

# EUROLAB Newsletter

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Newsbriefing No. 2/2020

## Inside this issue:

**National Members' News**

2

**TIC Market Trends**

10

**Accreditation and Standardisation**

13

**The Laboratory of the Future**

17

**Policy News**

20

**Chemicals**

20

**Circular economy**

20

**Counterfeit products**

20

**Cybersecurity and digitalization**

20

**Environment**

21

**Food**

22

**Medical devices**

22

**Trade**

23

**Events**

25

**Eurolab message for 1st 30th anniversary**

26

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Dear EUROLAB members,

Please find below the second EUROLAB newsbriefing of 2020 with information regarding the actions carried out by EUROLAB and developments relevant to the Laboratory community.



EUROLAB celebrated its 30th anniversary in 27th of April, in unexpected and unique times. In this moment, on behalf of the EUROLAB community, I would like to express our gratitude to all professionals and persons that are in the front-line resisting and fighting this disease, doing their best to overcome this critical challenge for mankind.

In the present days, testing has become a widespread word. This brings the opportunity to remember that testing is what Laboratories do every day, using scientific knowledge, competence and technology in order to assure safety and the quality of goods and services to all of us and to the market, from healthcare to medical devices, from agriculture to water and food industry, from energy to communications.

These are challenging times for laboratories and for EUROLAB, requiring to adapt to new circumstances regarding performing activities, connecting people and providing capacity building through digital channels. EUROLAB is already working to follow these new trends and will promote the use of digital tools to increase the link with our members, hoping to contribute to the needs and expectations of the community.

EUROLAB is a European project created in 1990 to network laboratories. Today we are proud to represent and voice more than 9 000 laboratories and 150 000 high skilled professionals of the large community of Laboratories in Europe, believing that Laboratories are key to develop a better future based on Quality and Innovation.

Thank you for your time and keep safe and healthy!

EUROLAB President

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro

**eurolab**

## National Members News

### ALPI

- Fire safety engineering: a useful tool also for evaluating the fire performance of products



CSI, an IMQ Group company, is developing Fire Safety Engineering services.

The service makes extensive use of analytical and numerical models, some of which are developed internally, intended for evaluating the fire performance of products.



Thanks to the experience gained in testing, and the knowledge acquired on the products, CSI can be a reliable partner of companies that develop products with characteristics of Fire Resistance and Reaction to fire.

The approach does not also exclude the use of experimental activity which involves the use of test benches from the CSI laboratories which have a large list of accredited tests and

technicians with proven experience.

Where product certification is present, it is also possible to assist companies in the process of certification through test plans aimed at covering the many construction variants envisaged for the product.

This activity, partly regulated at the normative level in the CEN TC 127 technical committee, allows, in many cases, to evaluate the impact on fire performance of the products following modifications made without resorting to experimentation.

[www.csi-spa.com](http://www.csi-spa.com) - [info@csi-spa.com](mailto:info@csi-spa.com)

- Ambiente spa designs and develops the first Circular economy project management system certified by Bureau Veritas in Europe

Circular Economy has become an essential asset for all Organizations that promote environmental sustainability and who still want to maintain

competitiveness in the current market. In the context of the European Green Deal, the taxonomy for sustainable investments (EU Regulation 2020/852 18th June 2020) identifies the transition towards a circular economy amongst the six key objectives for identifying an economic activity as sustainable from the environmental point of view.

According to Patrizia Vianello, founder of ambiente spa: "Putting in place a transition of the ways for producing towards the circular economy is certainly a driving force for business developments; we strongly believe that in order to embark on this path it is necessary to have effective and transparent technical tools for all the stakeholders ". For this reason, 3 years ago, from an intuition of Dr. Vianello herself, a Working Group dedicated to the circular economy was created in Ambiente spa.



Ambiente spa's Circular Economy Working Group constantly collaborates with the main sectoral Italian institutional entities (UNI, ICESP, etc.) and has developed a proprietary protocol for measuring the circularity of an Organization based on the international standard BS8001: 2017 (Framework for implementing the principles of the circular economy in organizations). Based on this protocol, it is possible for ambiente spa Partners to prepare a Circularity Report able to demonstrate to third parties their commitment in the transition towards the Circular Economy for a specific Project or for the entire Organization. Some of the Circularity Reports developed by ambiente spa have also been sworn by Third Party Accreditation Bodies, confirming the alignment of the criteria contained in the BS8001 standard.

More recently, to respond to specific requests from its Partners, ambiente spa has identified the new AFNOR XP X30-901: 2018 standard (Circular



economy project management system - Requirements and guidelines) as an additional tool to support Circular Economy. The AFNOR standard is currently the only international certifiable standard for the management of circular economy projects. According to David Giraldi, Head of the Circular Economy Working Group at ambiente spa: "The AFNOR XP X30-901: 2018 standard makes it possible to implement Circular Economy in the Company Management System, allowing it to be certified by third parties."



The implementation of the AFNOR standard for Circular Economy is even more immediate if the Organization already has an Environmental Management System compliant with the UNI EN ISO 14001: 2015 standard; in this regard Andrea Steri, Expert Technician of the Circular Economy Working Group of ambiente spa: "If you reflect on the circular economy, on the role it plays in relation to the business context, if you consider its importance in terms of communication and the close link with the life cycle of products and services, it can be concluded that the management systems of the circular economy constitute the natural integration of the environmental management systems".

