

EUROLAB Newsletter

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Newsbriefing No. 4/2019

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Dear EUROLAB members,

Please find below the fourth EUROLAB Newsbriefing of 2019 with information regarding the actions carried out by EUROLAB, and relevant developments to the Laboratory Community.

2019 is coming to an end and, as such, is the right time to reflect on what has been done and what lies ahead. This year, EUROLAB continued its action to promote the importance of the laboratory community for the economy and society, as a key player in the implementation of conformity assessment, safety assurance and quality of products and services. In the global world, measurement and testing, together with accreditation, contribute decisively to the enhancement of international trade.

In 2019, EUROLAB continued to follow the transition of ISO/IEC 17025 by publishing documents supporting the laboratories in their implementation. Also noteworthy is the important role that EUROLAB plays in the international context, working with stakeholders to develop economic activity in accordance with the principles of fair competition. Once again, EUROLAB had a strong support of its Members and the many Experts, allowing to promote the development of the European Laboratory Community.

2020 will be a special year for EUROLAB as it will celebrate its 30th Anniversary being a moment to reflect on its role and mission in terms of what was defined in its creation and the challenges ahead. As for its mission, it's undeniable that today the activity of laboratories is still key to achieve the objectives of the European project. Some of the challenges Europe faces now are the implementation of the eSingleMarket, the digital transition and new legislation to promote climate policies and the laboratories will take part in these processes.

For the celebrations of its 30th Anniversary program, EUROLAB has decided to focus on a theme that reflects these challenging times: "Lab of the Future". Therefore, its 2020 activities are being prepared to discuss and develop the knowledge about this topic, and we can already announce that EUROLAB will promote the organization of an International Conference for this purpose.

Looking forward to increase co-operation with you, aiming to achieve the highest purpose of promoting the laboratories contribution to the **improvement of safety and quality of life**.

I wish to all of you a **happy, healthy** and **prosperous** holiday season, **Merry Christmas** and **Happy New Year**, may you realize all your best dreams and wishes.

Yours Sincerely,
Álvaro Silva Ribeiro
EUROLAB President



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National Members News

ASCOLAB News

- **During the Test and Measurement Conference & Workshop held on 16-18 September 2019 at Misty Hills Johannesburg South Africa, Mr Victor Kanama Viki Mbuya shared the concept VUCA. What does VUCA mean?**

VUCA	17025 CLAUSES	COMMENTS
Vision	-Organization -Communications	-Leadership involvement and accountability -Target messages at each stage
Understanding	-Personnel -Equipment -Metrological Traceability -Processes	Training/development and transfer of knowledge
Clarity	-Definitions -All activities -Risk management -Systems	-Conduct readiness by priorities -Updated technology and transfer of data
Agility		-Change management

VUCA is an acronym, first used in 1987, to describe or to reflect on the **Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity** and **Ambiguity** of general conditions and situations. VUCA began from 2002 and it has subsequently taken root in emerging ideas in strategic leadership that apply in a wide range of organizations. If you look at the historic of management in laboratory, the first standard was published in 1978, 1982, 1989, 1990, and 2000/2005. At the same period the accreditation concept was introduced in 1987. Today, ISO/IEC 17025:2017 innovated the laboratory organization based on the VUCA leadership and it means Vision, Understanding, Clarity and Agility.



EUROLAB CZ News

eurolab-cz

- **Technical and Test Institute for Construction Prague, SOE, member of EUROLAB-CZ is now improving field testing.** The new pile integrity test (PIT), or as standards refers to it as "low strain impact integrity testing of deep foundation" is a widely used nondestructive test method for the evaluation of pile quality, integrity and to help estimate the unknown length of existing piles and foundations.



The new cross-hole analyzer (CHA) is designed for evaluation of concrete quality in deep foundations by the crosshole sonic logging method, it assesses concrete quality and consistency of drilled shafts and other cast-in-place concrete structures.



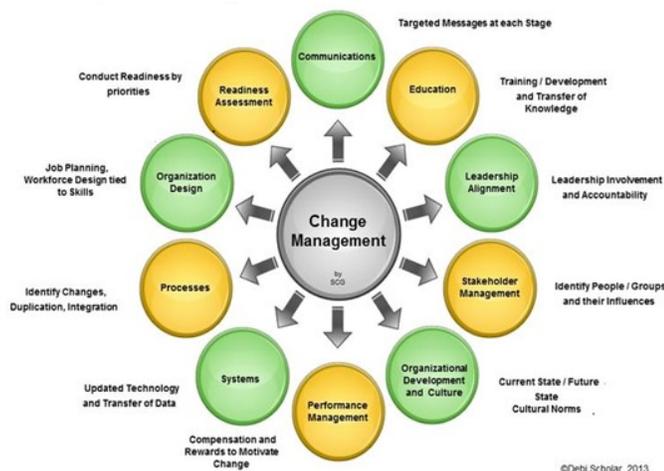
Croatian Metrology Society

- **Croatian Metrology Society – the main challenges in 2020.** The regular Annual Assembly of the Croatian Metrology Society (HMD) was held on 3rd December 2019. The members of HMD, individual experts and representatives of numerous Croatian companies, elected Managing and Supervising board, approved reports on annual working and financial plans, and accepted working and financial plans for the next year. The main topics to be focused on in 2020 are:

