

EUROLAB NEWSBRIEFING



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Foreword

Dear EUROLAB members,

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

Over time, EUROLAB has built up a relevant international position, being member of many organizations, participating actively in activities of a technical and scientific nature and contributing effectively to the development of knowledge and technical competence. This capacity is linked to the potential related with the high number of experts of the National Associations willing to share their knowledge and the partnerships with stakeholders.

EUROLAB has a considerable number of MoUs aiming at the development of Laboratory community. These agreements need to be active in order to have impact. EUROLAB's board is promoting the evaluation and renewal of existing agreements and new partnerships, following a more demanding principle, first and foremost for ourselves, to attach to each agreement an annex setting out objectives, actions and goals, which can be evaluated periodically by our members, being this approach a new process that make possible to carry out actions and that these have visibility and utility for the Laboratory community.

Another strategic aspect of high importance is the knowledge we have of who we are, what we do and what we represent, towards a better definition of our field of action and increase our effectiveness. To this purpose, a survey is underway with the National Associations aiming at characterizing the experimental activity and the context of action, allowing to adjust the policy of EUROLAB to the real needs and expectations of the Sector it represents.

Today, the international economic and political context demands a strong capacity of organizations to be able to act in a pragmatic way, promoting dialogue and cooperation, while defending the legitimate interests of their activity, in this case the Laboratory community. EUROLAB is aware of this reality and of the related challenges, knowing that the success of its action will depend on the mobilization that it can have of the national Associations and their members, pillars of its strength.

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

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ECVET-Lab Final Conference

On the 20th of September, in the premises of Leopold Hotel in Brussels, the **European Conference on Environmental Management in Laboratories** took place. This Final Conference was hosted by EUROLAB, the European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories, one of the partners of the [Erasmus+ ECVET-Lab Project](#).

ECVET-LAB Project (Erasmus+) aims to contribute to the implementation and validation of the non-formal training on **environmental best practices for environmental testing laboratory technicians**. Specifically, by applying methodologies and practices that conserve natural resources, improves the resources efficiency and protects those working in laboratories from chemical or biological risks.

In this conference, **ECVET-Lab project partners** presented some of the main outcomes of the project: identified best environmental management practices in European labs, a new Qualification Standard of environmental management competence for laboratory technicians and a free Online Training Course for obtaining this innovative qualification.

Several laboratories contributed to the conference with their practices and experiences in the field. IPROMA, from Spain, Nireas International Water Research Centre, from Cyprus, and Çevre Industrial Analysis Laboratory, from Turkey, shared their daily environmental management systems. They all agreed that the project will be a useful tool both for the educational system and the private sector. Indeed, some of these participated in different focus groups during the project and **provided their environmental experience**.

The **panel discussion** was composed of high-level representatives from each field, including representatives of laboratories' organisation, such as Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, EUROLAB President; Bern Kroon, President of Fenelab and Ömer Güzel, Honorary President of TURKLAB. In the field specialized in laboratories, from the private sector Nuria Font: Responsible of Volatile organic compounds (IPROMA) and Andreas Schmidt, professor and testing engineer from TGM VA-KU also participated in the debate.



Special attention should be paid to some of the claims that the panellists made. Álvaro Ribeiro assured that **“This project adapts the expectations of the new generations along with the new upcoming approaches. It should not be the end of a project, but the beginning”** highlighting the opportunities that ECVET-Lab can give. Nuria Font also added that **“This best practices guide will make our work easier although a deeper and further approach could even improve environmental issues at workplace”**. Some of the attendants and panellists believed this project should not stop here.

The Conference concluded with some final remarks: the awareness of students and laboratories technicians is crucial in order to implement any kind of environmental practice or policy. Moreover it is important to put an emphasis on the human resources available in each laboratory. For that purpose, most of the entities attending the Conference offered themselves to be part of the pilot testing, the final part of the project. Considering the exchange of impressions and the interest generated among stakeholders, it is believed that ECVET-Lab Project will have a large impact.

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The EUROLAB National Members' Meeting 2018

The EUROLAB National Members' Meeting 2018 will take place in Berlin, on 15 and 16 November 2018 and will be kindly hosted by EUROLAB - Germany.

The EUROLAB events will start on Thursday morning, 15 November, with the TCQA Meeting. All the guests arriving the evening before, 14 November, are welcome to attend the informal dinner. The EUROLAB Board Meeting will take place on Friday, 16 November, being followed by the EUROLAB National Members' Meeting, the same day.

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

News ALPI



ALPI's National Conference - Rome, November the 22nd Legal responsibility in conformity assessment: risks and mitigation methods

The activity of TIC operators is characterized by the need for high skills, however, no technical activity, even that conducted by the best experts is free of errors, especially as it operates in an innovative industrial context, where materials, products and processes are in continuous evolution.

The error in the attestation of conformity can cause damages, to the client or to third parties, of different nature: commercial, image, sanctions, but also, unfortunately, accidents of varying severity.

From these considerations derives the necessity, for all the operators of the sector, of a reflection on the legal responsibilities deriving from their work and on the modalities with which these can be attenuated, legally and economically.

Regarding the mitigation of legal responsibilities, we are not referring to contractual rules aimed at denying the body's responsibility for its work, far from it. We refer to the possibility of a better sharing of information between the TIC organization and the client, such as to make known and shared both the objective of the intervention of the Body and the factors of uncertainty that will characterize the result.

In order to try to clarify legal responsibility in conformity assessment, ALPI – Eurolab Italy has organized a National

Conference in Rome, together with lawyers and attorney, to help Laboratories and other TIC operators to be advised on.

The topic of the speech is:

- Potential sources of legal responsibility
- How to prevent legal risk and bring up some mitigation actions
- The approach to professional guilt: how to evaluate negligence, imprudence and inexperience

We are only on the beginning, other ALPI's working groups will start in the next months to discuss legal point of view in more detail.

Cookbooks translation: a good idea appreciated by Italian Labs and Accreditation Body

From the beginning of 2018, EUROLAB's President Mr. Álvaro Ribeiro suggested the translation of CookBooks for countries where the English language isn't the official language. ALPI appreciated the idea and in few time organized the translation.

Nevertheless, after a verification from ALPI's Technicians, the Italian edition of CookBooks was shared for free to all of Labs that asked for. Also Accredia, the Italian Accreditation Body, promote the use of these documents because they were produced in a very qualified European context.



BULLAB Association

News BULLAB

Bullab has translated full set (Handbook, Plan for transition and 20 cookbooks) in Bulgarian language of the EUROLAB materials related to new ISO 17025. They are available both to the Bullab members as well as non-members. Second seminar on this topic - Transition to new ISO 17025 is planned in a several weeks time.

Bullab will have its regular General Assembly on 4-th of October 2018 in Sofia. It will cover its activity for the period 2014 - 2018, some changes of its Statute and elections of new board, etc.

News CROLAB



CROLAB - A 15th anniversary!

The CROLAB (*Laboratoria Croatica*) is an organization of Croatian laboratories. It was established on June 16th 2003 with the purpose of supporting the Croatian laboratories as an important infrastructure system, playing a vital role in development of economy within the demanding open market. CROLAB was also established to represent Croatian laboratories in EUROLAB.

By using common resources and synergic effects of cooperation through conferences, workshops, lectures and seminars the CROLAB is contributing to quality and competitiveness of its member-laboratories. Today CROLAB gathers close to 200 laboratories with about 2000 employees.

It is a member of EUROLAB and EURACHEM, which is vital to its networking and cooperation within Europe.

