

January - March 2018



Foreword

Inside this issue:

Focus of the Month	2
National Members' News	3-11
Accreditation & Standardization	12-13
Business News	14-16
Policy News	17-20
Events	21

Dear EUROLAB members,

Please find below the first EUROLAB newsbriefing of 2018 with information regarding the actions carried out by EUROLAB and developments relevant to the Laboratory community.

The end of 2017 brought on the agenda the publication of the revision of ISO 17025, which became the focus of attention of the Laboratories. EUROLAB, aware of the importance of this, has organized to play a relevant role in the transition process, outlining actions aimed at developing initiatives to support the Laboratory community towards the process of transition of Accreditation.

In this context, EUROLAB, through TC QA, has set up a working group to promote a complete review of cookbooks, incorporating the vision of experts in what is anticipated as modifications that Accredited Laboratories must introduce in their management systems to comply with requirements of the new standard. In this way, an analysis is provided aiming to support the organizational evolution of Laboratories.

EUROLAB has completed this process and is pleased to report that revised cookbooks are now available for free download at <http://www.eurolab.org/cookbooks.aspx>.

Other documents will follow to continue the action of EUROLAB, and cooperation actions are being developed with other entities that aim to increase the impact of these documents developed through networking.

Looking forward to increase co-operation with you, aiming to achieve the highest purpose of promoting the Laboratories contribution to the improvement of Safety and Quality of Life.

Yours Sincerely,

EUROLAB President

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro

Contact details:

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

Tel.: + 32 2 511 50 65

Fax: + 32 2 502 50 47

E-mail: info@eurolab.org

Website:

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



EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings 2018

The EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings 2018 will take place in Varna, Bulgaria, on 19 and 20 April 2018 and will be kindly hosted by BULLAB.

The EUROLAB events will start on Thursday morning, 19 April, with the TCQA Meeting, followed by the International Conference in the afternoon. The EUROLAB Board Meeting will take place on Friday morning, 20 April, being followed by the EUROLAB General Assembly, the same day.

For further information, please contact the EUROLAB General Secretariat at: info@eurolab.org.



EUROLAB and IMEKO sign MoU

EUROLAB and IMEKO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 20 February 2018, to increase the cooperation and dialogue between the two organisations. The MoU was signed by the EUROLAB President, Álvaro Silva Ribeiro and IMEKO President, Ken T.V. Grattan.

Both organisations will define together strategies in order to develop joint activities, content for different events and will be jointly engaged in the research and application of the science and technology measurements. Together they will promote the development of relationship between metrology, testing and industry and will contribute to the enhancement of international cooperation among scientists and experts from both communities.

The MoU can be downloaded by following the [link](#).



News ALPI**ALPI strategy about the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017**

The value of accreditation in accordance with the ISO / IEC 17025 for Laboratories has been demonstrated by the market as a support to attest competence and to meet regulatory, legislative and customer requirements. The laboratories therefore need an analysis of what needs to be done to ensure compliance with the new approach of ISO / IEC 17025: 2017. For this reason, ALPI has developed a series of initiatives dedicated to the cultural and operational growth of their own Associates.

a) In recent months ALPI has planned and developed an intense training activity for the Laboratories to present, by a direct comparison, the differences between ed. 2015 with ed. 2017 of the ISO / IEC 17025 standard, and to discuss the consequences for testing and calibration Laboratories with a critical analysis.

ALPI found a high level of attention from the Associates and a high satisfaction of all the participants in ALPI training courses. This represents an important appreciation of the value of the activities promoted by ALPI Association in Italy.

b) ALPI Association, participating as active member of EUROLAB aisbl to the preparation of the "EUROLAB Cookbooks and Technical Reports", synthetic but effective documents on the topic of quality in the laboratories, started the translation in Italian language of Cookbooks, with an accurate control of the technical details, to make them more easy for Italian Testing Labs.

c) In addition, due to the need to revise the ACCREDIA Technical Regulations, including the ACCREDIA Regulation RT-08 "Requirements for the accreditation of Testing Laboratories", ALPI established a team of Associates, Testing and Calibration experts, to examine the RT 08 Regulation in force, and propose modifications, new contents and to discuss them with ACCREDIA, the Italian Accreditation Body.

In this way, ALPI continues to share with ACCREDIA's technicians the operational and organizational needs of the Laboratories. These needs can't be forgotten if we draw up the rules for the accreditation according to the new Standard 17025: 2017 because they have an important impact on the budget and on the organization of the laboratories.

News EUROLAB - CZ

EUROLAB - CZ President: Mr. Alexander Šafařík-Pštrosz has been re-elected as President of EUROLAB-CZ for the next two years term.

**New automatic Vicat apparatus**

Technical and Test Institute for Construction Prague, SOE, member of EUROLAB-CZ is now improving the facility for cement testing. The new automatic Vicat apparatus is compatible with EN 196-3, 13279-2, 480-2, ASTM C191 and C187. Test procedures can be customized and stored to match user-defined requirements including large test space with easy accessibility. Special software developed by our specialists provides automatic calculation of initial and final cement setting time at programmable penetration depth limits.

Contact: Pavel Rubáš, PhD., rubas@tzus.cz, Phone: 00420602115450



System VICA-10

News EUROLAB - Deutschland

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

Report on a 2nd EUROLAB-D seminar on the new ISO/IEC 17025

Under the title "ISO/IEC 17025 – everything new in 2018?" the second seminar on the new laboratory standard took place in Berlin on 9 November 2017. Following the first seminar in April, this time it was the intention not only to present a general overview on the new requirements of the standard but also to go into more details concerning technical issues. The seminar was again organised by EUROLAB-Germany with six partner organisations, i.e. the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM), the German accreditation body DAkkS, the German national metrology institute PTB, the German Association of Technical Inspection Agencies (VdTÜV), the Association of Materials Testing Institutes (VMPA) and the German Association of Independent Laboratories (VUP). Some 140 participants from German laboratories attended this event.

The seminar was opened by **Michael Nitsche**, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the BAM President, and by **Kurt Ziegler**, the Chairman of EUROLAB-D. **Gabriele Dudek** gave the introductory lecture. As member of the German delegation in the ISO CASCO working group, she provided first-hand insight into the reasons for reviewing the standard and the framework conditions for this review. Besides from consideration of technical developments in the management and operation of laboratories and besides of taking into account changed accreditation requirements, it was the aim to align ISO/IEC 17025 with the general structure of the other standards of the ISO/IEC 17000 series and with ISO 9001:2015. Consequently the so-called common elements of the conformity assessment standards, i.e. predefined text blocks on impartiality, confidentiality, complaints and management system requirements were introduced. From the generic quality management standard ISO 9001 a new terminology, the risk based approach and some more flexibility e.g. concerning the management system documentation were applied.



The standard deals with all kinds of laboratory activities, i.e. with testing, calibration and sampling, which is associated with subsequent testing or calibration. The range of the laboratory's activities, that is covered by its management system, shall be defined and documented, excluding work, which is subcontracted on an ongoing basis. Differently from ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection bodies, ISO/IEC 17025 does not define different types of independence. It is valid for all organisational structures, but the requirement of impartiality as an ongoing task of the laboratory is strengthened compared with the previous version.

In principle, the requirement of metrological traceability is unchanged. The traceability of a measurement result is established by a documented unbroken chain of calibrations, each contributing to measurement uncertainty, linking it to an appropriate reference, preferably to the international System of Units (SI), if possible. The laboratory shall ensure this by calibrations provided by a competent calibration laboratory, or by comparison with a certified reference material provided by a competent provider. As shown by the following lecture, accreditation bodies tend to interpret the term "competent" as a synonym for "accredited".

Uncertainty components arising from sampling shall be included in the uncertainty budget. Regarding statements of conformity to a specification or standard, the standard demands clearly defined and documented decision rules, which describe how measurement uncertainty is taken into account.

In line with the respective common element of the ISO/IEC 17000 standards, two options concerning the management system are allowed for in the new standard: either compliance with ISO 9001 (option B) or with a list of requirements explicitly given in the standard (option A). New in this list is the clause on risks and opportunities, which replaces that on preventive actions. Option B is a new feature.

