

# EUROLAB NEWSBRIEFING

January - March 2014



## Foreword

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Dear EUROLAB Members,

Please find below the first EUROLAB Newsbriefing for this year informing you about EUROLAB plans for first quarter of 2014 and further outlook.

We have started a new year so it is time to express my sincere thanks to all active members, members of the Board, secretariat and all collaborators who contributed to the good outcomes of 2013. Soon, you will receive the EUROLAB Annual Report for 2013 where our achievements will be presented in a concise way for your information and positive motivation. Now we are preparing for the coming EUROLAB General Assembly in Warsaw on 1st April which should make bold steps in the areas of membership, internal regulations and cooperation with the laboratory community worldwide. Our GA will welcome the President of CEOC, Mr Simo Hassi, and distinguished guests from UIIL to discuss our strategies and sign key documents.

Although EUROLAB still wishes to be the voice of the European laboratory community it should also play an important role globally. Following EU strategy, EUROLAB would like to offer more involvement to candidate EU member countries and to countries of the European neighbourhood, allowing more room for observers and international affiliates too. Earlier discussions with EURAMET materialised in a MOU which is moving to its final stage. We have the intention to develop joint projects related to technical procedures and issues that are of interest to the applied metrology and calibration community, the development or participation in events, and promotion of the role of testing and calibration laboratories in research projects. Similarly we are talking to EUROCAL to find common interests.

As I mentioned in our last Newsbriefing, revision of ISO 17025 is becoming an important issue and task for TCQA to prepare ourselves for serious discussions at both ILAC and ISO CASCO levels. Your inputs and experiences are very important. In spite of that it is going to be a long piece of work as this is the only opportunity for many years to come when the laboratory community can influence the future development of the key standard for its work. There are two opinions presented at the highest levels. Either ISO 17025 is a standard for laboratories guiding them how a laboratory should operate its technical work and quality system or it is a standard for accreditation bodies on how to accredit laboratories. Discussions are not going to be easy and we can succeed only with well established arguments based on serious research and experiences from you, EUROLAB members. The related issue of the role of laboratory services in inspections continues..

Some years ago I informed you that EUROLAB is the only well established regional organisation in the world representing laboratories. It is not the case anymore as GULFLAB was established to represent laboratories of GULF countries. EUROLAB was invited to attend their conference and share experiences with this young organisation. We also enjoy good cooperation with ARAC which is the regional organisation of Arab countries for accreditation. Services for governments, state administrations and regulatory areas are becoming an important issue world wide. It is a reality that some governments are reluctant use services of the conformity assessment community and they have some reasons for it. We have to analyse those reasons and prepare such rules and procedures in our community that their worries will prove unfounded.

A very successful EUROLAB – CEOC – IFIA Safety Seminar in Brussels at the end of November was followed by a meeting in London chaired by the President of IFIA Mr. Richard Nelson and attended, among others, also by President of CEOC Mr. Simo Hassi. The main issue we discussed was the role of third party markings in the EU common market including the EU Safety Tested Mark and the set of directives called 'the Safety Package' which will be discussed in the European Parliament. The conclusions of this top level meeting will be discussed again with the intention of preparing a EUROLAB – CEOC- IFIA common position.

Last but not least it is my honour and great pleasure to express my sincere thanks to all who were involved in the preparation of the EUROLAB Annual Report and supporting documents for coming EUROLAB GA.

I am looking forward to meeting you in Warsaw on 1st April.

Yours faithfully

  
Jiří Soboja  
President EUROLAB



## EUROLAB Annual Report 2013

The 2013 EUROLAB Annual Report provides an overview of some of the **major trends and developments in the laboratory sector** and the **Federation activities** during the year 2013 both in the technical and political field.

EUROLAB aisbl is active in a number of international organisations and closely cooperates with similar international organisations namely **CEOC International** and **IFIA**. Additionally, during 2013 EUROLAB and **UIIL (The Union Internationale des Laboratoires Independants)** agreed to start a collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding during the EUROLAB General Assembly on 09 April in Woerden. The main goal of this collaboration is to develop ties of cooperation, avoid duplication of activities and to organise regular consultation on policy matters.

EUROLAB aisbl is fully aware that well established and competent laboratories form a key part of the business environment in each country, they facilitate competitiveness of industry and last but not least play an important role in protection of citizens and users.



The main EUROLAB Activities during 2013 were focused on highly debated issues, such as:

- **Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package**
- **Medical Devices Directive**
- **Revision of the Blue Guide**
- **ILAC P10 - Policy on the Traceability of Measurement Results**



Following these legislations, EUROLAB published three Joint Position Papers in 2013:

- **CEOC International, IFIA and EUROLAB: European Parliament seeks to enhance product safety in Europe**
- **CEOC International, IFIA and EUROLAB Position on the proposal for a regulation on medical devices (COM 2012/542)**
- **CEOC International, IFIA and EUROLAB Position on Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package adopted by European Commission on 13th February 2013**

The printed version of the Annual Report will be distributed to all our contact persons in coming weeks and is **available in digital version on:**

### [EUROLAB website](#)



### [LinkedIn Group](#)



For those who want to receive a separate copy (PDF or printed version) please contact the **EUROLAB General Secretariat at: [info@eurolab.org](mailto:info@eurolab.org)**

## The Greek Presidency

From 1st January until 30th June 2014 Greece will host the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Their presidency will focus on the following objectives:

- to increase growth, jobs and cohesion
- to integrate the Eurozone and safeguard the stability of the euro
- to promote mobility and migration policies to help boost growth
- to redefine and relaunch the EU Maritime Policy



### The key priorities of the Greek Presidency of CEOC International interest:

#### Health and Consumer Protection priorities:

- the proposals on medical devices and in vitro diagnostic devices
- focus on the sustainability of health systems
- reaching an agreement on the Consumer Product Safety & Market Surveillance Regulations package
- ensuring the safety of consumer products, simplify market surveillance procedures and enhance cooperation of market surveillance authorities.



