

# EUROLAB Newsletter

© Relacre

Newsbriefing No. 1/2019

## Inside this issue:

<a href="#">National Members News</a>	2-4
<a href="#">TIC Market Trends</a>	5-7
<a href="#">Accreditation and Standardisation</a>	7-9
<a href="#">Laboratory News</a>	9-11
<a href="#">Policy News</a>	11-18
<a href="#">Chemicals</a>	11
<a href="#">Commodities</a>	12-13
<a href="#">Consumer Goods</a>	13-14
<a href="#">Digital Transformation</a>	14-15
<a href="#">Energy and Environment</a>	15
<a href="#">Occupational Health</a>	16-17
<a href="#">Trade</a>	17-18
<a href="#">Events</a>	18

## Contact details:

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

Tel.: + 32 2 511 50 65

Fax: + 32 2 502 50 47

E-mail: [info@eurolab.org](mailto:info@eurolab.org)

Website:

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

Dear EUROLAB members,

Please find below the first EUROLAB newsbriefing of 2019 with information regarding the actions carried out by EUROLAB and developments relevant to the Laboratory community.

This year is anticipated to be a year of great external and internal challenges that will be decisive for the future, with the understanding that once again EUROLAB should play a relevant role in the success of the laboratories.

First of all, there is a strong expectation of a year of high political uncertainty, with a high impact on the global economy, creating a strong conditioning on management decisions. These circumstances, which result from uncertainties about the near future in the European region, affect the activity of laboratories and their performance in the international context.

Another challenging aspect is the growing technological development, involving a strong innovation in materials, products, services and the evolution of social and environmental aspects, creating new concepts of urban life based on a key element that is the digital transition.

A third vector to be considered, of an internal nature, is the transition of the laboratory accreditation model based on the recent revision of ISO / IEC 17025, whose requirements reflect a contemporary view of the organizational models of companies and entities, incorporating aspects such as: digitalization, automation, advanced data management and data science, process-based organization, risk-based thinking and conformity assessment associated with decision rules.

In this framework is expected that EUROLAB will continue to have a strong bond to laboratories and their Associations in Europe, consolidating its role in defending the interests of this community related to a fair competition field, creating conditions for capacity building and knowledge transfer, and promoting the network of cooperation with laboratories and other stakeholders, fulfilling its mission as representative of a relevant part of the TIC Sector (Testing, Inspection and Certification).

Looking forward to increase cooperation 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



**eurolab**

## National Members News

### BMTA News



#### BMTA organised an event on Managing Asbestos on 28th March 2019, in Durham

The imminent publication of the new HSE 'The Analysts' Guide', recent changes to sentencing guidelines, duty to manage and even the outcomes of Grenfell, increasingly require building owners, advisers, contractors and test houses to look at how they work together to manage risk. Leading experts together with HSE speakers came together in this 1 day workshop to discuss changes in advice and thinking on best practice in Asbestos Management and Removal.

#### PROGRAMME

- Asbestos 4-stage clearance and other key changes in the new analyst guide. (Dr Martin Gibson - HSE)
- Recent changes to standards, forms and feedback that impact testing laboratories. (Frank Smith - UKAS)
- The Asbestos industry is doomed, unless ... (Gary McKendrick - Omega Asbestos Consulting)
- Why the UK needs tighter Asbestos control (Charles Pickles - Lucion Services)
- Asbestos and other hazards during the pre-construction phase – client responsibilities, the designers role and information flows. (James Ritchie – Architect and RIBA CDM Specialist Practice Consultant.)
- How decisions commonly made by main contractors, designers and clients can negatively affect Asbestos abatement projects. (Darren Payne - Rhodar Ltd)
- Asbestos surveys - do you know what you're buying? (Paul King – SGS Environmental)
- Learning lessons (Alan Willoughby - NORAC)
- Current exposures and work practices in the licensed Asbestos removal Industry - an update on HSE research. (Daniel Barrowcliffe - HSE)
- A breath of fresh air, managing risk through innovations in enclosure monitoring and management systems. (Ray Gravener – Federation of Decontamination Equipment Manufacturers)
- For more information visit: <https://www.bmta.co.uk/news-events/events/129-asbestos-2019.html>

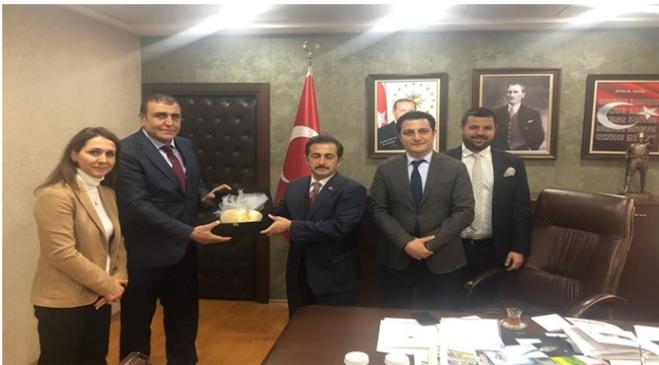
### TURKLAB News



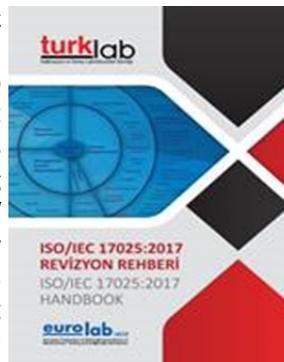
- **Board of Directors Meeting** - On January 30, 2019 at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on January 30, 2019, the issue of establishing a Consumer Product Laboratories Committee was discussed and on the agenda were also the draft of the 2018 activity report and the seminar being planned to be held.
- **Opening Meeting for the Technical Support Project for Improving the Standardization System and Increasing Awareness.** The meeting on February 20, 2019 by TSE (Turkish Standards Institute) was attended by Elif. It was emphasized that the total budget of the project co-financed by the EU and the Republic of Turkey would be approximately 2.3 million Euro, and the end date of the project was pronounced as July 2021. The objective of TSE is to renew the IT infrastructure and lend the standardization system a more modern and professional structure and so make the system more practical and functional. At the opening meeting, TSE announced that it had already started with the initial phase of the project. The second phase of the project aims to raise public awareness on the issue of standardization.
- **Visit to the General Directorate of Food and Control** - On February 13 2019 Halit KARABOĞA, Chairman of the Board of Directors of TURKLAB, Hakan TAN, Secretary General, Çağatay TURAN, the Chairman of the Food Committee, and Committee Member Sabahnur DEMİRCİ visited Mümtaz SİNAN, the Deputy General Manager of the Department of Food and Control, in his office. At the meeting, the issue of our new regulation came up on the agenda. A report was presented to the Deputy General Manager containing our recommendations to eliminate the ineffectiveness in the sector.
- **A Visit to the General Directorate of EIA Permit and Inspection was organized on 12 February.** Erkan Baysal, President of the TURKLAB Environment Committee, Secretary General Hakan Tan and members of the committee Numan Çakır, Tolga Tellibayraktar and Arzu Ballıkaya visited Ercan GÜLAY, who has recently been appointed as Director General of the Department of EIA Permit and Inspection at the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, in his office.
- **The assessment of the Calibration Certificates Training took place on 16 March.** The participants were provided with information on general calibration and metrology, and given theoretical and practical information to ensure correct interpretation of calibration certificates of devices, as well as reference materials/standard certificates. Sample certificate evaluations were performed.



- **A Visit to the General Directorate of EIA Permit and Inspection from the Environment Committee of TURKLAB** On February 12, 2019 Erkan Baysal, President of the TURKLAB Environment Committee, Secretary General Hakan Tan and members of the committee visited Ercan GÜLAY, who has recently been appointed as Director General of the Department of EIA Permit and Inspection at the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, in his office.
- **A Visit to Deputy Minister Mustafa AKSU at the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry** On February 13 2019 Halit KARABOĞA, Chairman of the Board of Directors of TURKLAB, Hakan TAN, Secretary General, Çağatay TURAN, the Chairman of the Food Committee, and Committee Member Sabahnur DEMİRCİ visited Deputy Minister Mustafa AKSU in his office. A report was presented to the Minister containing the recommendations to boost sectoral efficiency and significantly improve public health.
- **Turkish Ministry of Industry and Technology - General Directorate of Industry and Productivity** A delegation consisting of Halit KARABOĞA, Chairman of the Board of Directors of TURKLAB, Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors Neşe GÜNEŞ, Honorary Chairman Dr. Ömer GÜZEL and TURKLAB Member Ayfer ADIGÜZEL paid a visit to the General Directorate of Industry and Productivity on March 6, 2019 to congratulate them on their new organizational structure and discuss the issue of cooperation between organizations.
- **The Guidebooks for Method Validation/Verification and Measurement Uncertainty in Chemical and Physical Analyzes were evaluated** on a meeting on 23 January and the issue of adding some new matrices and methods to certain items was discussed and then decisions were taken and a technical committee was formed.
- **The Consumer Product Laboratories Committee Meeting took place on 7 March.** The first committee meeting was held on March 07, 2019 which saw great attendance from the relevant laboratories. At the meeting, after the introduction of the committee members, attendees' opinions and recommendations were received about the committee's work definition, the delegation of tasks and future work plans and decisions were taken.



- **Publication of Handbook EUROLAB ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in Turkish and Its Sharing with the Sector** The Handbook ISO/IEC 17025:2017 prepared by EUROLAB to ensure correct understanding of the revised version of the "ISO/IEC 17025:2017" standard by national and international sectors was translated into Turkish using TURKLAB's own resources and became a source of reference. This document is being shared with the sector for free, both electronically and in printed form.