HMD
HRVATSKO MJERITELJSKO DRUŠTVO
CROATIAN METROLOGY SOCIETY

- ✓ Education and training in cooperation with the European Centre for Laboratory Excellence (ECLC): seminars and workshops on implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (on monthly basis).
- ✓ New seminars on important issues in sampling, statement on conformity and rules for taking decisions.
- ✓ Monthly meetings on various actual metrology themes for HMD members.
- ✓ Journal "World by measure", the unique Croatian journal on metrology, standardisation, accreditation and conformity assessment.
- ✓ Edition of two new books covering measurement themes.

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- ✓ The 8th biannual conference on exchange of experience in implementation of ISO/IEC 17025.
- ✓ Organizing the 15th National Conference on Metrology and Accreditation.
- ✓ Co-organizing the 3rd International Conference on Food Safety & Quality, in cooperation with the "Teaching Institute for Public Health Dr. Andrija Stampar", and South East European Network for Food Safety and Quality Control (SEEN-FSQC), under the title "Food, Health and Climate Changes".
- ✓ Organizing and hosting IMEKO TC 10 & EUROLAB conference "Global trends in Testing, Diagnostics & Inspection for 2030"
- ✓ International activities in IMEKO, EUROLAB and ILAC: participation in annual meetings, conferences and projects. HMD is a liaison body between IMEKO and EUROLAB based on the IMEKO&EUROLAB MoU.

The great challenge for HMD is organizing and hosting the IMEKO TC 10 & EUROLAB conference on "Global trends in Testing, Diagnostics & Inspection for 2030", the biggest event in 2020 regarding testing, diagnostics and technical inspection, and their prospects for the next decade of the 21st century. Distinguished invited speakers from all over the world and top experts from various scientific areas, coming from industry, universities, research & development and TIC sector (testing, inspection and certification) are challenge for all interested parties to come to Dubrovnik and participate in the conference.

HELLASLAB

- **HELLASLAB organized a workshop on "Opinions & interpretations" which took place in Athens on November 2, 2019, which was attended by over 60 participants from laboratories all over Greece.** Speakers were I. Sitaras (Director for Laboratories Accreditation at ESVD) and E. Billa from the General State Chemical Laboratory. This workshop was based on presentations, but also on questions and answers from participants. Another workshop was also held on December 14, on the "methods and tools of evaluation of the uncertainty of measurement", as the demand for this is growing in Greece.
- **New presidents were appointed by the Greek gov-**

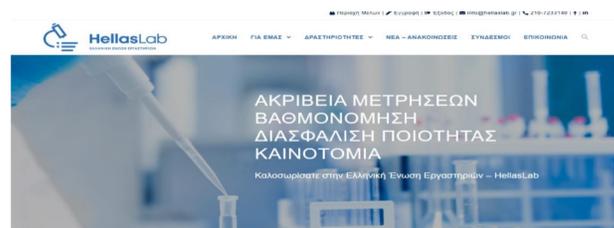


HellasLab

ernment to Greek Accreditation System (ESVD) and National Quality Infrastructure System (N.Q.I.S.) which supports both standardization and metrology (ELOT, EIM).



- **HELLASLAB has also launched a website to be used by its Scientific Committee, presenting the work that has been done – mainly 7 National Metrology Congresses.** It is currently only in Greek but next year it will have an English section too.



TURKLAB

- **MAKLAB 4th Quality and Competence Conference, 3-5 October, 2019.** Upon the invitation extended by Macedonian Association of Laboratories and Inspection Bodies, Mr. Halit Karaboğa, the Chairman of TURKLAB's Board of Directors took part in the 4th Quality and Competence Conference, as a speaker. The event saw presentations covering the following matters:
 - ✓ Underlining the information about TURKLAB, accreditation and compliance evaluation activities.
 - ✓ Stating that EUROLAB Auditor Harmonization Project was implemented successfully through the years 2017-2019, in robust cooperation with TURKAK, and is now expected to produce the final report, which is to be shared with EUROLAB upon completion.
 - ✓ Providing examples of endeavors initiated and being implemented to increase efficiency levels and curb waste in the industry through effective cooperation, to make it clear that TURKLAB strive to contribute to the industry as well as to economic development.

turk|lab
Kalibrasyon ve Deneysel Laboratuvarları Derneği



- **TURKAK Advisory Committee Meeting, TURKLAB's Attendance, 1 November, 2019.**



The Advisory Committee Meeting of Turkish Accreditation Agency took place on Friday, 1 November, 2019, in Antalya, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Mr. Faruk KAYMAKCI, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for European Union Affairs. TURKLAB was represented at the meeting by the member Ayfer ADIGÜZEL. Following the opening address by Ambassador Mr. Faruk KAYMAKCI, Secretary General of TURKAK, Ms. Banu MÜDERRİSOĞLU made a speech for the audience comprised of the members of the Advisory Committee.

