EUROLAB NEWSBRIEFING

April - June 2018

Foreword

Inside this issue:

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Dear EUROLAB members,

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

The year 2018 continues to be marked by the transition associated with the ISO / IEC 17025 accreditation standard, whose impact on accredited laboratories is extremely high. Actually, this transition introduces new concepts and a different approach from the previous one, with requirements that will need the reformulation of important aspects of the organizational model of the Laboratories.

EUROLAB, aware of this circumstance, promoted the revision of the cookbooks and continues to develop other publications that intend to support this transition, and is happy with the feedback showing that these documents are serving for this purpose, not only with the Laboratories but also with Accreditation Bodies, enhancing the relevance that the cooperation with stakeholders can have.

In the internal scope, we highlight the survey for membership with the aim of having a more accurate perspective of the representation that EUROLAB has, the nature of the activities involved and the importance given to its action. This initiative is expected to promote more effective action to voice the concerns that this moment of transition has brought to the forefront.

Other equally relevant objectives have been developed over the course of this year, namely the enlargement of EUROLAB members, the development of cooperation with our partners and the development of our internal and external model of communication. It is hoped that the initiatives that are being prepared will have a positive impact on EUROLAB's relationship with its members and all stakeholders.

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,

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro

EUROLAB President
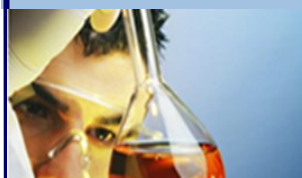
The Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, 2nd half of 2018

On 1 July 2018, Austria took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the third time after 1998 and 2006. The motto of the Presidency is "A Europe that protects".
Main priorities:

- **Security and the fight against illegal migration**
  Reform of the of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) would be "at the centre" of its efforts to tackle illegal migration.
- **Securing prosperity and competitiveness through digitalisation:**
  Commitment to avoid "overregulation" in the field of innovation and digitalisation.
  Completing the Digital Single Market, modernising public administration on a broad scale and refining industrial policy.
- **Stability in the European neighbourhood - EU perspective of the Western Balkans/South Eastern Europe**
  Promote strong relationships between the EU and its neighbours.
  Click here **to download the Programme.**

After Austria, the next trio presidency will take over: Romania (first half of 2019), Finland (second half of 2019) and Croatia (first half of 2020).

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EUROLAB and IFIA sign Memorandum of Understanding

EUROLAB, the European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories and IFIA, the International Federation of Inspection Agencies, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 10 June, in Lisbon.

The MoU has as main objective to enhance the cooperation and dialogue between the two organisations, create synergies, leverage resources and speak with a single voice on matters of common interest.

The MoU is available to download here.

For further information, please see the Press Release.

From left to right: Hanane Taidi, Director General IFIA, Richard Nelson, President IFIA, Drewin Nieuwenhuis, Secretary General EUROLAB, Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, President EUROLAB

ACCREDIA and ALPI works together for upgrade mutual collaboration

News ALPI

Until a few years ago, people thought that TIC operators, eg. Labs, Certification Bodies, etc needed to be in opposition to the Accreditation Bodies; sometimes even in conflict in specific topics or process approaches. Now times are changing also at European Accreditation level and the value of mutual collaboration between parts has been acknowledged.

In Italy, Accredia, the Italian Accreditation Body, has been always ready to discuss with TIC operators and often to ask for their suggestions; ALPI Association had an historical relationship with Accredia because has represented a significant number of Labs and Certification Bodies.

In the last quarter many new developments have taken place, and ALPI is involved in some Accredia's governance changes.

First of all, Alpi is proud that **Paolo Moscatti**, President of ALPI, has been elected as a Member of Accredia's Directive Council, the body responsible for the management of Accredia. Paolo Moscatti is the representative member of TIC operators with long and qualified experience in Labs, and he will promote Labs' exigencies and the need to be involved in accreditation processes.

Also **Roberto Cusolito**, Board Member and Past-President of ALPI, has been re-elected as President of Accredia's Steering and Guarantee Committee, the body with the function to express the opinions and contributions of the Members and to express proposals by other subjects involved in accreditation activities and to formulate operative policies

and to make sure that the accreditation body is functioning well. This re-election is also a clear conformation of good work made during his last Presidency. ALPI's activities moreover continue to develop the initiatives dedicated to the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

ALPI organized two important training courses about the new standard, and made a series of confrontations between associated Members about the consequences for testing and calibration Laboratories in the different areas and sectors.
The courses represented also an opportunity to introduce the Italian language translation of the "EUROLAB Cookbooks and Technical Reports" that ALPI made available, free of charge, both to Members and to all laboratories that requested it. We received many endorses and many good opinions from technicians and quality managers.

The nearest project is to produce some short "**live webinar**" together with Accredia's specialists, intended to implement and empower the culture of Labs' technicians to correctly understand the meaning when they need to act the new requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The first webinar, at the beginning of July, is dedicated to Testing Labs and it will be followed by a second one specifically addressed to Calibration Labs. The webinar may be an easy tool, also in recorded edition, to have an easy and approachable support and ALPI believes that it's also a push to create a network of competence using low coast new technological tools.

News BULLAB

BULLAB Association

Bullab has translated in Bulgarian language the EUROLAB Handbook and EUROLAB plan in xls format for transition to new ISO 17025. They are made available and offered to Bulgarian laboratories and interested experts as an instruments for matching Bulgarian national requirements to have lab plan for transition as of 1-st of July 2018.

News LNE

LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE MÉTROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS — LNE

The General Assembly

The General Assembly of LNE was held on Tuesday, June 26, the moral report, the activity report of the WGs and the financial report were approved. COFRAC presented the state of preparation for the update of the REF O2 LAB (document specifying the standard for laboratory accreditation) following the renewal of the standard 17 025.
Mr DOROSCZCUCK DG of COFRAC thanked EUROLAB-France and its participating members of the work inside the working groups of the COFRAC for their involvement and their positive collaboration with the various works carried out by COFRAC.
In the scientific part of the General Assembly, participants were able to learn about the performance evaluation of automatic data processing systems (LNE scientific presentation).