Ursula Ellerbeck, representative of the German accreditation body DAkkS in the EA Laboratory Committee (EA LC) and the ILAC Accreditation Issues Committee (AIC), talked about the need for guidelines and policy papers of the accreditation bodies after the publication of the new standard. It is now the task of the two mentioned committees to review existing accreditation documents and to decide if they would still be needed in the future. In general, she pointed out that the new standard is even more generic as the previous version, thus requiring maybe even more interpretation in order to ensure harmonised accreditation processes globally. The documents approved by ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) or EA (European Cooperation for Accreditation) are binding for all accreditation bodies that are signatories of the respective multilateral agreements. She explained her view taking ILAC P10 ILAC Policy on traceability of measurement results as an example. In this document two options concerning the provision of calibration services are clearly preferred: either calibration by a national metrology institute which services are covered by the CIPM MRA (International Committee for Weights and Measures Mutual Recognition Arrangement) or by an accredited calibration laboratory under the ILAC MRA. Alternative ways to demonstrate traceability, e.g. by external assessments by customers or self-assessment, although fully compliant with ISO/IEC 17025 are made rather impossible in practice.



Thus, this policy paper is a means to harmonise the interpretation and application of the standard by the accreditors. Hence it has direct implications for the accredited laboratories, e.g. in Germany for the acceptance of official verification certificates. Ms Ellerbeck estimated that other documents, as for example ILAC P9 *ILAC Policy for Proficiency Testing Activities*, might become no longer necessary.

In the following discussion the question of the accreditation of sampling as stand-alone activity was raised. Ms Ellerbeck confirmed that DAkkS would continue to grant accreditation of this type in the field of environmental analysis.



Tilman Burggraef, the VUP-president and member of the board of EUROLAB-D, gave the next talk addressing the expectations and requests of the German laboratory community concerning fast, lean and economical accreditation processes. Underlining the importance of accreditation as a tool to establish confidence for the free movement of goods and as a basis for notification, he mentioned some challenges which DAkkS is now faced with, i.e. the assessment of the accredited laboratories against the new standard, a new fees regulation, a new concept of surveillance with an unlimited validity of accreditation.

Laboratories expect that accreditation fees are fair, plausible and transparent. But he expressed the serious concerns that the new fees regulation, for which the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy had presented a first draft recently, would cause significantly higher accreditation costs. He reminded the audience that with the establishment of the single German accreditation body DAkkS in 2010 the accreditation costs had nearly doubled, although the Ministry had promised stable costs. Now higher costs once again would endanger the existence of smaller laboratories. Accreditation should be a service for the economy, the authorities and the conformity assessment bodies, but it should certainly not change the structure of the whole TIC sector (TIC: Testing, Inspection, Certification).

Besides the fees regulation the number of assessors involved mainly affects the actual costs of an accreditation. The use of too many highly specialised assessors pushes up the costs for small laboratories and is often not justified. Mr. Burggraef underlined the general willingness of his association VUP to provide experts with a more general expertise for accreditation procedures.



Stephan Finke, the CEO of DAkkS, presented the challenges for his organisation, which follow from the revised standards ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17011 *Conformity assessment – Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*. In connection with the implementation of the latter standard DAkkS will change its system of reaccreditation: from a 5 years validity to an unlimited accreditation with a 4 years reassessment interval with at least one surveillance visit in-between. According to the risk based approach also implemented in ISO/IEC 17011, DAkkS will have to customise each surveillance depending e.g. on the stability of a laboratory, the importance of the fields of activity and the risks of wrong results. Depending on this analysis, DAkkS has to decide

on the breadth and depth of the surveillance or reassessment, respectively.

The transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025 is three years after the publication of the standard by ISO. Accredited laboratories have to apply for the transition; the necessary assessment can be combined with any surveillance or reassessment visit. Mr. Finke rejected the proposal that the transition from the previous to the new version of the standard could be made simply as remote assessment.

After the lunch break **Andreas Kinzel** introduced some tools which laboratories could use when implementing the new standard. He referred to the EUROLAB Cookbook papers, which are accessible from the website of EUROLAB-D (www.eurolab-d.de) mostly in German and English language. Additionally he presented an EXCEL sheet, which provides a comparison of all clauses of the new standard with the respective of the previous one, highlighting any changes. Based on this the laboratory can decide whether any amendment of its system is necessary and can determine which action it will take. At present, this compilation is based on the Final Draft Standard (FDIS), but Mr. Kinzel promised to provide an up-dated version after the final publication of the standard.



Changed requirements concerning the quality assurance of laboratory results were discussed by **Michael Koch**. The list of measures to be taken by the laboratory in order to assure the validity of results is certainly longer and more detailed than in the old standard. Also the wording "shall include, where appropriate" is more prescriptive compared with the previous phrasing ("may include"). But Mr. Koch felt that the standard thereby mainly caught up on the development of requirements of the accreditation bodies. It is up to the laboratories to decide if measures are appropriate in practice, and the accreditation bodies will later review these decisions. Additionally the participation in proficiency tests or other type of interlaboratory comparisons is now mandatory ("where available and appropriate").

But again this clause reflects the established requirements of accreditation bodies and notifying authorities.

News HELLASLAB

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΝΩΣΗ ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙΩΝ
HELLASLAB National Member of EUROLAB
Σισίνη 8 & Αλκμάνος 7, 11528, Ιλίσια- Τηλ.2107233140 - Fax. 2107233173

WORKSHOP FOR THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW EN ISO 17025:2017 ORGANISED BY HELLASLAB – ATHENS 17 MARCH 2018.

Hellaslab organized a workshop in Athens on 17th of March, which was attended by more than 70 participants from laboratories all over Greece. Speakers were Prof. M.Koupparis (lead assessor) and Dr. I.Sitaras (Dir. for Laboratories Accreditation at ESYD). This workshop was based on presentations, but also on questions and answers from participants. EUROLAB Cook-books and the handbook for the transition to the new edition of the standard were used too. Hellaslab is ready to organize another workshop as the demand from the laboratory community in Greece is growing.



News HMD



An International Master Class to find cost effective ways for the transition into ISO/IEC 17025:2017 "From theory to practice"

The International Master Class to find cost effective ways for the transition into ISO/IEC 17025:2017 "From theory to practice" will take place from 11 to 13 April 2018, at Hotel Palace, in Zagreb, Croatia.

This International Master Class will on the one hand bring together laboratory personnel who are responsible for the implementation, maintenance, improvement and operation of the laboratory management system, with experienced international trainers and representatives of an accreditation body. They will discuss and most importantly investigate how to apply the revised international standard ISO/IEC 17025. The International Master Class to find cost effective ways for the transition into ISO/IEC 17025:2017 "From theory to practice" will take place from 11 to 13 April 2018, at Hotel Palace, in Zagreb, Croatia.

This International Master Class will on the one hand bring together laboratory personnel who are responsible for the implementation, maintenance, improvement and operation of the laboratory management system, with experienced international trainers and representatives of an accreditation body. They will discuss and most importantly investigate how to apply the revised international standard ISO/IEC 17025.

The focus of this three-day event will be the practical application of the new standard. The intention is to have a very interactive course, with problem based learning. Participants will leave with knowledge and skills to get from theory into practical application and to discover the most cost-effective way to adapt the standard to their organisation. They will also have an opportunity to discuss with the trainers and peers on their very specific issues they are struggling with.

Who should attend?

- Laboratory personnel who participate in the operation of the laboratory management system;
- Laboratory assessors and internal auditors;
- Laboratory consultant.

Learning methods

This course strongly emphasizes practical application of theoretical concepts (risk-based thinking, competence orientation, process approach, decision rules etc.). To achieve this, theoretical parts of the course will be accompanied by interactivity, group assignments and discussions.

Topics:

- Key changes in ISO/IEC 17025;
- Impartiality and confidentiality;
- Risk-based thinking;
- Reporting statements of conformity & decision rules;
- Other ISO/IEC 17025 requirements that require attention;
- Transition to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – view of accreditation bodies.