During her speech, Ms. MÜDERRİSOĞLU mentioned the duties, powers and responsibilities of TURKAK, and emphasized the agency's national and international activities, and stated that TURKAK's operations will be maintain at their existing level of effectiveness.

During the meeting, TURKAK's Secretary General, Ms. Banu MÜDERRİSOĞLU consulted with the members of the Advisory Committee, on a number of issues.

Finally, the Members of the Advisory Committee were asked to voice their opinions and recommendations. Moreover, the meeting provided a venue to articulate questions and requests of the representatives of various Ministries, Agencies, and Organizations, on various issues.

- **Visit to TURKAK, 21 November, 2019.**



Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Halit KARABOĞA, Honorary Chairman Mr. Ömer GÜZEL (PhD), and Board Member and Chairman of the Food Committee, Mr. Çağatay TURAN, paid a courtesy visit to Ms. Banu MÜDERRİSOĞLU at her office, upon her appointment as the Secretary General of TURKAK. The meeting with the Secretary

General provided an occasion to discuss recent developments, and to share our proposals for improving the compliance assessment sector. TURKLAB willingness for all kinds of cooperation with TURKAK was specifically underlined.

The agreement reached is about maintaining and furthering the dialogue and cooperation with TURKAK.

- **Metrology Symposium**

The "Metrology Symposium and Exhibition" organized by TMMOB Mechanical Engineers Chamber - and

TURKLAB among the sponsoring entities, was attended by Sibel Şimşek Yazıcı, Chairman of TURKLAB's Board of Directors and of the Communications Committee. In her speech, Ms. Yazıcı mentioned various traceability methods and issues in Turkey as well as the wider world, and presented examples from the food industry.



The event underlined the significance of analysis and traceability, and discussed a number of examples of regular quality checks enhancing brand value. The emphasis was on the need to increase the frequency of quality controls in production processes, and enhancing traceability, in the context of Turkish Brands' journey for becoming global names in their fields.

RELACRE

- **MathMet 2019 International Workshop sponsored by EUROLAB aisbl.**



The International Workshop MathMet 2019 Workshop was held on November 20-22, 2019 at Lisbon National Laboratory for Civil Engineering.

This event, which took place for the first time in Portugal, was jointly organized by IPQ, RELACRE, MathMet and LNEC and was sponsored by several international organizations including EUROLAB aisbl.



MathMet 2019 had 102 participants from 23 countries, from different continents, surpassing the highest expectations almost doubling the number of participants from previous events.

This event was supported by MathMet (European Center for Mathematics and Statistics in Metrology) network, established from an EMRP research program (EURAMET) on a cooperation platform that includes metrologists, academia and industry, assuming itself as a project of high importance for the dissemination of knowledge in the scope of its action. Noteworthy are the high



number of guest speakers (Blaza Toman, Tony O'Hagan, Antonia Turkman, Nicolas Fischer, Peter Harris, Carola Schönlieb, Clemens Elster, Juris Meija, Wendy Parker and Sascha Eichstaedt) and the diversity of topics of interest, namely, the quantification of uncertainty, interlaboratory studies, image applied in industry and medicine, climatology, molecular biology, machine learning, dynamic measurement and big data. Finally, a tribute was made to Professor Maurice G. Cox for his career and contributions to the Science of Measurement.

TIC Market Trends

Business Developments

- **Bureau Veritas, DEKRA and Eurofins have been included in the Financial Times' inaugural ranking of Diversity Leaders.** The Financial Times has released its first-ever list of Diversity Leaders. Bureau Veritas was ranked the 260th, DEKRA was ranked 556th and Eurofins was ranked 594th in the new annual benchmark, out of a total of 700 companies. [Read more](#)
- **Control Union held Sustainability Seminar 2019 at Le Meridian, Dhaka in Bangladesh.** About 500 representatives from many reputed organizations, brands, retailers and RMG professionals who are mostly involved with sustainability participated in this seminar. [Read more](#)
- **DEKRA and Argus Cyber Security, a global leader in automotive cyber security, have entered into an agreement to offer a range of automotive cyber security services for the automotive and new mobility industry on November 18th, 2019.** Partnering with Argus in the field of cybersecurity, DEKRA can offer particular expertise regarding regulatory issues, system certification, product certification and functional safety. [Read more](#)
- **DEKRA presented its new Micro-Mobility Standard – an integrated approach to safety and sustainability for e-scooters and other micro-vehicles.** The new standard comprises a total of more than 120 individual testing items across eight areas. The main target groups for the collective expert services are providers in the “Mobility as a Service” sector – such as e-scooter rental companies – and cities offering corresponding rental systems in their transport domains. [Read more](#)
- **Eurofins Discovery announced a collaboration with Escent Pharmaceuticals.** Eurofins Discovery has successfully collaborated with clients in integrated drug discovery programs and has a strong record of accomplishment of pre-clinical candidate delivery. The integrated services are marketed under the brand name of DiscoveryOne™. [Read more](#)
- **Intertek launched Cyber Assured, the First Cybersecurity Certification Program with Continuous Vulnerability Monitoring, which will help to ensure that the Consumer IoT Products are safely connected.** Intertek's Cyber Assured Certification is the first robust product cybersecurity testing and certification program that provides continuous vulnerability monitoring for connected consumer products. [Read more](#)
- **Intertek successfully showcased its bespoke “Zero Waste to Landfill” certification at the Waste & Recycling Summit 2019, demonstrating how companies can accomplish their sustainability goals by implementing Intertek's innovative operational sustainability solutions.** “Zero Waste to Landfill certification can be acquired by any organisation that generates hazardous or non-hazardous waste, enabling them to demonstrate their commitment to achieving authentic sustainability goals. [Read more](#)
- **Kiwa opened the New Fire Lab in Apeldoorn, The Netherlands, which will help them to certify the products on average three times more faster.** From now on, the products can be tested against the EN 54 or EN 14604 in three months only. [Read more](#)
- **Kiwa became a member of Hydrogen Europe - the association that represents the European industry, national associations and research centers active in the hydrogen and fuel cell sector.** Together with its members, Hydrogen Europe promotes hydrogen as the enabler of a zero-emission society. The association currently represents more than 130 industry companies, more than 73 research organizations as well as 19 National Associations. [Read more](#)
- **SGS Scanning operations in collaboration with Uruguay Customs, detected the presence of hidden drugs in a container of rice passing through a scanner in the Port of Montevideo.** The consignment, one of Uruguay Customs' biggest drug seizures, is estimated to weigh more than three tons and has an estimated market value of more