Spyridon-Adonis **GEORGIADIS**  
Minister of Health



Athanasios **TSAFTARIS**  
Minister of Rural Development & Food

#### Food priorities:

- Contribution to the new legislative initiatives concerning Novel Foods and Cloning for Food Production

#### Research:

- Horizon 2020
- International scientific and Technological agreements for the participation of third countries in Horizon 2020



Michail **Chrysochoidis**  
Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks

#### Trade Priorities:

Facilitation of the dialogue between Member States themselves and European Institutions in EU negotiating strategy concerning Bilateral Trade Agreements, such as :

- the TTIP negotiations, EU Protected Geographical Indications (PGIs) & Protected Designation of Origin (PDOs), to achieve increased protection and world market access for European high-quality agricultural products and high added-value food products.



Notis **MITARACHI**  
Deputy Minister of Development & Competitiveness

### Consumer Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package (CPSR)

#### Background

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 13 February 2013, has been discussed in the European Parliament, particularly, in the Internal Market and Consumer Protection committee (IMCO).

IMCO report on CPSR has been adopted on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

**Rapporteurs:** Christel Schaldemose (Product Safety) and Sirpa Pietikäinen (Market Surveillance).

The current Greek Presidency did not reach an agreement with COREPER (responsible for preparing the work of the Council) for a mandate to enter triologue negotiations (European Parliament, European Commission, and Council).

The IMCO report will be prepared for the European Parliament plenary vote on 16th April (first reading).

EUROLAB, together with IFIA and CEOC International, published with regard to the CPSR legislation two joint position papers:

- [CEOC International, IFIA and EUROLAB Position on Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package](#) adopted by European Commission on 13th February 2013
- [CEOC International, IFIA and EUROLAB, Position Paper](#) - European Parliament seeks to enhance product safety in Europe

## National Members' News



### SZU becoming an accredited DEKRA's subcontractor (GS mark)

Strojirenský zkušební ústav, s.p. (SZU) has become an accredited subcontractor providing tests for the company DEKRA and, at the same time, it has been approved within the GS scheme as a recognized laboratory - „Zentralstelle der Länder für Sicherheitstechnik“. At this level, SZU acts as the only laboratory in Central and Eastern Europe.

Through SZU, it is possible to obtain the GS mark for the following products:

- toys
- playground equipment
- gym equipment
- ladders, stepladders



### AAAO MoU with Technology Agency

Association of Accredited and Authorised Bodies (AAAO) – member of EUROLAB-CZ, signed Memorandum of Understanding with Technology Agency of the Czech Republic. The cooperation of the association and the governmental agency is oriented to assessment of the research and innovation material results which are intended to launching on the market.



### FORCE Technology has developed a method for long-term sampling and analysis of biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> in stack gasses.

The method is based on analysis of the content of carbon-14 and is used to determine the ratio of fossil and biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> from combustion processes. This is typically relevant in cases, where mixed fuels are used, and where the data on the exact ratio between biogenic and fossil carbon is required, as in e.g. waste incineration or cement plants. FORCE Technology's method for long term sampling enables representative sampling over monthly periods and is used for e.g. Climate Change Levy exemption and CO<sub>2</sub> trading according to the EU's ETS scheme. The measurement method follows the standard EN ISO 13833:2013. FORCE Technology has now been accredited for this method by DANAK. This is the first accreditation given in this field in Europe.

**The increasing global demand for calibration of gas metres at high pressure has led to FORCE Technology in Denmark erecting the world's largest calibration loop for calibration of natural gas metres.** The system will be ready for operation by the middle of 2014. Exact measurements of gas flow provide correct price settlements. It is extremely important that the gas flow meters show as exact measurements as possible. Every year, gas amounting to billions of Euros flow through the large metres applied for settlement when the gas crosses frontiers. Even if the metres' inaccuracy percentage is as low as e.g. 0.5 % it will result in huge errors in the settlement amounts. The new system will be built with FORCE Technology's inhouse developed technology, where natural gas is circulated in a closed loop. The loop is dimensioned for a pressure of up to 65 bar and a flow of no less than 32,000 m<sup>3</sup>/h. The heart or rather the hearts of the system consist in two parallel connected high pressure blowers, each producing 16,000 m<sup>3</sup>/h and circulating the gas in the loop at a variable pressure from 3 - 65 bar. Contact person: Jesper Busk – e-mail: [jrb@force.dk](mailto:jrb@force.dk)

### Annual Assembly of Macedonian Association of Laboratories and Inspection bodies - MAKLAB for 2014

On 12th of February 2014 the Annual Assembly of the Macedonian Association of Laboratories and Inspection bodies – MAKLAB was conducted. In the presence of representatives of Maklab members and representatives from Institute for Accreditation of the Republic of Macedonia - IARM, the president **Msc. Magdalena Trajkovska Trpevska** has presented the activities of Maklab in 2013. The representatives have agreed that the undertaken activities were very successful. Also, the working program for 2014 and the plan for activities in 2014 were presented, discussed and approved by the assembly.