The leaflet of the event can be downloaded [here](http://www.ec4le.eu).

For further information, please access the event website at: <http://www.ec4le.eu/>

Zagreb – the city with a million hearts
Zagreb is a city whose doors are always open, a city with a tumultuous history beaming with interesting personalities, a city that warmly invites all those who wish to get to know it, and a city that will surely fulfil your expectations. (<http://www.infzagreb.hr/>)
Zagreb was voted as the best European destination in 2017 by Lonelyplanet experts (<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/best-in-europe/>)
Zagreb is the Capital of Croatia, one of the most beautiful countries of Europe. Zagreb is an incredible city, a city with a soul and where life is good. Zagreb is also one of the safest cities in Europe, a perfect destination for a city break or as a starting point for discovering all of Croatia. (<https://www.europebestdestinations.com/best-of-europe/safest-destinations-in-europe/>)
For more information on Zagreb, please consult the official web site of the Zagreb Tourist office: <http://www.infzagreb.hr>
Welcome to Zagreb!

Important dates:
14 February 2018: Early Bird registration closes
4 April 2018: Registration fee payment deadline
11-13 April 2018: Master Class
Contact:
European Centre for Laboratory Excellence
Betslavčeva 8
HR 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 1 4872 485
Fax: +385 1 4872 487
info@ec4le.eu
Why choose for an EC4LE training course?
• EC4LE organises about 30 courses per year for laboratory personnel
• EC4LE trained more than 500 people in 2017
• 100 % of participants expressed that they were „Satisfied“ or „Very satisfied“ with the training
• EC4LE holds a licence as a TrainIMC® event organiser
• EC4LE has a pool of trainers from many European countries
• Many of EC4LE's trainers are TrainIMC® authorised trainers
• Most of the EC4LE's trainers are experienced laboratory assessors
Who will be the trainers at this Master Class?
• International trainers from several European countries with a rich training experience on laboratory accreditation
• Licensed as a TrainIMC® authorised trainers

EC4LE
EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
LABORATORY EXCELLENCE
An International Master Class
to find cost effective ways for the transition
into
ISO/IEC 17025:2017
„From theory to practice“
11 - 13 April 2018
Venue:
Hotel Palace
Zagreb, Croatia
Supported by:
AIM **HMD**

News Fenelab



ISO/IEC 17025:2017 transition training organized by Fenelab

On March 1 2018, the Dutch Association of laboratories, calibration - and inspection bodies (Fenelab) organized a one-day transition training for its members. Testing and/or calibration laboratories, currently accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025:2005, will have to make a transfer to the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017 within three years from the date of publication. i.e. before 29 November 2020.

The transition training was provided by Fenelab's associate member Lab-QAcademy (Drs. Peter Kootstra and Dr. Cor de Ruiter) and was supported by Fenelab member Aqualab Zuid in terms of facilities, and coffee/tea/lunch. There were around 100 participants covering almost all members of Fenelab.

Lab-QAcademy has carried out a detailed gap analysis between the new 2017- and the former 2005-version of ISO/IEC 17025. This gap-analysis formed the basis of the transition training.

Next to the overall and general new approaches of ISO/IEC 17025:2017, such as the new structure, ensuring on-going impartiality, emphasis on processes, addressing risks and opportunities, information management and statements of conformity & decision rules, the new and or revised requirements in ISO/IEC 17025:2017 versus ISO/IEC 17025:2005 were presented in detail.

Some remarkable changes are that the new version no longer (explicitly) requires a quality manual and quality policy statement, director and technical manager, quality manager, deputies for key personnel, registers of approved suppliers and referral laboratories, follow-up audits and a procedure for preventive actions.

It was highly appreciated by the participants that Lab-QAcademy gave a complete overview of the new and/or revised requirements in ISO/IEC 17025:2017 versus ISO/IEC 17025:2005, but also explained and provided examples how these can be fulfilled in a pragmatic way. This was all done by a state-of-the art and interactive Keynote presentation, which resulted in interesting discussions.

At the end Lab-QAcademy presented a practical way to make the transfer to the new standard.



From left to right: Dr. C. de Ruiter, Dr. B. Kroon/Chairman Fenelab, Drs. P. Kootstra/LAB-QAcademy

News TURKLAB



TURKLAB General Assembly

The TURKLAB General Assembly was held on 25 January 2018. The TURKLAB General Assembly was well attended with 48 members; during the meeting main and substitute members have been elected to perform duties in executive and supervisory boards for the period of 2018-2020 .



Workshop on Current Status of Standardisation and Compliance Assessments Areas and TSE's Role 30 January 2018

On 30 January 2018, the "Safety of Industrial Products and Compliance Assessment Activities in Turkey Workshop 1" was held in Ankara under the coordination of the Directorate General for Safety and the Supervision of Industrial Products, and with the attendance of the following representatives: Mr. Dr. Faruk ÖZLÜ, Minister of Science, Industry and Technology, Mr. Ziya ALTUNYALDIZ, Head of TBMM (The Grand National Assembly of Turkey) Committee on Industry, Trade, Energy, Natural Resources, Information and Technology, Mr. Abdullah Nejat KOÇER, MP from Gaziantep, senior managers of Turkish Standards Institute, companies and assemblies operating on conformity assessment, scholars performing studies and services on standardisation and sector representatives.

The workshop started with an opening talk of Mr. Dr. Faruk ÖZLÜ, Minister of Science, Industry and Technology. Mr. Minister ÖZLÜ stated that they fully support the works done in relation with the importance of conformity assessment sector. The Ministry stated that the country has several investments and quality infrastructure under the standardisation, metrology, accreditation and services of conformity assessment, but the sector should be kept dynamic in the direction of technological advancements and customer expectations.

All shareholders of the conformity assessment sector were invited to this meeting. The Vice President of TURKLAB Executive Board, Neşe GÜNEŞ and General Secretary, Hakan TAN participated in the meeting. The meeting was managed interactively, all problems of the sector were discussed. Solutions to identified problems were analyzed during the session which took place in the afternoon. It was stated that this meeting is the first to be held and it will continue as a series of events in the future. It was decided to investigate the size of test examination and documentation sector and investments needed to be made in the sector.



Safety of Industrial Products and Compliance Assessment Activities In Turkey, 28 February 2018

Second workshop was held on 28 February 2018, with a total of 60 people from senior directors of the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology and Turkish Standard Institution, public institutes operating on conformity assessment, standardisation and market surveillance; non-governmental organisations, sector representatives and scholars studying on these fields in the coordination of Directorate general for Safety and Supervision of Industrial Products.

The meeting started with an opening speech of Mr. Faruk ÖZLÜ, Minister of Science, Industry and Technology. Neşe GÜNEŞ, Vice Chair of TURKLAB Executive Board, participated in the meeting. The meeting was interactive with main topic: the analysis of country's current market surveillance activities. TURKLAB shared information on the country's labor-

atory inventory and shared proposals on how to transform inventory system as a dynamic structure. TURKLAB provided recommendations on market surveillance.



Method Validation Training, 13-14 February 2018

On 13-14 February 2018, a training on “Method Validation” was held. The participants were provided with theoretical and practical information regarding reference documents, method validation parameters, and statistical techniques used to conduct method validation, which is the most important factor determining the performance of laboratories under the scope of the TS EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard.



Measurement Traceability and Measurement Uncertainty Training, 19-20 February 2018

A training on “Traceability of Measurements and Indeterminacy of Measurement” was held on 19-20 February 2018. The participants were given a practical explanation about the statistical methods used to predict measurement uncertainty. Example calculations regarding chemical analyses, as well as physical and mechanical tests were presented.



Executive Board Meeting, 22 February 2018

The first Board Meeting for the new period was held on 22 February 2018. Committee's working rules of procedures were determined. Workshops and meetings to be participated by Turklab were assessed. Information on Environment and Food laboratory was provided by committee presidents. Member application forms and representative change demands were reviewed and approved.