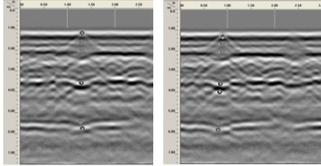
The celebration of the 15th anniversary of CROLAB will be at the **14th International Conference Laboratory Competence 2018, Trakoscan, 24th - 27th October 2018**. All conference information is available at www.crolab.hr.

News EUROLAB - CZ

eurolab-cz

Innovative techniques in non-destructive testing

Technical and Test Institute for Construction Prague, SOE, member of EUROLAB-CZ is now opening a new facility for non-destructive testing (NTD). The new ground penetrating radar is used for concrete scanning and inspection, detecting metal and non-metal objects and voids, and identifying the location of 50/60 Hz power cables. The radar provides accurate inspections of concrete structures such as floors, walls and slabs. It can also detect rebar and post tension cables. The radar allows scanning of concrete structures simply and safely, while providing real-time data for analysis and reporting.



Structural analysis



System MALA CX12

News EUROLAB-Deutschland



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

VMPA celebrated its 70th jubilee

The VMPA is an association of the most important materials testing institutes in Germany and one of the major members within EUROLAB Germany. VMPA was founded in 1948 at a time as Germany's infrastructure was heavily damaged and reconstruction was in the early stages of development. Collaboration was at least so difficult as well as travelling over far distances inside Germany.

Anyhow, neglecting all these circumstances 9 directors of official materials testing authorities met in Stuttgart on May 4th, 1948 and founded the VMPA. From the beginning VMPA stands for the same values as today: Reliability, trust, competence and independency.

Main working topics of VMPA members are still the development of reliable rules and standards in the testing, inspection and certification sector, so called TIC-sector. As well as performing tests, inspections and certification processes for myriads of products within or even outside the European Union. VMPA counsel the government and the economy, informs materials testing institutes in respect to revised and or new standards and regulations.

With reunion of Germany in 1990 the materials testing institutes of the former GDR (German Democratic Republic) were integrated into the association too. The development of a common accreditation system and process for Germany started at the same time and resulted at the end in the foundation of the national accreditation body for Germany (DAkkS) in 2010 which was required by EU regulation 765/2008.

VMPA was highly honoured that EUROLAB aisbl President, Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, joined our guests for the anniversary celebration as well as EUROLAB-D President Kurt Ziegler and many guests from politics, other CAB-associations, materials testing institutes, which took place on a former inland vessel, which was reconstructed and now used for stage performances as well as celebrations.

On occasion of its 70th jubilee VMPA proclaimed the VMPA junior scientists award for the first time to promote the junior scientific staff working in the field of materials testing and conformity assessment. Several high-quality scientific works had been submitted and evaluated by an expert committee before. The award included a financial donation of 3,000 Euro.

VMPA thanks all guests for joining our celebration in Stuttgart and hence led it to success. Further we thank our members for the continuous support and collaboration for and with VMPA.



Welcome speech of EUROLAB President Mr. Álvaro Silva Ribeiro addressing to VMPA-President Mr. Andreas Kinzel, State Under-Secretary Mrs. Schuetz and VMPA Vice-President Mr. Lutz Gerlach and EUROLAB-D President Mr. Kurt Ziegler



VMPA president Andreas Kinzel honours Carla Neuhaus with 1st VMPA - Junior scientists award



Location for the celebration - Theaterschiff Stuttgart

Legal clarity regarding the limitation of accreditations in Germany

A recent court decision will lead to changes for the accredited conformity assessment bodies in Germany. The Federal Administrative Court in Leipzig decided on September 19, 2018, that there is no legal basis for setting a time limit for the validity of accreditation of conformity assessment bodies. The defendant accreditation body DAkkS granted the complainant, a state health authority, accreditation for a test laboratory and a medical laboratory for a limited period of five years. The administrative court granted the complaint against the time limit. The Higher Administrative Court has dismissed the appeal of the defendant, DAkkS.

The defendant's appeal was unsuccessful because the necessary legal basis for the limitation of the accreditations is missing. Neither the EU Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 nor the corresponding German law (Accreditation Body Act) authorize them to limit accreditations. As per the German Administrative Procedure Act, the time limit would only be permissible if it was permitted by law or served to ensure that the preconditions for the accreditation were fulfilled. Both is not the case. Although the recently established general rules for accreditation of conformity assessment bodies provide for a regular five-year limitation of accreditation, they are not legal provisions and shall be binding only upon the DAkkS. Externally – towards the applicants concerned - they remain ineffective. Therefore, they cannot limit the legal claim to obtain accreditation if the required competence is evidenced. A five-year limitation of accreditation is not required either to ensure compliance with the accreditation requirements. This is done according to the legal provisions based on an ongoing supervision of the accredited bodies. If nonconformities are detected, this may lead to the reduction, suspension or cancellation of the accreditation.

The court decision terminates a process that has been in progress since 2012 on the limitation of validity of accreditation certificates. The German accreditation body DAkkS will implement the court decision immediately and will grant accreditations without time limit with immediate effect. This does not apply to areas in which a limitation of accreditation is regulated by law. The judgment has no effect either on accreditations that have already been granted. In these cases, the validity of the accreditation notice remains unchanged until a possible re-accreditation.

News LNE



- On July 2 at the general assembly of COFRAC the board of directors was renewed and again Eurolab France holds two seats:
 - ⇒ Stéphane THOREZ Pt of SOPEMEA (testing) member of Eurolab CA, treasurer and member of the COFRAC board
 - ⇒ Thomas GRENON managing director of LNE (science, testing, calibration and certification), president of the board of Eurolab France
- All laboratory representatives in the Cofrac laboratory section committee are, this year , members of Eurolab France
- The French member of the TCQA P. Launey is chairman of the AFNOR XA50 committee in charge of compliance standards and ISO / CASCO mirror group.
- The board of Eurolab France in September 2018 examined the result of the internal survey organise by our federation.
- 2017 version of the 17 025: the development of the new version of the COFRAC LabRef 02 (accreditation guide for laboratory activity) has associated the laboratories through Eurolab. The new text provides clarifications but without indications of means or additional requirements. Quality and technical evaluators were already trained in this new framework. The evaluations according to this new version start at the beginning of October 2018. COFRAC is finalising the planning of transition evaluations (97% realised) to spread the workload till the end of the transition period.

News **MAKLAB****MAKLAB**

**MACEDONIAN ASSOCIATION OF
LABORATORIES AND INSPECTION BODIES**

**ISO/IEC
17025:2017
Changes and
transition**

Following the objective for supporting the Macedonian laboratories for implementing the relevant quality systems according to the international standards, in 2018 Macedonian Association of laboratories and inspection bodies MAKLAB organizes a set of trainings for the transition process to the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

This set of trainings includes accenting the changes in the new version of ISO/IEC 17025, presenting the transition process for the laboratories with implemented previous version of ISO 17025 and elaborating the requirements for the laboratories who are planning to implement the ISO 17025 in the following period.



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News NLA-South Africa

REVISED SI HIGHLIGHTED AT NLA-SA T&M CONFERENCE

In just a few months our measurement system, the International System of Units, the SI, will be changing to remove the last physical artifact and redefine the base units with respect to the fixed values of reference constants – thereby improving our knowledge of fundamental constants and in turn making lower uncertainties available in new measurement opportunities. This was the overall message from Georgette MacDonald of the NRC, Canada in her keynote address - *The Revised SI: A Change That's Worth the Weight*, presented at the annual T&M (Test and Measurement) Conference, which took place in Somerset West in the Western Cape, South Africa, from 8-10 October 2018.