With these premises, ambiente spa has been able to implement and make certifiable the Management System for Circular Economy Projects of its Partner San Colombano Costruzioni spa: San Colombano Costruzioni has recently obtained from Bureau Veritas, a leading multinational company in the certification sector, the first AFNOR XP X30-901 certificate issued in Europe! A success that defines the short-medium term prospects for all Organizations wishing to welcome the Circular Economy within their Company System.

## ASCOLAB

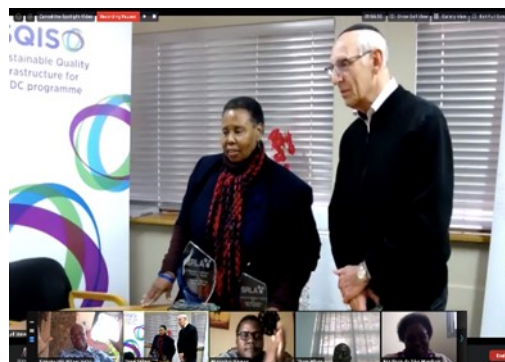
- ASCOLAB IS THE WINNER OF THE BEST PERFORMING MS-NLA SADC REGIONAL LABORATORY ASSOCIATION AWARDS 2019



At the 12th General Assembly meeting of the SADC Regional Laboratory Association (SRLA) held virtually on May 27th, the winner of the first-ever SRLA Award for the 2019 Best Performing Member State National Laboratory Association (MS-NLA) was announced. This new initiative recognizes the level of support given to laboratories in the Member State.



The 2019 Best-Performing MS-NLA Award was awarded to the Association Congolaise des Laboratoires (ASCOLAB). ASCOLAB promoted to food, water and medical testing laboratories the benefits of accreditation to international standards as a way to reduce trade costs and ensure foreign market access. ASCOLAB also offered training courses to improve the knowledge and skills of technical and managerial laboratory personnel, to enhance the reliability of test results supplied by Congolese conformity assessment bodies.



The Margaret Ngobeni Floating Trophy for the Best Performing MS-NLA is sponsored by the South African National Laboratory Association and named after Mrs. Margaret Ngobeni, who has played a prominent role in the SRLA Secretariat

and SADC Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Coordination Committees.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ASCOLAB!



In 2020, Belab will organize a survey on the new ISO17025 (2017) in cooperation with Belac. The purpose of this survey is to find out the difficult points of the current audits, to know the opinions of the labs and to learn from this how improvement actions can be taken by Belac.

During the period 2019-2020, Belab was asked by the Ministry of Education to give advice on drawing up new professional profiles. Belab cooperated also as an advisory body for the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health.

Every year the activities and information of Eurachem are diffused by a presentation on the General Assembly of Belab, via the website and by emailing newsletters to the members of Belab at regular intervals.

## BELAB

- Report from national organization June 2019-May 2020



Belab is the association of Belgian Laboratories and organizations involved in accreditation. Belab is member of Eurachem and Eurolab. The association has an Executive Board with 8 members and counts 57 members-laboratories in the General Assembly. The members are laboratories from different sectors (textile, water, clinical, pharmaceutical, calibration, inspection, ...) and different organizations (private, university, authorities, ...).

Members of the Executive committee of Belab are represented in different boards of Belac (Belgian accreditation authority): Commission of coordination (management of Belac) and National Council (advisory board of Minister of Economy).

Belab is chaired by Isabelle Vercruysse (LMI). Philippe Maesen (University of Liège) is vice-chair.

Belab organised in Juni 2019 during the General Assembly a brainstorming session together with Belac about the new ISO17025 (2017). This as a result of audits which were already performed in spring 2019 by Belac on this new ISO. Members were asked to submit points and cases they had problems with on their audit. These points were discussed with the Belac management and the members of Belab. A summary of this discussion forum has been posted on the Belab website.

## Croatian Metrology Society

- IMEKO TC 10 & EUROLAB Conference, 20-22 October 2020 – going VIRTUAL



Due to the COVID-19 situation, the Organizing Committee of the IMEKO TC 10 & EUROLAB Conference decided:

- to organize a VIRTUAL CONFERENCE in 2020 (the exact date will be the same as planned conference, 20-22 October 2020) and
- to postpone physical conference planned in Dubrovnik, October 19-22, 2020 to the year 2022 (the exact date will be defined later on)

REGISTRATION FOR THE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE IS OPEN WITH SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED PRICES: <https://www.imekotc10-2020.com/prices>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: <https://www.imekotc10-2020.com/keynote-speakers>

\* Etty Feller, Israel, International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, Chair





\* Jeff Gust, USA, FLUKE Chief Corporate Metrologist, Chairperson of ILAC Laboratory Committee

\* Bernd Kroon, Netherlands, Member of Board EUROLAB aisbl

\* Vicki Barwick, United Kingdom, EURACHEM Chair

New call for abstracts is published, check new deadlines! <https://www.imekotc10-2020.com/call-for-abstracts>

THE CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE PEER-REVIEW PROCESS AND THE SELECTED PAPERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE ACTA IMEKO (THE E-JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEASUREMENT CONFEDERATION) AND INDEXED IN SCOPUS.