than \$740 million. [Read more](#)

- **SGS announced the official opening of its new food microbiological testing laboratory in Fairfield, New Jersey USA.** ISO/IEC 17025 accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), the laboratory's testing services meet the highest standards for laboratory quality systems, accuracy, reliability and customer service. [Read more](#)
- **UL officially opened a new hazardous locations customer service center at 4702 North Sam Houston Parkway, Suite #100 in Houston.** The new facility, a first for UL in Houston, offers a collaborative safety service solution for the upstream, midstream and downstream oil and gas industry. [Read more](#)

Personnel

- **DEKRA's team is joined by Holger Ewald (51), who started as the new Chief Information Officer (CIO) on December 1, 2019.** Ewald, a graduate mechanical engineer with a focus on aerospace technology, software development and international project management, has over 20 years of global leadership experience with strong links to IT. [Read more](#)

Mergers and Acquisition

- **Kiwa Group has acquired AQS France.** With the acquisition of AQS, Kiwa strengthens both its business in the international Agro, Feed and Food market and in its French activities, which already includes second and third party auditing for various schemes related to Agro, Feed and Food. [Read more](#)
- **QIMA has acquired World Quality Services (WQS) active in food certification, audit and training services in North and Latin America.** Headquartered in the United States with offices in Brazil and Mexico, WQS helps businesses across the whole food chain, from farm to retail, improve safety and quality for their products and processes. [Read more](#)
- **SGS has announced the acquisition of the business and assets of the personal protective equipment (PPE) testing and certification activities of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH), based in Helsinki, Finland.** Previously operated as an independent public law institution, the business has an experienced team of 12 professionals, with revenues of approximately EUR 1.4 million (CHF 1.5 million). [Read more](#)
- **TÜV Rheinland has acquired Certio ITV a Spanish company dedicated on road safety and mobility.** This strategic acquisition strengthens the Mobility business area with 12 new Periodical Technical Inspection (PTI) centres: two located in Menorca and 10 in Catalonia. [Read more](#)

Business Results

- **Bureau Veritas has published its Q3 2019 results.** [Read more](#)
 - ✓ Revenue of EUR 1.271billion in Q32019
 - ✓ +6.2% year-on-year of which +4.7% at constant currency
 - ✓ Organic growth of +3.9%
 - ✓ 5 out of 6 businesses growing at 4.6% on average,
 - ◇ including Agri-Food & Commodities at +4.4%
 - ◇ Buildings & Infrastructure (B&I) at +4.0%
 - ◇ Consumer Products at +2.0%
 - ◇ Marine & Offshore up 6.5%
 - ◇ Industry up 6.8%
 - ✓ Certification declined (4.8)%
 - ✓ External growth of +0.8% (net of divestments)

Accreditation and Standardisation

Accreditation

ILAC

- ILAC has released for ballot, ISO/CD TS 17021-12 Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 12: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of collaborative business relationship management systems.
- ILAC announced that the recognition of the APAC MRA to the ILAC MRA now includes the accreditation of PTP. Full announcement here: https://ilac.org/latest_ilac_news/apac-mrarecognition-to-the-ilac-mra-now-includes-ptp/
- The Deed of Agreement between the ILAC Executive Committee and NATA, for the provision of the ILAC Secretariat services, expires on 31st December 2019. The ILAC Executive submitted the agreement for the period 2020 - 2021, for endorsement by the members. October 2019 ILAC Newsletter https://ilac.org/latest_ilac_news/ilac-newsletter-issue-56-october-2019/

IAF

- The following publication is now available on the IAF website: 1) IAF/ILAC Global Accreditation System Handbook - September 2019. This PowerPoint presentation contains information on the role and structure of IAF and ILAC, their documents and publications, and membership types. There is also a section that provides an overview of the materials that are available to support promotional activities.