With the theme *'Out with the old, in with the new' – turning a new leaf in science measurement and quality assurance*, the T&M Conference, hosted by the National Laboratory Association of South Africa (NLA-SA), presented a wide diversity of papers, including international speakers from the NRC, Canada, the National Laboratory for Civil Engineering/EUROLAB, Portugal, the NCSL International/Fluke of the USA and IFMQS Pty Ltd, Australia. The conference was structured around dedicated streams on the revised SI, testing (water, food, civils materials and stack emission), calibration, and the changes that have been made to SANS 17025:2005.

A further highlight of this year's conference was the representation by EUROLAB (European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories) with the president, Dr Álvaro Silvo Ribeiro, outlining the foundation of the Federation in 1990. Quoting the first EUROLAB President, Dr Ribeiro noted that: "When a group of Directors of eminent public and private laboratories took the initiative to create EUROLAB back in 1990, they shared a common vision: the European harmonised internal market could only prosper based on improving the quality and safety of products, goods and the environment, both to serve the European Citizens and to improve the competitiveness of European companies and services on world market."

"As highlighted by Dr Ribeiro, we are proud of our special relationship, with the NLA-SA being the first organisation to have established an MoU with EUROLAB, a partnership we are looking to build on even more if we are to jointly advance the science of metrology in a rapidly changing and challenging world," commented NLA-SA Director, Steve Sidney. "It is only through global scientific and technical cooperation that we will ensure that the required high quality data continues to be available."



As a result of this forward thinking, the NLA-SA also established a revised MoU with NCSL INTERNATIONAL, represented at the T&M Conference by Mr Jeff Gust, Chief Corporate Metrologist, Fluke, United States.

The NLA-SA is extremely proud of its relationship over many years with both these organisations and is looking to cooperate further in the future to the benefit of its members.

The NLA-SA is the representative association for accredited and non-accredited laboratories in South Africa. This includes measuring, testing, calibration, verification and other bodies, as well as laboratories which operate in well-defined areas of R&D in the natural and applied sciences.

The entire press release can be accessed by following the link: <http://www.home.nla.org.za/?p=3031>



News RELACRE

RELACRE and FELAB organized the V Ibero-American Congress and the 1st International Congress of Conformity Evaluation, which took place in LNEC Facilities in Lisbon, from 17th to 19th of October 2018.

This event had a large participation of 156 professionals, 7 International Keynote Speakers, namely, Heribert Schorn (i2ps, ISO Casco and IEC), Joaquín Abril-Martorell Hernández (CEPSA), Bernd Kroon (FENELAB), Drewin Niewenhuis (CEOC), Lino Santos (Portuguese Cybersecurity Agency) and Leopoldo Cortez (IPAC, Portuguese Accreditation Body).

Interesting talks were given related with Industry 4.0, Cybersecurity, Digital transition, Big data ad data analytics, transitional times, international agreements and trade, agro-food challenges, TIC Sector developments and ISO/IEC 17025 new standard, among others.



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News TURKLAB

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Calibration and Test Laboratories Association



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

On July 17-18, 2018, training on "General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (Efficient and Economic Implementation of Standard Revision Transition)" was successfully completed by TURKLAB Academy and the participants were granted certificates.



TURKLAB Academy, Training on TS EN ISO 9001:2015

On August 01-03, 2018, training on "TS EN ISO 9001: 2015 (Efficient Implementation of Standard Revision Transition) Quality Management System Briefing and Internal Revision", which was provided by TURKLAB Academy for Kastamonu 15th Regional Directorate of General Directorate of Highways, was successfully completed and the participants were granted certificates.



Training on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – THY Teknik A.Ş. August 06-07, 2018

On August 06-07, 2018, training on "General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (Efficient and Economic Implementation of Standard Revision Transition)" was provided for the staff of THY Teknik A.Ş by TURKLAB Academy. The training was successfully completed and the participants were granted their certificates.



Training on General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories ISO/IEC 17025:2017 /August 14-15, 2018

On August 14-15, 2018, training on "General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (Efficient and Economic Implementation of Standard Revision Transition)" was successfully completed by TURKLAB Academy and the participants were granted certificates.



Training on Evaluation of Calibration Certificates

In the training on "Evaluation of Calibration Certificates", which was provided by TURKLAB Academy on September 01 and September 15 at the Head Office of Türk Loydu, one of our members, participants were briefed on general calibration and metrology along with theoretical and practical information to ensure correct interpretation of calibration certificates and reference material/standard certificates of devices. The training sessions were successfully completed and the participants were granted their certificates.



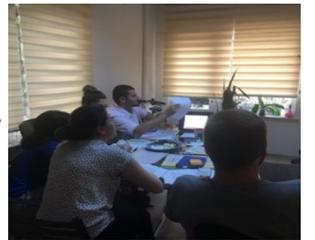
Training on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – Akademi Analiz Lab. September 03-04, 2018

On September 03-04, 2018, training on "General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (Efficient and Economic Implementation of Standard Revision Transition)" was provided by TURKLAB Academy for the staff of Akademi Analiz Laboratuvarı, one of our members. The training was successfully completed and the participants were granted their certificates.



Training on Quality Control Studies in Chemical Analyses of Water, September 05, 2018

On September 05, 2018, training on "Water Quality Control Studies" was provided by TURKLAB Academy for the staff of Mar-Lab Marmara Laboratuvar ve Çevre Analizleri San. Tic. Ltd. Şti., one of our members. In the training, participants were briefed on quality control studies in chemical analyses of water and evaluation of quality control cards. An exemplary quality control card was developed and evaluated. In addition, questions of the participants were answered.



Food Committee Meeting, July 17, 2018

On the agenda of the Food Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2018, legislative recommendations on new regulation studies and the operation of private food control laboratories were discussed and relevant decisions were made.



Food Sector Meeting, July 26, 2018



At the Food Sector Meeting held on July 26, 2018, opinions and suggestions of our members were evaluated and joint resolutions were made regarding the revision of the "New Regulation on the Establishment, Duties, Authorities and Responsibilities of Food Control Laboratories and Determination of Working Procedures and Principles." All revisions to the Regulation will be submitted by the Food Committee to the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. We would like to thank all our members who attended the meeting.



Visit to the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning August 14, 2018

Turklab President, Honorary President and Board Members visited new Ministry of Environment and Associates, 14th August 2018 in Ankara. New organization structure is very familiar to Turklab members. They know the sectoral problems. General Director related to Laboratory issues, promised to organize a meeting to clarify the problems and solutions of sector.



Visit to the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, August 14, 2018

We visited Food and Control General Director Muharrem SELÇUK, Deputy General Director Mehmet BEYKAYA and Department Head Hüseyin ARAP. As a result of the studies carried out with our members, our opinions and suggestions on the articles of the new regulation on which we all have agreed were conveyed.



Turklab- Türkak Collaborative Project, Harmonization of Assessors is progressing. The project started at 2017 and will end 2019. We hope that it will be a good example to copied by other National Eurolabs and NAB's. Turklab team visited Laboratory Accreditation Department of Turkak, 12th September 2018. Progress report was discussed and activities were revised.

Training on General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories ISO/IEC 17025:2017 September 27-28, 2018



On September 27-28, 2018, training on "General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories ISO/IEC 17025:2017", which was provided by TURKLAB Academy, was completed successfully with a high level of participation. The participants were granted their certificates.



Board of Directors Meeting, Antalya, September 29, 2018

The meeting of the Board of Directors was held on September 29 at Innvista Hotel in Antalya, upon the invitation of our Board Member Murat ÖZKÖK.

During the meeting, information was given about Ankara visits and committee activities conducted by the Food Committee and the Environment Committee.

All the training sessions provided in 2018 and their fees were evaluated. New decisions were made by evaluating joint purchasing and website studies.

It was decided to evaluate the needs and demands of the members in Istanbul, Ankara, İzmir and Mersin during the months of October and November under the leadership of the Communication Committee.