- **At the meeting of the Board of Directors held on January 30, 2019,** the issue of establishing a Consumer Product Laboratories Committee was discussed and on the agenda were also the draft of the 2018 activity report and the seminar being planned to be held. Decisions were taken to hold a series of meetings and a study plan was drafted.



- **The "General Requirements Training for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories ISO/IEC 17025:2017" held by TURKLAB Academy on March 11-12, 2019 drew large attendance.** The training, at the end of which the participants were given a certificate, was a great success.



- **At the Board of Directors meeting held on March 14, 2019,** visits to the Ministry and TURKAK, committee meetings, activities attended on behalf of TURKLAB and new member applications were discussed. Decisions were taken to hold a series of meetings and a study plan was drafted.

- **TÜBİTAK (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF TURKEY) UME (NATIONAL METROLOGY INSTITUTE) Advisory Board Meeting** took place on 19 february in Kocaeli. Representatives from universities, the accreditation agency (TURKAK) and the standardization agency (TSE), non-governmental organizations, producer representatives, consumer representatives and expert consultants participated in the successfully organized meeting. The participants were informed about the sector and UME activities with a UME 2018 annual report presented by Dr. Mustafa ÇETİNTAŞ, Director of the National Metrology Institute. At the meeting, TURKLAB conformity assessment representative drew attention to the important role played by metrology in “preparing a national report on the impact of the conformity assessment sector on trade, environment and social development”.



- **A delegation consisting of Halit KARABOĞA, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association of Calibration and Testing Laboratories (TURKLAB), Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors Neşe GÜNEŞ, Honorary Chairman Dr. Ömer GÜZEL and TURKLAB Member Ayfer ADIGÜZEL paid TURKAK a visit on 6 March 6 to congratulate them on their new organizational structure.** During the meeting, TURKLAB officials shared their suggestions for improvement in the conformity assessment sector and emphasized that they were open to all kinds of cooperation with TURKAK in that regard. Orbay EVRENSEVDİ, Deputy Secretary General of TURKAK, provided information about recent developments in TURKAK. In this context, he gave the delegation the latest on the Process Automation Project, which will make significant contributions to the improvement of the accreditation processes; the European Accreditation Association (EA) joint evaluation audit, which was successfully completed in February, and other issues. The parties agreed that both organizations should continue to cooperate with each other going forward. The following topics were discussed concerning the improvement of the conformity assessment sector through Operational Activities and a Sector Policy approach:



- Information request about the EA audit conducted at TURKAK
- The TURKAK approach for Risk-Based Accreditation Assessment
- Assessment about the Turkish TIC (Testing, Inspection and Certification) structure
- Publishing guidelines on the importance of accreditation for Authorized Organizations and the Business World in terms of the observance of consumer rights and the related issues that need to be considered
- Preparing guidelines on the establishment of sectoral conformity assessment programs.
- The Food Committee Meeting took place on 20 March. At the meeting attended by food committee members, information was provided on the current shape of our new regulation and the reports presented to the Ministry. Also discussed was the issue of the support we intend to give the Ministry on the surveillance of the markets.



## NLA News

### Call for Papers for the Test & Measurement Conference 2019.

The NLA would like to remind you to submit an abstract of 350 words or less as soon as possible. The submission, together with your contact details and short biography can be submitted online. Upon notification of the abstract selection, authors will have until 31 July 2019 to submit their full manuscript. All papers, tutorials and discussion panel content should relate to the suggested topics and to the T&M Conference theme wherever possible. Event contributions are invited in the form of formal papers, posters and tutorials with a practical training focus under the following headings: Measurement and testing in industry: to highlight the new requirements from customers in your laboratories, Measurement traceability: method validation, measurement uncertainty, reference materials, Laboratory quality systems: ISO/IEC 17025, accreditation, calibration, proficiency testing, Laboratory staff: recruitment, training, evaluating competence. <https://tinyurl.com/y2vefm4p>

## EUROLAB-CZ News

- Technical and Test Institute for Construction Prague, SOE, member of EUROLAB-CZ is now improving the facility for steel testing. The renovated VEB TIW is suitable for testing of basic properties of reinforcing steel using optical sensors and high speed cameras for real time calculations.
- Contact: Stanislav Zrza, [zrza@tzus.cz](mailto:zrza@tzus.cz),
- Phone: 00420734432059



***eurolab-cz***

**eurolab**

## TIC Market Trends & Business Developments

### Mergers and Acquisitions

- **Within the scope of a strategic partnership TÜV SÜD Food Safety Institute GmbH acquires shares in flowtify GmbH, a supplier of mobile hygiene & quality management.** With the help of an app and IoT products, flowtify supports end-to-end and traceable cloud-based quality and hygiene controls within the scope of Regulation (EU) No. 852/2004 (HACCP). The flowtify app supports the digital structuring and implementation of documentation. <https://tinyurl.com/yxv2ha5g>
- **TÜV SÜD has acquired the IWT4 Instrumented Wheelset Technology business from SNC-Lavalin** (formerly Interfleet Technology). The acquisition further bolsters TÜV SÜD's position as a one-stop-shop for independent assessment, testing and approval of railway vehicles. <https://tinyurl.com/y3ago6mw>
- **UL and TIA are collaborating on an online learning management platform to support the smart building market.** This platform will educate and inform stakeholders on the many different aspects of and solutions available for this emerging market. Exchanging commercial, technical and standardization insights helps TIA and UL develop a common vision for what is needed to accelerate the deployment of smart building – and smart city – technologies. This will also enrich the relevant standards and training needed for effective and safe implementation. <https://tinyurl.com/y3es6bul>
- **Major Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Testing Company Acquisition Secures ALS Expansion in New USA Business Streams.** The long-term vision of ALS includes acquisition and advancement in the pharmaceutical sector. In a move that falls in line with the current UK strategy focus on supply chain services for over-the-counter and prescribed pharmaceuticals, ALS acquired BioScreen Testing Services, Inc.—a pharmaceutical, cosmetic and medical device analytical testing company. With locations in Los Angeles, California and Phoenix, Arizona, BioScreen brings a diverse set of services and capabilities to the ALS brand with major cosmetic, personal care, and pharmaceutical clients across the globe. <https://tinyurl.com/yylh3lku>
- **Applus+ acquires LEM, specialists in legal metrology.** Applus+, the global testing, inspection and certification company, has acquired Laboratorio de Ensayos Metrológicos (LEM), a company specialising in legal metrology. Applus+ is one of Spain's leading metrology and industrial calibration companies. This LEM acquisition follows two other recent acquisitions, of companies based in Madrid and Navarra, and broadens the geographical reach of Applus+ in Spain in this sector. <https://tinyurl.com/y6sgwfc4>
- **SGS has acquired Leansis Productividad, Spain.** Established in 2005, LeanSis Productividad provides operational and manufacturing training and capacity building services to over 200 clients across Spain. With offices in Valencia, Madrid, Barcelona, Sevilla and Murcia, the company employs approximately 75 people, with annual revenues of around EUR 8 million. <https://tinyurl.com/yddzkppf>
- **Bureau Veritas has finalized the acquisition of Capital Energy SAS, a French white certificates management company.** Capital Energy provides consulting and support services for white certificate projects in France. Its customer base comprises energy suppliers and large retailers. Capital Energy also helps housing organisations, local authorities, industry and building contractors to implement energy efficiency programs. <https://tinyurl.com/ycaewfew>
- **Control Union Industrial Inspections has acquired International Test Solutions (and Struqs Group) which is now included in the Control Union group of companies.** The formal documents closing the deal were signed in November by the companies' directors: Ron Winands (Managing Director of Control Union Industrial Inspections), Rudy Wilhelm (Managing Director ITS) and Steef de Kievit (Operations Director ITS). <https://tinyurl.com/y7ddcvto>

### Business Developments

- **RINA has been awarded a project for the design of the new International Meeting Facility of ESTEC,** the biggest campus of ESA (European Space Agency). As the largest infrastructure ever to be built in ESTEC since 10 years, the building will cost 15M€ and will be at the core of the campus aiming to be a key reference for international conferences about space technologies. <https://tinyurl.com/y2h8pcb6>
- **Leonardo and RINA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch a partnership in the critical infrastructure monitoring sector.** The agreement aims to create synergies between Leonardo and RINA. Leonardo—through its Cyber Security Division and the joint ventures Telespazio and e-Geos—and RINA will jointly agree on each business opportunity, defining on each occasion the best model of cooperation. In terms of technology and operational capacity, Leonardo will contribute to the partnership's development with its ability to deploy complex monitoring and control systems that include: sensors, secure communications networks, operation rooms, cyber protection, data centres, and deep knowledge of data analysis. <https://tinyurl.com/y6jv83ht>
- **TÜV Rheinland has announced that its product testing lab in Gurgaon has been accredited by the Indian Ministry of Communication's Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) to conduct testing under the country's Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecom Equipment (MTCTE) regulations.** <https://tinyurl.com/y6bklx5z>