## CROLAB

- 16th international conference "LABORATORY COMPETENCE 2020"



16th international conference "LABORATORY COMPETENCE 2020" will take place on Brijuni Archipelago, Istria, from 14 – 17 October 2020. Participants will have the opportunity to attend lectures and round tables on calibration laboratories, testing laboratories as well as testing and Inspection Bodies. The event includes the CROLAB General Assembly. Participants will acquire sound knowledge on the role of laboratories in Croatia and the EU. It is also a wonderful opportunity to see the unique Brijuni archipelago national park and the istria peninsula. Please find all the up to date information and register for the Conference on the CROLAB website: [www.crolab.hr](http://www.crolab.hr). CROLAB is looking forward to seeing you!



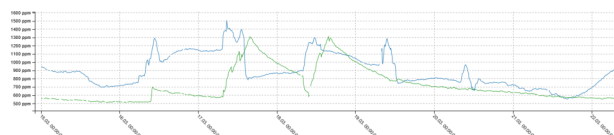
## EUROLAB CZ News

- Long-Term Monitoring of Climate in Buildings

Technical and Test Institute for Construction Prague, SOE, member of EUROLAB-CZ, is now improving services in the field of the quality (health, safety and comfort) of the interior climate for users of energy efficient buildings. Our new sensors allow to track the air humidity, CO<sub>2</sub>, VOC and dust particles PM<sub>2,5</sub> – PM<sub>10</sub> directly in the indoor climate.

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## FENELAB

- FENELAB celebrates its new website



Fenelab has been working on a new strategy within the association during the last year. The association wants to be a link between members and accreditation bodies worldwide. With a new strategy fits a new look. In that order Fenelab has renewed its website and gives room for worldwide news that reaches more than its members alone Please take a look at the website [here](http://www.fenelab.org).

## HELLASLAB

### • HellasLab workshops and activities



Hellaslab organized on February 12, 2020 a workshop on “The Contribution of Hellaslab and the accredited laboratories to the development of the Country” which took place in Athens, and was attended by over 70 participants from laboratories all over Greece.

Main speaker was D. Nieuwenhuis, Secretary General, EUROLAB who attended the workshop and had interesting discussions with many lab managers before and after the workshop, which was very interesting for all participants.

You can find all presentations and some photos on :

<https://www.hellaslab.gr/12-2-2020-ekdilosi->



### [symvoli-tis-ellinikis-enosis/](https://www.hellaslab.gr/12-2-2020-ekdilosi-)

Another workshop was also held on February 22, on the “ISO 17025: Method Validation, Risk assessment & Decision Rules”, gathering 60 participants from all over Greece.

Lorens Sibbesen and Irini Leimoni, were the experts that made the presentations (in English), raising questions and comments from the attendees.



It was the last seminar to be held in Greece before lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic – HellasLab hopes to resume these events from September!

HellasLab also participated in Elec-Tec 2020, an exhibition for electrical equipment – a session for product certification according to European Directives was organized by the Scientific committee of HellasLab.

During the last 3 months, HellasLab participated actively at Hellenic Accreditation System web meetings, so that Accreditation activities for laboratories doing essential analyses (and others) can continue as normal. ESYD has already accredited 2 Greek labs for detecting Covid-19 and more are in the waiting list.

Institute Pasteur of Athens (a member of HellasLab) has a leading role in the battle against the pandemic – with very good results for Greece!



## RELACRE

### • RELACRE's 29th Anniversary (May 9)



RELACRE celebrated its 29th anniversary saluting the great efforts of our members who, in the current context, have been working hard in various ways for the Country to move forward and face this challenge for public health.

A video message was broadcasted on RELACRE's social networks, on behalf of the BoA, by the Chairman, Álvaro Ribeiro.

As part of RELACRE's 29th anniversary celebrations, an event of Webinars was scheduled to take place during next months, being the first one already presented on May 19, 2020, with the title "Return to Laboratories in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic". (<https://youtu.be/6CX1YgpguE4>)

- RELACRE's Online Activities

In the second quarter of the year, in order to respond to the impact of Covid-19, RELACRE was able to develop with success a new strategy for online training and virtual workshops. This was only possible with the support of Portuguese community of laboratories, members and customers that adopted in a remarkable way this new model. In certain cases, because travel is no longer necessary, RELACRE had a growing number of participants from all over the Country and Portuguese Islands.

During these two months, there were presented 14 Training courses and one Workshop with nearly 200 participants. RELACRE will continue to develop this online model, and is already preparing a new type of mixed events that will combine online and face-to-face approaches.

- Sectorial and Technical Committee

The meetings of RELACRE Sectorial and Technical Committees (RSC) is considered one of the most relevant actions taken to support the development of economic and technical issues of interest for the community of labs. With a large participation of members, it is an increasing tool to discuss topics e.g. the ISO/IEC 17025 transition, regulation in regulatory frameworks and new standards.

In May and June RELACRE held online the plenary meetings from the following RSC:

RELACRE Sectorial Committee for Water - participation of 20 members;

RELACRE Sectorial Committee for Construction Materials - participation of 13 members.

- RELACRE Institutional Support to a MSc thesis

Title: Lean and Six Sigma Methodologies and organizational performance: a study in Portuguese laboratories. Author: Andreia Viviana Antunes Craveiro

This thesis had the institutional support of RELACRE within the scope of the questionnaire

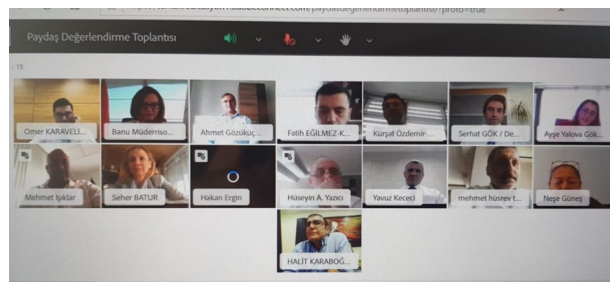
sent to our members regarding the subject mentioned.

