkiller drug Phenilbutazone, which is banned from meat for human consumption.

### Public Consultations and Calls for Tenders

- **A public consultation has been launched on the future direction of European metrology research under Horizon 2020, the European framework programme for research and innovation.** The consultation offers individuals and organisations the opportunity to give their views on the current state of play of metrology research in Europe and the challenges it faces.
- **Call for tender SANCO/2012/02/011 concerning a multiple Framework Contract with reopened competition for the provision of evaluation, impact assessment and related services to the European Commission in the areas of public health, consumer protection and food chain** [Questions and answers N°19 and N°20](#)

### Other

- **The EU Commission Regulation on electronic labelling will come into effect on 1 March, 2013.** This regulation outlines how Instructions for Use may be provided in electronic format to professional users for certain medical devices under the **Medical Device Directive** and **Active Implantable Medical Device Directive**. Under Community legislation, electronic labelling of medical devices is limited to manufacturers of eligible devices under certain conditions. According to guidance recently published by the UK Competent Authority MHRA, the review by a Notified Body of devices with electronic labelling will duly consider the risk classification and complexity of the product.
- On 13 February 2013, the **EU and US have agreed to initiate** the internal procedures necessary to launch negotiations on a **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**. When negotiations are completed, this EU-US agreement would be the biggest bilateral trade deal ever negotiated – and it could add around 0.5% to the EU's annual economic output. <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/creating-opportunities/bilateral-relations/countries/united-states/>
- **Aflatoxin incident:** In February and March 2013 a food/feed incident occurred in Europe due to fungal infection of corn from Eastern Europe. The corn was contaminated by the fungus with high levels of aflatoxin, an undesired carcinogenic compound. The corn was used as feed in several countries. Laboratories were involved by feed companies and the national authorities to trace the feed products containing this corn in order to prevent the production and human consumption of animal products containing aflatoxin. In Serbia milk was already in the shops that contained aflatoxin. RIKILT Wageningen UR, the EU Reference Laboratory for this issue was involved by the Serbian authorities to confirm the levels found by local laboratories. Both commercial and governmental laboratories were crucial in the swift response to eliminate these contaminated products from the food and feed chain.
- **Global Food Safety Testing Industry: Reportlinker.com announces that a new market research report on Global Food Safety Testing Industry.** This report analyzes the worldwide markets for Food Safety Testing in US\$ Million by the following Product Segments: Pathogens Testing, Pesticide Testing, GMO Testing, and Other Testing. The End-Use markets also analyzed in the report include Processed Food, Dairy, Meat, and Others (includes Fruits, Vegetables, and Juices). The report provides separate comprehensive analytics for the US, Canada, Japan, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Latin America. Annual estimates and forecasts are provided for the period 2009 through 2018. <http://www.sectorpublishingintelligence.co.uk/news/317221/global+food+safety+testing+industry>

### Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- **EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings** , Woerden, The Netherlands, 08-09 April 2013.
  - **TCQA meeting**, 08 April 2013.
  - **Board meeting**, 09 April 2013.
  - **General Assembly**, 09 April 2013.
- **EUROLAB Board of Administrators Meeting**, Brussels, 17-18 June 2013.
- **EUROLAB National Members' Meeting**, place tbc, 07-09 October 2013