All presentations and introducing papers debated during the event are now available online, at [www.maklab.org.mk](http://www.maklab.org.mk)



## Accreditation

- IAF and ILAC have submitted a revised version of the **MOU between IAF, ILAC and ISO to all their members for information**. The three organisations hope that the revised document will be signed at the conclusion of this second review period.
- IAF has submitted the **Informative Document for QMS and EMS Scopes of Accreditation (Issue 2)** to all ILAC voting members for a 30 day ballot. The draft document is the result of the collaboration and consensus of the IAF Task Force on EMS Scopes. It is intended to facilitate the consistent **application of Clause 7.1.1 of ISO/IEC 17021:2011** and Clause 7.2.1 of ISO/IEC 17011 by Accreditation Bodies. This document is adopted from the guidance previously provided in IAF GD2: 2005, Annex I. This revision addresses specific scope recommendations for EMS, as well as the original QMS. The IAF Task Force on EMS Scopes has reviewed the comments received following the 30-day comment period to TC Members and the TC Chair subsequently approved the resulting draft document for ballot, in accordance with IAF PR 2: para. 3.8.
- The document **IAF ML4:2014 Policies and Procedures for a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA)** on the Level of Single Accreditation Bodies and on the Level of Regional Groups has been published.
- IAF and ILAC have distributed the report **“Further harmonisation of activities within IAF, ILAC and the Regions”** for comments to all their members. The key issue discussed in the report is how the future co-operation among the regions and between the regions and the global system (ILAC and IAF) shall be structured and which tasks shall be handled at the regional level and the global level. The underlying issue during drafting of the report has been: **Is the current infrastructure for global accreditation fit and suitable to serve the future market for accreditation and conformity assessment?**
- The **revised versions of both IAF/ILAC A1 and A2 have been published**. IAF/ILAC-A1:02/2014 IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group and IAF/ILAC-A2:02/2014 IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body are available from <https://www.ilac.org/ilaciajoint.html>.

## Standardisation

- ISO CASCO has launched several systematic reviews: 1) - **ISO/IEC 17030:2003**, Conformity assessment - General requirements for third-party marks of conformity; - **ISO/IEC Guide 23:1982**, Methods of indicating conformity with standards for third-party certification systems; - **ISO Guide 27:1983**, Guidelines for corrective action to be taken by a certification body in the event of misuse of its mark of conformity; 2) - **ISO/IEC 17040:2005**, Conformity assessment - General requirements for peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies; - **ISO/IEC Guide 68:2002**, Arrangements for the recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results; 3) - **ISO/IEC Guide 60:2004** (Ed 2, vers 2), Conformity assessment - Code of good practice.
- EUROLAB members have been informed about **the ballot for ISO IEC DIS 17021 - 1 Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements** is now open.
- During the 2013 ILAC General Assembly the ILAC Laboratory Committee proposed to ILAC to submit a New Work Item Proposal to ISO CASCO regarding an earlier revision of **ISO / IEC 17025**. In this **New Work Item Proposal ILAC is supposed to ask ISO CASCO to revise ISO / IEC 17025 as soon as practicable**. The standard is scheduled to undergo a Systemic Review in 2015, but ILAC LC would like to start the revision even earlier. For more background information please see the email below. ILAC is asking its Full Members and Associates on whether or not ILAC should submit the New Work Item Proposal. The ballot will be conducted on the basis of 1 vote per member rather than by the standard voting method of 1 vote per economy.
- IAF has published the **IAF Informative Document for the Transition of Product Certification Bodies to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 from ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996**. You can find the document on the IAF website.

## Blue Guide

- The **new version of the Revised Blue Guide** will be only available in the electronic format. It should soon be published under: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/documents/internal-market-for-products/new-legislative-framework/index\\_en.htm#h2-3](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/documents/internal-market-for-products/new-legislative-framework/index_en.htm#h2-3)