We would like to thank Ulaş Göktaş, the board member of Pro Analiz Laboratuvarları, who invited us to see their laboratories after the meeting in Antalya, for his kind invitation.

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 **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 **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 Observ-ers”** 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.
- 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”**.
- One nomination has been received for the Accreditation Body representative position on the IAF Database Management Committee, for Lori Gillespie of ANAB.
- The 30-day Ballot – **IAF PL 4:201X Rules for Annual IAF Membership Fees (Issue 5)** passed with 81 Members in favour, 1 against and 5 abstained.
- The Accreditation Body Membership of the National Accreditation Association of DPR Korea (NAA) in IAF has been cancelled (effective 16 July 2018), due to non-payment of annual dues.
- ILAC members are being asked to respond to the question of whether or not the **EA Proposal** or the **Executive Proposal** should be incorporated into the revision of the ILAC Articles of Association.
- As a result of the recent *ballot*, **ILAC G28:07/2018 Guideline for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation of Inspection Bodies** was approved for publication and is now available from the ILAC website [here](#).
- The results of the survey on Harmonisation and Consistency of Accreditation 2017 are have been made available. The ILAC Executive Committee is reviewing this report and will also be liaising with the Laboratory Committee to further consider the outcomes. It is anticipated that there will be a presentation on this topic during the 2018 General Assembly in Singapore.
- The 42nd EA General Assembly (EAGA) will be held on 21 and 22 November 2018 in Bucharest, Romania.
- Issue 2 of IAF MD 4 has now been published and is available on the IAF website.
- The Auditing Practices Group is looking for input for their 5 minute Survey about APG papers from (1) National Standards bodies, Certification bodies and Accreditation bodies and (2) Auditors training and certification organisations:
 - ⇒ 1. Survey about APG papers to Accredited Certification Bodies: <https://pt.surveymonkey.com/r/HJD7Q33>
 - ⇒ 2. Survey about APG papers to Auditors training and certification organizations: <https://pt.surveymonkey.com/r/H CZS3GP>
- The IAF Board is currently seeking individuals to serve on the Database Management Committee, which manages IAF Database, LLC (more information in attached email). They will be both a CB Association Member to replace Trevor Nash, and an AB Member Representative to replace Randy Dougherty who will both retire after the Singapore meetings.
- The OIML-ILAC-IAF MoU has been reviewed in 2018 rather than 2019 in order that the terminology of the MoU might be aligned with the new OIML-CS system introduced in January 2018. The IAF and ILAC Chairs proposed that, based on the nature of the changes, there was no need for an additional three-week comment period with ILAC and IAF members. The intent is for the revised MoU to be signed during the upcoming OIML meetings in Hamburg.
- There is an ongoing ballot regarding the admission of the **International Automotive Task Force (IATF)** as an Association Member of IAF.

- Due to held reasons, Mr. Shinjiro Fujimaki of JAB will step down as Financial Oversight Committee member immediately. As per PL5, the IAF Board has agreed to appoint Ms. Yuko Yoneoka, Executive Director of JAB to the FOC, and IAF members will be asked to endorse this appointment during the upcoming GA meeting in Singapore.
- The IAF MLA Annual Report for 2017 and related infographic are now available on the IAF website [here](#).
- There is currently a proposal from the JWG A-series Co-chairs in relation to the revision of the definition of the findings currently under peer evaluations in accordance with IAF/ILAC A3, as highlighted during the reports to the JGA last year in Vancouver
- Updated dates and locations for the **2019 Mid-term and annual meetings**. *2019 Mid-term meetings (Confirmed)*: Thur 4 April 2019 – Thur 11 April 2019, Mexico City, Venue Hilton Mexico City Reforma. *2019 Annual Meetings (Proposed)*: Mon 21 October 2019 – Wed 30 October 2019 (proposed dates), Frankfurt, Venue: Intercontinental Frankfurt. The changes in location from those previously agreed by the JEC (Buenos Aires and Dublin) were necessary due to increases in venue costs in Argentina and a shortage of suitable hotel space in Dublin during the last two weeks of October and have been agreed by the JEC.
- Several ILAC Executive Committee positions are open for nominations by ILAC Full and Associate members. The candidates for each position will be presented to the membership during the first session of the ILAC General Assembly on Monday 29 October 2018.
- Registration is open for the IAF-ILAC Joint Annual Meetings in Singapore 22 – 31 October 2018.
- **Ballot results:** Application of the Association of Certification, Inspection, Testing and Calibration Bodies (CONFORMA) for admittance to membership of IAF as Association Member. The ballot **passed** with 81 Members voting in Favour, 0 against and 6 abstained. Please find attached, for your information:
- Following the deadline for nominations, IAF Database, LLC Database Management Committee, one nomination has been received: Lori Gillespie of ANAB. The results will be forwarded to the board for consideration and further action as appropriate.
- ILAC ARC reviewed ILAC R6, P4 and P5 for a 6 weeks period
- New versions of the following EA publications have been made available:
- EA-INF/01 “List of EA Publications and International Documents” with a new mention “Owner” of the publication . Please note that for international standards and/or ILAC/ IAF publications, « Owner » means the related EA Technical Committee in charge of following the document. <http://www.european-accreditation.org/publication/ea-inf-01-2>
- EA-1/17 S5 “Supplement 5 to EA-1/17 EA Rules of Procedure Levying of Membership Fees” at <http://www.european-accreditation.org/publication/ea-1-17-s5>
- A revised version (with a new wave of updates received) of EA-INF/02 “Contact Persons of EA Full and Associate Members, Recognized Stakeholders and Observers) <http://www.european-accreditation.org/publication/ea-inf-02>
- The Abbreviations document is now online in the “Information and Promotional documents” category under EA-INF/16 “List of Most Common Acronyms and Abbreviations used in EA” at : <http://www.european-accreditation.org/publication/ea-inf-16>
- Following the updates received, a new version of EA-INF/ 02 “Contact Persons of EA Full and Associate Members, Recognized Stakeholders and Observers” is available online on the public website [here](#)
- IAF Board has approved the Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology, Accreditation Department (MNAS) as an Accreditation Body (MoU) Member of IAF. MNAS is also a member of PAC.
- Result: 30-Day Ballot – IAF MD 11:201X IAF Mandatory Document for the Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Audits of Integrated Management Systems (Issue 2) – 77 members voted in favour, 8 against and 6 abstained. Accordingly, the vote **passed**.
- Issue 5 of IAF PL4 has now been published and is available [here](#). The disposition of comments received on the ballot are as attached as well as Issue 4.

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 Co-ordination 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.
- 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.
- International liaison organisations that were active in the development of **ISO 31000 guidance**

on risk management in management systems are invited to work on an ISO International Workshop Agreement.

- *The systemic review ballot for ISO/IEC 17067:2013 Conformity assessment -- Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes has opened*
- CASCO members and organizations in liaison are invited to nominate suitable candidates for CASCO co-convenorship and experts for a JWG between ISO/TC85 and CASCO to develop ISO/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).
- A Clarification request submitted by SIS on *ISO/IEC 17020 “Conformity Assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection”* has been addressed by maintenance group of WG31.
- The ISO/IEC DTS 17021-11 ballot has closed.
- The CIB on the revised draft of the “Common Elements in CASCO Standards” closed on 2018-09-10 and the results show that 86% of ISO/CASCO P members **approved the draft**. More information and ballot results in attached circular.
- A DIS Ballot on ISO/IEC DIS 17029 Conformity Assessment -- General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies has opened.
- ISO/TS 17033, Ethical claims and supporting information, Principles and requirements has reached DTS stage and a three month DTS Ballot will open until 28 November 2018. The document aims to set out principles and requirements for making ethical

claims and providing supporting information. The ballot on *CD ISO/IEC 17000 Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles passed* with 92% of positive votes from ISO/CASCO members (the detailed results are attached). The WG49 will hold its 4th meeting from 19-21 November in Geneva to address the comments.