A training was conducted for Oxigen Analysis Laboratory employees, 01-06 March 2018

On 01 March 2018, a training on “Method Validation” was held. The participants were provided with theoretical and practical information regarding reference documents, method validation parameters, and statistical techniques used to conduct method validation, which is the most important factor determining the performance of laboratories under the scope of the TS EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

A training on “Traceability of Measurements and Indeterminacy of Measurement” was conducted on 02 March 2018. The participants were given a practical explanation about the statistical methods used to predict measurement uncertainty. Example calculations on Chemical Analyses were given.

A training on Evaluation of Calibration Certificates and Volumetric Verification took place on 03 March 2018.



Food Committee Meeting, 06 March 2018

In the meeting, as a New Executive Board, future visits to General Directorate of Food and Control New Executive Board, preparation of R&D report for private laboratories, Method Unity meetings, participation of 6th Food Safety Congress, Mutual purchase process and career days organised with universities were discussed and related decisions were made.

**Visit of T.R. Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, General Directorate of Food and Control, 16 March 2018**

As TURKLAB Executive Board visited Mr. Muharrem SELÇUK, General Director of Food and Control.

**Visit of Directorate of Food and Control of T.R. Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, 16 March 2018**

The TURKLAB Executive Board visited Mr. Hüseyin ARAP, Head of Food and Control Department and TURKLAB congratulated him for his new assignment.

**Visit of TÜRKAK Turkish Accreditation Agency
16 March 2018**

TURKLAB's new executive board visited the executive board of TÜRKAK. Activities performed and results were shared according to the TURKLAB committee's 2016-2017 activity period report. Information update was made with TÜRKAK regarding the ongoing mutual operations. Supervisor Harmonisation Project and ISO/IEC 17025: Assessments were carried out on transition of 2017 standard. Targeted activities of TURKLAB 2018-2020 working period were also shared.



Accreditation

- **Swedac released a report on the consequences of Brexit accessible [here](#).**
- **The IAF Board approved the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) of the Republic of Korea as an Accreditation Body (MoU) Member of IAF effective 29 January 2018.**
- **The following revised document is now available on the IAF website [here](#): IAF MD 1:2018 IAF Mandatory Document for the Audit and Certification of a Management System Operated by a Multi-Site Organization (Issue 2)**
- **Results of the recent ballots below following IAF/ILAC A-series documents were approved for publication and are now available from the ILAC website [here](#)**
 - ⇒ IAF/ILAC-A1:01/2018 – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group. The implementation period for the revised IAF/ILAC A1 is for all peer evaluations that commence from the date of publication.
 - ⇒ IAF/ILAC-A2:01/2018 – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body. The implementation period for the revised IAF/ILAC A2 is for all peer evaluations that commence from the date of publication. In relation to the use of the cross-referenced IAF/ILAC A3 reporting template, this is mandatory for all evaluations based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017.
 - ⇒ IAF/ILAC-A3:01/2018 – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Template report for the peer evaluation of an Accreditation Body (AB) based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017. The implementation period for this revised version of IAF/ILAC A3 is from the date of publication for all evaluations carried out to ISO/IEC 17011:2017.
 - ⇒ IAF/ILAC-A6:01/2018 – IAF/ILAC Approval Process for IAF/ILAC A-Series Documents. The implementation period for this revision of IAF/ILAC A6 is from the date of publication.
- **The ILAC MCC and joint IAF/ILAC CMC have reviewed several brochures and also removed the WAD labelling from the 2016 and 2017 WAD brochures and added those to the suite of brochures available for your use [here](#).**
- **Peter Strömbäck has been appointed from the Swedish government as the Director General for the Swedish Patent and Registration Office. He started his term of office in the new position on 12 March 2018.**
- **The List of Conclusions and Resolutions agreed at the EAAB Meeting on 12 October 2017 has just been made available.**
- **The following revised IAF/ILAC A-series documents are now available from the IAF website under Publications – IAF-ILAC Joint Publications:**
 1. IAF/ILAC-A1:01/2018 – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group.
 2. IAF/ILAC-A2:01/2018 – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body.
 3. IAF/ILAC-A3:01/2018 – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Template report for the peer evaluation of an Accreditation Body (AB) based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017.
 4. IAF/ILAC-A6:01/2018 – IAF/ILAC Approval Process for IAF/ILAC A-Series Documents.
- **Nomination(s) are closed for the following positions:**
 - ⇒ IAF Communications and Marketing Committee Chair (2019-2021);
 - ⇒ IAF MLA Committee Chair (2019-2021);
 - ⇒ IAF TC Chair (2019-2021).
- **Results: 30-day IAF/ILAC Ballots:**
 - ⇒ Draft IAF MD1:201X IAF Mandatory Document for the Audit and Certification of a Management System operated by a Multi-Site Organization (Issue 2)
 - ◇ Passed (79 for, 3 against, 10 abstained)
 - ⇒ Draft IAF/ILAC-A6:XX/201X – IAF/ILAC Approval Process for IAF/ILAC A-Series Documents
 - ◇ Passed (87 for, 0 against, 10 abstained)
 - ⇒ IAF/ILAC-A1:XX/201X – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group
 - ◇ Passed (83 for, 0 against, 8 abstained)
 - ⇒ IAF/ILAC-A2:XX/201X – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body
 - ◇ Passed (84 for, 2 against, 7 abstained)
 - ⇒ Draft IAF MDX: Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for the Certification of OH&SMS
 - ◇ Passed (82 for, 0 against, 12 abstained)
 - ⇒ Draft IAF/ILAC-A3:XX/201X – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements) Template report
 - ◇ Passed (85 for, 2 against, 8 abstained)
 - ⇒ Draft IAF MD X:201X Requirements on the Migration to ISO 45001:2018 from BS OHSAS 18001:2007
 - ◇ Passed (72 for, 6 against, 13 abstained)
- **The draft Guidelines on the accreditation of certification bodies under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation), prepared by the Article 29 Working Party, has been published for comments.**
- **ENISA published an overview of practices of ICT certification laboratories.** This study provides an overview about accreditation of laboratories in the field of cybersecurity, the role of EA and National Accreditation Bodies as well as the link to the Regulation (EC) 765/2008. This study will be the basis of for the Agency's proposal towards an EU wide ICT products and services certification framework.
- **IAF have now collected data to 31 December from their members on the ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 transition data.** The rates were 36.94% for ISO 9001 and 39.73% for ISO 14001. Submissions were received from the vast majority of IAF ABs and gave transition rates from a total of over 1 million ISO 9001 and 350,000 ISO 14001 accredited certificates.
- **The draft minutes of the last, October meeting of the EA Advisory Board have been made available.**

- The draft agenda of the next *EA Advisory Board* meeting on Thursday 3 May 2018 has been made available.
- The meeting record for the JDSC meeting held in Vancouver on 27 October is now available from the Members area of the ILAC website.
- There has been a nomination ballot for the following IAF roles:
 - ⇒ The three candidates for **IAF Communications and Marketing Committee Chair** are Brahim Houla of GAC, Miklós Devecz of NAH, and Ronny Montenegro of SAE.
 - ⇒ The three candidates for **IAF Development Support Committee Chair** are Andrea Barroso Melo Monteiro de Queiroz of CGCRE, Susanah Munyiri of KENAS, and Guido Reyes of SAE.
 - ⇒ The two candidates for **IAF MLA Committee Chair** are Norman Brunner of AA and Israel Carrion of SAE
- The results of Election for Chair positions for the following IAF roles:
 - ⇒ **IAF Development Support Committee Chair**: Andrea Barroso Melo Monteiro de Queiroz of CGCRE
 - ⇒ **IAF MLA Committee Chair**: Norman Brunner of AA
 - ⇒ **IAF Communications and Marketing Committee Chair**: Brahim Houla of GAC
 - ⇒ **IAF TC Committee Chair**: Steve Keeling of JAS-ANZ
- The ballot for **IAF MD X:201X Control of Entities Operating on Behalf of Accredited Management Systems Certification Bodies (Issue 1)** passed. 61 Members voted in favour of the document, 14 voted against, and 14 abstained
- The IAF TC is submitting the draft revised MD titled "**Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Scheme**" for a 60 day comment period. The document contains the criteria to be used by IAF where evaluating a conformity assessment scheme where a scheme owner applies for IAF endorsement.
- As a result of the recent **ballot ILAC R1:03/2018 Management of ILAC Documents** has been published. This document provides the rules and procedures for the classification and publication of ILAC documents.