## Food Testing:

- **Two new reports from Strategic Consulting, Inc. (SCI), a management consulting firm focused on food safety and industrial diagnostics, point to five major trends for 2014 in the global food microbiology testing market:** 1) Increasing Food Microbiology Testing Worldwide; 2) Growing Use of Rapid Microbial Methods (RMMs); 3) Booming Business for Food Contract Testing Laboratories; 4) Increasing Environmental Testing, Especially for Pathogens; 5) Rising Concern Over Salmonella. <http://www.bioportfolio.com/news/article/1799912/5-Food-Safety-Testing-Trends-Expected-for-2014.html>
- **Parliament rejects draft EU law allowing nanomaterials in food.** The European Parliament rejected on Wednesday (12 March) the European Commission's proposed definition of nanomaterials added to food products. Voting at the Assembly's plenary session in Strasbourg, lawmakers decided that the proposed definition would have exempted foods containing nanomaterial additives that are already on the market from being labelled as such. <http://www.euractiv.com/health/parliament-opposes-commission-na-news-534093>
- **Britain's 'Disturbing' Fake-Food Scandal Exposed.** Scientists have found "disturbing" problems in more than a third of foods sampled in shocking lab tests. The results of 900 sample tests by councils in West Yorkshire found 38% of foods were mislabelled or not what they claimed to be, according to reports. [http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/02/08/fake-food-scandal-exposed\\_n\\_4750654.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/02/08/fake-food-scandal-exposed_n_4750654.html)
- **ABC Research gets chemistry testing boost.** ABC Research Laboratories has been chosen to do chemistry testing of food products for Alliant Food Safety Labs. <http://www.foodqualitynews.com/Product-Categories/Lab-Technology/ABC-Research-gets-chemistry-testing-boost>
- **Food producers and retailers are being called upon to have their food produce tested in order to maintain levels of quality and clarity for consumers,** following 1200 tonnes of fake food being seized by an Interpol-Europol investigation. Reading Scientific Services Ltd (RSSL), a food research laboratory, has seen an increase in requests for tests to show food adulteration and authentication since the horsemeat scandal over a year ago, but claims that mistakes are still being made and the system is still being cheated. [http://www.specialityfoodmagazine.com/content/news/call\\_for\\_food\\_testing](http://www.specialityfoodmagazine.com/content/news/call_for_food_testing)
- **Food testing remains strong for Eurofins.** Emerging markets, regulation and food fraud scandals such as horse meat helped Eurofins record strong full year 2013 results. <http://www.foodqualitynews.com/Food-Alerts/Food-testing-remains-strong-for-Eurofins>
- **A majority of EU member countries backed a compromise agreement on GMO authorisation which maintains an EU-wide approval scheme but allows national cultivation bans.** Under the proposals, drafted by Greece, which holds the rotating EU Council presidency, the European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) would conduct assessments of GM crops. <http://www.euractiv.com/cap/majority-eu-countries-favour-gmo-news-533900>
- **Research and Markets: Global Food Safety Testing Market Analysis - 2013 Edition Features Players such as Agilent, Eurofins and Qiagen.** According to Global Food Safety Testing Market Analysis, a growing number of participants in the global food market, an increased oversight and monitoring of the manufacturing and supply processes, and the introduction of new automation technologies, all will be instrumental for an enormous growth in the global food testing market. [http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20140311006297/en/Research-Markets-Global-Food-Safety-Testing-Market#\\_UympEs5GpR0](http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20140311006297/en/Research-Markets-Global-Food-Safety-Testing-Market#_UympEs5GpR0)
- **Silliker Food Science Center, a research services organization and a Merieux NutriSciences company, announced that it now offers process authority services to support manufacturers of acidified foods.** <http://www.foodsafety magazine.com/news/silliker-adds-process-authority-services-for-acidified-foods-manufacturers/>
- **Intertek has opened a new UKAS accredited food laboratory in Derby, Derbyshire.** The new laboratory will offer 24/7 testing and analysis services, expertise, and support to local, regional and global clients. Strengthening the existing operations in the UK, the state-of-the-art laboratory will focus on providing high quality results and quick turnaround times for all microbiological testing requirements. <http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20140312-903560.html>
- **Concise Analysis of the North America Food Safety Testing Market - Forecast to 2018.** The North American food safety testing market is growing significantly, driven by increasing outbreaks of food-borne illnesses and rigorous implementation of the food safety regulations to ensure the safety of food. The consumer demand for food safety has also been increasing the food safety testing market. The leading players in the food safety testing market include SGS SA (Switzerland), Bio-Rad Laboratories (U.S.), Intertek (U.K.), Eurofins (U.S.), and Bureau Veritas (France). The key players have been using strategies such as new product/service launch and merger & acquisition to strengthen their position in the market. <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/02/28/6197971/concise-analysis-of-the-north.html>
- **More than 1200 tonnes of fake or substandard food and nearly 430 000 litres of counterfeit drinks have been seized in an Interpol-Europol coordinated operation across 33 countries in the Americas, Asia and Europe.** The operation Opson III, conducted throughout December 2013 and January 2014, and supported for the first time by the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers, involved police, customs, national food regulatory bodies and partners from the private sector, with checks carried out at shops, markets, airports, seaports and private homes. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/thousands-tonnes-fake-food-and-drink-seized-interpol-europol-operation>

## Business Results

### Intertek Group PLC reported:

- **high profit** of GBP281.8 million for 2013
- **spendings of GBP122 million** on acquisitions in 2013, including a toy testing lab in Brazil, a pharmaceuticals testing unit in the UK, a US oil and gas services business, and a North American building products testing company
- **the revenue growth was driven by 4.8% organic growth**, with the rest coming from the acquisitions it made
- **its operating margin dropped to 15.7%, from 16.3% in 2012**, as it was hit by a downturn in its minerals business
- **its spending on new labs and services was GBP145 million**, up from GBP115 million in 2012
- **it generated GBP394 million in cash from operations in 2013**, up 14%, and it raised its full-year dividend to 46.0 pence, from 41.0p.

### BUREAU VERITAS reported:

- **solid financial performance in 2013**
- **revenue of EUR 3.9 billion**, +5.5% at constant currencies
- **organic growth of 3.5%, confirming business resilience**
- **sharp increase in adjusted operating margin to 16.7%**
- **accretive acquisitions, focused on strategic markets**
- **an increase of 4.9% in dividend to EUR 0.48**