- Dr. Stefanie Vehring has been appointed as the new Convenor of the CASCO Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group (STAR).
- The 34th CASCO Plenary meetings and Workshop will be hosted by the Kenyan Bureau of Standards on 29 April – 3 May 2019 in Nairobi Kenya
- The results of the Committee Internal Ballot (CIB) on the CASCO Roadmap with proposed changes by the CPC **were positive** with 100% of approval votes from ISO/CASCO members (76 CASCO P members voting). With this approval, the first change concern the systematic review ballot of ISO/IEC Guide 68:2002 “Arrangements for recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results” that will be launched with the last batch of SR ballots in 2018.
- A three-month DTS ballot on *ISO/IEC TS 17021-8, Conformity assessment – Competence requirements for auditing and certification of management systems of sustainable development of cities and communities* has opened (more info in attached circular)
The ballot on the *Draft International Standard (DIS) ISO/IEC 17029, Conformity Assessment — General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies*, will open on 2018-09-17 and close on 2018-12-10.

Business news

- **AmSpec has announced the Opening of the Algeciras Technical Center.** In keeping with its commitment to provide customers a global Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) platform, AmSpec's Algeciras facility contains the newest and most automated state of the art equipment. AmSpec has been expanding rapidly in Spain with Algeciras as its premiere laboratory covering a full range of petroleum, chemical, and agricultural products. <https://tinyurl.com/y7hc4pz8>
- **IGEB – France, as of October 1st 2018, has become a wholly owned member of the AmSpec group.** The global network and customer focused business model of AmSpec will bring enhanced customer service to our inspection and testing capabilities in France. AmSpec, an international independent inspection and testing company headquartered in Cranbury, NJ, USA has serviced the Petroleum, Chemical, Gas & Agriculture industries for over 30 years with state of the art facilities throughout the Continental United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Australia and Central & South America. <https://tinyurl.com/y9cnuq2l>
- **ALS Limited has released its Sustainability Report** for 2018. The report provides an overview of ALS's sustainability initiatives, activities and achievements over the 2018 financial year ended 31 March 2018. <https://tinyurl.com/ycaudzkc>
- **Bureau Veritas Marine & Offshore launched the latest addition to their end-to-end and integrated platform of digital tools and services, Approval Explorer, a free and user-friendly web application available on any electronic device.** The new Approval Explorer tool uses a powerful search engine, which allows all maritime stakeholders to identify, locate and contact Bureau Veritas approved service suppliers or manufacturers, as well as search for certified products and materials, all around the world. <https://tinyurl.com/yd6oovhw>
- **Bureau Veritas Dubai Launches Residues & Contaminants Analytical Services for Food & Beverages.** <https://tinyurl.com/y7ltkqwm>
- **Control Union Industrial Inspections USA has gained authority as a Designated Approval Agency by the United States Department of Transportation to conduct new manufacture & periodic testing services on UN Portable Tanks, as well periodic testing for IMO 101/102 tanks.** The approval process extended almost a year, involving both management system and field audits, along with specialized hazardous material training for US personnel. <https://tinyurl.com/yafel84b>
- **Cotecna Lanka, together with the support and guidance of Cotecna Inspection India, has announced the launch of a new business line focusing on Food Certification in Sri Lanka.** This service was launched at the Profood Propack & Agbiz Processed Food Exhibition held in Colombo in August 2018, and addresses the growing demand from companies in Sri Lanka to become certified in line with industry best practices. <https://tinyurl.com/y89xukvp>
- **DNV GL has launched a new Global Operations & Analytics Centre for renewable assets located in Bengaluru, India.** The new centre will work in tandem with DNV GL's existing UK Operations Control Centre in Glasgow, to offer seamless 24/7 monitoring services that aim to strengthen performance and operational efficiencies of renewable assets alongside detecting, analysing and predicting failures. <https://tinyurl.com/y7hkugju>
- **Intertek prepares to support the implementation of the revised Guidelines for the 'Notification and Testing of New Substances: Chemicals and Polymers' to be issued by the Government of Canada.** <https://tinyurl.com/ybteooqr>
- **The Lloyd's Register (LR) Safety Accelerator announced its first round of innovation challenges to find innovative solutions for how to improve human safety onboard ships and floating platforms.** The nature of marine and energy, and the environments in which these industries operate, makes working in these sectors some of the most dangerous in the world. Although conditions for crew and personnel are improving, there is more to be done to improve the safety of life on board. <https://tinyurl.com/y7fp4nho>
- **A strategic project is announced between Tufton Oceanic's asset management company Oceanic Marine Management (OMM) and Lloyd's Register (LR) in the area of maintenance optimisation and digital innovation.** The project will cover the optimisation of the maintenance strategies on two vessels in the OMM fleet and provide the strategy for implementing Condition Based Monitoring. <https://tinyurl.com/y8xaprcy>
- **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, sea-ports, building maintenance and construction. <https://tinyurl.com/y7hqbuvp>
- **SGS expands analytical capabilities for contract research in Brazil.** <https://tinyurl.com/y7radlqb>
- **SGS in Shenzhen is the laboratory in mainland China offering a one-stop solution to manufacturers of wireless charging products hoping to fulfill the requirements for Wireless Power Consortium (WPC) certification.** <https://tinyurl.com/yd5tywjj>
- **SGS has announced the opening and KAN accreditation of its newly relocated consumer goods testing laboratory and offices in Indonesia.** At 5,000 m², this new laboratory more than doubles the size of SGS's previous facility and means the local teams can now deliver a one stop testing facility, with extensive capabilities and capacity for chemical and physical testing of products. <https://tinyurl.com/y99cgfh5>
- **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>

- **The Swedish subsidiary of the globally active testing service provider, TÜV Rheinland Sweden AB, officially opened its wireless laboratory in Lund.** <https://tinyurl.com/ybqdbta7>
- **TÜV SÜD announced the inauguration of the Non-destructive testing (NDT) and Destructive testing (DT) laboratory in Noida.** The fully equipped state-of-the-art laboratory can help businesses prevent incidents that are hazardous to human life and environment and mitigate financial as well as reputational losses, through standard as well as customised NDT and DT services. <https://tinyurl.com/y7zaawjb>
- **TÜV SÜD launched their hardlines testing laboratory in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.** The laboratory, expanded within the existing facility is fully equipped with world class services to cater to the hardlines testing needs of the manufacturers and exporting companies. <https://tinyurl.com/ybku564v>
- **TÜV SÜD launches Digital Academy in India and Singapore.** Instead of exclusively providing on-site

face-to-face training, TÜV SÜD now also offers online training which allows students to study at their own pace. Germany-based TÜV SÜD Academy is invested in the project, providing strategic support and technical know-how. India and Singapore benefit from the proven expertise and experience of the large-scale training specialist. <https://tinyurl.com/y83o79kc>

UL announced that the UL-Novi facility is now an OmniAir Authorized Test Laboratory (OATL) to conduct certification testing for dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) vehicle-to-everything (V2X) devices. <https://tinyurl.com/y8urusea>

UL announced the acquisition of Medical Device Usability, a Cambridge, UK-based human factors services business that specializes in medical technology, particularly medical devices, drug delivery products, and in-vitro diagnostic devices. <https://tinyurl.com/y9yl6ody>

UL Signs Exclusive Memorandum of Understanding with the China Food and Drug Administration's Institute of Executive Development. <https://tinyurl.com/y769saa5>