EA

- EA released the revised Articles of Association (AoA) for comments. Based on the comments received, the main changes in the new draft AoA are:
 - ✓ The TMB and MAC are added under Articles 1 Definitions.
 - ✓ The MAC is explicitly mentioned under Article 9 as the body responsible for the peer evaluations and the decision-making body regarding the MLA/BLA status.
 - ✓ Article 12, "maximum" has been deleted. That means that the Executive Board shall have four additional members plus the President and Vice-President. - The term Chair and Vice-Chair has been replaced by President and Vice-President. - Article 13 (8) and (9), the quorum and the majority of votes for decisions in the Executive Board and Technical Management Board has been increased from half presents and simple majority to three quarters for both quorum and majority. - New Article 16 with the Technical Management Board.
- Revised EA publication EA- INF/03 "EA Multilateral and Bilateral Agreements, and Signatory Lists" is available online on the public website at <https://european-accreditation.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/10/ea-inf-03.pdf>
- EA circulated for a second round of comments, TFG revised draft "EA-1/22 - EA Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members"
- EA is releasing a new video on "What is EA." This video will be followed in the coming months by a second video on the EA Multilateral Agreement (EA MLA), explaining how this agreement between the EA Members is facilitating cross border trade and guaranteeing the compliance with European legislations for products and services, therefore protecting health and safety for citizens, and the environment. Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CohgJJ7PUHY>

ILAC

- The **Adopted Resolutions of the 23rd ILAC General Assembly** are available to download from the conference file sharing area and from the publications section of the ILAC website.

IAF

- The IAF Technical Committee has submitted the draft new Mandatory Document titled "Criteria for the evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes", to all IAF members for a second 60-day comment period. This document con-

tains the criteria to be used by IAF/Regions/IAF MLA Signatory ABs when evaluating Conformity Assessment Schemes (CAS) to meet requirements specified in ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and for possible incorporation in IAF PL3.

- The IAF Technical Committee has submitted the draft revised Policy Document titled "**Transition process for an accreditation requirement document or a certification scheme document - Requirements for Producing IAF MD on transitions**", to all IAF members for a 60-day comment period. The objective of this document is to ensure the consistent and harmonized application of ISO/IEC 17011 for transitioning from one version of a normative document (e.g. standard) to another version of that document.
- The IAF Technical Committee (TC) has submitted the draft revised Mandatory Document titled "**Application of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 in the Field of Medical Device Quality Management Systems (ISO 13485)**" to all IAF Voting Members for a 30-day voting period.
- The IAF Technical Committee (TC) has submitted the draft joint document with OIML titled "**Joint IAF-OIML Assessment Procedure in the Field of Legal Metrology**" to all IAF Voting Members for a 30-day voting period.
- ILAC has launched an additional 30-day comment period, for the revised draft document (v4), titled **ILAC-PXX:20XX ILAC Policy for cooperation between ILAC Arrangement Signatories**.
- ILAC IC Chair distributed the draft MoM (meeting minutes) from the ILAC IC meeting in Frankfurt.

EA

- EA circulated for comments (reminder) the TFG **EA-3/01** first draft of "**Proposal for rules on the use of the EA MLA Mark**".

Standardisation

- **The European Commission published the annual union working plan for standardisation was published. This plan indicates which mandates the European Commission will develop for European Standardisation Organisations (CEN, CENELEC, ETSI).** [Read more](#)
- **The Guide on the Machinery Directive has been updated. Certain harmonised standards were removed.** [Read more](#)

ISO CASCO

- ISO announced the Publication of ISO/IEC TR 17032:2019 Conformity assessment — Guidelines and examples of a scheme for the certification of processes
- ISO has released the Week 39 STADIST - standards distribution newsletter.
- The following documents are undergoing Systematic Review:
 - ✓ - ISO/TS 22002-1:2009 (vers 4) Prerequisite programmes on food safety, Part 1 – food manufacturing
 - ✓ - ISO/TS 22002-2:2013 (vers 2) Prerequisite programmes on food safety, Part 2 – catering
 - ✓ - ISO/TS 22002-4:2013 (vers 2) Prerequisite programmes on food safety, Part 4 – food packaging manufacturing
- On 22 October 2019, it was announced that Frank Makamo, South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) had resigned. Per ISO Rules of Procedure, he also resigned his position as CASCO Chair. The Vice Chair, Alister Dalrymple, will fulfil the duties of Chair until 31 December 2019 at which time the new CASCO Chair appointed by the Council under resolution 63/2019, will take office.