- **TÜV Rheinland has been a cooperation partner of the Plug And Play start-up accelerator since 1 February.** With this cooperation TÜV Rheinland is consistently pursuing its innovation and digitization strategy. Based in Silicon Valley in the United States, the Innovation Center is one of the world's leading start-up platforms and supports more than 100 newly founded companies every year, including partnerships with internationally established corporations. <https://tinyurl.com/yvbtftf>
- **Applus+ Velosi in Ghana has signed a contract with Tullow Ghana for the Provision of QA/QC Services for the Oil Offloading System for the floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) Kwame Nkrumah Vessel.** The initial contract period is for two years with a commencement date of 1st January 2019. The Oil Offloading System Project includes the installation of a Buoy Turret Loading (BTL) system and associated suction piles as well as two offloading lines for the BTL system and the additional hang-off platform and skid. <https://tinyurl.com/y4yehpwk>
- **Applus+ opens new offices in Porto, Portugal:** Building on the objectives of growth and consolidating its position as a global leader, Applus+ is opening an office in Porto, Portugal, which will be managed by the new Country Manager, Alexandre Henrique Cardoso Pereira. Applus+ operates in Portugal through the Energy & Industry Division and offers a broad portfolio of solutions which can respond to a great variety of needs. <https://tinyurl.com/y25ev5ny>
- **DNV GL establishes new AI research centre in Shanghai** as it seeks new solutions to enhance its audit, inspection and survey services. The move recognizes China's position as a world leader in the technology and is another important chapter in DNV GL's relationship with the country, having first opened an office in Xiamen in 1888. The proximity to a leading AI innovation hub will allow DNV GL to collaborate with partners at the forefront of the technology. <https://tinyurl.com/y6x3mjbk>
- **AmSpec has announced the opening of their newest facility located in Belle Chasse, Louisiana.** "The Belle Chasse branch is strategically located to service the inspection and testing needs of surrounding refineries and storage terminals," says AmSpec's Chief Executive Officer, Matt Corr. "Its state of the art laboratory is equipped with diesel analysis capabilities as well as extensive gasoline testing equipment including octane engines." <https://tinyurl.com/y66dsdmp>
- **During the International Code Council (ICC) 2018 public comment hearings in Richmond, VA, revisions to incorporate new requirements and standards for additive manufacturing (AM) into the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC) were successful.** Throughout the hearings UL Codes and Regulatory staff had discussions that addressed concerns around terminology, code formatting, and the use of inert gasses in industrial operations. <https://tinyurl.com/y7ueener>
- **Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), McKinsey & Company, SAP, Siemens and TÜV SÜD have announced a collaboration to support companies, both big and small, scale the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies.** The collaboration aims to develop tools and offerings that can accelerate the digital transformation of manufacturers in Singapore and internationally. <https://tinyurl.com/ydgbpbky>
- **A project designing the first Europe-wide Guarantee of Origin (GO) for green hydrogen (H2) is one step closer to a transparent H2 market.** Undertaken by a consortium led by Hincio, composed of ECN, GREXEL, Ludwig Bölkow System Technik (LBST), and TÜV SÜD, and financed by the FCH 2 JU, CertifHy has issued more than 75,000 green and low carbon GOs that are available on the market now. <https://tinyurl.com/yd7n3w9a>
- **TÜV Rheinland has announced the results of a worldwide study "Industrial Security in 2019: A TÜV Rheinland Perspective", exploring how 370 industrial organizations protect their operational technology (OT) assets from cyberattacks.** The findings show that as hackers increasingly attack OT, many companies are not aware of the threats cyberattacks pose to their OT assets. Moreover, their measures for cybersecurity are usually not tailored to operational technology. <https://tinyurl.com/ya7pba7r>
- **TÜV Rheinland, has announced the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has recognized its photovoltaic testing laboratory located in Bangalore, India.** BIS is a Standards Development Organization (SDO) and the largest National Certification Body (NCB) for India, under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India. As a BIS recognized lab, TÜV Rheinland is authorized to conduct testing of solar photovoltaic modules. <https://tinyurl.com/y888teka>
- **Camin Cargo Control Group has announced its further expansion in the Mexican marketplace with the opening of their newest inspection and laboratory facility in Tuxpan, Veracruz covering the eastern seaboard of Mexico.** The Tuxpan laboratory complements a strong presence that Camin has built in Mexico, with over thirty years of service to international customers and the local market. <https://tinyurl.com/y9qgxkus>
- **COTECNA has announced the opening of a new national control centre in Dakar, which aims to increase the fluidity of Senegal's transit monitoring operations.** Cotecna has been working in close collaboration with the Senegalese customs since 2001 and initially launched a traditional Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI) programme. This programme evolved over the years to address Senegal's stringent requirements. We introduced new technologies such as scanners and a transit monitoring solution. <https://tinyurl.com/y7xo3wcj>
- **DEKRA Arbeit Group is expanding its international presence by opening two new branches in Paris.** The branches in France, DEKRA's second home market, are joining the ranks of over 140 locations in a total of 17 European countries. Through its expansion, Germany's sixth-largest temporary employment and personnel service provider is aiming to shape the European labor market on a lasting basis with the help of a placement-oriented approach. <https://tinyurl.com/ycn444yh>

## Business Results

- **2018 SGS Group surpassed CHF 1 billion in adjusted operating income (CFH 1 050 million, EUR 921.5 million)** <https://tinyurl.com/ych73odl>
  - Organic revenue growth: +5.3% CFH – CHF 6,7 billion (EUR 5,9 billion)
  - Adjusted operating income: +8,4% - CFH 1 050 million (EUR 921.5 million)
  - Profit for the period: +3,9% - CFH 690 million (EUR 604,7 million)
  - Adjusted operating Margin: 15,7%
  - Basic earnings per share: +2,6% - CFH 84,54 (EUR 74,10)
  - Proposed Dividend: 78 CHF (EUR 68,35)
  - Free cash flow: +12,7% - CHF 796 million (EUR 697, 4 million)
  - Return on invested capital: 24,2%
- **Intertek published 2018 Highlights** <https://tinyurl.com/y4gx9pqq>
  - Revenue growth: +4.7% at constant currency rates, +1.2% at actual rates
  - Good organic revenue growth of +3.7% at constant rates: Products +5.2%, Trade +2.2%, Resources +0.3%
  - Record adjusted operating margin of 17.2%: +40bps at constant rates, +30bps at actual rates
  - Adjusted operating profit of £482m: +6.9% at constant rates, +3.0% at actual rates
  - Adjusted diluted EPS: +7.7% at constant rates, +3.5% at actual rates
  - Statutory net profit after tax of £305.2m: +3.8% at constant rates, -0.4% at actual rates
  - Free cash flow of £350.6m, +2.6% year on year driven by strong cash conversion
  - Full year dividend per share of 99.1p, an increase of 39%
  - Acquisitions in high growth and high margin sectors

## Accreditation & Standardisation News

### Standardisation

- The systematic review ballot of ISO/IEC Guide 68:2002 Arrangements for the recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results was confirmed by 35 CASCO P members out of 58 with 18 P members voting to revise. The document is thus confirmed for the next 5 years.
- The ballot on Draft International Standard ISO/IEC 17000, Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles will open on 5 April 2019 and close on 28 June 2019.
- A clarification request on "ISO/IEC 17065"Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services" submitted by STAMEQ has been addressed by the maintenance group of WG29 –
- The report of 22nd IAF-ILAC-ISO JOINT STRATEGY GROUP (JSG) meeting – 27 November 2018 – Movenpick Hotel– Geneva, Switzerland has been published on the ISO website.
- The 34th CASCO Plenary week in Kenya will close with a regional workshop on May 3 2019 that will address the challenges, future trends and good practices in market surveillance.
- TIA's Business Performance Community (BPC) has been approved as A Liaison to CASCO with 100% of CASCO P Members voting.
- **ISO/IEC 17021-8: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of management systems for sustainable development in communities** has been published.
- **ISO/IEC 17021-11 Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Part 11: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of facility management (FM) management systems** has been published
- **ISO/DTS 17033, Ethical claims and supporting information, Principles and requirements** has been approved by 97% of CASCO members.
- **The Draft international standard ISO/IEC 17029 has been approved by 93% of ISO members and 93% of IEC members.**
- **The systematic review ballot of ISO/IEC 17067:2013 Conformity assessment fundamentals of product certification scheme was confirmed by 59/69 CASCO P members. The document is confirmed for the next 5 years.**
- **A clarification request on ISO/IEC 17025 submitted by AN-SI has been addressed by the maintenance group of WG44.**
- **Eurachem's measurement uncertainty and traceability working group has launched a survey to learn more about how different people view the often difficult topic of metrological traceability.** Responses will help Eurachem understand differing views and improve future Eurachem guidance on the topic – The survey, in English, can be found online.