The composition of LNE board

The representative of the company Trescal (specialised in calibration worldwide) joined the Board, Thomas Grenon (DG LNE) was confirmed Chairman of the Board of EUROLAB-France and Christophe Richard (DG LCIE) Vice-Chairman.
Loïc Divet is confirmed as treasurer, Lydie Tafforeau as secretary and leader of the working groups, Patrick Pineau is in charge of the website and Jean Luc Laurent of relations with the European federation, EUROLAB.
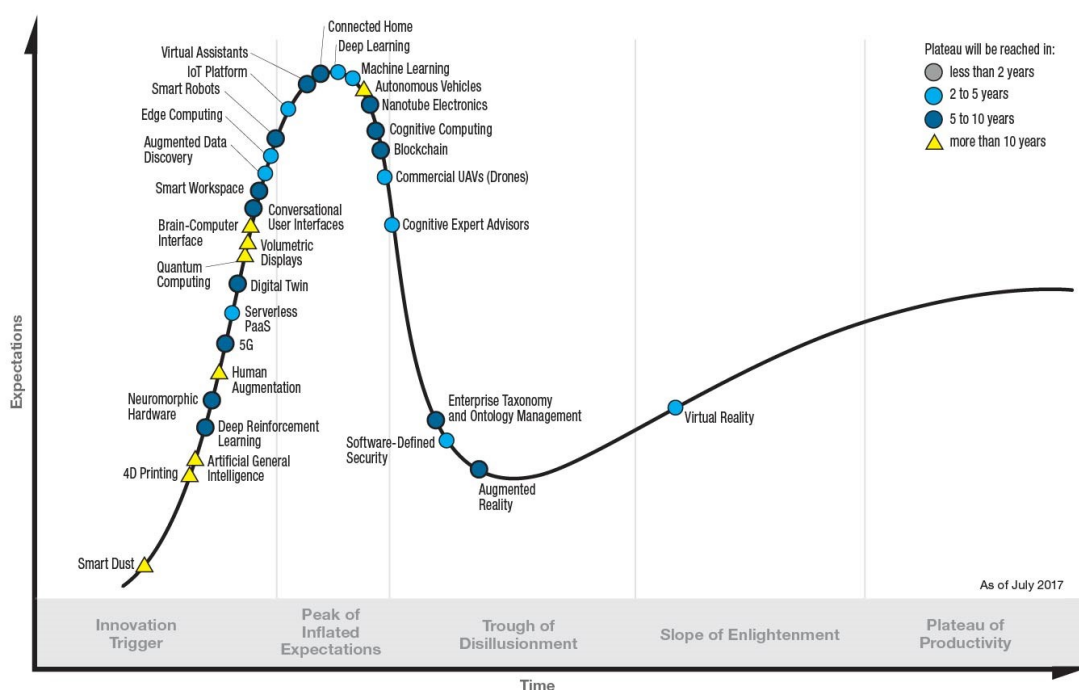
News Fenelab

Fenelab organised its 20th Lab-Day, on 14th of June. Following the General Assembly, Mr Igor Wortel gave a presentation and informed the participants on the status, sense and non-sense about the current status of block chain technology. Please fine below the summary of his presentation:

Blockchain, a status update

More and more articles appear on serious websites, like Reuters (click here) and McKinsey (click here) in the past months, generally saying that the BlockChain hype has been caught up by harsh reality As an example, let's take a look at the Gartner Hype Cycle for emerging technologies and use this as reference material: where do we stand right now.

In this hype cycle, which Gartner compiles for all new technology hypes and subjects, Gartner shows the various stages of technological development. That also applies to the emerging technologies as blockchain we are talking about in this article. The most recent one publicly available is the 2017 Hype Cycle graph shown below.

So, according to Gartner,, we have just passed the hype cycle and are at the beginning of the "Trough of Disillusionment". So reality is key now and we enter the stage of technological development. What does that look like?
From a technological point of view, the Blockchain applications are still in the stage of early development (baby steps); on a daily basis we see articles in the news on leaks and hacks where serious amounts of money or data are lost. To handle serious volumes of transactions (like payments) the technology isn't quick enough, at the moment it takes too long for the network to validate single transactions. New technology and solutions are on the way, but they also still need time to develop and gain the trust needed for (financial) transactions (click for an example of a new initiative). Additionally, there are other effects related to our increasingly connected world: legitimacy and even the straightforward truth is determined by what we collectively think about it rather than by real experiences…. So when public opinion has determined a direction, according to media, we together form a broadly supported story. On sustainable energy, the environmental challenges, right now blockchain, in the past it was nuclear energy or acid rain, you see this phenomenon

appear. Acceptance and further development are required, besides some smart contracting and attempts to set up widely supported BlockChains, we still have to go through the "Trough of Disillusionment" according to Gartner. That will take 5 to 10 years .... and is it a coincidence that the hype cycle has almost the same shape as the curve on the Dunning-Kruger-Effect?
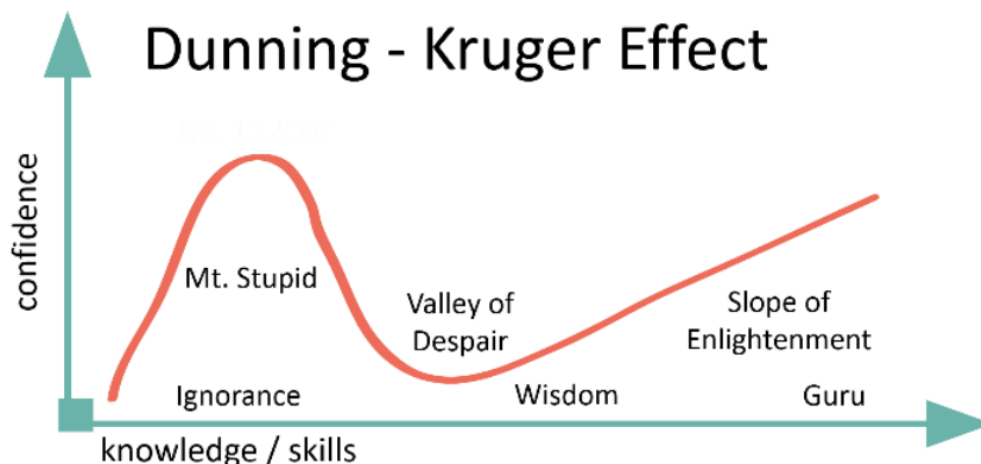
We also have to keep thinking about what BlockChain is meant for: an internet protocol to digitally exchange value and thus solve problems that are suitable for protocol. Much of the hype consists of ideas and therefore applications that can be solved with very different technologies, an example here is the often used example of micro-insurance. Exchange value through currency, hours, available space, in fact every imaginable form of transaction and substance falls and stands by an agreed (political) structure and thus trust. We have now established that trust in a human-centered system, with blockchain we migrate to a data-centered system and many people are not ready yet, they have no confidence in it yet. A brilliant TED-talk movie about trust can be found behind this link.
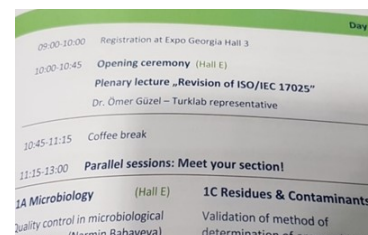
News TURKLAB

1st South Caucasus Food Analytical Conference

29-30 March 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia.
Dr. Ömer Güzel participated at the 1st South Caucasus Food Analytical Conference at the opening ceremony as Plenary Lecturer, Representing Turklab-EUROLAB, and the panel discussion with Lorens Sibbesen at the closing day.
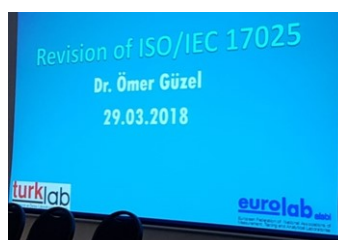
Board of Directors Meeting, 4 April 2018

In the Board of Directors Meeting held on 4 April 2018, visits to the Ministries, results of the meeting held by the Food Committee, common procurement project organized by the communication committee and the details of the congress and workshop to be attended were discussed, and a business plan was generated by the members.