Business Results

SGS reports solid performance in H1 and confirms its full year guidance

<https://tinyurl.com/y73ef2gq>

The SGS Group performed strongly in the first semester reporting total revenue of EUR 2.8 billion (CHF 3.3 billion):

- Strong organic growth was achieved across the entire business portfolio, as the Group continues to build its offering to customers
- Total revenue increased by 6.5% (of which 5.6% organic) on a constant currency basis to CHF 3.3 billion
- Adjusted operating income grew 9.2% on a constant currency basis to CHF 481 million
- Adjusted operating income margin improved to 14.6%
- Minerals and Governments and Institutions achieved double-digit revenue growth of 13.8% and 11.1% respectively
- 7 acquisitions completed

The Group paid a dividend of EUR 497 million (CHF 577 million)

BUREAU VERITAS

<https://tinyurl.com/y8b768du>

- **Revenue of EUR 1.10 billion in Q1 2018, +4.7% at constant currency vs. Q1 2017**
 - ⇒ **Organic growth of +2.6%**
 - ⇒ 5 out of 6 businesses growing at 3.6% on average, including Certification at +6.7%, Consumer Products at +5.9% and Buildings & Infrastructure at +4.1%
 - ⇒ Industry returned to organic growth (+1.5%) after 10 consecutive negative quarters
 - ⇒ M&O still under pressure (-8.5%), as expected, a reflection of the shipping downturn (time lag) and comps
 - ⇒ 5 Growth Initiatives up 6.2% organically year-on-year
- **External growth of +2.1%**
 - ⇒ Five acquisitions closed year-to-date supporting the Buildings & Infrastructure, Agri-Food and Opex Growth Initiatives, adding EUR 80 million of annualized revenue
- **Currency impact of -8.0%**
 - ⇒ Appreciation of the Euro against USD and pegged currencies as well as some emerging countries' currencies

Policy news

Digital

- **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 de-commissioning 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 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/ygyujy5f>
- **The EU and China reaffirmed their commitment to advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement and intensify their cooperation on climate change and clean energy.** At the China-EU Summit on 16 July in Beijing, the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, the President of the Council, Donald Tusk, and the Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang adopted a "Leaders' Statement on Climate Change and Clean Energy". <https://tinyurl.com/y7jes2wd>
- **EU Member States agreed on a Commission proposal to invest €48.4 million in several key European energy infrastructure projects.** The EU funding comes from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the European support programme for trans-European infrastructure, and in particular from its energy window (CEF-Energy). This decision grants financial aid to 8 proposals to undertake studies, of which 4 are in the electricity sector, 2 in the gas sector, 1 for smart grids, and 1 for carbon capture technology. <https://tinyurl.com/y96vybh8>
- **At the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Bloomberg Philanthropies founder Michael R. Bloomberg and European Commissioner for Energy and Climate Action Miguel Arias Cañete pledged to join efforts to manage the global transition away from coal.** Bloomberg and Arias Cañete announce a new partnership to step up Europe's clean energy ambitions. Together Bloomberg Philanthropies and the European Commission will convene leaders from the financial and business sectors to further develop financially actionable strategies for a low-carbon transition and aim to highlight the economic opportunities of the clean energy transition in creating sustainable jobs and growth. <https://tinyurl.com/y9cdvgqx>
- **As of 1 September 2018, energy intensive and inefficient halogen lightbulbs are no longer sold across the European Union.** As a result of these rules, European consumers will be able to save on their household bills and, by addressing this at EU level, this will mean significant EU-wide energy savings – equivalent to the electricity consumption of Portugal over 5 years. <https://tinyurl.com/y7uler8w>
- **The European Commission has approved under EU State aid rules three schemes to support**

electricity production from wind and solar in Denmark in 2018 and 2019. <https://tinyurl.com/ycotrjhb>

- ETSI Technical Committee on Cybersecurity has recently released two specifications on Attribute-Based Encryption (ABE) that describe how to protect personal data securely—with fine-grained access controls. ABE is an asymmetric, multi-party cryptographic scheme that bundles access control with data encryption. The two specifications are:
 - ⇒ [ETSI TS 103 458](#), which describes high-level requirements for Attribute-Based Encryption. One objective is to provide user identity protection, preventing disclosure to an unauthorized entity. It defines personal data protection on IoT devices, WLAN, cloud and mobile services, where secure access to data has to be given to multiple parties, according to who that party is.
 - ⇒ [ETSI TS 103 532](#), which specifies trust models, functions and protocols using Attribute-Based Encryption to control access to data, thus increasing data security and privacy. It provides a cryptographic layer that supports both variants of ABE - Ciphertext Policy and Key Policy - in various levels of security assurance. This flexibility in performance suits various forms of deployments, whether in the cloud, on a mobile network or in an IoT environment. The cryptographic layer is extensible and new schemes can be integrated in the standard to support future industry requirements and address data protection challenges in the post-quantum era.
- The 6th edition of the **European Cybersecurity Month**, taking place during the entire month of October 2018 across Europe, aims at raising awareness of cybersecurity threats and promoting cybersecurity among citizens and organisations through education and sharing of good practices. <https://tinyurl.com/ybteuxg7>
- As of 29 September, the **EU-wide legislation on the electronic identification (eIDAS Regulation)** will enter into force enabling cross-border recognition of the electronic ID and allowing citizens and business to share their identity data when necessary. People will be able to use their electronic ID (eID) such as ID cards, driver licenses, bank cards and fill tax returns online, access medical records and online public services across the EU. <https://tinyurl.com/ya8fnjam>
- On 27 September 2018, Italy became the 27th country to sign the **Declaration creating a European Blockchain Partnership**. The Partnership will support the delivery of truly cross-border blockchain-based digital public services and help overcome obstacles for spreading the use of innovative digital solutions across the EU. <https://tinyurl.com/y8rhel6e>
- During the first meeting of the **High-Level Group on the impact of digital transformation**, its members welcomed the opportunity to hear the views of Commissioners Thyssen and Gabriel, who underlined the political importance of the topics under consideration and the need to ensure that digital technologies would lead to innovation and growth while also fostering competitiveness and inclusiveness. [The High-Level Group on the impact of digital transformation](#) has nine members and is chaired by Prof. Dr. Maarten Goos, University of Utrecht. The members agreed on an agile and iterative approach to the drafting of their recommendations, expected by the end of February 2019, and are planning to involve other stakeholders to better understand the opportunities and challenges ahead of us.
- The Commission has issued updated **guidance for ending unjustified geo-blocking** to help Member States and businesses active in the area of e-commerce to adapt to the new rules which start applying across the EU as of 3 December 2018. <https://tinyurl.com/y9b68zwn>
- To equip Europe with the right tools to deal with an ever-changing cyber threat, in 2017 the European Commission and the High Representative proposed a wide-ranging set of measures to build strong cybersecurity in the EU. These efforts are now being complemented by a **proposal helping the EU to pool resources and expertise in research and innovation, and to become a leader in the next generation of cybersecurity and digital technologies**. <https://tinyurl.com/yb4rm74x> <https://tinyurl.com/ybj4rbt6>
- **ENISA launches the Cybersecurity Strategies Evaluation Tool**. The new National Cybersecurity Strategies evaluation tool will help Member States evaluate their priorities according to their National Cyber Security Strategies. For each strategic objective, the tool offers recommendations and ideas on how to improve. ENISA developed the tool with the aim to provide results in a quick, easy and user-friendly manner.
- NIST announced the publication of the draft National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 1800-17: [Multifactor Authentication for E-Commerce](#). NIST welcomes your [comments and feedback](#).
- NIST announced the release of the second draft of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 1800-12: [Derived Personal Identity Verification \(PIV\) Credentials](#). This latest draft incorporates comments on the [previous draft NIST Cybersecurity Practice Guide](#) and expands the scope to include issuing Derived PIV Credentials (DPC) to manage mobile devices using Identity, Credentials, and Access Management (ICAM) shared services. NIST welcomes your [comments and feedback](#).
- The Senate Aug. 1 passed the bipartisan **NIST Small Business Cybersecurity Act (S. 770)**, requiring the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to tailor cyber-

security guidelines to small businesses that want to lessen cybersecurity risks.