The Laboratory of the future

Laboratory Events

- **How laboratory digitization & automation is paving the way for research integrity.** The .
- **Heidi Boisvert** from **futurePerfect** lab built an **open source biometric lab and predictive model** that finds patterns in the media we consume and tells us which narrative ingredients are more likely to lead to engagement and altruistic behavior rather than apathy. [Read more](#)
- **Next year, the biomedical engineer Joshua Chou will load four types of cancer cells – ovarian, breast, nose and lung into the device and launch it to the International Space Station.** He will be leading a research mission at the ISS. After promising trials in his lab, Joshua hopes this mission will prove zero-gravity disables cancer cells. And, revolutionises the way we treat cancer. [Read more](#)
- **General Motors and LG Chem will invest up to \$2.3 billion by 2023 to form a joint venture in Ohio for the production of battery cells for electric vehicles.** The companies plan to build a battery cell factory in the Lordstown area of northeast Ohio. Construction of the plant, which is expected to be among the largest in the world, is scheduled to begin in mid-2020. [Read more](#)
- **The world could soon be enjoying honey, without bees.** This is courtesy of the work of 12 students from the Department of Biotechnology and Food Engineering, the Technion — Israel Institute of Technology in Israel. They developed bee-free honey using the bacterium *Bacillus subtilis*, in a laboratory. [Read more](#)
- **Avantor is building a Laboratory of the future today.** The new generation of scientists entering the field has grown up in the digital world, and they are accustomed to the flexibility and open approach to work that digitization brings. For up-and-coming scientists, the future is now, and digital tools and solutions are simply an accepted way of doing business—and a way to bring science into the light.
- **17-18 March 2020: AI & Big Data Expo Global 2020 in London, UK.** It is a showcase of next-generation technologies and strategies from the world of artificial intelligence & big data . In this conference, there are 4 co-located events. 21 conference tracks. 12,000+ attendees. 500+ speakers. 300+ exhibitors. [Read more](#)
- **19 - 20 March 2020: LABORAMA in Brussels, Belgium.** LABORAMA offers a platform where professional users and providers can enter into contact with each other in an open and non-obligatory way. As always, all sectors associated with the laboratory sector are well represented. This makes LABORAMA the must-see exhibition for laboratory technology in Belgium and Luxembourg. [Read more](#)
- **29 - 30 April: PRAXISforum Lab of the Future (Frankfurt, Germany)** will explore how workflows and processes can be improved and optimized by combining hardware with data streams. The laboratory is the central hub for research and development, analytics and quality assurance or research and development – essential processes for any company in chemical, biotechnological pharmaceutical or food production. [Read more](#)

Policy News

Chemicals

- **ECHA has published a list of over 21 000 REACH registered substances mapped in its 'chemical universe'. The substances have been divided into five pools based on the regulatory actions in place, initiated or considered for them. It also highlights that there are still thousands of substances for which possible actions have not yet been determined.** The mapping of registered substances, also called the chemical universe, is a planning and monitoring tool that helps Member States and EU authorities focus on substances of (potential) concern and identify appropriate regulatory actions, where needed. For companies and other stakeholders, publishing the mapping provides additional transparency on the work of authorities and the progress made in regulating chemicals. [Read more](#)
- **A new Appendix for nanoforms to the Guidance on Registration and Substance Identification has been developed by ECHA.** It aligns ECHA's guidance with the revised REACH annexes for nanomaterials that enter into application on 1 January 2020. The document explains the term nanoform, provides advice on how to build and justify sets of nanoforms and explains what characterisation information needs to be reported. [Read more](#)
- **ECHA's report on the exports and imports that took place in 2018 under the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation shows benzene as the most traded PIC chemical, both for exports and imports.** The latest annual report on exports and imports under PIC lists benzene as the EU's most exported and imported chemical in 2018, with approximately 228 000 tonnes exported and 445 000 tonnes imported. [Read more](#)
- **On 6 December 2019, at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF Committee) the Member States voted on two draft Implementing Regulations proposing to not renew the approvals of chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl.** For both substances, a qualified majority was reached. This means that, once the European Commission has formally adopted the Regulations (expected in January 2020), Member States must withdraw all authorizations for plant protection products containing the active substances. [Read more](#)
- **EU citizens' launch initiative to ban pesticides.** A new European Citizen's Initiative (ECI) launched last week is aiming to see pesticides banned in Europe by 2035. If the initiative receives over a million signatures by September 2020 then the Commission and the European Parliament will have to address the issue. [Read more](#)

Environment and climate

- **European Commission presented the European Green Deal: a new growth strategy for the economy, people & planet.** This will include the first European Climate Law to enshrine the 2050 climate neutrality target into law. [Read more](#)
- **On 16 and 17 November 2017, the European Commission convened a first EU Clean Air Forum in Paris (France).** This first Clean Air Forum did not only see the launch of the European Clean Air Index, it also concluded with a clear message: solutions to improve air quality are within reach. But to tackle air pollution successfully, we need to work together across economic sectors (transport, energy, agriculture, and industry), across decision-making levels (European, national, regional, and city level), across policy areas (environment, climate and energy, mobility, agriculture, and fiscal policy) and together with citizens. Cleaner air will not only improve the health of citizens, it also makes good economic sense. [Read more](#)
- **European Commission published a report on the Implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan.** Read more: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1551871195772&uri=CELEX:52019DC0190>