## TURKLAB

- TÜRKAK Impacts of COVID-19 Outbreak on the Accreditation Processes and UDK Activities



On May 12, 2020, "COVID-19 Stakeholders Assessment Meeting" was held by TÜRKAK with a remote meeting for the assessment of the impacts of COVID 19 on their sector in terms of accreditation, with the participation of their Chairman of the Board of Directors Mr. Halit KARABOĞA, Vice President Mr. Mehmet HÜSREV, TÜRKAK Advisory Board Member and their Honorary President Dr. Ömer GÜZEL and TÜRKAK Advisory Board Member and their former President Ms. Neşe GÜNEŞ. At the meeting, Secretary General Ms. Banu Müderisoğlu, Deputy Secretary General Mr. Kürşat Özdemir, Deputy Secretary General Ms. Ayşe Yalova Gökçe, Head of Product Service Inspection Accreditation Mr. Ahmet Gözükcük, Head of Certification Accreditation Mr. Seher Batur and Head of Experiment Accreditation Mr. Serhat Gök were present in person to represent TÜRKAK.



At the meeting, opinions and suggestions were shared for Preparations of TÜRKAK for the Transition to the New Normalization Process, Impacts of Epidemic on Laboratories, Expectations of Laboratories from TÜRKAK, the Effect of the Outbreak on Conformity Assessment Bodies, Expectation of Conformity Assessment Bodies from TÜRKAK, and solution offers. All requests and questions from their members were conveyed to TÜRKAK top management. At the meeting, the recent status of the projects "Auditor Harmonization" (2017) and "Increasing the Efficiency of the Audits of the Conformity Assessment Bodies for Approval Purposes" (2018) were evaluated with TÜRKAK. Most of the time in the meeting, the participants evaluated about the "Healthy Tourism (COVID 19) Certification Program" initiated by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.





- **Regional Food Committee Meeting - May 12, 2020**

At the first regional meeting, it was discussed about province-specific and general problems of their members, working in İzmir, Aydın and Manisa. It was decided to hold meetings regularly, both digitally and physically. The current status and functioning of the laboratories for the duration of this pandemic were also discussed. The suggestions submitted to the R.T. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to make a contribution to the current public health system based on food and nutrition were examined.

- **Food Committee Meeting - May 18, 2020**

The current status and functioning of the laboratories for the duration of this pandemic were also discussed. The suggestions submitted to the R.T. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to make a contribution to the current public health system based on food and nutrition were examined. The possible impacts of the instruction on using pesticides sent by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for the sector were negotiated. It was agreed by consensus that they must continue working in cooperation with all Ministries and be willing to make sacrifices if necessary for the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic. On the basis of the reply given to their application to the Ministry for the food laboratories to provide full service during partial lockdowns, the need to continue to be included in the scope of exemption by the provincial sanitary committees was once again emphasized.

- **TÜRKAK – TURKLAB Evaluation Meeting**

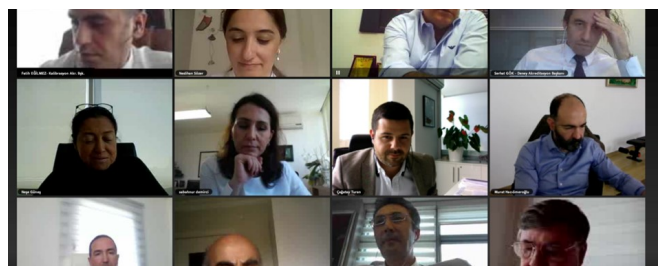
Within the framework of TÜRKAK-TURKLAB cooperation, the executives of TURKAK, namely Deputy Secretary General Mr. Kürşat Özdemir, Head of Department Mr. Fatih Eğilmez and Mr. Serhat Gök and the Board members of TURKLAB came together online with a remote meeting on May 29, 2020.

This meeting regarding the problems recently caused by COVID-19 in the conformity assessment sector, along with the solution offers,

was held with the participation of the Chairman of the Board of Directors Mr. Halit Karaboğa, TÜRKAK Advisory Board Member and the Honorary President Dr. Ömer Güzel, TÜRKAK Advisory Board Member and former President Ms. Neşe Güneş, TURKLAB Board Members Ms. Sabahnur Demirci, Mr. Çağatay Turan, Mr. Birkan İskan, Mr. Murat Hacıömeroğlu, Ms. Neslihan Sözer and Mr. Hikmet Terzi.

At the meeting, opinions and suggestions were shared for the preparations of TÜRKAK for the transition to the new normalization process, impacts of the pandemic on laboratories, expectations of laboratories from TÜRKAK, and solution offers.

At the meeting, all requests and questions from all committee members (Food Safety, Environment, Calibration, Consumer Product Committees) were conveyed to TÜRKAK top management, and their opinions were received.



The Remote Control Procedure published by TÜRKAK regarding the Remote Control Process, the Procedure on the Management of Exceptional Circumstances Affecting Accredited Organizations and the risk assessment activities to be performed by the Conformity Assessment Institutions in this process were evaluated. It was announced that any accreditation applications for certain products or services, which are directly connected to the exceptional circumstance or which may contribute to its elimination and/or at the request of the relevant competent authority/official authorities, would be evaluated as a priority, without waiting for the normalization process.