Standardisation

- The following ballots have closed:
 - ⇒ SO/IEC CD 17021-10 (DTS) (Closing date: 2018-01-25)
 - ⇒ SO/CD1 14065 (CIB) (Closing date: 2018-01-12)
- Appointment of **CASCO Vice-Chair: Mr. Alister Dalrymple (AFNOR-France)** for the period 2018-2019
- The presentation on the new version of **ISO/IEC 17011** is now available on the **ISO Website** and accessible publicly along with the other presentations on **CASCO standards**.
- **ISO/IEC DTS 17021-10, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 10: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of occupational health and safety management systems** was approved with 96% of positive votes from CASCO members (69 CASCO P members approved out of 72 voting) and 92% of positive votes from IEC members (24 P members approved out of 26 voting).
- The 2018 CASCO plenary and workshop will be hosted by DGN, the CASCO member from Mexico, together with EMA and will take place in Mexico City from 25 to 27 April 2018 at the Hotel Marquis Reforma.
- The D liaison application of **FSSC 22000 to CASCO TC34 SC17 JWG36 revising ISO TS 22003 "Food safety management systems -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems"** has been approved by 100% of the CASCO P members voting.
- Due to unforeseen circumstances, the expected location for the **2019 CASCO Plenary** cannot be considered anymore. ISO is therefore enquiring whether any CASCO member would be interested in hosting the meeting.
- A clarification request on **ISO/IEC 17011 "Conformity assessment -- Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies"** submitted by BSI has been addressed by the maintenance group of WG42.
- The working documents for the next plenary (25-26 April in Mexico City) have been posted on the ISO/CASCO "Committee on conformity assessment" eCommittee.
- A NWIP is open in ISO/TC 85 (Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies and radiological production): **ISO/NP TS 23406, Nuclear sector – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of Quality management systems for organisations supplying products and services important to nuclear safety (ITNS)**. ISO CASCO welcomes members and liaison members to consider the document and consult with their respective national mirror committees for ISO/TC 85 to formulate comments. The ballot closes on 5 May 2018.
- The systematic review ballot of **ISO/IEC 17007:2009 Conformity assessment – Guidance for drafting normative documents suitable for use for conformity assessment** closed on 2018-03-05 and the results show that 44 CASCO P members voted to confirm the document while 18 P members voted to revise it. The document is therefore confirmed for the next 5 years.

Business news

- **Bureau Veritas has launched Origin, the world's first traceability label to give consumers a complete end-to-end proof of a product's journey, from farm to fork.** This solution was presented to an international audience on March 5th, 2018 in Tokyo, at this year's Global Food Safety Conference. Origin, built on blockchain technology, offers a smart and practical way for consumers to access information on each stage of a product's journey. Shoppers flash a QR code in-store to see the full history of each product, and make informed purchase decisions. <https://tinyurl.com/y965ae74>
- **Bureau Veritas has developed a comprehensive approach to support shipowners in addressing maritime cyber risks.** A new series of classification notations, guidelines and services enable owners to comply with regulatory requirements, safeguard their crews and protect their assets from both malfunction and malicious attack. <https://tinyurl.com/ycne9yeg>
- **Control Union Industrial Inspections (CUII) has expanded its fleet of fully CAP437 compliant friction testers following the recent delivery of a new Micro GT friction tester to its Mumbai office.** The expansion was required to cope with the increasing demand of friction testing around the world. <https://tinyurl.com/yb65hq3v>
- **Cotecna has been appointed by the Kenyan Bureau of Standards (KEBS) as a service provider for its Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVOC) Programme.** <https://tinyurl.com/y922qmqm>
- **Intertek has announced that it has entered into an exclusive services appointment and license agreement with the Certified Automotive Parts Association (CAPA), an independent non-profit certification organization for automotive replacement parts.** <https://tinyurl.com/ya7fvm3v>
- **CONNECTED, Control Union's supply chain traceability platform, has successfully been able to map supply chains up to the origins of raw materials.** Several fibre suppliers, including Lenzing Group, Aditya Birla and ENKA International GmbH & Co. KG. have joined the platform. CONNECTED is an open platform, allowing companies to trace a product's journey back, from finished garment to the source of the raw materials. It also allows users to acquire a range of important data, from flows of materials to compliance information. <https://tinyurl.com/y8q9xo2z>
- **Core Laboratories N.V. repurchased a total of 20,000 of its common shares during the period beginning Monday, 5 February 2018, through Wednesday, 14 February 2018, at an average price stated in USD of \$111.84 per share.** These repurchases were made as part of the Company's existing share repurchase program. <https://tinyurl.com/y90bmdhn>
- **CSA Group has released the 2018 Canadian Electrical Code, Part I (CE Code).** First published in 1927, the CE Code is a component of Canada's electrical safety system – a system that works to keep installers, consumers, and their families safe from harm. Updated every three years to reflect the latest advances in technology and other major developments, this Canadian-based standard aims to help maintain and enhance safety amidst these changes. <https://tinyurl.com/ydeazhfx>
- **DEKRA has opened the first testing center in Luxembourg.** To start with, six DEKRA employees will be working in the first testing center in Luxembourg. <https://tinyurl.com/y8t6wnmv>
- **DNV GL has launched new JDP to test biodegradable lubricants.** DNV GL has launched a new joint development project (JDP) in cooperation with marine insurers The Swedish Club, Norwegian Hull Club, Gard and Skuld to test the potential influence of Environmentally Acceptable Lubricants (EALs) on failures in stern tube bearings. <https://tinyurl.com/y7g7hbvu>
- **DNV GL has partnered with blockchain expert VeChain to increase transparency from the factory to the consumer.** They have agreed on a partnership to use blockchain to improve the transparency of product and supplier information, significantly increasing the efficiency of supply chains. <https://tinyurl.com/ydcufcfm>
- **DNV GL has launched both a framework for certifying geological storage of carbon dioxide (CO2) and a recommended practice for the design and operation of CO2 pipelines.** <https://tinyurl.com/yahdctrb>
- **Lloyd's Register Foundation and Blockchain Labs for Open Collaboration (BLOC) today announced a funding partnership to set up Maritime Blockchain Labs (MBL), which will explore the use of blockchain for the assurance and safety of critical infrastructure and drive new business models for the global maritime industry.** <https://tinyurl.com/ybphcs6w>
- **Lloyd's Register (LR), announced plans for the Lloyd's Register Safety Accelerator, a new initiative aiming to remove barriers preventing industry uptake of cutting-edge safety and risk solutions.** <https://tinyurl.com/yccq3rrm>
- **Intertek has announced that it is centralising its Notified Body Medical function for the medical device industry in Europe to deliver a superior level of service for its customers.** As part of these changes and to ensure a smooth transition for customers, a centre of excellence will be established ahead of the implementation of the update to the European Medical Device Regulation (MDR). <https://tinyurl.com/ya45ajy6>
- **Intertek has extended its contract with the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) to continue to manage its Conformity Assessment Programme (SONCAP) for exports to the country.** The programme verifies the conformity of all regulated products entering Nigeria from the respective exporting countries within a range of sectors, including: automotive, chemicals, electricals and electronics, textiles, health and beauty products, machinery, building products and toys. <https://tinyurl.com/yc8wnx9f>
- **Intertek has announced the launch of a new automotive interior emission testing chamber capacity for Full Component Testing.** This service will enable volatile organic components to be detected using a 1m3 automotive interior VOC emission chamber. As the demands for vehicle interior air quality (VIAQ) testing become more exacting, this new offering provides a solution for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and their suppliers in testing materials and components and accelerating their time to market. <https://tinyurl.com/ydxy8dr5>
- **Lloyd's Register (LR) announced Blockchain pilots for organisations serving the food sector.** Building on research from the Lloyd's Register Foundation the charitable arm of LR - the pilots will focus on delivering client and consumer value alike. <https://tinyurl.com/ych6u2aa>
- **LR has launched new scheme for UK water market service companies.** The scheme has seven scopes for providers performing temporary disconnections/reconnections, permanent disconnection and metering activities for the non-domestic water market in England and Wales. <https://tinyurl.com/ybu6oqca>