Visit to T.R. Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning, 11 April 2018

As the new period TURKLAB Board of Directors, General Manager M. Mustafa SATILMIŞ and Deputy General Manager Kemal DAĞ for Environmental Impact Assessment, Permit and Inspection in the T.R. Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning were visited at their offices. General information on the industry were provided in the meeting organized as a visit of acquaintance and courtesy.

Visit to T.R. Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning Laboratory, Measurement and Monitoring Department

As the new period TURKLAB Board of Directors; Head of Laboratory, Measurement and Monitoring Department Soner OLGUN was visited at his office. Industry-related issues, suggestions and opinions were discussed.

TURKLAB Academy ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Revision Transition Training

On 17-18 April 2018, "Training on General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories ISO/IEC 17025:2017" (Efficient and Economic Application of Standard Revision Transition) was successfully completed by TURKLAB Academy and the participants were granted certificates. Interactive training is carried out predominantly through practical applications by training staff with an industrial experience over 30 years. Success performance of the training is 4,7 out of 5 as per the feedback from the participants. Risk analysis assessment, risk analysis of the objectivity, analysis of staff competence as per ISO/IEC 17025 standard etc.

4. National Symposium and Exhibition on Laboratory Accreditation and Safety

Organized by the Istanbul Branch of the TMMOB (Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects) Chamber of Chemical Engineers, the traditional "4th Symposium and Exhibition on Laboratory Accreditation and Safety" was hosted with great attendance at the Yıldız Teknik University, Davutpaşa Campus 2010 European Capital of Culture Congress and Culture Center on 25-26-27 April 2018. The Symposium and Exhibit were centered on all articles and problematic areas of the TS EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

In the symposium which TURKLAB attended as supporting institution, the TURKLAB Vice President Neşe GÜNEŞ made a presentation titled "Auditor Harmonization Project". Honorary President, Dr. Ömer Güzel chaired the session "Method Verification and Measurement Uncertainty". TURKLAB member, Science Lab General Manager Doğan Halis, attended as session moderator. In addition, as a supporting institution, TURKLAB participated in the symposium with a stand.

TURKAK "Inter Institutional Collaboration" Meeting, 30 April 2018

A collaboration was initiated by TURKLAB and Turkish Accreditation Agency for importance and efficient implementation of "Accreditation" in application of National nand International regulations. First meeting was held under the presidency of TURKAK President Ahmet YÜCEL within the scope of "TURKAK, Ministries and TURKLAB (NGO) Collaboration Suggestions for Increasing the Efficiency of UDK Activities" and regarding issues arising in the processes for the purpose of improving and more efficient execution of the collaboration between ministries. In representation of TURKLAB, Dr. Ömer Güzel (Honorary President), Ayfer Adıgüzel (Member - TÜRK LOYDU), Mehmet Hüsrev (TSI) and Neşe Güneş (TURKLAB Vice President) attended the meeting.

In the opening meeting of "Inter Institutional Collaboration", the TURKLAB Vice-President and TURKAK Consultative Board member Neşe GÜNEŞ made a comprehensive presentation. Primary topics were interactive assessments for "analysis of recurring inspections" in the meeting attended by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Security, and Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning. As a result, it was

decided that "A report will be generated by TURKLAB on efficient use of accreditation in implementation of national regulations and this report will discussed in the second meeting to be held in the fall of 2018 "

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6th Food Safety Congress

The 6th Food Safety Congress, in which TURKLAB participated as the supporting institution, was held on 3-4 May 2018 under the coordination of the International Association for Food Protection and with collaboration of T.R. Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock and participation of institutions representing trade associations, industrial associations, manufacturer unions, consumer organizations.

Another event where TURKLAB was present, was the 9th International Health and Safety Congress, 6-9 May 2018, Istanbul. Dr. Ömer Güzel presented ISO/EN 17025, 2017 Revision for the laboratories testing at the area of Health and Safety.

TURKAK ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Revision Information meeting
9 May – 11 May 2018

1-day revision information meetings were organized in Ankara and Istanbul for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard by TURKAK. Institutions accredited by TURKAK and our members showed great interest in the training. The training was carried out interactively with questions, comments and suggestions from participants. As industry, we thank TURKAK management and experts for this event.

TURKLAB Academy ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Revision Transition Training

On 22-23 May 2018, "Training on General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories ISO/IEC 17025:2017" (Efficient and Economic Application of Standard Revision Transition) was successfully completed by TURKLAB Academy and the participants were granted certificates.

World Accreditation Day was celebrated in Ankara.
8 June 2018

The theme of the World Accreditation Day, celebrating its tenth anniversary this year was determined as **"Accreditation: Delivering a Safer World".** World Accreditation Day panel program organized by Turkish Accreditation Agency was attended by TURKAK Board of Directors, Consultative Board Members, Managers and employees as well as stakeholder public organizations and institutions and non-governmental organization representatives.
In the panel program, TURKAK General Secretary Dr. Halil İbrahim ÇETİN made the opening speech and provided information on safety, which is the theme of the year, and the impact of accreditation granted by TURKAK on our daily life. Next, referring to the importance of the day, Ministry of EU Affairs Deputy Undersecretary and TURKAK President Ahmet Yücel emphasized recent activities and the role of accreditation and TURKAK in ensuring a safer world in relation to this year's theme.

TURKLAB Honorary President Dr. Ömer GÜZEL made a presentation themed **"Compliance Assessment Industry and Product - Food Safety Risk Assessment"**. At the end of the Panel program which draws heavy attention, TURKAK President Ahmet YÜCEL gave certificates to the moderator and speakers for their contributions and attendance.

Training on General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories
ISO/IEC 17025:2017

On 25-26 June 2018, "Training on General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories ISO/IEC 17025:2017" (Efficient and Economic Application of Standard Revision Transition) was successfully completed by TURKLAB Academy and the participants were granted certificates.

Accreditation

- **A draft revision of *EA-6/03 Mandatory Document - EA Document for Recognition of Verifiers under the EU ETS Directive* has been finalised and is the** amended parts are up for comments

- The ILAC Inspection Committee (IC) is submitting the **draft ILAC guidance document, titled *ILAC GXX:XX/201X "Guideline for the Accreditation of Bodies Performing Non-Destructive Testing"*,** to all ILAC members for a 60-day comment period.

- The IAF Technical Committee (TC) is submitting the draft IAF Mandatory Document titled "**IAF Mandatory Document for the Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Audits of Integrated Management Systems**" to all IAF Voting Members for a 30-day voting period.

- **The Regulation (EU) 2018/858 on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles** has been published here. The regulation includes provisions regarding accreditation, conformity assessment (bodies), inspection, testing and certification. You will see that the regulation makes reference to two standards (ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17021), which are superseded by new versions. EA will address that to the European Commission.

- The IAF Executive Committee (EC) is submitting the revised IAF Policy Document titled "Rules for Annual IAF Membership Fees" to all IAF Voting Members for a 30-day voting period. This document sets out the rules for calculating and collecting membership fees for IAF Membership

- The List of Conclusions and Resolutions agreed at the EAAB Meeting on 3 May 2018 has just been made available.