## Accreditation

- Results: 30-day Ballot – IAF MD 22:201X Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for the Certification fo OH&SMS (Issue 2) passed with 76 Members in favour, 1 against and 14 abstained. Comments of the ballot and vote summary attached.
- For your information, the following revised Powerpoint presentation IAF/ILAC Handbook - March 2019.pdf is now available for download here: <https://european-accreditation.org/publications/>.
- IAF/ILAC Joint Working Group (JWG) on A-Series Maintenance is submitting the following documents for a 60 day comment period
- “IAF/ILAC-A1:0X/201X – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group”
- IAF/ILAC A3:XX/20XX IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Template report for the peer evaluation of an Accreditation Body based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017
- A new EA publication is available online on the public website, under “EA Governance and Policy documents”: EA-1/23 EA policy to speak with “One Voice” here: <http://tinyurl.com/y5kruwfg> **The following revised documents are now available on the IAF website:**
  - IAF Overview (Presentation) (including its objectives, benefits, structure, current status of the IAF MLA and use of the IAF MLA Mark) available here
  - IAF/ILAC Handbook (contains information on the role and structure of IAF and ILAC, their documents and publications, and membership type)
  - The IAF Executive Committee is submitting the draft policy document titled “Rules for the Use of the IAF CERTSEARCH Mark” for a second comment period. This document describes principles for the use of the IAF CERTSEARCH Mark by IAF AB Members, CBs accredited by IAF AB Members and Certified Entities certified by CBs accredited by IAF AB members.
  - The EA Executive Committee has published an EA Declaration on EA and Brexit’s impact.
  - ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC) is submitting the document titled P8:XX:201X “ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Supplementary Requirements for the Use of Accreditation Symbols and for Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies” for a 30-day voting period The Q&As are now available on the public side of the ILAC website. You can find them under the heading “Inspection FAQs” at [www.ilac.org/About-ILAC/FAQs](http://www.ilac.org/About-ILAC/FAQs). In order to put a question you need to sign in, i.e. you need to be a member to do this.
  - The IAF Board has approved the National Accreditation Centre from the Republic of Moldova (MOLDAC) as an Accreditation Body (MoU) Member of IAF. MOLDAC is also a Member of EA.
- **Recent IAF Publications**
  - ⇒ IAF QMS-003:2019 Rules for the Formatting of IAF Documents (Issue 1)
  - ⇒ IAF MD 11:2019 IAF Mandatory Document for the Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Audits of Integrated Management Systems (Issue 2)
  - ⇒ Rev. 13 of the IAF Representatives, Liaisons, and Contacts List.
  - ⇒ Rev. 15 of the IAF Public Document Responsibility List.
  - ⇒ Issue 16 of the IAF Newsletter (December 2018)
  - ⇒ The signed IAF-ILAC-World Bank MoU
  - ⇒ The signed IAF-ILAC-IHAF Bank MoU
- **The 43<sup>rd</sup> EA General Assembly will be held on 22 and 23 May 2019 in Rome, Italy, hosted by ACCREDIA, the Italian accreditation body.** The deadline for registration is 15 May 2019. The deadline for hotel reservations 10 March 2019.
- The document **ILAC G8:XX/2018 “Guidelines on Decision Rules and Conformity with Requirements”** has been submitted for comments. It is a comprehensive re-write of the 2009 version of ILAC G8 - Guidelines on the Reporting of Compliance with Specification.
- The document **ILAC GXX:XX/201X “Guidelines for harmonization of scopes of ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation of WADA anti-doping laboratories”** has been submitted for comments
- The document **ILAC Articles of Association\_2019 01 17** and **ILAC Bylaws Draft 9 Dated 2019-01-17** have been submitted for comments.
- **Results: 30-Day ballot. Attached you will find the 2018 vote summary and consolidated comments.**
  - ⇒ IAF QMS-003:201X: Rules for the Formatting of IAF Documents (Issue 1) – **Passed** with 85 Members for, 0 against and 6 abstained.
  - ⇒ IAF MD 17:201X: Witnessing Activites for the Accreditation of Management Systems Certification Bodies (Issue 2) – **Passed** with 87 members for, 3 against and 6 abstained.
  - ⇒ IAF MD 5:201x Determination of Audit Time of QMS, EMS and OH&SMS (Issue 4) – **Passed** with 90 Members for, 1 against and 6 abstained
- **The following document is available on the IAF website: IAF PR 2:2018 General Procedures for the Development of IAF Documents (Issue 4)**

- **The IAF Technical Committee (TC) is submitting the draft IAF Mandatory Document titled "Witnessing Activities for the Accreditation of Management Systems Certification Bodies" to all IAF Voting Members for a 30-day voting period.** This document is mandatory for the consistent application of the relevant clauses of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 Conformity assessment - General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.
- **The IAF Technical Committee (TC) is submitting the draft IAF Mandatory Document titled "Determination of Audit Time of Quality, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems" to all IAF Voting Members for a 30-day voting period.** This document is mandatory for the consistent application of the relevant clauses of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for audits of quality, environmental and occupational health and safety management systems.
- **The IAF Technical Committee is submitting the draft Policy Document titled "Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for the Certification of Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OH&SMS)", to all IAF members for a 60-day comment period.** This document is mandatory for the consistent application of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 for the accreditation of Certification Bodies providing certification of Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OH&SMS).
- **The IAF Executive Committee (EC) is submitting the draft QMS Document titled "Rules for the Formatting of IAF Documents" to all IAF Voting Members for a 30-day voting period in accordance with the IAF Rules.** This document sets out the rules for formatting IAF Policy Documents, IAF MLA Documents, IAF Informative Documents,
- IAF Mandatory Documents and IAF Procedures Documents. All IAF documents intended to be published shall be processed and authorised in accordance with IAF PR 2.
- **The IAF Executive Committee is submitting the draft Policy Document titled "General Principles on the Use of the IAF CERTSEARCH Mark", to all IAF members for a 60-day comment period in accordance with IAF PR2.** This document describes principles on the use of the IAF CERTSEARCH Mark by IAF AB Members, CBs accredited by IAF AB Members and Certified Entities certified by CBs accredited by IAF AB members.
- As a result of the recent ballot, the revised version of *ILAC G26:11/2018 Guidance for the Implementation of a Medical Accreditation Scheme* was approved for publication and is now available online.
- **ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC) is submitting the following 3 documents to ILAC members for a 60-day comment period**
  - ⇒ ILAC-P4:XX/201X Draft 4 "ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Policy and Management",
  - ⇒ ILAC-P5:XX/201X Draft 4 "ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Scope and Obligations", and
  - ⇒ ILAC-R6:XX/201X Draft 4 "Structure of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement and Procedure for Expansion of the Scope of the ILAC Arrangement".
- The draft document *Management of extraordinary events or circumstances affecting accreditation bodies and accredited conformity assessment bodies* **is out for comment**

## Laboratory News

### Business Developments

- **Oxford Gene Technology, The Molecular Genetics Company, has announced that it is expanding its Cytocell® operations with a move to a new facility in Cambridge, UK.** Cytocell, OGT's fluorescence in situ hybridisation (FISH) probe brand, will be moving into the significantly larger facility on the Cambridge Science Park, due to expansion of the organisation, current sales volumes and predicted sales growth. <https://tinyurl.com/y23k7jty>
- **Aigenpulse Receives ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 27001:2013 Certification for AI Data Technology.** Aigenpulse Ltd., a big data technology company which specialises in structuring, integrating and deriving meaning from large, disparate data assets, today announced it has achieved certification to the internationally recognised standards ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 27001:2013. <https://tinyurl.com/yxt6eq24>
- **The acquisition of B&W Tek LLC by Swiss Metrohm AG in July 2018 creates a larger solution provider for applied Raman spectroscopy.** In addition to the well-established distribution network of B&W Tek, selected Metrohm subsidiaries have started supplying the full range of the B&W Tek product line. <https://tinyurl.com/yyft6zf>
- **LGC has announced that it has acquired M.B.H. Analytical Limited, (MBH) a manufacturer of metal alloy reference materials (RMs).** Its RMs are used globally for quality control testing and material validation, including positive materials identification testing, in a wide range of end-markets, including the aerospace, automotive, metal manufacturing and electronics markets. MBH also distributes a range of third party metal alloy RMs. <https://tinyurl.com/y2vpduhr>
- **Global Flash Chromatography Market 2017-2022 Report provides detailed insights into the market dynamics to enable informed business decision making and growth strategy formulation based on the opportunities present in the market.** The global flash chromatography market was valued at US\$ 210.7 million in 2016 and is projected to grow at a healthy CAGR of 5.5% over the next five years to reach US\$ 294.1 million in 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/y6dy3b2d>

- **Kath Darlington, CEO - Scott Partnership Holdings, highlights some of the key findings from the IBO 2019 Industry Forecast.** This annual review and forecast issue examines 2019 growth prospects for analytical instruments. The IBO 2019 Industry Forecast has just been released, and is a great read for all who work in and service the global life science and analytical instrument industry. <https://tinyurl.com/y5shmsxd>
- **Lauda Dr. R Wobser GmbH KG has announced the acquisition of GFL Gesellschaft für Labortechnik mbH.** This is the third takeover in total for the world market leader from Lauda-Königshofen. While the previous acquisitions primarily served to open up new business areas in the industrial environment, LAUDA intends to expand its competencies in the field of laboratory technology with GFL. <https://tinyurl.com/y66egbyr>

## Laboratory Research & Innovation

- **The Pistoria Alliance has launched the next phase of its blockchain project, focused on life science R&D use cases.** The phase of the project will involve a workshop at which the alliance's blockchain interest community will aim to develop a potential use case to the proof-of-concept stage. It will be examining three areas where blockchain has the potential to improve: data identity, data integrity and data sharing. It will also identify the applications of blockchain that will provide little value to the industry. <https://tinyurl.com/y44xr4uc>
- **Imperial College has launched a new research centre focused on the use of synthetic biology to solve challenges in healthcare, biomaterials and sustainable energy.** The Imperial College Centre for Synthetic Biology is an upgrade on the Synthetic Research Centre, which opened in 2009, and reflects an expansion of the college's activities in the field. <https://tinyurl.com/y3t38t27>
- **Two teams have received a grant made available to any project implementing Blockchain in science, especially those that addressed the dissemination of research.** Research technology incubator, Digital Science has announced the recipients of its Blockchain Catalyst Grant as Datax — who are developing a system to improve the datasets available for machine learning — and VIVO who proposed the use of Blockchain to create new models of research value based on a diverse set of research outcomes. <https://tinyurl.com/yxn27hhf>
- **GE life sciences kit listed on Clustermarket.** Scientific equipment sharing and booking platform Clustermarket has signed with GE Healthcare Life Sciences to boost access to specialised life sciences and biotech equipment. The agreement will allow owners of GE Health Life Sciences instruments to hire out specialist life sciences and biotech equipment on Clustermarket's platform. <https://tinyurl.com/yxgclg4c>
- **Pittcon 2019 sees the latest version of Matrix Gemini LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System) from Autoscribe Informatics.** This release continues the company's aim of supporting organizations in meeting the demands of regulators and industry standards. Enhancements to the system have been designed to improve laboratory process management and access to, and visualization of data and information. Improvements to Quality Assurance (QA) worksheet (or run-sheet) functionality provides the flexibility to define and manage the often-complex arrangement of QA and unknown samples that is required. The changes help manage the workload of the laboratory and ensure that the correct Quality Assurance processes are in place. <https://tinyurl.com/y4s7uva3>
- **A new Metrohm white paper was published on data integrity when choosing laboratory software.** Data integrity in the context of laboratory analytics is a must, particularly in regulated environments. However, how is data integrity exactly defined, and what are the software features required to achieve it? The paper answers questions based on examples from modern Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) Software. <https://tinyurl.com/y2jtz9>
- **MediSapiens, a developer and provider of genomic, biomedical and health data solutions, has partnered with Modul-Bio, a provider of solutions for biological sample management, Biobank Information Management Systems (BIMS) and collaborative tools for sharing biological sample collections.** With the partnership the two companies aim to complement each other's solutions for biobanking, providing biobanks an all-round capability in managing, sharing and commercializing their samples and data. <https://tinyurl.com/y3jsec5w>
- **How to increase productivity and efficiency in laboratories.** Streamlined efficiency and making your lab work as hard as possible can often be high up on the agenda. In this post, the experts at Radleys, offer actionable tips and advice on improving productivity. GlaxoSmithKline approached the team at Radleys to develop their concept and launch a parallel reaction station as their commercialisation partner. <https://tinyurl.com/y437ptyc>
- **Reagecon, manufacturer of standards and reagents and supplier of chemicals, consumables and equipment to testing laboratories has implemented a Sana web-store to simplify the complex buying process for its customers.** The web-store integrates with Reagecon's SAP Business One ERP system to deliver technical and regulatory data on each product page, including the display of vital safety certificates. <https://tinyurl.com/y62njzpk>