- **TURKLAB Sectoral Interview - June 11, 2020**

In the Instagram Live broadcast of the interview series with Sector Representatives, Technical Experts and Stakeholders, the first guest was Istanbul Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Manager Mr. Ahmet Yavuz Karaca.

In the program, Mr. Ahmet Yavuz Karaca assessed the impacts of Covid 19 pandemic on the

sector, answering questions from the members. He also talked about the measures taken by the Provincial Directorates before Covid 19. Information about the studies and projects in the field of agriculture was shared. TURKLAB would like to thank Provincial Manager Mr. Ahmet Yavuz Karaca for his participation.

- **TURKLAB Sectoral Interview - June 18, 2020**

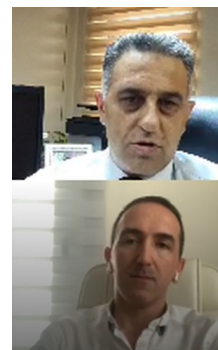
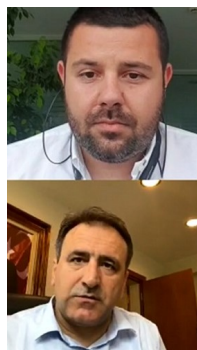
In the Instagram Live broadcast of the interview series with Sector Representatives, Technical Experts and Stakeholders, the guest was Mr. Soner OLGUN from the Environment Committee, the Head of Department of Laboratory, Measurement and Monitoring of the Ministry of Environment.

In the program, the discussion was focused on the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic on the sector and the normalization processes by answering questions from the sector committee and the members. The measures taken by the Ministry before and for the duration of Covid 19 pandemic were also discussed. In addition, the positive impact on air quality thanks to the partial lockdown was assessed by analyzing data from Air Quality Monitoring stations. The positive effects of the Central Laboratory Identification System (MELBES) on the sector, some possible changes planned in the future and the obvious changes in the measurement results after MELBES were revealed with the data. TURKLAB would like to thank Mr. Soner OLGUN, the Head of Department, for his participation.

- **TURKLAB Technical Seminars - June 25, 2020**

In cooperation with TURKLAB - METTLER TOLEDO, the "Accurate Weighing Practices-GWP® Webinar" was held with the intense interest of more than 130 participants on June 25, 2020. Throughout the webinar, detailed technical issues were discussed, such as basic information about metrology: measurement uncertainty, minimum weight and safe weighing range, routine tests: step-by-step procedures to ensure weighing accuracy, factors affecting accuracy: detecting, reducing and/or eliminating errors, selection, installation and daily operation of your GWP Good Weighing Practice™ weighing equipment. Moreover, questions regarding the standards and daily practices from the participants were also answered. And information was given about the future webinars planned to be organized in cooperation with TURKLAB - METTLER TOLEDO. With digitalization, the transmission of information through webinar platforms is also

accepted by laboratory staff and managers.



## TIC Market Trends

### TIC Council Members helping to fight COVID-19

- AmSpec has published the position paper on their actions in the times of the COVID-19. [Read more](#)
- Applus+ has been working with manufacturers and the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices (AEMPS) to test the respirators that are ever so essential for those most affected by the Coronavirus. [Read more](#)
- Bureau Veritas has deployed remote inspection, remote supervision and augmented inspection services in multiple use cases and business units around the world. [Read more](#)
- Certispec has been closely monitoring the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and has taken a robust approach to managing the potential health and business risks across international operations. [Read more](#)
- CGI (Coastal Gulf & International) has launched a campaign to honor front line health care Workers by accepting nominations from their valuable clients on individuals and their health care teams who could benefit from a catered breakfast, lunch, or dinner as they continue navigating through these difficult times. [Read more](#)
- Cotecna has launched the Customer Portal, which is designed to give our current customers a quicker access to place requests for Verification of Conformity services. [Read more](#)
- DEKRA has provided a free and comprehensive resource center, where companies can find many different tools and information related to crisis management, personal protection, social distancing, working from home, and new cybersecurity aspects arising from the new normal. [Read more](#)
- Eurofins Technologies has launched GeneScan VIRSeek SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR, an integrated solution including RNA extraction and test kits based on real-time RT-PCR (Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 in swabs of environmental surfaces. [Read more](#)
- HQTs has published tips for finding trustworthy medical suppliers during Covid-19. [Read more](#)
- Kiwa Primara GmbH (part of Kiwa Germany) has expanded its capacities regarding testing of medical devices and components. [Read more](#)
- Liftinsituut has prepared the list of all the possible questions and answers regarding COVID-19. [Read more](#)
- QIMA has been offering free quality inspection services in China for the production of masks and protective medical gear during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)
- QISJ assured their customers that even as preventive measures and caution have been implemented in the organization, their services would still be provided normally and in timely manner. [Read more](#)
- SGS has launched a complimentary AI platform, which screens scientific papers to support medical research teams in their effort to combat the current coronavirus pandemic. [Read more](#)
- SOEX experts has started to advise businesses on loss assessment and contract liability reduction. [Read more](#)
- TÜV AUSTRIA Group has been committed to providing advice and assistance in all technical safety-related matters in the COVID-19 crisis. [Read more](#)
- TÜV Rheinland Group India has offered the 'No Cost' Safety Critical type tests on Ventilator Systems which are produced at its Bangalore laboratory till 30th April 2020. [Read more](#)
- TÜV SÜD North Asia team has sent the first batch of medical face masks to colleagues and clients around the world. [Read more](#)
- TÜV SÜD has prepared the article with answers to 4 commonly asked questions about masks. [Read more](#)