- The European Data Protection Board (EDPB) has published the Guidelines 1/2018 on certification and identifying certification criteria in accordance with Articles 42 and 43 of the Regulation 2016/679, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

- New versions of the following EA publications are available online on the public website :

  ⇒ EA-INF/ 02 "Contact Persons of EA Full and Associate Members, Recognized Stakeholders and Observers" at http://www.european-accreditation.org/publication/ea-inf-02

  ⇒ EA-INF/03 "Signatories to the EA Multilateral and Bilateral Agreements" at http://www.european-accreditation.org/publication/ea-inf-03

  ⇒ EA-INF/11 "Scope of the EA MLA and the application of an EA MLA signatory to join the IAF MLA for a specific main scope/sub-scope and/or the ILAC MRA for a specific activity" at http://www.european-accreditation.org/publication/ea-inf-11

- The IAF 30-Day Ballot - *IAF MD 4:201X IAF MD for the Use of Information and Communication Technology ("ICT") for Auditing/Assessment Purposes (Issue 2)* closed on 08 June 2018. It **passed** with 80 members for, 1 against and 7 abstaining.

- The IAF and ILAC Executive Committees are presenting a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IAF-ILAC and The International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF) to the IAF and ILAC members for a three week review period.

- The ILAC Inspection Committee (IC) is submitting the document, titled *ILAC G28:XX/20XX "Guideline for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Inspection Bodies"*, to ILAC Full Members and Associates for a 30-day voting period.

- A promotional infographic was developed by the ILAC MCC in conjunction with the ILAC MRA 2017 Annual Report.
  A new version of *EA- 2/02 M : 2018 "EA Procedure for the evaluation of a National Accreditation Body"* is available online on the public website here. This revised version replaces also the following supplement withdrawn : EA – 2/02 – S1 : 2016 : Supplement 1 to EA-2/02 "EA Policy and Procedures for the Multilateral Agreement Selection, Training and Monitoring of Evaluators".

Standardisation

- **The Committee internal ballot on the Extension of scope of revision for ISO/IEC 17000:2004 closed on the 19 June and was approved by 92% of the CASCO P member and 69% of IEC P members.**

- A CD Ballot on ISO/IEC CD 17000 has opened.

- **ISO/CASCO has developed a short on-line survey to collect this information from users of the standard.** The survey is estimated to take no more than 10 minutes to complete and can be accessed via this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6MQ95ZC.

- **A Committee Internal Ballot has been opened regarding the discussion held in the CASCO Chairman Policy and Coordination meeting as part of the CASCO Roadmap** to change the dates of systematic review ballots to have a more logical sequence for documents that are closely related.

- A Committee Internal Ballot on the revised draft of the **Common Elements in CASCO standards** is opening on 2018-06-05 and will close on 2018-09-10. The CASCO WG23 decided at its 2nd meeting to submit the revised document to the CASCO members for ballot and comments. The internal document must gain 75% of CASCO P member votes (instead of the usual 66%) in order to gain greater support when moving to the next stage. (more information in attached Circular)

- The following ballot is closed and **passed**: *Un Environment – D liaison Application CASCO/WG53 ""Do you agree that Un Environment is given a D liaison status with CASCO/WG53 developing ISO/TS 17033, Ethical claims and supporting information – Principles and requirements?""*

- **The ballot on *ISO/IEC CD1 17029, General requirements for bodies performing validation and verification activities*** closed on 2018-05-25 and the CD was approved with 92% positive votes. The working group 46 will hold its seventh meeting from 3-6 July, in Milan, Italy, to address the comments.

Business news

- **Bureau Veritas has awarded Approval in Principal (AiP) to a new vessel concept design that could provide clean power and water more efficiently and cost-effectively than conventional solutions.**
- MODEC, a supplier and operator of offshore floating production platforms, has developed the Floating
- Storage, Regasification, Water-Desalination and Power-Generation (FSRWP®) vessel, which can
- provide clean energy and water faster and cheaper than current solutions. https://tinyurl.com/y8rr9ppq
- **Bureau Veritas has announced the publication of "The digital asset across industries – A TIC company perspective", a position paper that outlines the importance for companies to embark on the digital transformation to clearly define their needs with regards to new technologies and decide how to integrate them in their value chain processes.** https://tinyurl.com/ybefg5d9
- **Bureau Veritas has launched its latest decommissioning guide at Decom Offshore 2018.** 'Decommissioning on the UK Continental Shelf – an overview of regulations' provides up-to-date, easy to understand, guidance of the regulations that apply to decommissioning work, from operators and stakeholders to the supply chain. **This detailed guide describes the necessary procedures for operators and duty holders to plan, execute and follow-up decommissioning work and help them comply with the relevant legislation.** https://tinyurl.com/y75mwye2
- **Bureau Veritas Dubai Launches Residues & Contaminants Analytical Services for Food & Beverages.** https://tinyurl.com/y7ltkgwm
- **Cotecna has announced the opening of a new office in Varna, Bulgaria. Cotecna Bulgaria Ltd complements the company's current presence in the Black Sea region where it already has strong operations in Russia, Ukraine and Romania.** The new office will be operated by Cotecna's management team in Romania, and will provide agricultural, fertiliser, mineral and metal services to existing and new clients. https://tinyurl.com/y9l5b95n
- **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
- **DEKRA has opened a chemical reaction hazard laboratory in the demonstration area of the national public inspection and testing service platform – Jinan District, Shanghai.** https://tinyurl.com/y7bzkx92
- **DEKRA's laboratory and connected car test area in Malaga, Spain is now an OmniAir Authorized Test Laboratory (OATL) for dedicated short-range communications (DSRC)-based vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) technology.** https://tinyurl.com/y789qs9c
- **As part of the systematic integration strategy, the activities of Chilworth Technology, a fully owned subsidiary by DEKRA, are now being car-**

ried out under the name DEKRA (India) Pvt Ltd. https://tinyurl.com/y9s52luk
- **DNV GL announced a new class notation for exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS).** The new notation, Emission reduction (ER), will cover not only scrubbers for removing SOx, but selective catalytic reduction (SCR) and exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) systems for removing NOx. The new notation will be published in July 2018. https://tinyurl.com/y6ws83oe
- **Intertek has announced the opening of its new Sharjah laboratory complex for assurance, testing, inspection and certification to support the region's rapidly growing demand for quality assurance across multiple industries**. The new Sharjah laboratory complex was officially inaugurated by Ali Salem Ali Salem Al Mazroua, Chairman of Al Mazroua Group. https://tinyurl.com/y75wy3v4
- **Intertek jointly with the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), has launched the fifth collection of training courses under the Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) set up by the Government of Bangladesh.** The Skills for Employment Investment Program was designed by the Government of Bangladesh to support the apparel and textile sector, which is the country's largest export industry. The government-funded SEIP courses aim to increase the skilled workforce and build future leaders of the industry. https://tinyurl.com/ybhd2txb
- **Lloyd's Register (LR) has launched CO2 Verifier, an online verification service that provides a simple solution to comply with both the EU monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) regulation and the IMO Data Collection System (DCS).** https://tinyurl.com/yct7dnxv
- **Lloyd's Register Foundation and Blockchain Labs for Open Collaboration (BLOC) 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
- **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
- **NCML launched its newly constructed public silo complex at Purnia in Biha in April 2018. The silo complex of 36000 MTs capacity is duly equipped with facilities like Dryer and Chiller for safe and efficient preservation of Maize at PURNIA, Bihar.** This modern and scientific means of storage structure is the largest

modern warehousing complex in Bihar. The complex has been designed and constructed created while taking into consideration international Best Practices available globally for grain storage and handling. https://tinyurl.com/y9gbpt8y