- **CloudLIMS Launches New Instrument Module to Meet ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements.** The Instrument Module is for testing laboratories such as food and beverage, cannabis, clinical, and environment, enabling them to achieve ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation. Additionally, it helps a laboratory monitor the status of its equipment and assure that an instrument is properly calibrated and ready to use for conducting tests. <https://tinyurl.com/y69aw34h>

## Laboratory Webinars, Events and Conferences

- **The city of Cambridge, a global hub for research and healthcare innovation, is to host Cambridge BioTech Week from 24-28 June 2019.** The week will feature a series of events dedicated to celebrating, showcasing and accelerating the biotechnology and health technology work taking place in and around Cambridge. <https://tinyurl.com/y69zqc46>
- **The International Symposium on the separation of proteins, Peptides and Polynucleotides ISPPP takes place on July 10 -12, 2019 Baltimore.** World renowned scientists will address key developments and applications, productivity and financial challenges, and novel approaches related to biological molecule separations and analysis focusing on the latest innovations in technologies that are critical in clinical and biopharmaceutical research and are requirements in the manufacturing and quality control of new biotherapies and diagnostics. <https://tinyurl.com/y57y5o6y>
- **INTEGRA Biosciences is offering labs the chance to win a VIAFLO 96/384 pipette.** Designed to simplify plate replication, plate reformatting or reservoir-to-plate transfers, the VIAFLO 96/384 allows labs without the space or budget for an expensive pipetting robot to increase the speed and throughput of routine tasks. <https://tinyurl.com/y4mwyllc>

## Policy News

### Chemicals

- **Chinese plant closures disrupt supply chains.** Widespread chemical plant closures in China are threatening supplies of pharmaceutical ingredients and preservatives across the world, trade bodies have warned. Chinese authorities have shut thousands of raw material and chemical ingredient plants since the country's Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) last year promised to tackle air pollution with a one-year clampdown on polluting industrial sites. The plants involved range across industries, affecting energy production, finished product manufacturing, and essential raw materials. <https://tinyurl.com/y8b3s6ct>
- **ECHA reorganises to help take on new tasks and face future challenges.** The reorganisation aims to support the implementation of ECHA's new strategy, step up work in key areas, allow efficient and flexible ways of working, and enable ECHA to take on more responsibilities. Together with the revision of ECHA's strategy, the Agency has re-aligned its organisation to help it meet future challenges. The new organisational structure entered into force on 1 January 2019, after the adoption of the strategy by the Management Board in December 2018. <https://tinyurl.com/ydxmxc2g>
- **The United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) has banned the use of Lead Acetate in cosmetic products intended for hair color additives.** The rule is effective from December 3, 2018 and the industry has been granted a 12-month transition period, from the enforcement date, for reformulating products. <https://tinyurl.com/y8m39vrt>
- **In response to a request by the European Commission, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) submitted a restriction dossier in October 2018 concerning five cobalt salts.** The five cobalt salts cobalt sulphate, cobalt dichloride, cobalt dinitrate, cobalt carbonate and cobalt di(acetate) are produced and widely used to manufacture chemicals, catalysts, batteries, feed grade materials and biogas. The salts are also used for surface treatments and in fermentation processes. <https://tinyurl.com/y5d2s3eg>
- **Invista has signed a memorandum of cooperation with Shanghai Chemical Industry Park (SCIP) to build an adiponitrile (ADN) plant in China.** The 400,000t facility will involve an investment of more than \$1bn. Engineering works are currently underway. ADN is required to produce polymer nylon 66, a component used in multiple applications such as engineered plastics, automotive airbag fabrics, high-performance coatings and speciality apparel fibres. <https://tinyurl.com/y3mw62oo>
- **Preparing for Brexit is not just a matter for EU and national authorities, but also for private parties.** Businesses are reminded of legal repercussions which need to be considered when the United Kingdom ceases to be a member of the EU. This document analyses the legal consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal on the Chemicals Regulation under REACH. <https://tinyurl.com/y5q24dyu>

## Commodities

- **Asia remained top U.S. oil buyer in 2018 despite China trade row.** Asia more than doubled its intake of American crude oil last year even as Beijing and Washington were embroiled in a bitter trade war. China passed on U.S. crude for much of the second half of last year amid a series of tit-for-tat tariff measures. Although crude was spared from this Chinese purchases still plummeted. But robust buying from South Korea, one of Asia's fastest growing economies, helped offset the loss. In December, the Asian country soaked up record volumes to overtake Canada as the largest buyer of U.S. crude. Indian purchases also climbed. <https://tinyurl.com/yylzu2pg>
- **IEA: US to drive global oil supply growth; no peak oil demand in sight.** Global oil markets are going through a period of extraordinary change, according to the International Energy Agency's annual oil market forecast, Oil 2019. The US will drive global oil supply growth over the next 5 years thanks to the remarkable strength of its shale industry. Meanwhile, production of heavier crude grades is hamstrung by sanctions and other restraints in key producing countries. All this contributes to a transformation of global oil supplies, with critical implications for energy security and market balances throughout IEA's forecast period to 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/y6domhc3>
- **Compromise advances Nord Stream 2, but controversy remains.** Nord Stream 2, the controversial gas pipeline between Russia and Germany, advanced a step in Europe during February—but only a step. Members of the European Union approved a compromise between France and Germany aimed at easing concerns about Russian domination of Europe's gas market. They tentatively approved extension to non-EU pipelines of European regulation of electricity and gas markets. The move would make Gazprom unbundle Nord Stream 2 gas supply and transportation. Support comes from countries fiercely opposed to Nord Stream 2, such as Poland, and from others wanting Europe to retain influence over the project. <https://tinyurl.com/y2l7ldop>
- **China will produce 8.85 million mt of copper in 2019, up 4.8% on the year, while demand is seen up 3% at 11.5 million, generating a deficit of 2.65 million mt which will be covered by imports, consultancy Beijing Antaika Information forecast.** China will use 7.37 million mt of copper concentrate for production, while usage of scrap is seen at 1.48 million mt, Antaika said. The scrap volume is down from 1.58 million mt in 2018 on tighter supply caused by scrap import restrictions since last year. <https://tinyurl.com/y52ebkg3>
- **BP chief economist sees renewables, gas global market shares growing.** Renewable energy and natural gas appear likely to see their global market shares grow the most through 2040, BP PLC Chief Economist Spencer Dale told a Washington audience. But large investments still will be needed to produce more oil and gas as demand climbs more quickly in economically developing countries, Dale said during a Feb. 27 presentation of BP's 2019 Global Energy Outlook at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. <https://tinyurl.com/y6domhc3>
- **Proposed Standard for Portable Analysis of Biodiesel Content.** A proposed ASTM International standard aims to offer a new way to determine biodiesel content in diesel fuel oil. The standard (WK55232) is being developed by the organization's committee on petroleum products, liquid fuels, and lubricants (D02). It focuses on the use of portable, rapid, mid-infrared analysers. <http://tinyurl.com/y4fh2tht>
- **ASTM International Hosts Workshop on Copper and Copper Alloys.** Members of the ASTM International copper and copper alloys committee (B05) are sponsoring a workshop on April 3 at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Colorado, USA, that will provide an update on regulatory affairs that concern and affect copper and copper alloys. The workshop will take place in conjunction with the standards development meetings of the committee. <http://tinyurl.com/y6sk372f>
- **New ASTM international test method aims to address corrosion in petrochemical pipelines.** Refining, petrochemical, and pipeline companies could benefit from a new ASTM International test method that will help detect quantities of a corrosion-inducing bacteria in water. The real-time detection of such bacteria allows faster and more accurate remediation, which in turn reduces corrosion costs in pipelines and equipment. <https://tinyurl.com/y8tfahtl>
- **OPEC to Trump: Production cuts also helping US oil companies:** Trump, who counts OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia among his key allies, has been OPEC's critic-in-chief, tweeting eight times at the producer group in 2018 to keep oil flowing and prices low for the benefit of the world's largest oil consumer -- the US. The pressure from the president, along with threats by the US Congress to pass so-called NOPEC legislation that would expose the organization to antitrust lawsuits, has OPEC seeking to shed its image as a "price gouging cartel". <https://tinyurl.com/ycuo6fgg>
- **In squeezed oil industry, some rethink hunt for new barrels.** New partnerships are emerging in the global hunt for oil discoveries, with some explorers essentially offering an outsourcing service for the riskiest part of the energy business. Central to this new strategy are efforts to find an ally earlier in the process of discovering new fields, and on a larger scale, in order to save money as budgets remain tight after the oil price slump of 2014. While giants such as Total and Eni revamp exploration in-house, BP and Royal Dutch Shell have been more open to having partners do the heavy lifting of exploration in certain geographies. <https://tinyurl.com/y9j5e495>
- **European definitive steel safeguards get green light from European Member States.** The European Member States, as widely expected, have backed the European Commission's plan to impose definitive safeguard measures on imports of steel, the Commission stated on Wednesday. The Commission will now finalize the procedure so that the definitive measures can be implemented at the beginning of