## Other Business News

- **National Physical Laboratory boosts research with new Alcatel-Lucent network.** The National Physical Laboratory (NPL), the UK's centre of scientific research and the development of measurement standards, has completed a major network upgrade with Alcatel-Lucent to aid research. <http://www.computerworlduk.com/news/infrastructure/3499612/national-physical-laboratory-boosts-research-with-new-alcatel-lucent-network/>
- **The need for material verification is an increasingly important issue across a range of industries like aerospace, energy, rail and general engineering, since meeting the correct specifications can be critical to product performance, even public safety.** The chemical analysis of metallic materials is one such procedure and it involves determining the precise elemental constituents of a test piece, to establish that it meets the required specification, to overcheck bought-in stock, to identify unknown material or to provide evidence in a product failure investigation. [http://www.globalsmtuk.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5447:a-full-spectrum-of-metal-analysis-techniques-&catid=34&Itemid=78](http://www.globalsmtuk.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5447:a-full-spectrum-of-metal-analysis-techniques-&catid=34&Itemid=78)
- **Rugged and Portable Electrochemical Conductivity Meter.** The new SD 320 Con, from Tintometer GmbH (Germany) Lovibond Water Testing, is a rugged, portable hand-held device, watertight to IP67, for the measurement of conductivity, TDS, salinity and temperature. [http://www.envirotech-online.com/news/water-wastewater/9/tintometer\\_gmbh/rugged\\_and\\_portable\\_electrochemical\\_conductivity\\_meter/28559/](http://www.envirotech-online.com/news/water-wastewater/9/tintometer_gmbh/rugged_and_portable_electrochemical_conductivity_meter/28559/)
- **New standards in electrical safety test data management.** A special software program has been designed to provide comprehensive and secure electrical test record keeping for all those responsible for maintaining the safety of electrical equipment at work. <http://www.electricalreview.co.uk/product-news/9845-new-standards-in-electrical-safety-test-data-management>
- **The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and the UK's National Physical Laboratory (NPL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with STFC to work with the Oxfordshire based ISIS facility, the UK's pulsed neutron and muon source, to both increase collaboration between the**
- two organisations and jointly develop innovative capabilities to enhance our understanding of advanced materials, particularly multi-ferroics, and how they perform under different conditions. Long term the research findings from the collaboration should be of real benefit to UK industry in the fields of micro-electronics with the aim of making computers (including mobile devices) smaller and faster while using less power.
- **TÜV Rheinland has formed a worldwide network of testing laboratories for various power level inverters, Inverter Services Network (ISN), by uniting its nine facilities located in Australia, Germany, Greater China (Shanghai and Taiwan), Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, and the United States of America.**
- **Intertek has expanded its laboratory in Xiamen National Torch Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone.** The expanded lab now offers clients in Fujian Province and surrounding areas testing capabilities for the Softlines, Electrical, Toys & Hardlines and other industries.
- **Intertek has provided fire foam testing services for industrial clients by opening a new fire foam testing laboratory in Antwerp, Belgium.** The new lab complements an existing Fire Foam testing laboratory in the United Arab Emirates.
- **SGS's Brisbane laboratory has been approved by FOSFA (Federation of Oils, Seeds and Fats Associations) for analysis services.**
- **SGS has invested in a new ISO 17025 accredited Food Laboratory in Fairfield, New Jersey to meet growing demand for food testing services.**
- **SGS Hungary has run a Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) inspection from the National Institute for Quality and Organizational Development in Healthcare and Medicines. Laboratory and field services were included during inspection and OECD GLP categories 1 and 6 were granted.**

## Acquisitions:

- Applus+ sells its testing laboratories for agrofood and consumer products.** Applus+, a global inspection, testing and certification company, has signed an agreement with Eurofins, for the sale of 'Applus+ Retail Testing', a subsidiary of Applus+ Laboratories, its testing and certification businesses for the agrofood and non-food retail sector. <http://www.appluslaboratories.com/en/new/> [Applus sells its testing laboratories for agrofood and consumer products-1340240607893](http://www.appluslaboratories.com/en/new/)
- Smithers Rapra, a world leader in tire, rubber, plastics and composites expertise and a Smithers Group company, announced that its operation in Suzhou, China has been certified to test to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) R117 standard by TÜV NORD.** As the company's customer base in China continues to expand, adding testing capability for the ECE R117 standard is the latest success in Smithers Rapra's growth strategy, to support international tire [manufacturers with testing systems that ensure the highest product integrity.](http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20140224006430/en/Smithers-Rapra-China-Laboratory-Adds-Testing-Meet#.UyxLy85GpR0) <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20140224006430/en/Smithers-Rapra-China-Laboratory-Adds-Testing-Meet#.UyxLy85GpR0>
- EU lab presents latest achievements on alternative test methods.** The European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing (EURL Ecvam) has released a video on its work on chemical safety assessment without animal testing. Advances made include a fully automated robotic in vitro testing platform, and a database which provides laboratories worldwide with information on more than 150 in vitro methods. <http://chemicalwatch.com/17968/eu-lab-presents-latest-achievements-on-alternative-test-methods>
- INCOTEC and Eurofins STA Laboratories (ESTA) have agreed to join forces to promote ESTA's seed health testing capabilities to the European seed market.** As a result of this strategic alliance, INCOTEC will be able to offer Eurofins STA seed health testing services on an exclusive basis to its customers. The testing of the seeds will be performed at Eurofins STA's facilities in the USA. For its part, INCOTEC will handle the daily contacts with customers, the collection and the shipping of samples, communication of results to customers and all other marketing activities to promote the sophisticated high quality testing capabilities of Eurofins STA. <http://www.incotec.com/nl/en/5-356/incotec-and-eurofins-sta-laboratories-enter-into-agreement-for-seed-health-testing.html>
- Eurofins Strengthens Its European Environmental Testing Market Leadership with the acquisition of Omegam Laboratoria BV (Omegam), one independent laboratory in The Netherlands for environmental and water testing.** <http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20140307-900200.html>
- Intertek acquires INSPEC . Intertek Group plc. ("Intertek"), a quality solutions provider to industries worldwide, has acquired International Inspection Services Ltd (INSPEC), a UAE-based provider of non-destructive testing (NDT) and associated services to the oil and gas industry.**
- Intertek hosted the formal Grand Opening of its new testing laboratory in Lake Forest, CA.** Intertek can now deliver more efficient product testing services to help manufacturers of home appliances and electronics, medical equipment, solar products, lighting and IT products meet all of their market, industry, and regulatory requirements.
- Intertek has opened its new electrical testing laboratory in Sao Paulo, Brazil.** Intertek can now deliver time- and cost-savings to local manufacturers with local, in-country testing to the standards of the ABNT -- NBR (Brazilian Association of Technical Standards), IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission), and ISO (International Standardization Organization).
- Intertek is all set to open new apparel and textiles testing laboratory in Bataramulla to support the growing textile and garment industry in Sri Lanka.**
- Intertek has opened a new petroleum testing laboratory in Kirikkale, Turkey, close to the capital city Ankara.** The Kirikkale laboratory supports both local and regional customers with fuel quality testing for diesel and gasoline, and is adding a full range of tests to analyze liquid petroleum gases (LPG).
- Intertek has opened a new petroleum and residual fuel oil testing laboratory in Harvey, Louisiana, close to several petroleum refineries and tank storage facilities.**
- SGS has launched a new laboratory at the KLASCO terminal, in Klaipeda, Lithuania, offering 24/7 grain sampling and testing on incoming grain trucks.** SGS has been controlling grain handling at the KLASCO terminal for more than 10 years.
- SGS announced its plan to open its fifth North American Life Science Services laboratory in Carson, California.** This investment will establish a Life Science Services GMP/GLP laboratory, with the ability to provide microbiological testing and bioanalytical services.
- Intertek has expanded their Ghent, Belgium, laboratory to support lubricant and base oil manufacturers and blenders.**
- Intertek, the leading quality solutions provider to industries worldwide, has expanded their Ghent, Belgium, laboratory to support lubricant and base oil manufacturers and blenders.** The ISO 9001 certified Ghent laboratory supports local and regional customers and offers a full range of testing capabilities to analyze lubricants and petroleum additive packages. The Ghent lab follows accepted global and industry regulatory standards such as ASTM, ISO, and IP to provide quality control testing on feedstocks, other raw materials, blending processes, and final products. <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20140203005040/en/Intertek-Expands-Laboratory-Europe-Support-Growing-Demand#.UyxMYM5GpR0>