- **RINA has developed a Biodiversity Management Capacity Building Programme for local authorities to raise awareness on biodiversity in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures.** https://tinyurl.com/yags99tu

- **SGS Digicomply's Spring '18 edition, hailed as a powerful compliance intelligence platform, launches for the GFSI Global Food Safety Conference.** As the easy-to-access, go-to platform for food professionals, SGS Digicomply monitors 100,000+ web pages to identify the documents, articles, commentaries, images and labels that together create the big data of compliance services. https://tinyurl.com/y7m2bwts

- **SGS has launched a new testing facility, dedicated to Oil Condition Monitoring (OCM), in Coatzacoalcos, Mexico.** The new laboratory will provide a complete range of OCM services for many industries, including oil and gas, power generation, mining, aviation, transportation, seaports, building maintenance and construction. https://tinyurl.com/y7hqbuvp

- **SGS expands analytical capabilities for contract research in Brazil.** https://tinyurl.com/y7radlqb

- **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 Rheinland has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA).** https://tinyurl.com/y7rzmrl9

- **TÜV Rheinland announces the launch of its global Industrial Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (CoE) based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.** The Centre of Excellence will address the cybersecurity needs of its industrial clients such as manufacturing companies, plant operators, energy and utility companies, transportation and transit system operators to secure their operational technology landscape. https://tinyurl.com/y7nnan5o

- **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

- **TÜV SÜD has joined the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC), a sustainability organisation with the**

- **objective of increasing transparency in the apparel, textile and footwear supply chain by enabling**

- **the measurement of the environmental and social sustainability impacts, identifying areas of actions and potential for improvements through industry benchmarking.** https://tinyurl.com/ybveumbc

- **UL and Jinmao Announce Agreement to Promote Healthy Building and Indoor Air Quality Testing in China.** https://tinyurl.com/y8vrzp7f

- **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

- **VDE Global Services GmbH and the China General Certification Center (CGC) founded VDE CGC (Guangdong) Testing and Certification Co., Ltd. in Beijing.** As part of the joint venture, the two organizations signed an agreement with the city leaders of Zhongshan City to build a new high-tech laboratory for products related to the Internet of Things and Smart Living, such as home appliances and lighting. https://tinyurl.com/y7n8w42n

Business Results

ALS Global https://tinyurl.com/y8hu8glf

- ALS FY2018 Underlying NPAT within guidance at EUR 92.6 million ($142.2 million), up 21.1% on prior year
- Proposed divestment of Oil and Gas laboratories
- On-market Share Buyback to continue
- Business outlook continues to remain stable

TÜV Rheinland Fiscal year 2017 https://tinyurl.com/y9mdf5gj

- Revenues increased in 2017 by €54 million or 2.8% to the current figure of €1.972 billion
- Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) at €130.6 million posted the best figure in the company's
- 145-year history
- The EBIT margin inched up 0.2 percentage points to 6.6%
- Investments were at the level recorded in 2016: €91.3 million
- Average number of employees at TÜV Rheinland over the course of 2017, expressed as full-time
- equivalents, increased to 19,924
- Investing in the future: EUR 123 million spent on testing infrastructure and digitisation

Policy news

Digital

- **Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs published the** Opinion **on Regulation on ENISA, the "EU Cybersecurity Agency", and repealing Regulation (EU) 526/2013, and on Information and Communication Technology cybersecurity certification ("Cybersecurity Act");**

- **The IMCO Committee has published amendments** 52 – 366 **and** 367 – 445 **to the draft Opinion on the Cybersecurity Act.**

- **The** Big Data Value Association (BDVA) **and the** European Factories of the Future Research Association (EFFRA)**, on one side, and the** Alliance for Internet of Things Innovation (AIOTI)**and BDVA on the other side, signed bilateral declarations to join forces towards common goals.**

- **In the Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) on Big Data and Factories of the Future, BDVA and EFFRA represent European industry and research.** AIOTI is the key European alliance which brings together public and private actors in the area of the Internet of Things (IoT). These partnerships are key players in the development of new technology building blocks, such as new data analysis methods, smart sensors, smart robotics, 3D printers, etc. https://tinyurl.com/ycswrt5z

- **The EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum is issuing a call for contributors to participate in 2 working groups: Working group on Blockchain Policy and Framework Conditions:** This group should look particularly into cross-cutting issues in order to establish policy, legal and regulatory conditions needed to promote predictability and legal certainty which are necessary for larger-scale deployment of blockchain applications. The analysis should consider issues ranging from smart contracts, protection of personal data, legal recognition of blockchains, token economics – especially utility tokens. The working group should also discuss issues concerning technological and ecosystem developments, such as interoperability, scalability and sustainability, cybersecurity and energy efficiency;

- **The EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum has been launched by the Directorate-General Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) of the European Commission, with support from the European Parliament.** As part of its activities, the Forum will be supported by two Working Groups. Therefore, the Forum is issuing a call to potential contributors to participate in the following Working Groups: Blockchain Policy and Framework Conditions" Working Group, Use Cases and Transition Scenarios" Working Group. https://tinyurl.com/ydx5lfcy

- **New technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced robotics and the** Internet of Things **bring enormous opportunities in various fields - transport, healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing to name but a few.** At the same time they could raise challenges related to liability, which is why the Commission wants to initiate a discussion on the way forward. https://tinyurl.com/yabxwsqc

- **Four EU cybersecurity organisations enhance cooperation.** The European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA), the European Defence Agency (EDA), the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) and the Computer Emergency Response Team for the EU Institutions, Agencies and Bodies (CERT-EU) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a cooperation framework between their organisations. https://tinyurl.com/y84a6tdt

- **The U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released version 1.1 of its Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity**, **more widely known as the** Cybersecurity Framework**.**

- **The U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security released a report that offers a guide to government, civil society and industry actions that would dramatically reduce the threat of botnets and similar cyberattacks.** The report, Enhancing the Resilience of the Internet and Communications Ecosystem Against Botnets and Other Automated, Distributed Threats(link is external)**,** responds to a May 2017 Executive Order on Strengthening the Cybersecurity of Federal Networks and Critical Infrastructure.