- TÜV Rheinland and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have entered into a Public Private Partnership to deliver Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) Training to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). This PPP extends the existing license agreement that has enabled TÜV Rheinland to provide SCORE Training to small and medium size factories in China. <https://tinyurl.com/ybvmdf4n>
- TÜV Rheinland has launched its e-commerce platform www.tuv.shop for selecting chemical testing services and international product licensing, thus expanding its position in the digitization of ranges of services in the TIC (testing, inspection, certification) industry. <https://tinyurl.com/ybwghggn>
- TÜV SÜD has opened a new regulatory compliance testing lab in Ottawa, Ontario, CAN. This high-tech facility, in the heart of “Silicon Valley North”, is poised to become one of TÜV SÜD’s premier locations for safety, electromagnetic compatibility, wireless and NEBS (Network Equipment Building Systems) testing. <https://tinyurl.com/yah4qh4p>
- TÜV SÜD opens testing laboratory for grow lights in China. The world's population expands, cultivation of vegetables, fruit and flowers under exactly controlled conditions is becoming increasingly important. This applies in particular to China, the world's most populous country. At its location in Shenzhen, near the border to Hong Kong, TÜV SÜD is now opening its Horticulture Lighting Laboratory, one of the first facilities of this type worldwide. <https://tinyurl.com/ychbml9r>
- TÜV SÜD has ceremonially broken the ground on its new Singapore-based regional hub, marking the company’s first major real estate investment outside of their German headquarters. The 600 employees based in Singapore, including TÜV SÜD PSB and TÜV SÜD Digital Service Centre of Excellence (CoE), will relocate to this facility in 2020. <https://tinyurl.com/y7b92r65>
- SGS is expanding its secure, multi-lingual, web-based TransitNet services in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) to capture and monitor transit declarations, and establish guarantees to significantly reduce elapsed transit times. <https://tinyurl.com/y9wwkarl>
- SZU Test Station of Radiators has established links with HLK Stuttgart GmbH reference laboratory. Soon after the Test Station of Radiators came into operation, intensive preparations for an audit began, and consisted mainly of re-measurement of several reference samples, whereby – based on the measurement results, it was assessed whether in its measurement methodology SZU Test Station can compare with HLK Stuttgart reference laboratory. <https://tinyurl.com/ycjab9su>
- SGS’s laboratory in the Philippines is the first in the country to be approved by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) for the analysis of fertilizer products, pesticide formulated products and pesticide residues. Presented in late 2017, the FPA certification is valid for three years and means SGS can offer clients a range of FPA approved analysis services from the multi-lab in Makati, in the Metro Manila region. <https://tinyurl.com/yaoh9wk7>
- SZU Test Station has been included amongst accredited test laboratories approved by DIN CERTCO (Reg. No. PL268). SZU test reports can therefore be used to obtain this certification mark of quality. <https://tinyurl.com/yd9acz7>
- UL has reached an agreement with Integrated Service Technology (iST) to establish a platform for testing transmitter and receiver products with high speed data connectivity, including but not limited to, USB, DisplayPort, high-definition multimedia interface (HDMI) and mobile high-definition link (MHL) technologies. The turnkey solution offered by this joint initiative of UL and iST will cover product certification testing, debugging and pre-testing services to the respective industry specifications. <https://tinyurl.com/y6untj93>
- UL announced new requirements for UL 217 – Standard for Smoke Alarms, 8th edition and UL 268 – Standard for Smoke Detector Systems, 7th edition that include criteria to reduce nuisance alarms and address smoke characteristics between a fast moving and smoldering polyurethane foam fires. To help manufacturers test the quality and effectiveness of their smoke alarm and smoke detector products against the new requirements outlined in the UL Standards 217 and 268, UL has opened a new state-of-the-art Smoke Detection Test Laboratory at its Northbrook, Ill. campus just north of Chicago. <https://tinyurl.com/ybaplu9d>
- UL opened Center of Excellence laboratory for appliances, lighting, HVAC and gas products and equipment in Carugate. <https://tinyurl.com/y6vbxqcy>
- UL announced the launch of the Circularity Facts program, which evaluates a company’s efforts to move from a linear economy mindset to a more sustainable, circular approach which eliminates waste and keeps materials in productive use longer. <https://tinyurl.com/yaxpnqd2>

Business Results**Bureau veritas 2017 Key Figures** <https://tinyurl.com/y724mlo7>

- 2017 Full-year results in line with guidance
- Revenue of EUR 4,689 million in 2017, up 3.1% year-on-year, with organic growth of +2.2%
- H2 acceleration confirmed with 3.0% organic growth;
- Adjusted operating profit of EUR 746 million in 2017, up 1.4%; adjusted operating margin of 15.9%; 16.1% organically;
- Adjusted net profit of EUR 416 million (EUR0.95/share), up 1.7%;
- Free Cash Flow of EUR 350 million, up 3.2% organically vs. 2016;
- Proposed dividend of 56 cents per share, up 9.8% over 2 years.

SGS full year results 2017<https://tinyurl.com/y7mfcd3>

- Total revenue increased by 5.4% (of which 4.2% organic) on a constant currency basis to EURO 5.4 billion (CHF 6.3 billion);
- Adjusted Operating Income grew 5.4% on a constant currency basis to EURO 836 million (CHF 969 million);
- Profit attributable to equity holders reached EURO 536 million (CHF 621 million), an increase of 14.4% compared with EURO 468 million (CHF 543 million) disclosed in 2016;
- Transportation and Consumer & Retail achieved double-digit revenue growth of 11.6% and 10.4% respectively 12 acquisitions were completed during the year;
- Proposed dividend of CHF 75 per share.

INTERTEK 2017 Year Highlights <https://tinyurl.com/284sqy8>

- Continued progress in revenue growth: +3.0% at constant currency rates, +7.9% at actual rates
- Organic revenue growth of +2.1% at constant rates: Products +5.5%, Trade +3.0%, Resources -8.6%
- Record adjusted operating margin of 16.9%: +110bps at constant rates, +90bps at actual rates
- Double-digit adjusted operating profit growth to EUR 536m (£468m): +10.0% at constant rates, +14.2% at actual rates
- Strong growth in adjusted diluted EPS: +10.4% at constant rates, +14.3% at actual rates
- Net profit after tax up 12.8% to EUR 350m (£306m)
- Free cash flow of EUR 392m (£342m), +7.4% year on year driven by strong cash conversion