- **Record-breaking export performance for EU agri-food products.** EU agri-food exports values for October 2018 were the highest ever recorded. Valued at €13.1 billion, total exports were 2.9% above the previous record set in March 2017. Import figures were also impressive, increasing by 5.0% (when compared to October 2017) and setting a record for the month of October. The monthly agri-food trade surplus stood at €3.0 billion – a 13% increase from October 2017, and the second biggest surplus on record. These are the main findings from the latest monthly trade report published by the European Commission.) <https://tinyurl.com/yclyz4ct>
- **The 2018 Economic report of the EU Aquaculture Sector shows a strong and growing sector.** In 2016, the EU aquaculture sector has produced and sold 1.4 million tonnes of seafood, worth almost €5 billion. Profits of the sector have doubled between 2014 and 2016. Employment figures demonstrate that aquaculture firms are providing more and more stable employment opportunities. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the latest information available on the production, economic value, structure and competitive performance of the aquaculture sector at national and EU levels for the years 2008 to 2016. <https://tinyurl.com/yatfsrb9>
- **America's journey to pre-eminence in the global oil trade is about to hit another milestone.** Propelled by the shale-oil boom, the U.S. is already producing more crude than either Russia or Saudi Arabia, who until recently vied for the top spot. By mid-year America will go one better. At the moment, Saudi Arabia could raise production all the way up to its maximum capacity of 12 MMbpd, surpassing the 11.8 MMbpd produced by the U.S. in December, according to the International Energy Agency. Soon even that won't be enough. <https://tinyurl.com/y8hfut9l>

## Consumer and Industrial Products

- **Consumer and commercial products, such as clothing, footwear, paint and plastic articles, may be treated with an antimicrobial pesticide to extend the durability,** shelf-life, or claimed public health benefits of the article. In the textile industry, antimicrobial technologies usually offer a biologically active surface that helps improve freshness, support hygiene and increase odour control. <https://tinyurl.com/y4jrlwbv>
- **Health Canada has issued a notice to interested parties to provide feedback on a proposal to change the Tents Regulations (SOR/2016-185), which also includes changes to the Toys Regulations.** The proposal is to update the flammability and labeling requirements in the Tents Regulations to address the flammability risk of tents currently available on the market that are made of material with different burning characteristics, compared to the material of tents at the time the Tents Regulations were originally issued – in 1988. The proposal also includes moving certain play tent requirements to the Toys Regulations. <https://tinyurl.com/y592wevk>
- **Apple, Duracell, Facebook Marketplace, Hermès and Signify signed up to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the sale of counterfeit goods via the internet.** This follows the signature of the company Lexmark who joined the initiative in October 2018. <https://tinyurl.com/yxn9q8pm>
- **On 8 January 2019, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union adopted Regulation (EU) 2019/26, which complements Union type-approval legislation with regard to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union.** A list of Questions and Answers (Q&A) gives further guidance on the basis of the Regulation in a situation where the United Kingdom (UK) becomes a third country without a ratified withdrawal agreement. <https://tinyurl.com/yxn9q8pm>
- **The European Commission has just agreed on the revamp of the energy label for lighting, fridges, TV screens, dishwashers and washing machines.** BEUC and its sister organisation ANEC - the consumer voice in standardisation - have long called for such an update, which will enable consumers to better understand how much energy their appliances consume. <https://tinyurl.com/y6ehy5kz>
- **On 22 January, the European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) voted on the adoption of the draft report on "Better enforcement and modernization of EU consumer protection rules" proposal,** part of the "New Deal for Consumers" package. MEPs voted for a maximum fine to be at least €10 million, or 4% of the annual turnover for companies breaking consumer law, whichever is higher. <https://tinyurl.com/y9jxgeu9>
- **On 22 January, the European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) hosted a public hearing on "Harmonisation as a principle for Single Market legislation - A key to EU competitiveness."** Two panels discussed the actual benefits of the harmonisation of national rules and the possible future framework for harmonisation in the EU Single Market. <https://tinyurl.com/89tnjcz>
- **the European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) initiates a series of exchanges of views with the relevant Commissioners following the European Parliament's resolution of 12 December 2018 on the single market package.** The exchanges aim at taking stock of the progress made thus far and discussing the challenges ahead to unlock the full benefits of the internal market. On 22 January, the IMCO Committee held the first exchange of views with Věra Jourová, Commissioner responsible for Justice, Consumers, and Gender Equality. <https://tinyurl.com/89tnjcz>

- **On 21<sup>st</sup> of January, in Davos, the European Commission was awarded the 2019 Circular Economy prize** by the World Economic Forum and the Forum of Young Global Leaders, as recognition of the work done to accelerate the transition towards a circular economy that protects the environment and reduces greenhouse gas emissions while delivering opportunities for jobs, growth and investment. <https://tinyurl.com/y7mwyntf>
- **A targeted stakeholder consultation aims to uncover how stakeholders see the possibilities for an increased use of the euro in the aircraft manufacturing industry.** Concurrent consultations are investigating the currency's usage in maritime and railway industries. <https://tinyurl.com/ybuyfs66>
- **The EU is proposing to restrict formaldehyde in specific toy materials under Appendix C to the Toy Safety Directive.** The restrictions could become effective at the end of 2020. <https://tinyurl.com/ybwbkzgl>

## Digital Transformation

- **A major technology company is setting up a £20m research and development centre in south Wales.** French-owned Thales works in the defence, aerospace and transport industries and already operates from 12 locations elsewhere in the UK. The planned centre at The Works in Ebbw Vale would be a test bed for digital security innovations. It said it would offer a "catalyst for regeneration" in the region. The first 15 people will be in place next month before the full centre is operational by 2021. <https://tinyurl.com/yabm2yd6>
- **Oxford University is suspending research grants and funding donations from Huawei, amid growing security concerns about the Chinese firm's telecommunication technology.** Existing research contracts already received or committed with Huawei will go ahead, but the university will not pursue new funding opportunities with the company. There are two ongoing projects in which Huawei has committed £692,000, the university said. <https://tinyurl.com/yc3mrqx7>
- **Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Mariya Gabriel, has kicked off the Women4Cyber initiative in Brussels, which was launched by the European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSSO) in November last year.** It aims to increase the involvement of women in the development and promotion of European cybersecurity. ECSSO has invited a number of top European female leaders from the cybersecurity field, including from the European Commission, to become the founding members of the initiative. In 2018 Commissioner Gabriel has outlined a number of Commission actions to increase women's participation in the overall digital sector. <https://tinyurl.com/ybkntzcg>
- **Following the revelation that up to 50 million Facebook accounts may have been accessed in an attack due to a weakness in the platform's code, many questions remain about the breach.** In theory Facebook could be fined if it is found to be in breach of GDPR, Europe's data protection rules. It has not revealed whether other services which people use their Facebook log-ins for - such as Tinder and Spotify - have also been affected. <https://tinyurl.com/y73mrhqr>
- **The EU Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) is organizing the first Transport Cybersecurity Conference in cooperation with the European Commission, the European Aviation Safety Agency, the European Union Agency for Railways and the European Maritime Safety Agency.** The evolution of the transport sector and its importance across EU, spurs the need for cybersecurity to be considered in a coordinated manner. <https://tinyurl.com/ybgsws4a>
- **Huawei, in the spotlight over the security risks of its telecom equipment gear, urged governments, the telecoms industry and regulators on Tuesday to work together to create a common set of cybersecurity standards.** The call by Huawei Chairman Ken Hu came as the world's largest telecoms equipment maker opened a cyber security center in Brussels, allowing its customers and governments to test Huawei's source code, software and product solutions. <https://tinyurl.com/y43ymb53>
- **Facebook's lead regulator in the European Union expects to conclude the first of seven investigations into the company's use of personal data this summer and the remainder by the end of the year, Ireland's Data Protection Commissioner said on Thursday.** The commissioner's office last year launched three investigations into aspects of a massive cyber attack in which hackers stole login codes that allowed them to access nearly 50 million Facebook accounts, including 3 million in Europe. Since then it has launched a separate probe into "a large number of other breaches," including Facebook's disclosure in December that a bug may have exposed private photos of up to 6.8 million users. <https://tinyurl.com/y2pd2xcr>
- **Commission asks online platforms to provide more details on progress made against disinformation.** The European Commission has published reports by Facebook, Google and Twitter covering the progress made in January 2019 on their commitments to fight disinformation. These three online platforms are signatories of the Code of Practice against disinformation and have been asked to report monthly on their actions ahead of the European Parliament elections in May 2019. More specifically, the Commission asked to receive detailed information to monitor progress on the scrutiny of ad placement, transparency of political advertising, closure of fake accounts and marking systems for automated bots. <https://tinyurl.com/y3j6o4m3>
- **Windows 7 users are at risk from a "serious" bug that could let malicious hackers take over their computer, Google has warned.** Cyber-thieves are "actively exploiting" the vulnerability by combining it with a separate flaw found in the Chrome browser. Google has issued an update for its Chrome web browser to close the loophole. Microsoft has said it is also working on a fix for the problem in Windows 7. <https://tinyurl.com/y6ljies3m>