- **European Commission published a report on the Implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan.** [Read more](#)
- **The European Commission is preparing a delegated act for the Smart Readiness Indicator (SRI) for buildings in the framework of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.** Once entered into force the building will receive a certificate or a label. [Read more](#)
- **The Commission welcomes agreement on tyre labelling to save energy.** The new rules improve and strengthen EU tyre labels enabling European consumers to make better choices and bringing energy savings equivalent to taking 4 million cars off EU roads every year. The Commission proposed the new Regulation on tyre labelling on 17 May 2018 as part of the clean mobility package. The new more modern design will be aligned with that of the well-known EU energy label. [Read more](#)
- **Major European investors urge EU to enshrine climate goal in law.** European investors representing over six trillion euros in assets are calling on European Union governments to speed up efforts to enshrine the EU's 2050 climate neutrality goal in law. In a letter, 44 firms, including Allianz, Handelsbanken, Aberdeen Investment and Aegon NV, said a law would give investors more confidence to make long-term decisions on environmentally responsible projects. [Read more](#)
- **EU agency: 'Europe will not meet 2030 climate goals'.** The European Environmental Agency (EEA) new report published on Wednesday (4 December) predicts that Europe will not achieve its 2030 climate and energy targets "without urgent action during the next 10 years". The report also calls on Europe's policymakers to put Europe on track "to avoid irreversible change and damage". Investing in sustainability and stopping funding for environmentally damaging activities, especially fossil fuels, is needed it said. [Read more](#)

Cybersecurity

- **DIGITALEUROPE published a position paper titled "defining the way forward for IoT security and certification schemes".** [Read more](#)
- **The presidency of the Council published a new compromise proposal for the e-privacy Regulation in view of the telecoms working party meeting on 7 November.** [Read more](#)

Food

- **EFSA is seeking feedback from interested parties on its scientific opinion about public health risks related to the presence of Ochratoxin A (OTA) in food – a mycotoxin naturally produced by fungi such as the Penicillium and Aspergillus species.** The deadline for submitting comments is 24 January 2020. [Read more](#)

EU Projects

- **The Council agreed on a partial general approach on annex IV of the Horizon Europe regulation, which deals with interlinks between Horizon Europe and other EU programmes.** This will enable the Council to begin negotiations with the European Parliament with a view to the swift adoption of the regulation once an agreement is reached on the next multiannual financial framework. [Read more](#)
- **European Commission invited stakeholders to join a discussion on the establishment of the Build4People partnership - a research & innovation partnership on 'people-centric sustainable built environment'.** [Read more](#)

Trade

- **EU-Singapore free trade pact signals shared conviction open rules-based trade is path to growth, prosperity: PM Lee.** The landmark trade agreement between the European Union and Singapore signals a shared conviction that open and global rules-based trade is the path to growth and prosperity, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in a Facebook post on Wednesday (Nov 20). The EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA) took effect on Thursday, almost a decade after negotiations began. . [Read more](#)
- **EU negotiators close in on deal to create a Green Gold Standard.** EU officials are expected to reach an agreement on a "taxonomy for sustainable finance", which would mean the EU are ever closer to being the world's first regulatory benchmark for green financial products. Brussels hope that this framework would unleash billions of euros in private investment to help Europe become greener. [Read more](#)
- **EU seeks talks with U.S. on French goods tariff threat, ready to act.** The European Union would prefer talks with the United States to discuss Washington's threat of tariffs on French luxury goods, but is ready to take action if that fails, the head of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday. [Read more](#)
- **Is the UK on track to agree a post-Brexit US trade deal? What leaked papers tell us.** Last week's leak gives some insights on trade talks, but the government needs to be more open to get the best results. One of the most misleading questions to ask when considering future UK trade agreements after Brexit is whether Department for International Trade has enough negotiators and is therefore ready. Modern trade agreements cover such a wide range of topics that they involve nearly all departments as well as the devolved assemblies. We need to ask whether the whole of government is ready, and the leak of notes from UK-US trade talks provide us with that opportunity. [Read more](#)
- **European Commission has published its proposal for an agreement on conformity assessment with the United States on Friday, 22 November 2019.** [Read more](#)
Articles of our interest:
 - ✓ Article 4 : Participation of conformity assessment bodies
 - ✓ Article 5 : Accreditation of conformity assessment bodies established in the territory of the other Party
 - ✓ Article 6 : Designation and recognition of US conformity assessment bodies
 - ✓ Article 7 : Oversight of the conformity assessment bodies of the Parties
 - ✓ Article 10 : Acceptance of the results of conformity assessment
 - ✓ Article 11 : First-Party Conformity Assessment
 - ✓ Article 13 : Special provisions related to the Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTL) scheme by the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