Policy news

Energy & Environment

- The European Commission adopted tangible measures to help public authorities in Member States to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with EU environmental rules on activities that can cause pollution or environmental harm. <https://tinyurl.com/y9u9w54u>
- The new EU Energy Poverty Observatory has been launched on Monday 29 January, at an event in Brussels hosted by Energy Union Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič and Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete. Roughly 9% of the EU population struggle to attain adequate warmth. <https://tinyurl.com/y7d5m7gh>
- The European Commission has decided to refer Romania to the Court of Justice of the EU for not having correctly implemented and applied the Oil Stocks Directive (Council Directive 2009/119/EU). According to the Oil Stocks Directive, Member States must ensure maintenance and availability of minimum stocks of crude oil and/or petroleum products in order to ensure security of supply of petroleum resources to the EU. <https://tinyurl.com/y72bxllp>
- On 19 December 2017, a provisional political agreement on new rules for improving the energy performance of buildings was reached between negotiators from the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. The Commission's proposal forms part of the implementation of the Juncker Commission priorities – in particular "a resilient Energy Union and a forward-looking climate change policy". Pending its formal endorsement by the co-legislators, the agreement signals the closure of the first of 8 legislative proposals part of the [Clean Energy for All Europeans](https://tinyurl.com/y8fwlwz9) package brought forward by the European Commission on 30 November 2016. <https://tinyurl.com/y8fwlwz9>
- The UK will be removed from the list of EU Ecolabel Competent Bodies on the EU Ecolabel website and its right to access the Ecolabel catalogue (ECAT) database will be removed due to BREXIT. <https://tinyurl.com/ydcrgatc>
- The European Commission has concluded the certificates schemes for renewable electricity and high-efficiency cogeneration implemented in Flanders (Belgium) to be in line with EU State aid rules. The two schemes contribute to reaching EU energy and climate goals whilst preserving competition. <https://tinyurl.com/yajn5bro>
- The European Commission has approved under EU State aid rules an Italian support scheme for the production and distribution of advanced biofuels, including advanced biomethane. The measure will contribute to reaching EU energy and climate change goals while limiting distortions of competition. <https://tinyurl.com/y7lokg8n>
- The European Investment Bank (EIB) approved the creation of a brand new financial instrument, the Smart Finance for Smart Buildings initiative. The aim is to make investments in energy efficiency projects in residential buildings more attractive to private investors, through the intelligent use of EU grants as a guarantee. <https://tinyurl.com/y828mt2q>
- The European Commission has approved under EU State aid rules electricity capacity mechanisms in Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Poland. The Commission found that the measures will contribute to ensuring security of supply whilst preserving competition in the Single Market. <https://tinyurl.com/yavn5hje>
- Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete and the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Adnan Amin has launched in Brussels a [new report on renewable energy prospects in the European Union](https://tinyurl.com/y6wblrz4). <https://tinyurl.com/y6wblrz4>
- Strong global demand for oil and gas will shift in the next five years towards petrochemicals and away from motor fuels gasoline and diesel, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said. <https://tinyurl.com/y7j4rwdh>
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a [proposed rule](https://tinyurl.com/y7lokg8n) on setting user fees applicable to any person required to submit information to EPA under the TSCA section 4 or a notice, including an exemption or other information, to be reviewed by the Administrator under TSCA section 5, or who manufactures (including imports) a chemical substance that is the subject of a risk evaluation under TSCA section 6(b). This notice of proposed rulemaking provides a description of proposed TSCA fees and fee categories for fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021, and explains the methodology by which the proposed TSCA user fees were determined and would be determined for subsequent fiscal years. EPA is also proposing standards for determining which persons qualify as small business concerns and therefore would be subject to lower fee payments. Comments must be submitted to the EPA by April 27, 2018.
- The European Commission has approved under EU State aid rules an Italian support scheme for the production and distribution of advanced biofuels, including advanced biomethane. The measure will contribute to reaching EU energy and climate change goals while limiting distortions of competition. <https://tinyurl.com/y7lokg8n>
- The European Commission's latest [reports on gas and electricity markets](https://tinyurl.com/y7lokg8n), which cover the last quarter of 2017, have just been published, containing a wide range of data about supply and usage of electricity and gas in the EU. The electricity market report confirms that over the last few years electricity consumption in the EU has

clearly been decoupled from economic growth. The EU's GDP increased by almost 12% between 2010 and the end of 2017; over the same period, electricity consumption decreased by 4%.

- During its meeting on 21 March 2018, the ITRE Committee voted on the draft report on "Common rules for the internal market in natural gas" (Buzek), on the "Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on European business statistics, amending Regulation (EC) no 184/2005 and repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics" (Lewandowski) and on the draft opinion on the "Implementation of the Ecodesign Directive" (Rivasi). 142 amendments were tabled on the first report, 133 on the second report and 62 on the opinion.

Food

- **Commission launches Knowledge Centre to boost food quality and step up the fight against food fraud:** Responding to consumer concerns about food quality and fraudulent practices concerning food, the European Commission will tomorrow launch a Knowledge Centre for Food Fraud and Quality, operated by the Joint Research Centre. The Knowledge Centre, a network made up of experts in and outside the Commission, will support EU policymakers and national authorities by providing access to, and sharing up-to-date scientific knowledge on food fraud and food quality issues. Concerns about food fraud and food quality undermine consumer confidence and damage the whole food supply chain in Europe, from farmers to retailers. Recent cases of food fraud included olive oil, wine, honey, fish, dairy products, meat and poultry. In addition, consumers may be exposed to unfair commercial marketing practices, especially regarding food products with significant differences in composition offered in different markets but under a similar package. <https://tinyurl.com/yckrhpvv>
- **The Pro Consumatori association, a member of the European Consumer Organisation, has carried out a study testing 116 types of sausage marketed by a number of meat producers in supermarket chains and shops.** The results have given rise to serious concern and have been seen as a warning signal with regard to **food safety** and public health standards. Road de-icing fluid was detected in some of the sausages being sold, and some types of sausages contained eight different chemical substances. <https://tinyurl.com/ybwur8te>
- **The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety has published [amendments](#) 220 - 451 to its draft Report A European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance** (AMR) - 2017/2254(INI).
- **The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety has published [amendments](#) 181 - 199 to its draft Report Implementation of the Ecodesign Directive (2009/125/EC) - 2017/2087 (INI).**
- **Rapporteur Angélique Delahaye of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety has published the [draft Opinion](#) on The future of food and farming.**
- **The Council has published the following document: Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste.** <https://tinyurl.com/y969t5ds>
- **Novel Food: new regulation adding to the food variety present on the EU market has entered into force.** The new Regulation on Novel Food is applicable from 1 January 2018. The regulation brings significant improvements and changes to the novel food authorisation procedure. <https://tinyurl.com/yabcq7e7>
- **The German Food Code: The regularly updated German Food Code provides guidance to consumers and producers. The Internet portal contains information on what consumers may expect from food.** At present the Food Code comprises 21 individual principles sorted by product group, e.g. principles for meat and meat products or for ice-cream. These principles are developed by 32 voluntary and independent experts from the German Food Code Commission. <https://tinyurl.com/y7cacr6h>
- **The Council has published the following document: Food losses and food waste: assessment of progress made on the implementation of June 2016 Council conclusions - Information from the Presidency and the Commission - Exchange of views** <https://tinyurl.com/y968wwhr>

International Free Trade Agreements

- **The European Commission published the report from the latest round of talks for a new, modernised EU-Mexico trade agreement that took place in Brussels from 12 to 22 December 2017.** Following this intensive work in the end of 2017, more meetings were held already in January and will continue with the Mexican delegation set to come to Brussels from 5 to 9 February and EU negotiators flying to Mexico the week after, 12-16 February. The EU's textual proposals which set out the EU's position in the negotiations in specific areas are available online. Some more recent [texts](#) have also been added. <https://tinyurl.com/y8mq8duc>
- **The EU has published a series of textual proposals on issues such as trade in goods, services, investment, rules of origin, technical barriers to trade, competition rules, digital trade and more.** <https://tinyurl.com/ydzyyfef>
- **Mozambique joins the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Southern African States.** The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Union and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) became the first regional EPA in Africa to be fully operational after its implementation by Mozambique. <https://tinyurl.com/yalyt8b7>
- **The European Commission has published a series of reports summarising the progress made during the negotiation rounds for a trade agreement between the EU and Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) since these negotiations were resumed in October 2016.** [Latest report](#) is from

the 31st round of negotiations which took place in December 2017. <https://tinyurl.com/yb627fyd>