- **ENISA published several studies**:
  - ⇒ Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISACs) - Cooperative models
  - ⇒ Public Private Partnerships (PPP) - Cooperative models
  - ⇒ Cyber Security Culture in organisations
  - ⇒ Improving recognition of ICT security standards

- **The European Commission published the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/151 of 30 January 2018 laying down rules for application of Directive (EU) 2016/1148 (NIS Directive) of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards further specification of the elements to be taken into account by digital service providers for managing the risks posed to the security of network and information systems and of the parameters for determining whether an incident has a substantial impact:** http://tinyurl.com/y79wfavf

Energy & Environment

- **The first European Commission report on compliance with the Sulphur Directive shows high compliance by ships, in particular with the stricter limits in the North and Baltic Seas.** https://tinyurl.com/ybgx8odr

- **The European Parliament approved the package to update current waste management rules, including new targets for recycling, packaging and landfilling. The package is a key element of the Circular Economy Action Plan the European Commission adopted on 2 December 2015.** https://tinyurl.com/ycbre58m

- **The latest Commission Report on the implementation of the Nitrates Directive shows that water pollution caused by nitrates has decreased in Europe in the last two decades, but in sectors such as agriculture good practices need to be further extended.** https://tinyurl.com/yb4p46ls

- **The European Commission Technical Assistance Facility (EC TA) linked to the European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEF) has successfully supported energy efficiency projects leading to a total investment volume of €194.4 million.** The facility has helped local and regional governments undertake energy efficiency improvements that can be examples to others and demonstrate how to develop projects, build appropriate financial models and develop local skills to invest in efficient energy – the cheapest energy of all. https://tinyurl.com/yd2uukkg

- **A new Memorandum of Understanding for a Strategic Cooperation in Energy between Egypt and the European Union was signed, with Commissioner Arias Cañete signing on behalf of the European Commission.** This new agreement updates the energy sector cooperation between both sides and fully reflects the EU's priority of implementing a clean energy transition. https://tinyurl.com/y9bgy6cc

- **The European Commission welcomes final vote on energy performance of buildings.** The European Parliament gave today its final approval on the revised Energy Performance of Buildings directive. Today's vote signals the closure of the first of 8 legislative proposals part of the Clean Energy for All Europeans package brought forward by the European Commission on 30 November 2016. This package is a key element of one of the Juncker Commission's priorities, "a resilient Energy Union and a forward-looking climate change policy".

- **On April 25, the NAM and several of our members and coalition partners sent letters to Congress on FY 2019 funding and the ENERGY STAR Program.** The letter to leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Energy and Water strongly recommended that they approve at least level funding for FY 2019 for key energy efficiency programs such as the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, the Advanced Manufacturing Office, and Grid Modernization. These programs have a proven track record of creating and supporting jobs, fostering economic development and innovation, all while benefiting American businesses, consumers and homeowners. In addition, the letter to leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, urged them to support the ENERGY STAR program as they develop priorities for the FY19 Interior, Environmental and Related Agencies legislation. This voluntary program continues to help businesses and individuals save money and protect the climate through energy efficiency.

- **DOE received and published a petition to define a new product class for dishwashers with cycle times of under an hour. This change would allow DOE to set different efficiency standards for the new product class than for dishwashers with cycle times exceeding an hour.** https://tinyurl.com/yc6sy9kn

- **Member States approved a set of ambitious measures to make EU waste legislation fit for the future, as part of the EU's wider circular economy policy.** The new rules - based on Commission's proposals part of the Circular Economy package presented in December 2015 - will help to prevent waste and, where this is not possible, significantly step up recycling of municipal and packaging waste. https://tinyurl.com/ya7ulunq

- **The European Commission is proposing new rules to stimulate and facilitate water reuse in the EU for agricultural irrigation.** The new rules will help farmers make the best use of non-potable wastewater, alleviating water scarcity whilst protecting the environment and consumers. https://tinyurl.com/y8yd5kbp

- **The European Commission proposes to increase funding to support the environment and climate action.** For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission is proposing to increase funding by almost 60% for LIFE, the EU programme for the environment and climate action. https://tinyurl.com/y9pwo39d

- **The EU and Japan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on promoting and establishing a liquid, flexible and transparent global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) market.** https://tinyurl.com/ybsaruzj

- **The European Commission welcomes ambitious agreement on further renewable energy development in the EU.** An ambitious political agreement on increasing renewable energy use in Europe was reached between negotiators from the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council. the deal means that two out of the 8 legislative proposals in the Clean Energy for All European's package (adopted by the European Commission on 30 November 2016) have been already agreed by the co-legislators. https://tinyurl.com/ya69n4vw

- **The European Commission has proposed to allocate €1,178 million for nuclear safety and decommissioning in the next EU Budget (2021-2027).** This is part of the overall budget for security and defence (€27.5 billion). https://tinyurl.com/y73mdumz

- **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Commission, and the European Investment Bank (EIB) launched a new Practitioner's Guide on the Statistical Treatment of Energy Performance Contracts on the 8th of May.** The Guide explains in detail how these contracts work and gives a clear overview of the potential impact on government finances. https://tinyurl.com/yavctwbm

- **The revised Energy Performance of Buildings directive (EPBD) has been approved by the Council of Ministers of the EU.** The European Parliament had already approved the revised EPBD on 17 April with a very large support coming from the main political groups (546 votes in favour, 35 against and 96 abstentions). https://tinyurl.com/ybnjul56

- **The European Commission proposes improved tyre labelling rules.** Proposals for updating and improving the EU regulation for the labelling of tyres have been published by the European Commission today (17 May 2018) within the broader package of measures on Low Carbon Mobility. https://tinyurl.com/y9ljdsxp

- **Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete travelled to Teheran from to continue strengthening energy cooperation between the EU and Iran.** https://tinyurl.com/ya964zqa

- **The Environmental Protection Agency's Scientific Advisory Board delivered a rebuke to AdministratorScott Pruitt by voting yesterday to review the agency's proposed rollback of car efficiency rules and several other deregulatory actions.** It will scrutinize Pruitt's move last year to review the Clean Power Plan, the first nationwide attempt to regulate climate pollution from existing power plants and a high-profile target of Pruitt and Trump. https://tinyurl.com/y9uxxzj7

- **The European Commission proposes to increase funding to support the environment and climate action.** For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission is proposing to increase funding by almost 60% for LIFE, the EU programme for the environment and climate action. https://tinyurl.com/y9pwo39d

- **UN Environment and the European Commission agreed to deepen their cooperation through the 2018 Oceans Roadmap 2.0, addressing in particular the threats of pollution and marine litter, in line with UN Environment and EC international commitments and the implementation of ocean related Sustainable Development Goals.** https://tinyurl.com/y75b58no

- **The European Commission has decided to send letters of formal notice to Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia and Malta for failing to correctly transpose certain requirements of the Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Directive (Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom).** The Directive establishes a Community framework for ensuring the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste to avoid imposing undue burdens on future generations. https://tinyurl.com/ycss2euy

- **The Commission has proposed to allocate €1,178 million for nuclear safety and decommissioning in the next EU Budget (2021-2027).** This is part of the overall budget for security and defence (€27.5 billion). Nuclear safety is an important area where the Union can bring added value, in particular by continuing to financially support the decommissioning of Soviet era-designed first-generation nuclear reactors in Lithuania, Bulgaria and Slovakia. https://tinyurl.com/y73mdumz

- **An ambitious political agreement on increasing renewable energy use in Europe was reached between negotiators from the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council.** The deal means that two out of the 8 legislative proposals in the Clean Energy for All Europeans package (adopted by the European Commission on 30 November 2016) have been already agreed by the co-legislators. On 14 May, the first element of the package, the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive, was adopted. https://tinyurl.com/ya69n4vw

- **The G20 Energy Ministers meeting took place in Bariloche, Argentina on 15 June 2018.** The European Union, as a member of the G20, is represented by the European Commission. Under Argentinian presidency, this year's theme of the ministerial is 'Energy Transitions Towards Cleaner, More Flexible and Transparent Systems'.