## Policy News

### Research and Innovation & Horizon 2020 News

- **Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, and Biotechnology .** The Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEIT) part of Horizon 2020 will support the development of technologies underpinning innovation across a range of sectors. Horizon 2020 will have a strong focus on developing European industrial capabilities in Key Enabling Technologies (KETs). This part of the programme covers different areas : [Nanotechnologies](#), [Advanced materials](#), [Advanced manufacturing and processing](#), [Biotechnology](#).
- **Towards a EU-China Food, Agriculture, Biotechnology Flagship.** EU, China to cooperate on food, agriculture and biotechnology research. The EU and China have launched today the first EU-China flagship initiative for research and innovation with the signature of a Letter of Intent on Research and Innovation Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology (FAB) between the European Commission and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). This new initiative will ensure concrete, substantial and balanced joint research and innovation cooperation activities on selected priorities of common interest. It was announced during the 1st EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue. <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2013&na=na-211113>

## Chemicals

- **New EU Regulation for export and import of hazardous chemicals enters into operation.** From 1 March 2014, new rules concerning the export and import of very hazardous chemicals will be implemented, when the revised Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation becomes operational. At the same time, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) will take over the administrative and technical responsibility from the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. [http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal\\_content/title/new-eu-regulation-for-export-and-import-of-hazardous-chemicals-enters-into-operation](http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/new-eu-regulation-for-export-and-import-of-hazardous-chemicals-enters-into-operation)
- **The Directors' Contact Group (DCG), which provides a platform for the informal exchange of views and information between the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the European Commission and participating Industry Associations, met on 15 January 2014 and adopted new Terms of Work for the period until 31 December 2018.**
- **The Member States, the European Commission and ECHA have agreed on recommendations regarding harmonising the interaction between the evaluating Member State and the registrants under substance evaluation.**
- **ECHA has published a second revision of its Consultation Procedure for Guidance, as endorsed by the ECHA Management Board at its December 2013 meeting.**
- **ECHA has offered a new service to industry; the chemical similarity check.** The chemical similarity check is an assessment similar to the technical equivalence assessment described in Article 54 of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012, but is only applicable for substances where no final decision on the approval of the active substance has yet been adopted, and is performed solely on the substance identity and chemical composition.
- **The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has started a 45-day public commenting period on the harmonised classification and labelling (CLH) proposal for thiacloprid and tert-butyl hydroperoxide. Both substances do not have a harmonised classification.**
- **The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has started sending out legally binding letters to registrants who have registered their substances as intermediates, but have not responded to the Agency's requests to correct the inconsistencies found in their dossiers. Companies receiving the letter have one month to update their registration before ECHA sends the case to the Member States enforcement authorities.**
- **The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) proposes a new batch of SVHCs for authorisation.** ECHA has recommended a new batch of substances for authorisation to the European Commission. The substances were prioritised because they are used in high volumes and have widespread applications which may pose a threat to human health or the environment: [http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal\\_content/title/echa-proposes-a-new-batch-of-svhcs-for-authorisation](http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/echa-proposes-a-new-batch-of-svhcs-for-authorisation)
- **New features help to visualise with greater clarity the information available on the harmonised and self-classified substances submitted to the Inventory.** ECHA has released a new update of the C&L Inventory. The changes implemented improve the information visualised on the summary of the classification and labelling page. [http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal\\_content/title/the-new-release-of-the-c-l-inventory-is-out](http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/the-new-release-of-the-c-l-inventory-is-out)

## Soil Testing

### Enforcement in NL – The spirit and the letter



ALcontrol Laboratories



In the Netherlands an intensive discussion is going on in the environmental soil testing industry about the different roles of – on the one hand – accreditation / certification and – on the other hand – inspection / enforcement. In order to be able to execute soil related projects consultancies, contractors, soil traders etc. need to be certified by a notified body. After a certification has been received a recognition from the authorities is required.

Laboratories working in the environmental soil field need to be accredited in conformity with ISO 17025, and require also a recognition by the authorities.

Comparable certification/accreditation and recognition systems are in place in other European countries. In Germany recognitions for soil testing are required for samplers and laboratories; for this a.o. beside ISO 17025 so-called “Fachmodules” (e.g. for soil, water, waste) are to be used. France has a recognition system for water testing (“Agrément d’un laboratoire d’analyse des eaux”) and the United Kingdom has the MCERTS system for soil testing.