- **The international trade committee of the European Parliament endorsed the political agreement reached between the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament on 5 December 2017 on the modernisation of the EU's trade defence instruments.** <https://tinyurl.com/ybawrpug>
- **The European Commission has published a series of reports summarising the progress made during the negotiation rounds for a trade agreement between the EU and Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) since these negotiations were resumed in October 2016. Latest report: 31st round of negotiations, December 2017.**
- **The EU and Mexican negotiators wrapped up the ninth round of talks on Tuesday saying they had agreed five new chapters and made important progress on others.**<https://af.reuters.com/article/africaTech/idAFL2N1QA1SG> <https://tinyurl.com/yd5ddqbg>
- **The European Parliament's committee on International Trade (INTA) has exchanged views on EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement.**
- **A delegation of trade MEPs, led by chair Bernd Lange (S&D, DE) visited Colombia and Peru in order to assess progress in the implementation of the trade agreement that has been applied for 5 years.** <https://tinyurl.com/y8eokj4u>
- **The EU officially halted its probe into trade barriers in Turkey after the country removed measures concerning imports of a particular variety of paper.** The contested measure concerned an import monitoring and surveillance system applied by Turkey to imports of uncoated wood-free paper. It meant that importers had to apply for and obtain a surveillance certificate in order to import such paper for \$1,200 per tonne or less into Turkey. In practice, the sensitive business information required to acquire this certificate meant that it was impossible for importers to comply. <https://tinyurl.com/y9d7v9lt>
- **The European Commission responded to the US restrictions on steel and aluminium affecting the EU.** President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker said: "*We strongly regret this step, which appears to represent a blatant intervention to protect US domestic industry and not to be based on any national security justification. Protectionism cannot be the answer to our common problem in the steel sector. Instead of providing a solution, this move can only aggravate matters. The EU has been a close security ally of the US for decades.*" On 1 March, President Trump announced the imposition of additional import duties on EU exports of steel and aluminium to the United States. The import duties are set at 25% on steel and 10% on aluminium. Similar restrictions will also be imposed on exports from other suppliers. <https://tinyurl.com/yb3fkweo>
- **The EU completed fourth round of trade negotiations with Indonesia.** EU negotiators were in Surakarta from 19 to 23 February 2018 for the 4th round of trade and investment negotiations with Indonesia. Over the course of the round the negotiating teams covered the full range of issues in the free trade agreement, including trade in goods, technical barriers to trade, services, investments, the investment court system, rules of origin, trade and sustainable development, intellectual property rights and government procurement. <https://tinyurl.com/ybycpo68>
- **The European Commission published reports from the 32nd negotiating round with Mercosur.** The round reports include information about progress in all areas of the respective negotiations. <https://tinyurl.com/y9zejbf6>
- **The European Commission published reports from the 4th negotiating round with Indonesia.** The round reports include information about progress in all areas of the respective negotiations. <https://tinyurl.com/ya73xa8t>
- **Pork products from Italy, including the renowned Parma ham, are now allowed on the Taiwanese market following joint work by the European Commission and the Italian authorities.** This market opening should generate estimated sales of Italian pork products of around €2 million. <https://tinyurl.com/y7puz496>
- **EU Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström met US Secretary of Commerce Ross in Washington D.C.** Following their meeting, the two released the following joint statement: "We have agreed to launch immediately a process of discussion with President Trump and the Trump Administration on trade issues of common concern, including steel and aluminium, with a view to identifying mutually acceptable outcomes as rapidly as possible." <https://tinyurl.com/ychg9prp>
- **The European Commission initiated a safeguard investigation on imports of a number of steel products into the EU.** The safeguard investigation is one of the three types of measures the Commission announced in response to the US restrictions on steel and aluminium. It concerns products of all origin and its opening does not prejudice its results. <https://tinyurl.com/y6vbytto>
- **Commissioner Cecilia Malmström was in Singapore to attend the annual consultations between the EU Trade Commissioner and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Ministers.** <https://tinyurl.com/y9txo2jq>
- **The European Commission prolonged the existing anti-dumping measures on Chinese imports of seamless pipes and tubes of stainless steel for another five years.** The duties, ranging from 48.3% to 71.9% were imposed initially in 2011, providing a level-playing field and a breathing space for EU producers, based among others in France, Spain and Sweden. <https://tinyurl.com/y8ztkqn7>
- **The European Commission published its latest report on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in countries outside the EU.** The report helps the Commission to update its list of "priority countries" and to focus its efforts and resources on the specific areas of concern with the aim of protecting European companies and consumers from counterfeiting and piracy worldwide. The report also highlights a particular problem with counterfeit pharmaceuticals and copyright piracy, both on and off-line. China continues to be the top priority for the EU because of persistent and longstanding problems. Based on studies from the Commission and the OECD and European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), China remains the origin of most counterfeit and pirated goods arriving in the European Union. More than 80% of the seizures of counterfeit and pirated goods come from China or Hong Kong.
- **The European Parliament's committee on International Trade (INTA) held a public hearing on widely debated topic of Brexit and future EU-UK trade relations.** Academics and other experts discussed the economic impact of the UK withdrawal on mutual trade and its wider implications, such as the effects on EU trade agreements with third countries and preferences for the least developed countries, as well as options for transition period after the exit date. The study on Future trade relations

between the EU and the UK: options after Brexit has been published. <https://tinyurl.com/ycklwqy>

- **The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) released the Trump administration's [2018 Trade Policy Agenda and 2017 Annual Report](#).** The policy agenda contains five major elements:
 - ⇒ Supporting national security, including by preserving U.S. national sovereignty, responding to economic competitors, such as China, and recognizing the importance of technology;
 - ⇒ Strengthening the U.S. economy;
 - ⇒ Negotiating better trade deals including NAFTA and KORUS, negotiating with countries of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and expanding trade and investment with the United Kingdom, and declaring the administration's intention to ask the Congress to extend the Trade Promotion Authority;
 - ⇒ Aggressive enforcement of U.S. trade laws by using "all tools available – including unilateral action where necessary"; and
 - ⇒ Strengthening the multilateral trading system, including by working with WTO Members to address Appellate Body concerns, negotiating "free, fair and reciprocal agreements, with the expectation that participants to these agreements will contribute commensurate with their status in the global economy", and countering WTO Members that flout WTO rules.
- **President Trump indicated that he was preparing to impose tariffs on both steel and aluminium imports pursuant to the Commerce Department section 232 reports on the national security implications of imports into [steel](#) and [aluminum](#).** The President stated that he **would be imposing tariffs** of 25 percent on imports of steel and 10 percent on imports of aluminum as soon as next week.
 - The Senate confirmed the following trade nominees by unanimous consent:
 - ⇒ Gregory Doud as Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), with the rank of Ambassador;
 - ⇒ C.J. Mahoney, as Deputy USTR (to handle investment, services, labor, environment, Africa, China and the Western Hemisphere), with the rank of Ambassador;
 - ⇒ Dennis Shea, as Deputy USTR and Ambassador to the World Trade Organization; and
 - ⇒ Jason Kearns, as a Commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Public Consultations and Call for Tenders

- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on EU rules for products used in the construction of buildings and infrastructure works. Deadline: 16 April 2018.
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on an evaluation and possible revision of the Outdoor Noise Directive 2000/14/EC. Deadline: 18 April 2018.
- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on the Evaluation of the Waste Shipment Regulation. Deadline: 27 April 2018.
- The European Commission has published a [public consultation](#) on ecodesign requirements for standby, networked standby and off mode electric power consumption. Deadline: 24 May 2018
- The European Commission has published a [public consultation](#) on ecodesign and energy labelling on refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, televisions, computers and lamps. Deadline: 7 May 2018

Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- **JTC PTC Meeting**, Arnhem, 17 April 2018
- **EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings**, Varna, 19 - 20 April 2018
- **TCQA Meeting**, Varna, 19 April 2018
- **EUROLAB Board Meeting**, Brussels, 19 June 2018
- **EUROLAB Board Meeting**, Brussels, 21 September 2018
- **EUROLAB National Members' Meeting**, Berlin, 15-16 November 2018
- **EUROLAB General Assembly 2019**, Prague, 9 - 10 May 2019

International Events

- **The 2018 IAF-ILAC Joint Mid-Term Meetings**, Frankfurt, 04 - 11 April 2018
- **7th International Conference of Metrology**, Marrakech, 9 - 12 April 2018
- **Global MedTech Compliance Conference**, Paris, 2 - 4 May 2018
- **EA AB, Brussels**, 3 May 2018
- **EA GA, Sofia**, 15-16 May 2018
- **The MedTech Week**, 4 - 8 June, <http://www.medtechweek.eu/>
- **EA CC, Warsaw**, 11-12 September 2018
- **EA IC, Warsaw**, 13-14 September 2018
- **EA HHC, Brussels**, 18-19 September 2018
- **EA LC, Tallinn**, 26-27 September
- **EA AB, Brussels** 17 October 2018
- **XENOWAC II**, Limassol, Cyprus, 10 - 12 October
- **EA GA, Bucharest**, 21-22 November 2018