- **The European Commission has approved unconditionally under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of Uniper by Fortum. Both companies are active in the energy sector.** The Commission concluded that the transaction would raise no competition concerns in the European Economic Area. https://tinyurl.com/ycyujy5f

Food

- **Over 3 600 tonnes of dangerous food removed from consumer market**. Run over the course of 4 months (December 2017 - March 2018) across 67 countries*, OPSON VII resulted in the total seizure of more than 3 620 tonnes and 9.7 million litres of either counterfeit or substandard food and bever-ages as a result of more than 41 000 checks carried out at shops, markets, airports, seaports and in-dustrial es-tates. In total some 749 people were arrested or detained with investigations continuing in many countries. https://tinyurl.com/ybyb6ao4

- **Phil Hogan, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, continued his series of business offen-sives to promote EU food and drink products with a trip to Shanghai, China**, from 14-17 May. As with the Commissioner's recent visits to Canada, Iran and Sau-di Arabia, the aim of the visit is to facilitate potential business agreements between European and Chinese agri-food sector companies. China is the second larg-est importer of EU agricultural and processed agricul-tural products, accounting for 8.7% of all EU agricul-tural exports in 2016, and European food and drink products are becoming increasingly popular with Chi-na's emerging middle

- **European Commission - Dual quality of food: European Commission releases common testing methodology.** The Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's Science and Knowledge service, has developed a common methodology to allow national consumer authorities to carry out tests comparing the composition and characteristics of food products sold with similar packaging across the Union. This step complements the actions already taken by the Commission following the State of the Union speech of President Juncker.

- **The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) has published a report showcasing many misleading tricks that food makers commonly use on labels across the EU.** The report Food labels: tricks of the trade highlights three practices that sugar-coat the actual quality of foods and drinks: Industrial products being labelled 'traditional', 'artisanal'; Drinks and dairy with little or no actual fruit displaying fruit pictures; Breads, biscuits, pasta, etc. with barely any fibre labelled as 'whole grain'. https://tinyurl.com/yaokep8e

- **EU-Iceland: further liberalisation of trade in food and agricultural products.** Three agreements signed in September 2015 entered into force on 1 May, giving greater market access and protection for EU agri-food products in Iceland. The agreements will bring duty-free access to Iceland's market for more than 95% of EU agri-food products.

- **The European Commission has adopted a proposal requiring the European Food Safe-ty Authority (EFSA) to pub-lish non-confidential parts of industry-funded studies that support safety evaluations of products such as pesti-cides, food additives or novel foods for instance.** https://tinyurl.com/ybcyumnx

- **EFSA has completed its review of the maxi-mum lev-els of glyphosate that are legally permitted to be present in food**. The review is based on data on glyphosate residues in food submitted to EFSA by all EU Member States. https://tinyurl.com/y8clh82v

- **EFSA has updated its risk assessment of opium alkaloids in poppy seeds**, confirming many of its previous findings, including the amount of these substances that can be consumed safely. The latest opinion also broadens the evi-dence that should be considered when calculating the possible risk to consumers. https://tinyurl.com/y8q3cmn5

- **EFSA has published its analysis of food da-ta collected following the widespread detec-tion of fipronil residues in eggs last sum-mer**. https://tinyurl.com/y9vbzhfu

- **EFSA has published a new release of its Comprehensive European Food Consump-tion Database**, which for the first time includes data collected under EFSA's EU Menu project. The updated database consists of the most re-cent data collected in Member States covering more population groups and new food catego-ries, such as energy drinks. https://tinyurl.com/yaw9r92a

International Free Trade Agreements

- **The new Chief Negotiator for investment protection at the European Commission, Maria Martin-Prat, met her Japanese counterpart, Deputy Director-General Tsutomu Koizumi, from the Japa-nese Ministry for Foreign Affairs, to continue negotiations on investment protection standards and dispute resolution.** https://tinyurl.com/yanhb4bn

- **The negotiations between the EU and Japan on the Economic Partnership Agreement (the EPA) have been finalised and the legal revision of the texts has been completed.** https://tinyurl.com/ybosl8dq

- **The text of the EU-Singapore trade agreement presented in this webpage is the text at the end of the negotiation conducted by the European Commission and is made public solely for infor-**

mation purposes. The agreement presented in this document is not binding under international law and will only become so after completion of the ratification process by each Party according to its internal legal procedures. https://tinyurl.com/yakw3u22

- **The European Commission welcomes Council's approval to modernised trade defence rules.** The Council gave a formal approval to the political agreement reached between the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament on 5 December 2017 to modernise the EU's trade defence instruments. https://tinyurl.com/ydxqrmjo

- **Work on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) continues, as U.S., Canadian and Mexican ministers and working officials met in an attempt to reach the overall outlines of a modernized agreement.** Senior officials – U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Ambassador Lighthizer, Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland and Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo – plan to reconvene on May 7, while negotiations continue at the technical levels.

- **EU and Mercosur complete latest talks.** The Parties achieved progress on several issues such as services and exchanges were constructive overall but there is still work to be done, notably on cars and car parts, geographical indications, maritime transport and dairy. https://tinyurl.com/y7dm5zku

- **European Commission endorses rebalancing duties on US products.** The College of Commissioners endorsed the decision to impose additional duties on the full list of US products notified to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as part of the EU's response to the US tariffs on steel and aluminium products. Following the decision to apply additional duties to selected imports from the United States, the Commission expects to conclude the relevant procedure in coordination with Member States before the end of June so that the new duties start applying in July. https://tinyurl.com/ybaosyw9

- **EU and Chile complete third round of trade negotiations.** Negotiators met in Brussels from 28 May to 1 June for the 3rd round of negotiations for a new, modernised trade agreement between the EU and Chile. Over the course of the round the negotiating teams discussed all the issues covered by the agreement, such as market access for goods, services and investment, technical barriers to trade, intellectual property rights, including geographical indications, competition and subsidies, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, trade and sustainable development, as well as trade and gender. https://tinyurl.com/ybahbygh

- **EU and Tunisia complete second round of negotiations for deep and comprehensive trade agreement.** The EU and Tunisian negotiators met in Tunis from 28 to 31 May for the 2nd full round of negotiations for an agreement on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). On the first day of the round, negotiations teams met jointly representatives of civil society including from trade unions, employers organisations and non-governmental organisations to discuss how they see the opportunities and challenges of a future DCFTA. https://tinyurl.com/ydcsxcoq

- **EU launches WTO case against China's unfair technology transfers.** The EU has launched legal proceedings in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) against Chinese legislation that undermines the intellectual property rights of European companies. https://tinyurl.com/y7ybz8as

- **The Commission welcomes the adoption by the Council of the negotiating directives for free trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand.** The preparations – which included an impact assessment for both agreements – are now complete and formal negotiations can begin. https://tinyurl.com/yasbycrq

- **ENVI publishes draft Opinion on Implementation of the Trade Agreement between the European Union and Colombia and Peru.** Rapporteur Joëlle Mélin of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety has published the draft Opinion on Implementation of the Trade Agreement between the European Union and Colombia and Peru.