- UL has launched the page with all the response guides and services they provide. [Read more](#)
- Vallis has been monitoring the COVID-19 situation very closely and is taking continuous action to manage potential health and business risks within their operations across 45 countries in the Middle East and Africa. [Read more](#)

## Business Developments

- Apave and Afnor have joined forces to secure the recovery in the construction industry. [Read more](#)
- Applus+ RTD has started to provide NDT Services for an ongoing new construction project in the Gulf of Mexico. [Read more](#)
- Applus+ Laboratories have broadened the scope of its accreditations and recognitions to test and certify radio equipment and gain access to the US (FCC) and Canada (ISED). [Read more](#)
- Applus+ Laboratories have been accredited as Notified Body for the certification of PPE face masks. [Read more](#)
- Applus+ has implemented new online solutions with remote assistance in electrical & electronic products testing to streamline client-lab interaction during the whole testing process. [Read more](#)
- Bureau Veritas and Accor have launched a label based on sanitary measures to support the return to business in the hospitality and restaurant industry. [Read more](#)
- Bureau Veritas has announced that its automotive laboratory, recently opened in Detroit USA, has obtained ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). [Read more](#)
- Bureau Veritas has opened additional Remote Survey Centres. [Read more](#)
- Bureau Veritas has started to offer a digital platform titled 'Restart your business with BV' to support companies and public authorities in their health protocols and their commitment to transparency. [Read more](#)
- Bureau Veritas and Sodexo, have joined forces to introduce a hygiene verification label for Sodexo procedures and services. [Read more](#)
- Control Union UK has launched a new online training service. [Read more](#)
- DEKRA Visatec has been expanding to Australia and Oceania. [Read more](#)
- Eurofins Technologies has announced the CE-IVD marking of a first range of testing kits for serology-based antibody detection by ELISA of patients who have been exposed to COVID-19. [Read more](#)
- Eurofins have launched Eurofins SAFER@WORK™: A Comprehensive Suite of Risk-Based COVID-19 Safety Solutions for Businesses. [Read more](#)
- Intertek has announced the first certification for its Cyber Assured Program, a cybersecurity testing and certification program providing continuous vulnerability monitoring for connected products. [Read more](#)
- Intertek has launched Protek – the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Assurance Programme for People, Workplaces and Public Spaces. [Read more](#)
- Intertek has opened a new facility in Ethiopia offering Assurance, Testing and Inspection services for the Agricultural industry. [Read more](#)
- Intertek Caleb Brett has partnered with UK-based blockchain platform VAKT to deliver digitised Assurance solutions. [Read more](#)
- Intertek has started to ensure supply chain quality and safety with innovative Data-Driven Risk-Based Inspection Program. [Read more](#)
- Kiwa Germany has increased capacity for testing medical devices and components. [Read more](#)

- Kiwa has started to offer the global MSC CoC certification – international standard for sustainable seafood. [Read more](#)
- Kiwa has started to offer the service for testing surgical face masks according to EN 14683. [Read more](#)
- Kiwa has enabled organizations to certify their privacy management system with ISO/IEC 27701. [Read more](#)
- RINA and Wesii have been working together to operate aerial thermographies within the renewable energy sector, mainly the photovoltaic industry. [Read more](#)
- SGS and NH Hotel Group have announced collaboration on a Global Disinfection Assessment Label. [Read more](#)
- SGS has joined the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and International SOS to ensure that strict privacy standards continue to protect personal health data in a post-COVID-19 world. [Read more](#)
- SOCOTEC has partnered with EDENRED offering a new service: a health and safety label dedicated to restaurants that aims to reassure customers and to facilitate reopening of establishments. [Read more](#)
- SZU has recently become a recognized inspection and certification body of the ENplus® wood pellet certification scheme. [Read more](#)
- SZU has renewed his partnership with the iNETME project (International NET for Mechanical Engineering), the aim of which is to encourage a greater involvement of science and research teams into international projects in the field of mechanical engineering. [Read more](#)
- Turk Loydu 2019 Annual Report has been published. [Read more](#)
- TÜV AUSTRIA Annual Report has been published. [Read more](#)
- TÜV Rheinland has started to provide JD.com free of charge protective equipment qualification audit services, supporting overseas Chinese and students. [Read more](#)
- TÜV SÜD has now been recognised as Bacnet Testing Laboratory. [Read more](#)
- UL has helped to advance electric vehicle battery safety with new testing and inspection services. [Read more](#)
- UL has issued Japan's first certification for plastics for additive manufacturing to Aspect, Inc. [Read more](#)
- UL has published lighting design Guideline for Circadian Entrainment. [Read more](#)
- UL has announced Industry-First comprehensive Supply Chain Cybersecurity Solution. [Read more](#)

## Personnel Developments

- Eurofins Agrosience Services has appointed Dr Christoph Grondal as head of business development and strategy for its European Chemistry & Ecotox business. [Read more](#)
- Force Technology has appointed Hanne Christensen as a new CEO. [Read more](#)
- UL has named Linda Chapin chief Human Resources Officer. [Read more](#)