- **ENISA releases SMASHiNG – SMARTphone Secure development Guidelines – an online tool that maps security measures for smartphone guidelines.** The tool supports developers to build secure mobile applications. The SMASHiNG tool supports developers to build secure mobile applications. It is technologically agnostic, hence can be applied to all mobile applications developed for any operating system on the market nowadays. New developments in both software and hardware area have resulted into new significant threats for the mobile computing environment, highlighting the need for a tool to help the developers' community. <https://tinyurl.com/yy7qevid>
- **The European Parliament adopted the Cybersecurity Act and released a resolution calling for action at EU level on the security threats linked to China's growing technological presence in the EU.** The Cybersecurity Act will be the EU's framework Regulation for the certification & cybersecurity risks. To be fully adopted, it needs to be rubberstamped also by the Council of the EU. The EU Parliament adopted a non-legislative resolution urging for action against recent allegations 5G equipment may embed backdoors linked to Chinese authorities or manufacturers. <http://tinyurl.com/y4kmsem3>

## Energy and Environment

- **The EU Parliament put forward plans to make the EU approval procedure of pesticides more transparent and accountable, including granting the public access to studies used in authorisation.** During the procedure, applicants should be required to register all regulatory studies that will be carried out in a public register, and allow for a "comment period", during which stakeholders are able to provide additional existing data to ensure that all relevant information is taken into account before a decision is made. <https://tinyurl.com/y7w2jbt>
- **The European Parliament voted on 15 January to extend the funding of an experimental fusion power reactor through to 2027.** MEPs agreed to sign off on the €6 billion proposed budget for the 2021-2027 period but also pointed out that construction was meant to be completed by 2020. However, some MEPs are still concerned about the multi-billion project that could revolutionise the way power is generated. <https://tinyurl.com/yafrw283>
- **Seven EU member states missed an end-of-2018 deadline to submit draft energy and climate plans to the European Commission,** which are essential to the bloc's overall targets for 2030, including energy efficiency and renewable energy uptake, as well as commitments made under the Paris Agreement (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg and Spain). <https://tinyurl.com/yda268m4>
- **The European Parliament's committee on environment, Public Health and Food Safety voted on the draft opinion based on the Commission proposal amending a number of regulations in the agriculture policy area on 29 January,** including Reg. 251/2014 on definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products. The proposed Regulation also amends a limited number of provisions in Reg. (EU) 1308/2013, in view of economic, environmental and societal evolutions experienced since its entry into force in 2014. <https://tinyurl.com/c8mphi6>
- **The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) elected the European candidate, Mr Francesco La Camera from Italy, as its new Director-General.** Mr La Camera will succeed Mr Adnan Amin from Kenya, who has headed the organisation since it was officially inaugurated in 2011. <https://tinyurl.com/yccv7ee7>
- **To make energy labels more understandable for consumers and help make better informed purchasing choices, the Commission adopted today new energy efficiency labels** covering dishwashers, washing machines and washer-driers, refrigerators, lamps, electronic displays including televisions, and refrigerating appliances with a direct sales function. <https://tinyurl.com/y6xrc4jd>
- **Since their Joint Statement of 25 July 2018 in Washington D.C., when President Juncker and President Trump agreed to strengthen EU-U.S. strategic cooperation including in the area of energy, EU imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the U.S. have increased by 181%.** The 1st EU-U.S. Energy Council High-Level Forum will take place on 2 May 2019 in Brussels. <https://tinyurl.com/yytvkjo>
- **EU Budget: The Commission welcomes provisional agreement for funding high-performance infrastructure to better connect Europeans.** It welcomes the provisional agreement reached by the European Parliament and the Council on the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) proposal, as part of the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027. <https://tinyurl.com/y4qpm7vu>
- **On March 7, the European Commission decided to refer Spain to the Court of Justice** of the EU for not ensuring that the requirements on individual metering in multi-apartment and multi-purpose buildings laid down in the Energy Efficiency Directive (Directive 2012/27/EU) are complied with. <https://tinyurl.com/yy9gozfu>
- **On 13 March, Plenary is set to vote on the above text following the provisional agreement reached with Council on 27 November 2018 regarding the clarification of the production and labelling rules for most categories of spirit drinks,** including the definition of maximum sweetening limits for a number of categories at EU level, the improvement of the labelling rules that apply in case spirit drinks are combined with other products & the creation of an accessible register of the Member States' control authorities. <https://tinyurl.com/y2hh3d7m>
- **A Newsweek Vantage study, "Going Circular: How global business is embracing the circular economy," shows 98 percent of executives surveyed are familiar with the concept of circular economy,** 95 percent of business executives view circularity as positive, & 30 percent said their company has a circular strategy. <https://tinyurl.com/y2eb9ds4>

## Occupational Health and Safety

- **Some of the possible occupational health implications for the e-retail workforce of the future are discussed in a recently published OSHwiki article.** E-retailers are increasingly automating, using a 'gig economy' workforce and minimising costs throughout their businesses. The drive for efficiency can arguably compromise the working conditions of the workforce. <https://tinyurl.com/y7rt2ucm>
- **EU-OSHA's latest country reports examine occupational safety and health (OSH) arrangements in micro and small enterprises (MSEs),** from different economic sectors, in nine EU Member States: Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom. <https://tinyurl.com/y8f9q9xu>
- **The European Agency for Safety and Health at work published a report that describes the development of new methods to assess the number of workers exposed to dangerous substances** in the EU and the extent of that exposure. The study aimed to identify the substances and sectors that pose the greatest risks to workers, examining the trends over time. <https://tinyurl.com/ybtox28n>
- **The European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks - ESENER - is an extensive survey that looks at how European workplaces manage safety and health risks in practice.** The pilot test of ESENER-3 was launched on 17 January 2019. It will interview between 30 and 40 establishments in each of the 33 countries covered by the survey. <https://osha.europa.eu/en/oshnews/launch-pilot-test-esener-3>
- **The EU has recently amended its 'Food Contact Plastics' Regulation.** This latest revision will become effective on January 31, 2019. According to the latest Regulation, food contact plastics that are compliant before the effective date of the latest publication may be placed on the market until January 31, 2019 and may remain on the market until stocks are exhausted. <https://tinyurl.com/ybp5yop6>
- **On January 15, 2019, European Chemical Agency (ECHA) updated the Candidate List by adding six new Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs).** The addition of these new SVHCs brings the total number of entries to 197. <https://tinyurl.com/y7qtfsow>
- **U.S. Department of labor has issued a final rule to protect privacy of workers by eliminating** the requirement for establishments with 250 or more employees to electronically submit information from OSHA Form 300 and 301 each year. This shall prevent routine government collection of possibly sensitive information. <https://tinyurl.com/yd3fvscr>
- **U.S. Department of labor publishes new FAQs on controlling silica in general industry.** The agency's standard for respirable crystalline silica in general industry were developed in consultation with industry and union stakeholders to provide guidance to employers and employees on the standard's requirements, such as exposure assessments, regulated areas, methods of compliance, and communicating silica hazards to employees. <https://tinyurl.com/yd6kvyxq>
- **U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has developed a collection of compliance assistance resources to address falls in the workplace,** the leading cause of worker fatality in the construction industry. Falls can be prevented if employers *plan* ahead to ensure the job is done safely; *provide* the right equipment; and *train* workers to use the equipment safely. OSHA is working with industry stakeholders to provide informative compliance assistance resources. <https://tinyurl.com/ybkhdpnk>
- **OSHA issues a statement regarding the decline in workplace fatalities in 2017.** There were 43 fewer workplace fatalities in 2017 than the previous year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2017 (CFOI) report released on 18 December 2018. The fatal injury rate also decreased from 3.6 percent in 2016 to 3.5 percent in 2017. <https://tinyurl.com/ycor34tu>
- **EU-OSHA welcomes the new Vision Zero app from the Vision Zero global campaign,** run by the International Social Security Association (ISSA). The app promotes ISSA's '7 golden rules — for zero accidents and healthy work', is quick and easy to use, and shows the workplace safety and health status of an organisation. <https://tinyurl.com/yalakdg7>
- **The Nordic Institute for Advanced Training in Occupational Health (NIVA) will be running a training course focused on new ways of promoting and supporting work ability in small enterprises through occupational health cooperation (OHC).** It will take place from 21st to 22nd of May 2019 at Hotel Clarion, Helsinki, Finland. The main topics to be discussed are small enterprises as clients of OHS, the concept of occupational health cooperation (OHC), characteristics of good OHC, OHC models and tools developed for SEs operating in different business sectors and evaluating the quality of OHC in SEs. [Registrations are open until 16 April 2019. https://tinyurl.com/y3voaf5p](https://tinyurl.com/y3voaf5p)
- **3D printing is the buzzword in innovation and the creative industry. But what it is, exactly, remains unclear to the general public.** The impact on the well-being of the worker may be considerable. It poses new risks in terms of job insecurity, working hours, liability, monotony and routine on the job, keeping up with new developments by training and education, and, finally, security risks arising from the introduction of experimental machinery. <https://tinyurl.com/y3jx3hjk>
- **OSHA Requests Information on the Powered Industrial Trucks Standard.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is requesting information as the Agency considers rulemaking to update the powered industrial trucks standards for general, maritime, and construction industries. The standards became effective in 1971, and were based on industry consensus standards from 1969. Since then, national consensus standards have been updated several times. <https://tinyurl.com/yxehm3h8>