- **US tariffs: On March 31, Commerce Secretary Ross announced the application of section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico and the European Union starting on June 1, after negotiations failed to yield sufficient results for the U.S. administration.** This action terminates the previous suspension of these tariffs announced on April 30 and means that25 percent tariffs on steel products and 10 percent tariffs on aluminum products are being imposed on these imports from EU members states and our NAFTA partners. The White House issued this statement after President Trump signed modifications to the original steel and aluminum proclamations that also clarified quota rules for Argentina and Brazil.

- **Additional Trading Partners Solidify Retaliation Lists Against U.S. Exports:** U.S. trading partners reacted strongly and negatively to the imposition of tariffs, with the EU indicating that it will proceed with retaliation and Canada and Mexico stating that they will also retaliate. Many U.S. trading partners have also filed WTO challenges to the section 232 tariffs.

- **Commerce Department Issues Timelines for Section 232 National Security Investigation on Imports of Passenger Vehicles and Auto Parts:** the Commerce Department issued its formal launch of the section 232 investigation on imports of automobiles (including cars, SUVs, vans and light trucks) and automotive parts.

- **US tariffs: On March 31, Commerce Secretary Ross announced the application of section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico and the European Union starting on June 1, after negotiations failed to yield sufficient results for the U.S. administration.** This action terminates the previous suspension of these tariffs announced on April 30 and means that25 percent

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- **The European Commission has published the reports on the latest negotiation rounds with Chile and Mercosur.** The report on MERCOSUR stated that the partners achieved progress on several issues such as services and exchanges were constructive overall but there is still work to be done, notably on cars and car parts, geographical indications, maritime transport and dairy. In addition, it was noted that the difficulties remain in certain issues related to regulatory cooperation and conformity assessment. The report on the Chile indicated that substantial number of provisions were agreed. On conformity assessment, both parties discussed their respective approaches, where Chile has opted for a system that relies heavily on third party conformity assessment, while the EU relies, for low risk products, on self-declaration of conformity issued by the manufacturer. https://tinyurl.com/ya8hvwuj

- **The EU and China held in Beijing the 7th annual EU-China High-level Economic and Trade Dialogue (HED).** The discussions covered a range of strategic issues under the overall theme of "Harnessing Globalisation". Topics included global economic governance, support for the multilateral trading system, trade and investment questions - notably negotiations on an investment agreement and on geographical indications – as well as the digital economy, climate and environmental cooperation, and connectivity. https://tinyurl.com/y9mj9b49

- **The EU has launched legal proceedings in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) against Chinese legislation that undermines the intellectual property rights of European companies.** https://tinyurl.com/yb857m6o

- **EU and Tunisia complete second round of negotiations for deep and comprehensive trade agreement.** The EU and Tunisian negotiators met in Tunis from 28 to 31 May for the 2nd full round of negotiations for an agreement on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). https://tinyurl.com/yasxwc4t

- **The annual report on Trade and Investment Barriers shows that the European Commission has eliminated the highest number ever of trade barriers faced by EU companies doing business abroad. European exporters reported a major increase in protectionism in 2017.** https://tinyurl.com/yayxrdp7

- **The College of Commissioners endorsed the decision to impose additional duties on the full list of US products notified to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as part of the EU's response to the US tariffs on steel and aluminium products.** Following the decision to apply additional duties to selected imports from the United States, the Commission expects to conclude the relevant procedure in coordination with Member States before the end of June so that the new duties start applying in July. https://tinyurl.com/y88s4vzz

- **On March 6, US National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Director for International Business Policy Ryan Ong reiterated the NAM's strong call for strategic approaches and priority on global standards and conformity assessment rules at a Department of Commerce-hosted internal summit that convened officials from across the Department of Commerce in Washington and in embassies and consulates in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.** This summit, announced in November 2017 and for which the NAM submitted detailed comments, also featured speakers from a range of NAM member companies and associations, including AHRI, Amway, ANSI, ASTM, IFIA, Ingersoll-Rand, UL and Whirlpool.

- **India's Ministry of Commerce issued in late February (and circulated to selected stakeholders in March) a draft of the Indian National Strategy for Standardization (INSS) for public comment.** The strategy notes that India should take a more strategic approach on standards and conformity assessment to promote economic growth, the competitiveness of Indian goods and services and "a level playing field for domestic industry". https://tinyurl.com/yczw6o6y

- **It was announced that the EU and Mexico had reached a new agreement to modernise an existing free trade deal.** The negotiators from both sides will continue their work to resolve the remaining technical issues and finalise the full legal text by the end of the year. https://tinyurl.com/y96f7nkj

- **The European Commission has published the proposed texts for the negotiations with Indonesia.** https://tinyurl.com/y7hbcfqb

- **The European Commission takes note of the decision of the United States to prolong the European Union's exemption from import tariffs on steel and aluminium for a short period of time, until 1st June 2018.** https://tinyurl.com/yakhop8r

Measurement, Testing and Sensor Technology

Fundamentals and Application to Materials and Technical Systems

Horst Czichos

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Measurement, Testing and Sensor Technology, by Horst Czichos

Book Synopsis

This book is an interdisciplinary compendium of measurement, testing and sensor technology.

It describes principles, methods and techniques that were separately developed in physics and engineering disciplines but must be jointly applied to characterize materials and technical systems. The book is organized with concise text-graphics combinations in three parts:

- The first part describes the fundamentals of measurement, testing and sensor technology, including a survey of sensor types for dimensional metrology, kinematics, dynamics, and temperature. It describes also micro-sensors and embedded sensors.

- The second part gives an overview of materials and explains the application of measurement, testing and sensor technology to characterize composition. microstructure, properties and performance of materials as well as deterioration mechanisms and reliability.

- The third part introduces the general systems theory for the characterization of technical systems, exemplified by mechatronic and tribological systems. It describes technical diagnostics for structural health monitoring and performance control.

Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- **EUROLAB Board Meeting**, Brussels, 21 September 2018
- **EUROLAB National Members' Meeting,** Berlin,15-16 November 2018
- **TCQA Meeting**, Berlin, 15 November 2018
- **EUROLAB Board Meeting**, Berlin, 16 November
- **EUROLAB General Assembly 2019,** Prague, 9 - 10 May 2019
- **EUROLAB TCQA Meeting,** Prague, 9 May 2019

International Events

- **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

Final conference of the ECVET-Lab Project,
20th September, at Leopold Hotel Brussels EU, in Brussels.

The ECVET-Lab Project is a European funded project by the ERASMUS+ programme of the European Commission. The main objective of the ECVET-Lab Project is creating a FREE Online Training Course for laboratory technicians, especially from Environmental Testing Laboratories, to provide knowledge on ENVIRONMENTAL sustainable best practices.

Duration: 2 years.
01/10/2016 – 30/09/2018

The final conference will present the outcomes of the project, as well as the contributions from the participant laboratories that will present their best practices on environmental management in labs and a panel discussion with experts from participating laboratories, environmental experts and VET centres or universities.

For further details regarding the project, you can visit its website
Participation is free, you can register for the event here
Please forward this information to any interested contacts you might have.
Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: info@eurolab.org