### Reports

- **EA Laboratory Committee(LC) in Riga on 7 and 8 March 2013:** The two EUROLAB representatives Irache Visiers and Manfred Golze used the EA LC meeting to ask for an interpretation of the ILAC policy on the traceability of measurement results as stipulated in the recently approved document ILAC P10. Erik Ohlenschlaeger, DANAK, the convener of the ILAC Working Group (WG) in charge, clarified that the policy was valid only for testing and calibration laboratories although, according to the scope of the document, it might be applicable for the testing activities of inspection and product certification bodies, too. Concerning internal calibrations Erik Ohlenschlaeger emphasised that the ILAC policy concerned only the "incoming" traceability, i.e. the calibration of the reference standards used by the laboratory, on the grounds of clause 5.6.2.1.1 of the ISO/IEC 17025. During the EA LC meeting two group discussions were arranged in parallel: (1) **Opinions and interpretations** and (2) **Accreditation of Reference Material Producers (RMP) and Proficiency Test Providers (PTP)**.  
*Session 1* was based on the questions of a questionnaire which was sent out in advance of the meeting. The preliminary results of this inquiry and the discussion during the session revealed quite different views of the ABs. The need for a harmonised approach in order to ensure a level playing field for laboratories throughout Europe was underlined by the EUROLAB delegates.  
*Session 2* focused on the Terms of Reference (ToR) of a new TFG, which should prepare the establishment of a Multilateral Agreement (MLA) on the accreditation of RMP and PTP, and some issues which have to be clarified before such an MLA could be signed. According to a resolution approved by the ILAC GA in Rio accreditation of RMP should be against ISO Guide 34 alone while a previous resolution defined ISO Guide 34 in combination with ISO/IEC 17025 as accreditation basis. EUROLAB expressed the concerns of the laboratory community that the MLAs when signed might be used by the NABs as a further step towards accreditation as a closed shop. From the response of the EA LC members it became clear that these concerns were substantiated.  
 For further information please see the full meeting report in the National Members' Area of the EUROLAB website.
- **On 25-26 March 2013 took place ARAC General Assembly (ARAC -Arab Accreditation) where EUROLAB was represented by its president Jiří Sobola.**
  - Conference was supported by UNIDO and the Government of Sweden.
  - The meeting should have boosted accreditation as a tool for increasing quality.
  - ARAC was created in 2009. It was directly supported within various developing programmes and by UNIDO. The main purpose is to increase Arab export and achieve international recognition of Arab products.
  - Standards ISO 17000 series must be fully implemented. In this regard close cooperation was established with IAF, ILAC and EA. UNIDO will support all this issues.
  - Peter Unger, ILAC President said that new development is expected in Russian speaking countries. Eurolab potentials in this direction were recognised and can be explored in the near future. MRA is well established in EA, APLAC and IAAC.
  - UNIDO is recognising Eurolab experience in representing interests of accredited entities in discussions with accreditation bodies, EA, EC, legislators, etc. This experience will be used in future. Eg. ARAC accreditation processes were established without relevant involvement of stakeholders.
  - Mrs Rabat Achmed from Yemeni accreditation body: There are many challenges in Yemen. With help of ARAC they improved level of professionals and got more understanding with regulators and law makers. They are also supported by UNIDO to establish one reputable accreditation body which will be internationally recognized. Collaboration with Eurolab would be very desirable.
  - It was recommended by Randy Dougherty, IAF President that Eurolab would apply for membership in IAF.

### *Upcoming Events*

- **EA CPC meeting** in Bucharest, 10-11 April 2013.
- **CAB College meeting** in Brussels, 17 April 2013.
- **EAAB meeting** in Brussels, 18 April 2013.
- **CEOC International Annual Conference and General Assembly** in London, 11-14 May 2013.
- **EURACHEM General Assembly** in Helsinki, 20-24 May 2013.
- **EURAMET General Assembly** in Reykjavik, 27-31 May 2013.
- **EA General Assembly** in Paris, 29-30 May 2013.
- **Building Test Expo Cologne 2013** in Cologne, 11-13 June 2013.
- **EA LC meeting** in Malta, 18-19 September 2013.
- **EA HHC meeting** in Brussels, 24-25 September 2013.
- **IAF – ILAC meetings** in Incheon (South Korea), 16 – 25 October 2013.
- **CAB College meeting** in Brussels, 29 November 2013.
- **EAAB meeting** in Brussels, 30 November 2013.

### *Recruitment and Personnel Matters*

- Anca Tiu joined the EUROLAB team as Intern in March 2013. She has a degree in Philology and in Business studies from the University of Almeria and currently she is taking a Master in European studies at the Catholic University of Louvain. She is responsible for monitoring and reporting EU legislative proposals in the EP and EC; Undertaking research and compiling information on issues of interest for the organisation; Handling requests; Attending and reporting on meetings and seminars as appropriate; Providing administrative support.