The requirements for the above mentioned certification and accreditation are in the Netherlands described in so-called certification protocols and accreditation schemes and form the basis for audits being carried out by notified bodies (certification) or the national accreditation body (accreditation).

In the Netherlands a lot of documents have been developed since the end of the 1990’s. The documents are quality assurance documents, i.e. they form the basis for the quality system of the company and are the starting point for the PDCA improvement circle: Plan-Do-Check-Act. It is recognized within this system that companies – however excellent they might be – can make mistakes. Crucial is that the quality system is able to address these mistakes and that the company takes corrective measures, sometimes internally, sometimes by an external re-call of work earlier done.

In the past year the quality documents have been used by Environmental Inspection (enforcement) to assess if companies are strictly working according to the requirements described there. Any non-conformity was registered as an offense. Some companies have been fined for non-conformities registered by the Inspection.

The debate in the Netherlands currently concentrates on the question if Inspection is allowed to use documents, originally developed for quality assurance, for enforcement. The Dutch soil industry does not agree with this and puts pressure on the Environmental Ministry to solve this issue.

## Consumer Protection

- **Campaign group Greenpeace East Asia has found that many items of children's clothing from high street brands contain hazardous chemicals.** The organisation is now calling on the Chinese government to help stop the use of such chemicals in the textile industry. Greenpeace tested 12 brands, including Gap, Primark, Disney and American Apparel, and found that children's items had as many hazardous chemicals in them as adults, even though children are more vulnerable to them. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/a-fashionable-lie/>
- **The Network of European Consumer Centres across the EU handled more than 80,000 enquiries from citizens across the EU in 2013.** This represents an increase of 11% compared to 2012. Among the 80,272 contacts from consumers, the ECCs dealt with 32,522 complaints. The number of complaints increased by 9% compared to 2012. Advice provided by the ECC network contributed to a positive outcome for consumers in two thirds of cases.
- **Pushing for consumer safety. 10th anniversary of Europe's Rapid alert system on dangerous products.** For 10 years the EU Rapid Information system (RAPEX) has been guarding European consumers against un-safe non-food products. In 2013 a total of 2,364 measures were taken by EU Member States. This figure indicates a 3.8% rise in alerts compared to 2012 and continues the increasing trend which has been apparent since the establishment of RAPEX in 2003. In 2013, clothing, textiles and fashion items and toys (both 25%), were the two main product categories for which corrective measures had to be taken. Among the most frequently notified risks caused by these products were chemical risks, risk of strangulation, risk of injury and choking.

## Food

- **The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has proposed a new process for identifying emerging chemical risks in the food and feed chain using a variety of databases that log the incidence of industrial chemicals and environmental chemical contaminants in the EU.** The framework would enable risk assessors to anticipate contamination of the food/feed chain by chemical hazards that have not yet been assessed by EFSA or other similar bodies. A procurement will be launched shortly to carry out a pilot study using this approach.

## Public Consultations and Call for Tenders

- **Harmonised classification and labelling current consultations.** Parties concerned are invited to comment on hazard classes open for public consultation. The indicated hazard classes were assessed and concluded by the dossier submitter in their proposal for harmonised classification and labelling (CLH) of the substance, and are indicated in the Substance Details table below. The CLH public consultation lasts for 45 days, at the end of which the comments received are compiled into a list that will be annexed to the opinion of the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC). <http://echa.europa.eu/harmonised-classification-and-labelling-consultation>
- **Four new public consultations for identification as SVHCs launched.** The new substances are: 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid - branched and linear (Sweden), cadmium chloride (Sweden), sodium perborate (Denmark) and sodium peroxometaborate (Denmark). Further details on the substances are available in the consultation table at the following link: <http://echa.europa.eu/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/authorisation/substances-of-very-high-concern-identification>
- **Progress towards the 2020 energy efficiency objective and a 2030 energy efficiency policy framework.** Timeframe: 03/02/2014 to 28/04/2014 [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/consultations/20140428\\_eed\\_2020\\_2030\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/consultations/20140428_eed_2020_2030_en.htm)
- CLH consultation launched on the pesticide Triflumizole. ECHA has started a 45-day public commenting period on the harmonised classification and labelling (CLH) proposal for the pesticide Triflumizole. The substance has no harmonised classification. The dossier submitter, the Netherlands, is proposing classification for health and environmental hazards. The deadline for submitting comments is 02 May 2014. <http://echa.europa.eu/harmonised-classification-and-labelling-consultation>

## Personal Developments

- **Jiří Sobola terminated his employment contract at SZU. He has succeeded in the European call for the position of the Consultant for the European Technical Assessment (ETA) and will work in Unit ENTR/B1 - Sustainable Industrial Policy and Construction Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General, Directorate B.**
- **A New SZU Director for Testing** On 1 January 2014, Ing. Luděk Drlík, MBA, Ph.D. replaced Ing. Aleš Onderek as the SZU Director for Testing. In this position, he is directly responsible to Ing. Tomáš Hruška, SZU Director-General. Before joining SZU (1995–2013), Ing. Luděk Drlík, MBA, Ph.D. held the positions of a director, executive director and a project manager of the companies Zliner s.r.o., ZV-Nástroje s.r.o., Eurovision, a.s., Česká Zdravotní a.s., Královopolská a.s., and ZETOR, a.s. Ing. Aleš Onderek has assumed a new position in SZU Certification Department.

## EUROLAB Special Briefings 2014



Special Briefing No. 01 – March 2014

### EUROLAB Special Briefing

European Commission proposal to make the internal market leaner for eight industry sectors - Harmonisation EU safety rules

### EUROLAB Special Briefing No. 01 on the European Commission proposal to make the internal market leaner for eight industry sectors - Harmonisation EU safety rules.

The European Commission welcomed the vote of the European Parliament on the Commission proposal to make the internal market leaner for eight industry sectors.