- The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has [released a study](#) that estimates a **\$250 billion economic impact from the development of its Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)** over the past 20 years.
- To help organizations address the **cybersecurity and privacy threats against Internet of Things (IoT) devices**, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released [draft NIST Internal Report \(NISTIR\) 8228: Considerations for Managing IoT Cybersecurity and Privacy Risks](#) for public comment.

Energy & Environment

- **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>
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for a low-carbon transition and aim to highlight the economic opportunities of the clean energy transition in creating sustainable jobs and growth. <https://tinyurl.com/y9cdvqgx>

- **As of 1 September 2018, energy intensive and inefficient halogen lightbulbs are no longer sold across the European Union.** As a result of these rules, European consumers will be able to save on their household bills and, by addressing this at EU level, this will mean significant EU-wide energy savings – equivalent to the electricity consumption of Portugal over 5 years. <https://tinyurl.com/y7uler8w>
- **The European Commission has approved under EU State aid rules three schemes to support electricity production from wind and solar in Denmark in 2018 and 2019.** <https://tinyurl.com/ycotrijhb>

Food

- **Publication of an amendment application pursuant to Article 50(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs.** The amendments are related to geographical area, proof of origin and method of production. <https://tinyurl.com/y9o4ns6l>
- **The European Parliament's AGRI committee published its draft Opinion on Transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain.** <https://tinyurl.com/y8xnhe7e>
- **Operation Silver Axe III, coordinated by Europol with support from the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), led to the seizure of 360 tons of illegal or counterfeit pesticides.** Numerous police, customs and plant protection authorities from 27 countries participated in the Operation. <https://tinyurl.com/yayflaz8>
- **The European Commission has amended the list of Brazilian establishments from which imports into the Union of fishery products intended for human consumption are permitted.** <https://tinyurl.com/ybhjj6pz>
- **EU exports of agri-food products reached €138 billion in 2017, representing an annual increase of 5.1%.** With imports at a value of €117 billion, the EU has a net trade surplus of €21 billion in its agri-food trade, according to the [2017 annual agri-food trade report](#) published.
- **In May 2018, monthly values of EU agri-food trade remained strong with €11.2 billion in exports and €10 billion in imports.** For exports, this is 5.7% lower than in May last year, which was a record year. Monthly import value, on the other hand, was 8.4% lower compared to May 2017 resulting in a monthly agri-food trade surplus of €1.2 billion – a 23% increase over May 2017. These are the main findings from the [latest monthly trade report](#) published by the European Commission.
- **Due to dry conditions in late spring in various regions across Europe, EU cereal production is estimated below average in 2018/2019.** This is just one of the findings of the [latest short-term outlook report](#) which covers for the first time the tomato and peach and nectarine sectors, from the European Commission published on 5 July 2018.
- **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) have published their guidance on how to identify substances with endocrine disrupting properties in pesticides and biocides.** <https://tinyurl.com/yd2nfl72>
- **EFSA's OpenFoodTox database on chemical hazards now includes data on over 4,750 chemical substances following the addition of 321 substances.** The database is also more accessible now thanks to an improved interface with more features for exploring the data. <https://tinyurl.com/yc6thh2w>
- **EFSA has published its guidance on how to assess the safety of nanoscience and nanotechnology applications.** The guidance gives practical suggestions on the types of testing that are needed and the methods that can be applied. <https://tinyurl.com/yb8egbad>
- **The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is adopting as a final rule, without change, an interim rule that amended the inspection, certification and standards requirements for fresh fruits, vegetables and other products and processed fruits and vegetables, processed products and certain other processed food products by adding an option to allow for electronic submissions of inspection applications.** The interim rule also eliminated outdated terminology that referenced submission of inspection applications by telegraph. <https://tinyurl.com/y8oezth5>
- **The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today launched the new *Substances Added to Food* inventory, an upgraded version of the original *Everything Added to Food in the U. S. (EAFUS)* inventory.** The new searchable inventory contains approximately 4,000 substances, and includes information on food additives, color additives, Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) and prior-sanctioned substances.
- **The European Commission has published the latest figures on EU imports of soya beans, showing that the U.S. has become Europe's main supplier of this commodity, reaching a 52% share**

compared to 25% in in the same period last year. <https://tinyurl.com/ycev92cr>

- **The Commission recommends to the Council to open negotiations with the United States in order to settle a longstanding World Trade Organisation (WTO) dispute on export of US beef.** The European Commission is committed to deliver on the letter and the spirit of the [Joint Statement agreed on 25 July](#) by Presidents **Juncker** and Trump to launch a new phase in the trade relationship between the European Union and the United States. Besides implementing the specific elements identified in the Joint Statement, the two sides should also endeavour to work on outstanding trade issues. <https://tinyurl.com/yabpvu4s>
- **The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the fiscal year (FY) 2019 annual fee rate for recognized accreditation bodies and accredited certification bodies,** and the fee rate for accreditation bodies applying to be recognized in the third-party certification program that is authorized by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), as amended by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). They are also announcing the fee rate for certification bodies that are applying to be directly accredited by FDA.
- **The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has published a [Federal Register notice](#) announcing the fees the agency will assess for issuing new export certification for certain foods.** The new export certification and fees were authorized by the 2011 FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) amendments to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), which allow the agency to collect up to \$175 for export certification for food.
- **On August 23, 2018, American National Standards Institute (ANSI) notified the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc. of Troy, MI has become the first [certification body](#) (CB) to be accredited under FDA's Accredited Third-Party Certification Program** for the following program scopes: Produce Safety; Preventive Controls for Human Food; Juice HACCP, and Seafood HACCP.