The European Green Deal

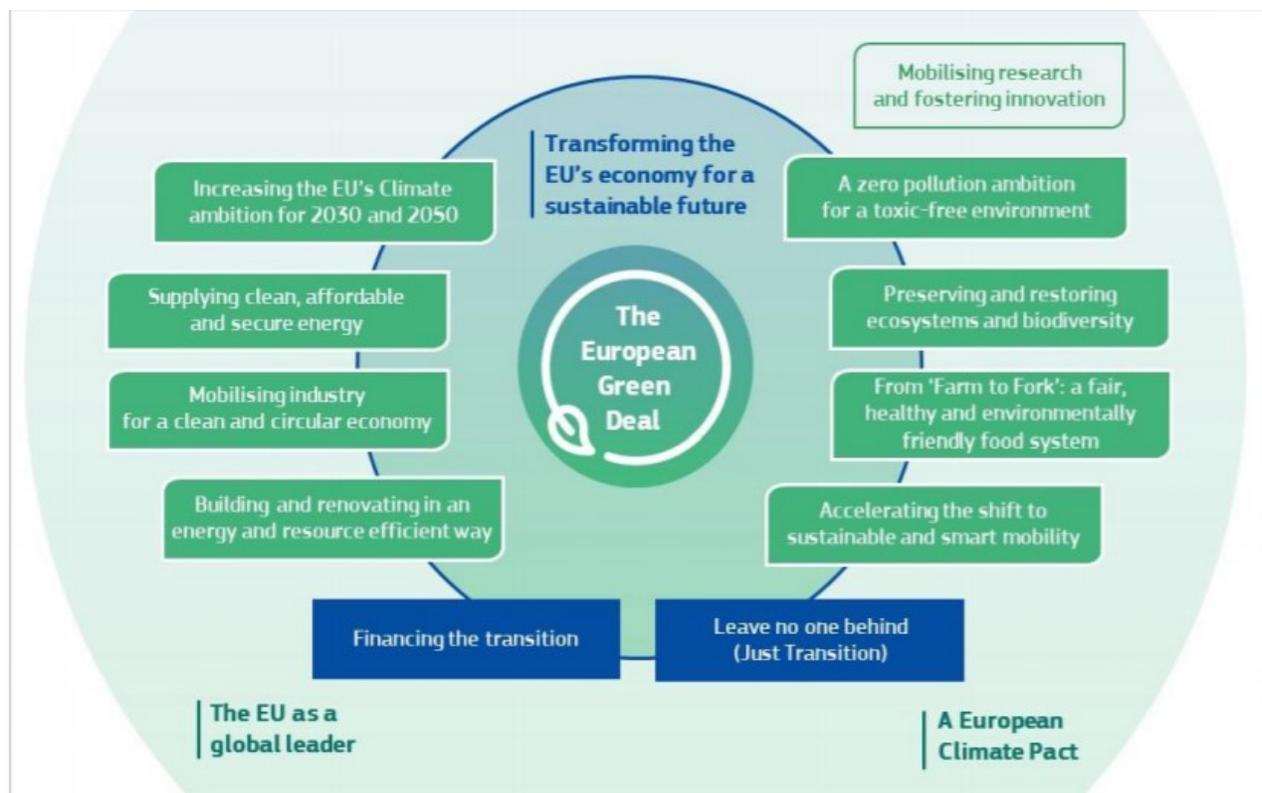
On December 11th, 2019 the **European Green Deal** was presented by **Ursula von der Leyen** and **Frans Timmermans**. **The Green Deal** is one of the fundamental parts of the VdL Commission's strategy to implement the United Nation's 2030 Agenda, as well as to reach the targets of the Paris Agreement, and the other priorities announced in President von der Leyen's political guidelines.

European Commission aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource.

Measures accompanied with an initial roadmap of key policies range from ambitiously cutting emissions, to investing in cutting-edge research and innovation, to preserving Europe's natural environment.

Supported by investments in green technologies, sustainable solutions and new businesses, the Green Deal can be a new EU growth strategy. Involvement and commitment of the public and of all stakeholders is crucial to its success.

The European Parliament and the European Council would need to endorse the plan. The proposal will be also presented to the head of the Member States at the EU Summit. Parliament will give its answer to the Commission's plans by adopt-



Events

22-24 January 2020: [2nd HUMAINT Winter school on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency in Artificial Intelligence](#), Seville

18-21 February 2020: [ICPHSO annual meeting and training symposium](#) – Orlando, Florida

3 – 5 March 2020: [IT-Trans Conference – Karlsruhe](#) (call for papers open until 10 October)

2 - 3 June 2020: [The 2nd Annual TIC Summit - TICKing a Green Deal](#) — Brussels, Belgium

19-22 October 2020: [17th IMEKO TC 10 Conference: "Global trends in testing, diagnostics & inspection for 2030"](#), Dubrovnik, Deadline for the submission of extended abstracts: 15 May 2020.

EUROLAB Events

6-8 May 2020: EUROLAB General Assembly and 30th Anniversary Events, Madeira

2-3 June 2020: TICKing a Green Deal Summit & TIC Council General Assembly

28-30 October 2020: EUROLAB National Members' Meeting and 30th Anniversary Conference 2020, Vienna

June 2, 2020—2nd Annual TIC Summit

TICKing a Green Deal

TIC
COUNCIL

SAVE THE DATE

June 2, 2020 - 2nd Annual TIC Summit
June 3, 2020 - TIC Council General Assembly
Brussels, Belgium