- **U.S. Department of Labor Provides Interim Compliance Guidance for Evaluation of Crane Operators.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued enforcement guidance on the requirements for evaluating crane operators that became effective February 7, 2019. <https://tinyurl.com/y65qbevy>
- **New rule on transporting Hazardous Material.** The Department of Transportation issued a final rule, "to revise and clarify requirements for comprehensive oil spill response plans, and to expand their applicability based on petroleum oil thresholds," when transporting via train. The rule includes reporting requirements to state and tribal governments. The department also issued an interim final rule that, "prohibits the transport of lithium ion cells and batteries as cargo on passenger aircraft; requires lithium ion cells and batteries to be shipped at not more than a 30% state of charge aboard cargo-only aircraft when not packed with or contained in equipment; and limits the use of alternative provisions for small lithium cell or battery shipments." <https://tinyurl.com/y4rngcbk>
- **The 21st Century Cures Act on Interoperability, Information Blocking, and the ONC Health IT Certification Program was published.** The Department of Health & Human Services issued a proposed rule to, "advance interoperability and support the access, exchange, and use of electronic health information." Comments due May 3. If you would like TICC to comment, please send us your inputs by March 25 COB. <https://tinyurl.com/y6bue6ht>

## Trade

- **EU-U.S. Trade Talks: European Commission presents draft negotiating mandates.** The European Commission has adopted proposals for negotiating directives for its trade talks with the United States: one on conformity assessment, and one on the elimination of tariffs for industrial goods. These negotiations follow the Joint Statement agreed by President Juncker and President Trump last July. As part of its commitment to transparency, the European Commission is publishing the draft mandates at the same time as submitting them to the EU Member States. The Member States must now give their green light to the proposals before negotiations can begin. <https://tinyurl.com/yb7ahj9o>
- **The European Commission has published a report on the implementation of the 25 July 2018 Joint Statement agreed by Presidents Juncker and Trump.** <https://tinyurl.com/yaga8bhp>
- **European Commission set to adopt definitive safeguard measures on imports of steel.** The European Commission welcomes the support received yesterday from Member States to its plan to impose definitive safeguard measures on imports of steel. These measures are intended to shield European steel producers following the trade diversion of steel into the EU market from other producers around the world as a result of the unilateral US measures restricting imports of steel to the American market. The definitive measures aim to preserve traditional trade flows. <https://tinyurl.com/y7a9o32a>
- **The U.S. Treasury Department lifted sanctions on three firms tied to Russian tycoon Oleg Deripaska, including United Co. Rusal, a move that will provide relief to the global aluminum market.** The metal fell in London. Deripaska, an ally of Russian leader Vladimir Putin, will remain under U.S. sanctions, and his property will remain blocked. But the Treasury Department is removing restrictions on Rusal, En+ Group Plc and EuroSibEnergO JSC. The European Commission adopted the EU-Vietnam trade and investment agreements, paving the way for their signature and conclusion. <https://tinyurl.com/y8zz5637>
- **At the World Economic Forum in Davos 76 countries - the European Union and 47 other members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) - decided to start negotiations to put in place global rules on electronic commerce.** The last decades have seen the exponential growth of domestic and cross-border electronic commerce. Despite this fast increase in electronic transactions, there are no specific multilateral rules in the WTO regulating this type of trade. Business and consumers instead have to rely on a patchwork of rules agreed by some countries in their bilateral or regional trade agreements. <https://tinyurl.com/y8jv836m>
- **The Appellate Body of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) sided with the EU's arguments concerning Brazil's industrial tax measures that disadvantage EU companies.** The WTO Appellate Body confirmed the initial ruling of August 2017 that numerous Brazilian tax programmes are not in line with WTO rules as they favour domestic products. The programmes disadvantage EU automotive, and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) products by granting tax advantages based on the local content embedded in products. According to the ruling such measures are incompatible with WTO law. <https://tinyurl.com/y7zobsho>
- **EU-Japan trade agreement on track to enter into force in February 2019.** The European Commission welcomed the approval in the European Parliament of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement and the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement. The trade agreement negotiated by the Commission is the first ever to include an explicit reference to the Paris climate agreement. It will create an open trading zone covering 635 million people and almost one third of the world's total GDP. The Strategic Partnership Agreement is the first ever bilateral framework agreement between the EU and Japan. <https://tinyurl.com/y9uuggq2>
- **Mexico to Press Forward on NAFTA 2.0 Ratification, Envoy Says: Mexico likely will submit the U.S.-Mexico Canada Agreement for ratification in its next Senate session starting in February,** Martha Barcena Coqui, Mexico's ambassador to the U.S., said Jan. 23 at the U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting. <https://tinyurl.com/ycdbaxyz>
- **China-Products Removed from CCC Catalogue:** The Certification and Accreditation Administration of China (CNCA) announced the removal of 12 products from the Chinese Compulsory Certificate (CCC) catalogue, and the addition of 4 products to the list of products approved for self-declaration. <https://tinyurl.com/y66zyaqe>

- **U.S. Agriculture Secretary Perdue is considering replacing metal tariffs with quotas.** U.S. trade negotiators are working to replace aluminium and steel tariffs with "reasonable quotas Canada and Mexico can live with," Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue says. "The removal of the tariffs is in the interest of all, and we're advocating to the administration to do that," Perdue says at House Agriculture Cmte hearing on 27 February. <https://tinyurl.com/y23sxbqb>
- **Trade agreement between the EU and the Republic of Korea shown to have increased EU exports by 76% A European Commission evaluation shows that the trade agreement between the EU and Korea has been effective in making trade and investment easier, simpler and less costly.** This in turn increased trade in both goods and services between the two sides, contributing to jobs, growth and more consumer choice. <https://tinyurl.com/y5omzqlt>
- **Malmström calls for renewed transatlantic cooperation on trade.** At a speech at Georgetown Law School EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström appealed to the US not to stray from the international trade order and instead work with Europe to face the challenges of the modern global economy, including China. Updating the World Trade Organisation (WTO) should be at the heart of this rejuvenated reform effort, she argued. <https://tinyurl.com/y3zajs9q>
- **Economic analysis confirms significant gains from EU-US industrial tariff agreement.** An economic analysis by the European Commission shows that a targeted EU-US agreement eliminating tariffs on industrial goods would increase EU exports to the US by 8% and US exports to the EU by 9% by 2033. This corresponds to additional gains of €27 billion and €26 billion in EU and US exports respectively. <https://tinyurl.com/y4punxs3>
- **The UK Government has published its impact assessment of the effect no-deal may have on business and trade.** The report states: "some food prices are likely to increase", customs checks could cost business £13bn a year, the economy could be up to 9% weaker in the long term, business in Northern Ireland would be particularly effected, and the flow of goods through Dover would be "very significantly reduced for months." <https://tinyurl.com/y4sulsyh>
- **On February 14, 2019, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative C.J. Mahoney and Ambassador Kim Darroch, United Kingdom (UK) Ambassador to the United States, signed two mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) covering telecom equipment, electro-magnetic compatibility (EMC) for information and communications technology products, pharmaceutical good manufacturing practice (GMP) inspections, and marine equipment.** <https://tinyurl.com/y5crv95o>
- **U.S. and Chinese negotiators are working on multiple memorandums of understanding that would form the basis of a final trade deal,** according to a person briefed on the talks. The MoUs would cover areas including agriculture, non-tariff barriers, services, technology transfer and intellectual property, said the person, who asked not to be identified because the discussions are private. The enforcement mechanism remains unclear but would likely be a threat that tariffs would be reimposed if conditions aren't met, the person said. <https://tinyurl.com/y38u3jpp>
- **The British government has admitted that it will not roll over all trade treaties that involve the EU and third countries by 29 March.** The International Trade Secretary Liam Fox confirmed on Monday that they were prioritising some countries over others in trade negotiations. <https://tinyurl.com/y44qycm>

## Upcoming EUROLAB & International Events

- EUROLAB General Assembly and accompanying meetings 2019, 9-10 May, Prague
  - EUROLAB National Members Meeting 2019 and accompanying meetings, 16, 17, 18 October 2019, Spain, Toledo
  - EUROLAB Board Meeting, 20 June 2019, Brussels
- 
- EU Green Week, 13/5/2019 -17/5/2019, Brussels, Belgium
  - Annual Privacy Forum 2019, 13 - 14/06/2019, Rome, Italy
  - European Cluster Conference 14-16 May 2019 'Connecting Ecosystems: Bridge. Inspire. Change', 14-16/05/2019, Bucharest, Romania
  - EDPS-ENISA Conference: Towards accessing the risk in personal data breaches, Brussels, 04/04/2019
  - Conference on Occupational Safety and Health in the New World of Work. Expertise and Good Practices in the Member States, Bucharest, 09/04/2019
  - CISI - International Congress on Integrated Security: Strategies for the 21st Century, 08/05/2019, Lisbon
  - Annual Privacy Forum 2019, 13 - 14/06/2019, Rome, Italy
  - Webinar: Participatory Financing for Sustainable Energy, 04.04.2019
  - Central Asian Sustainable Energy Conference, 12.04.2019, Brussels
  - Workshop: Revitalising and modernising the small retail sector, 04.04.2019, Vienna
  - European Cluster Conference 2019 'Connecting Ecosystems: Bridge. Inspire. Change', 15.05.2019, Bucharest
  - Consumers International Summit 2019, 30.04 to 01.05, Estoril, Portugal