## Mergers and Acquisition

- AHK Group has acquired Waste Research consultancy. [Read more](#)
- Cotecna has acquired KaiXin Certification (Beijing) Co., Ltd. [Read more](#)
- Cotecna has acquired Kaixin Certification (Beijing) Co., Ltd. [Read more](#)
- SGS has acquired CTA Gallet in France. [Read more](#)
- SOCOTEC has acquired AXE a specialist in QSE. [Read more](#)

# Accreditation and Standardisation

## Accreditation

### IAF

- IAF and fake certificates: IAF was recently made aware that the issue of fake certificates for medical devices was raised at the recent Database Management Committee meeting and one option being discussed is encouraging CBs to make available related management systems certificates on the CertSearch site, at least during the Covid-19 crisis. Product certificates would not be affected.
- IAF continues to update its COVID-19 FAQ's. FAQs available at <https://iaffaq.com/>. IAF will also announce all updates via its [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) accounts. Several questions have been added in the previous months, and more are added regularly.
- The following materials have been published by IAF:
  - ⇒ [IAF Public Document Responsibility List Rev. 18](#), a list of the IAF Main Committee responsible for each publicly available IAF document;
  - ⇒ [IAF Representatives, Liaisons, and Contacts List Rev. 16](#), that lists the IAF representative(s) and liaison(s) to external committees and organizations;
  - ⇒ [IAF Non-Public Document Responsibility List Rev. 5](#), a list of the IAF Main Committee responsible for each non-publicly available IAF document;
  - ⇒ [Remote Auditing Activities for Accredited Food Safety Certification](#), that provides guidance on how remote auditing processes and procedures defined in international standards and IAF documents can be used in accredited food safety certification;
  - ⇒ [IQNet Interview](#) by IAF CMC Chair Brahim Houla to Pedro Alves about the collaboration between IAF and IQNet.
- June 9th 2020 has marked IAF and ILAC's World Accreditation Day (#WAD2020), which was focused for this year on how accreditation improves food safety. Materials for use are available from the ILAC website and the IAF website, where a joint statement, a poster and a brochure are also available. In addition, a [video](#) to further support WAD2020 has been released.
- The final report on the Joint IAF/ILAC 2018 re-evaluation of the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA) has now been completed.
- ILAC and IAF are proposing that the United Nations designated World Accreditation Day as a UN International Day (see attached information).
- [IAF-ILAC A1:03/2020 "IAF/ILAC MRA Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements \(Arrangements\): Requirement and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group"](#) and [IAF-ILAC A3:03/2020 "IAF/ILAC MRAs: Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements \(Arrangements\): Template report for the peer evaluation of an Accreditation Body based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017"](#) were approved for publication.
- IAF has submitted a summary report proposing that IFS Management GmbH (IFS) be admitted to membership in IAF.
- 2020-2025 IAF Strategic Plan, the 30-day ballot closed 16 May 2020 and the document has been approved.
- The [IAF Strategic Plan for the years 2020 to 2025](#) is now available on the IAF website.

### EA

- EA has published the draft version (draft 8) of revised EA-3/12: EA Policy for the Accreditation of Organic Production Certification which takes into account the comments received and considered by the



TFG. Endorsement of this final draft 8 is requested by Friday 22 MAY 2020. It will then be submitted to a 30 day ballot among EA members

- There are around 115 EU legislations which refer to accreditation and conformity assessment. EA has prepared a directory of EU legislations with relation to accreditation and conformity assessment, EA-INF/05, available [here](#).
- Publications now available on the EA website:
  - ⇒ EA-1/22 “EA Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes”: read more [here](#).
  - ⇒ EA - 2/17 “EA Document on Accreditation for Notification purpose”: read more [here](#).
  - ⇒ EA - 2/20 “Consultancy, and the Independence of Conformity Assessment Bodies” : read more [here](#).
  - ⇒ EA - INF/02 “Contact Persons of EA Full and Associate Members, Recognized Stakeholders and Observers”: read more [here](#).
  - ⇒ EA - INF/01 List of EA Publications and International Documents, including a new column named “peer evaluation” ticked when documents are relevant for peer evaluations: read more [here](#).
- The 2019 EA MLA Report has been released. You can download the full report [here](#).
- The ‘Accreditation for Notification’ project (part II) has been concluded and the report is now available. The AfN project results will be included in the document EA-2/17 Accreditation for Notification purposes and (presumably) the Commissions’ Blue Guide. For additional information click [here](#)
- Agency for Railway and shall also be soon available [here](#)
- Find [here](#) the new programme for the OIML Workshop 2020 on “Digital Transformation in Legal Metrology”.
- Following the cancellation of the 23rd EA HHC meeting, please find below a list of updates and additional information:
  - ⇒ Draft documents EA-1/22, EA-2/17, EA-3/01 S1, EA-2/19 INF:2020 (List of Risks) and document on consultancy - The documents have been discussed and commented, and they will be published after the final ballot of EA members.
  - ⇒ EA HHC has confirmed the dates of next 2021 HHC meetings as followed: 2-3 March 2021 and 7-8 September 2021, in Brussels
  - ⇒ The “Evaluation of Schemes” Training on CC document on selection of standards (17021 vs17065) and revised EA-1/22 will be held at the President Brussels Hotel (Ex-Husa), Brussels on October 7th, 2020 (subject to the further developments regarding the corona virus)
- The draft minutes and resolutions of the EA General Assembly meeting held online on 14 May 2020 have been posted by EA and are available to A&SC members upon request.
- Eurachem Romania is organizing the virtual scientific workshop “[Quality assurance for analytical laboratories in the university curriculum](#)”, taking place on 14-15 July 2020. More information here.
- EA will soon launch a resolution in order to adopt the extension of the transition period for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 to 01 June 2021. As ISO/IEC 17025:2017 is a so-called harmonized standard and the reference is published in the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU), including the transition period, we are in close contact with the European Commission in order to align the transition period with the ILAC/EA decision.
- The EA autumn 2020 meetings and trainings have been cancelled and will be held virtually, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. That includes the Technical Committees (HHC, LC, IC, CC), the CPC and MAC as well as the General Assembly.