International Free Trade Agreements

- **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 ex-changes 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 European Union has on Friday 29 June submitted written comments to the US Department of Commerce in the framework of the on-going Section 232 National Security Investigation of imports of automobiles, including cars, SUVs, vans, light trucks and automotive parts.** The EU has also requested to participate in the public hearing to be held by the Department of Commerce scheduled for 19 and 20 July. <https://tinyurl.com/y8dzlmyx>
- **The European Union officially launched talks for a comprehensive and ambitious trade agreement with Australia and New Zealand.** The negotiations will aim at removing barriers to trade in goods and services, as well as developing trade rules to make trade easier and more sustainable. <https://tinyurl.com/yarmyf8w>
- **Commissioner Malmström and Vietnamese Minister for Trade and Industry Trần Tuấn Anh agreed on a final text for the EU-Vietnam trade agreement, formally concluding the legal review of the document.** In a meeting held in Brussels on 25 June, they also concluded discussions on an Investment Protection Agreement (IPA). <https://tinyurl.com/yanp236e>
- **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>
 - **Members of INTA Committee discussed with the Commission and the EEAS about the proposed agreement to modify the EU-Morocco Trade Protocols in order to cover products coming to the EU from Western Sahara, and therefore make them benefit from the same trade preferences as those between the EU and Morocco. These proposals do not prejudice of the ongoing UN peace process about Western Sahara.** <https://tinyurl.com/hvz3ug2>
 - **Members of INTA Committee discussed the trade and investment consequences from the USA withdrawal of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.** In this context Members also debated the pending update of the so-called sanctions "blocking" statute (Regulation (EC) No 2271/96), as well as its current modification, through a delegated act, to include in that regulation all USA sanctions against Iran having extra-territorial effects against EU individuals or companies.
 - **The Council adopted a package of decisions on the economic partnership agreement with Japan (EPA), including:**
 - ⇒ a decision on the signature of the agreement;
 - ⇒ a decision to request the consent of the European Parliament for the conclusion of the agreement.
 - **The Council adopted a decision on the signing and provisional application of a strategic partnership agreement (SPA) between the EU and Japan on 26 June 2018.** At the EU-Japan summit in Tokyo, Presidents Jean-Claude Juncker and Donald Tusk, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, signed the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). <https://tinyurl.com/ybeg7cup>
 - **The US and Canada have reached a new trade deal, along with Mexico, to replace the current North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta).** The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is said to involve more US access to Canada's dairy market and a cap on its car exports to the US. However, the joint US-Canada statement did not give details of the agreement. <https://tinyurl.com/yb4hbhbn>
 - **The European Commission has published reports from the first rounds of trade negotiations with Australia and New Zealand respectively, as well as a set of EU text proposals covering 12 negotiating areas presented so far in the talks with Australia and proposals covering 11 negotiating areas presented so far to New Zealand.** <https://tinyurl.com/ybfrszw8>
 - **The European Commission has published reports from the latest talks towards a trade agreement with Indonesia and an investment agreement with China.** <https://tinyurl.com/ya2nvl9b>
 - **China called off planned trade talks with U.S. officials amid the escalation from the Trump administration.** The U.S. State Department's sanctions against China's defence agency and its director also contributed to the decision, according to people familiar with the situation. There's a growing consensus in Beijing that substantive talks will only be possible after U.S. mid-term elections in November, the people said. <https://tinyurl.com/y78bump4>
 - **The first Joint Committee under the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), held in Montreal (Canada), adopted a Recommendation on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.** The adopted document states that the two sides will work together and take joint actions contributing to the goals of the Paris Agreement and the transition to low greenhouse-gas emissions intensifying existing collaboration in the climate field. All of comprehensive trade agreements that the EU negotiates include a substantial chapter on trade and sustainable development and the most recent ones – with Japan and Mexico – explicitly mention the Paris Agreement. <https://tinyurl.com/yb6gqlqx>
 - **President Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker held extensive trade discussions at the White House.** The United States and the EU agreed to establish an "Executive Working Group" with their "closest advisors" to implement a joint agenda that will focus on a number of elements – but notably, the two sides did not agree to a new bilateral trade agreement, per se. Key elements, as detailed in a U.S.-EU [joint statement](#) and [joint remarks](#).
 - **Mr Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative, and Ms Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner for Trade, met in New York on 25 September 2018.** The Ministers reiterated their concern with and confirmed their shared objective to address non market-oriented policies and practices of third countries that lead to severe overcapacity, create unfair competitive conditions for their workers and businesses, hinder

the development and use of innovative technologies, and undermine the proper functioning of international trade, including where existing rules are not effective. The Ministers recalled that market-oriented conditions are fundamental to a fair, mutually advantageous global trading system and that their citizens and businesses operate under market-oriented conditions. They discussed actions being taken and possible measures that could be undertaken in the near future. <https://tinyurl.com/y7ta3nr8>

- **Robert E. Lighthizer, the United States trade representative, met in Brussels with Cecilia Malmstrom, the European commissioner for trade, in the first in a series of formal discussions about what officials described as a far-reaching trans-Atlantic trade agreement.** Mr. Lighthizer, in a [statement](#) afterward, called the talks “constructive,” while Ms. Malmstrom [described them in a tweet](#) as “forward looking.” <https://tinyurl.com/ycbmjblb>
- **The U.S. and Japan wrapped up their first round of “free, fair and reciprocal” trade negotiations on Friday, agreeing to pursue further cooperation and meet again next month to work toward a concrete deal.** <https://tinyurl.com/ybjh2x4m>

Events

Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- **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 GA**, Bucharest, 21-22 November 2018
- **ICPHSO Conference**, 12-13 November, Brussels
- **EUROLAB National Members’ Meeting**, 15 – 16 November, in Berlin
- **EA GA**, 21-22 November 2018, Bucharest
- **10th European Innovation Summit**, 26 – 29 November 2018, Brussels
- **EUIPO Observatory Working Groups Meetings**, 27-30 Nov 2018, Warsaw
- **9th European Food Safety & Standards Conference** 29-30 Nov 2018 Dublin
- **European Trade Policy day**, 27-Nov-18, Brussels
- **THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE 2019**, 25 February 2019, Nice
- **The MedTech Forum 2019**, 14-16 May 2019, Paris
- **EU Green Week**, 13-17 May 2019, Brussels
- **EA General Assembly Meeting**, 22-23 May 2019, Rome
- **EA General Assembly Meeting**, 20-21 November 2019, Budapest

Master class on implementation of ISO/IEC 17025

Second Master Class on finding cost effective ways for the transition into ISO/IEC 17025:2017 will take place on 5-7 December 2018 and will be jointly organised by Vrije Universiteit Brussel, AiM and Croatian Metrology Society. The focus of this three-day event will be the practical application of the new standard. It will be an interactive course, with problem-based learning approach.

Who should attend?

- Laboratory personnel who are responsible for the implementation, maintenance, improvement or operation of the laboratory management system
- Laboratory assessors and internal auditors
- Laboratory staff involved in training colleagues

Topics covered:

- Key changes in ISO/IEC 17025
- Impartiality and confidentiality
- Structural requirements
- Resource requirements
- Process requirements
- Management system requirements

For further information, please visit [EUROLAB website](#).

Important dates:
 30 October 2018: Early Bird registration closes
 23 November 2018: Registration/No payment deadline
 5-7 December 2018: Master Class

Contact:
 European Centre for Laboratory Excellence
eurolab@eurolab.org

Why choose an ISO/IEC training course?

- ISO/IEC organises about 50 courses per year for laboratory personnel
- ISO/IEC trained more than 500 people in 2017
- 100% of participants expressed that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the training
- ISO/IEC has a pool of highly qualified trainers from many European countries
- Most of the ISO/IEC trainers are experienced laboratory assessors

Who will be the trainers of this Master Class?
 Several international trainers from different European countries, all with experienced trainers

For more details on the technical and social programme as well as on the learning methodology used, please consult [eurolab@eurolab.org](#)

An International Master Class to find cost effective ways for the transition into ISO/IEC 17025:2017
"From theory to practice"
 5-7 Dec 2018
 Venue: Conference Centre of the Free University of Brussels (VUB)
 Co-organised by:
 AiM, VUB, EBE
 EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR LABORATORY EXCELLENCE

You have complains about your audits? Fill in our online form!

This mailbox has been created as part of the EUROLAB project 'Harmonisation of Assessors'. Currently there is a lack of harmonisation of assessors in Europe. Thus, the aim of the project is to contribute to the efforts of ILAC and EA to address the existing inconsistencies and improve the harmonisation of assessors.

This mailbox has as a main objective to allow EUROLAB to gather feedback on the experience of accredited laboratories with National Accreditation Bodies (NABs). The idea behind this mailbox is to identify the most common problems encountered during the assessments of accredited laboratories. For that purpose, accredited laboratories are invited to submit their input by filling out the questionnaire.

To access the questionnaire please visit [EUROLAB website](#).

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Harmonisation of Assessors - Feedback Mailbox

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Instructions for use
 To submit your input, please complete the questionnaire. All feedback received will be kept confidential and will be used by EUROLAB for the purpose of its project. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@eurolab.org.

Laboratory name *

Accreditation body *

Type of assessor (leader, auditor, technical expert, etc.) *

Type of tests/calibrations assessed (food, environmental, construction, etc.) *