**EUROLAB Special Briefing No. 02 on the Counterfeiting food report – Europol.** More than 1200 tonnes of fake or substandard food and nearly 430 000 litres of counterfeit drinks have been seized in an Interpol-Europol coordinated operation across 33 countries in the Americas, Asia and Europe.



Special Briefing No. 02 – March 2014

### EUROLAB Special Briefing

Counterfeiting food report - Europol

## Reports

Irache Visiers attended the first meeting of EA-LC which took place in Malta on 12 and 13 March 2014.

Main points of discussion were:

### 1. Reissuance of test reports:

This issue has been discussed for three years at the EA-LC meetings. In 2011, COFRAC raised the question: "Could laboratories reissue test reports changing trade names without retesting?"

During the last meeting, It was decided to send a Resolution to EA-EX and EA-GA: *Reissuance of test reports when the trade name / trademark of the tested product has changed (§ 5.10.9 of ISO/IEC 17025)*

During the last EAAB meeting in 2013, this issue was raised and it was decided to stop the approval of this Resolution and ask EUROLAB to perform an enquiry on this issue, and deliver results at next EAAB meeting in April 2014.

- EA-LC decided to draft a Position Paper explaining the resolution and send it to EXEC. The Draft will be sent to EA-LC prior to its submitting to EA- EX.

### 2. TFG on Opinions and Interpretations

Comments have been sent to the TFG on the draft guidance document circulated (8 AB's and EUROLAB). There is not so much interest in the document so it was asked to EA-LC to decide whether to continue with the work or to stop.

It was agreed to continue with the document, and some points were discussed as e.g.: how the ability to perform opinions and interpretations should be remarked at the accreditation scope, or the need to set boundaries to opinions and interpretations, etc.

At the end, it was agreed that UKAS (convener) will draft a Position Paper to be circulated by the end of March, to all EA-LC, to compile more views on this issue in one month, and to be able to draft the second version of the guidance document.

### 3. TFG on RMP and PTP MLA:

Since the last EA-LC meeting, where a task to TFG was given: to study EA-2/09 "EA policy on the Accreditation of Proficiency Testing Schemes" and make a proposal on what to do: whether to revise it or to withdraw the document.

This TFG met two times more and finally they proposed the withdrawal of the document.

Considering the last APLAC workshop where it was presented a new APLAC guide on how to accredit RMP (APLAC TC-008:2013), this TFG considers the need to draft a new EA Guide document. This TFG set a 3 people WG to write down a draft.

The next meetings will take place: **in London 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and in Athens on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015.**

### International Events

- **The 5th International Metrology Conference in South Africa, Pretoria, from the 31st March to the 2nd April 2014 At CSIR Convention Center.** The African Committee of Metrology (CAFMET) organizes FORUMESURE in the same time with CAFMET 2014. FORUMESURE is an annual trade show, aimed at companies and institutions to exhibit their know-how, new products and services to the hundreds of international visitors expected at the show.
- **The Ninth Stakeholders' Day Conference takes place on 21 May 2014 in Helsinki.** The conference offers participants the chance to hear the latest news and updates from ECHA, European industry associations and NGOs. [http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal\\_content/title/ninth-stakeholder-s-day](http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/ninth-stakeholder-s-day)
- **Fifth seminar on applications for authorisation - 28-29 April 2014 - Apply before 14 March hosted by ECHA.** [http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal\\_content/title/echa-seminar-on-applications-for-authorisation](http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/echa-seminar-on-applications-for-authorisation)
- **TRaC Global to host free seminar on EMC and Safety: Understanding the role product testing plays in compliance and export\*** Warwick, 7th March 2014. <http://www.industrytoday.co.uk/engineering/trac-global-to-host-free-seminar-on-emc-and-safety/28702#sthash.nZ9BMUsB.dpuf>

### Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- **EUROLAB General Assembly** in Warsaw, Poland, 31 March – 02 April 2014.
  - ⇒ 31st March TCQA
  - ⇒ 1st April EUROLAB General Assembly
  - ⇒ 2nd April EUROLAB Seminar
- **EUROLAB Board meeting**, 30 June - 1st July, Brussels, Belgium  
National Members Meetings/Extraordinary General Assembly, Lisbon, Portugal
  - ⇒ 6th October – TCQA
  - ⇒ 7th October – BoA, NMMs (+Extraordinary General Assembly)
  - ⇒ 8th October – Eurolab Seminar
- **EUROLAB Board meeting**, 4th November, Brussels, Belgium
- **EUROLAB - CEOC - IFIA Safety Seminar**, 5th November, Brussels, Belgium
- **JTC PTC meeting**, 07-08 April, Vienna, Austria



### Upcoming Events

- EA Inspection Committee meeting in Oslo, 27 March 2014.
- CAB College meeting in Brussels, 02 April 2014.
- EA Advisory Board meeting in Brussels, 03 April 2014.
- Joint IAF - ILAC Mid - Term meetings in Frankfurt, 23-29 April 2014.
- CEOC General Assembly 2014 in Helsinki, 24 – 27 May 2014.
- EA General Assembly meeting in Prague, 27- 28 May 2014.
- International Product Safety week, 16 – 20 June 2014.
- EA Horizontal Harmonisation Committee meeting in Brussels, 16-17 September 2014.
- Joint IAF - ILAC Annual Meetings in Bangkok, 08-17 October 2014.
- CAB College meeting in Brussels, 21 October 2014.
- EAAB meeting in Brussels, 22 October 2014.
- EA IC meeting, 10 - 11 September 2014, London, UK & 18 - 19 March 2015, Athens; Greece
- ISO CASCO GA, 24 - 26 September, Geneva, Switzerland