## ILAC

- ILAC has provided an update on the transition period for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 taking into consideration the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The AMC is recommending that the end of the transition period be extended from 30 November 2020 to 1 June 2021. This recommendation is now the subject of a 30 day referendum with ILAC Eligible Voting Members (full / signatories ILAC members only).
- The ILAC Secretariat has been in contact with the ISO CASCO Secretariat to advise that the 30 day referendum is underway, as the Joint ILAC-ISO Communiqué on the recognition of ISO/IEC 17025 during a Three-Year Transition will require amendment if the outcome of this referendum supports the recommendation from the AMC.
- The referendum for ILAC P15:05/2020 "Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies" resulted in approval for publication. The document is available on the [ILAC web-site](#).
- As a result of the recent referendum, the transition period for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 has been extended to 1 June 2021. The extension will ensure all accreditation bodies and the accredited laboratories are able to achieve the remaining transitions in a robust manner. The *Joint ILAC-ISO Communiqué on the recognition of ISO/IEC 17025 during a Three-Year Transition* has been revised to reflect this extension to the transition period and is now available from <https://ilac.org/about-ilac/partnerships/international-partners/iso/>

## Standardisation

### ISO CASCO

- The 16th Edition of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, and the 11th Edition of the Consolidated ISO Supplement are now available in English.
- ISO/IEC TS 17021-12:2020 - 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 has been published.
- ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 - Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements is undergoing a systematic review until 2020-09-02. A systematic review will result in the withdrawal, revision or confirmation of the document.
- ISO/IEC 17023:2013 - Conformity assessment - Guidelines for determining the duration of management system certification audits is also undergoing a systematic review until 2020-09-02.
- Previously announced measures regarding the work of ISO have been extended to 31 July 2020 and all meetings must be held virtually or postponed until after this date.
- CASCO has circulated a notice indicating that the ISO Technical Management Board, TMB, has issued resolutions to support the continuation of technical work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please let us know if you would like a copy of the resolutions.
- ISO/IEC 17000 has been approved.
- Proposed Revision of ISO/IEC 17043 - NWIP ballot and call for Co-convenorship".
- New document posted on the ISO/CASCO "Committee on conformity assessment" eCommittee: "CASCO Circular letter - Revision of ISO/IEC 17043 - NWIP ballot and call for Co-convenorship".
- New document posted on the ISO/CASCO "Committee on conformity assessment" eCommittee: "CASCO Circular letter - Important information regarding CASCO policy and technical meetings".
- New document posted on the ISO/CASCO "Committee on conformity assessment" eCommittee (read more): "Circular letter - Committee Internal ballot on changes to internal procedure CASCO PROC1".

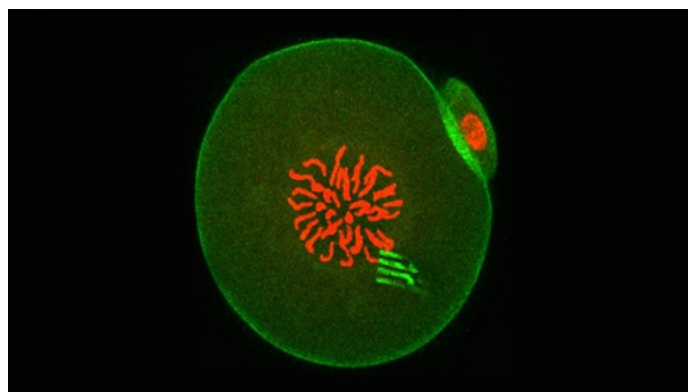
- ISO/IEC 17000 – Conformity Assessment - Vocabulary and General Principles has been published.
- ISEAL is currently updating its Credibility Principles for sustainability standards, and is inviting everyone interested to give feedback on the revised Principles through their [website](#) before 31 July. You can also find [here](#) links to the consultation draft and survey.
- The ISO Central Secretariat has extended the measures whereby all the meeting must be held virtually until 30 September 2020, or postponed after that date.
- The New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) to revise ISO/IEC 17043, *Conformity assessment - General requirements for proficiency testing*, was approved by 100% of ISO/CASCO P- Members and 100% of IEC P – Members.



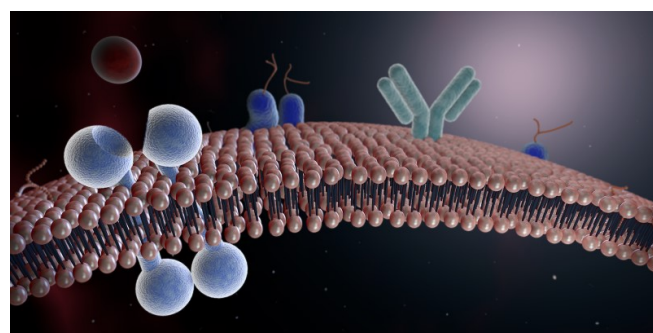
# The Laboratory of the future

## Laboratory News

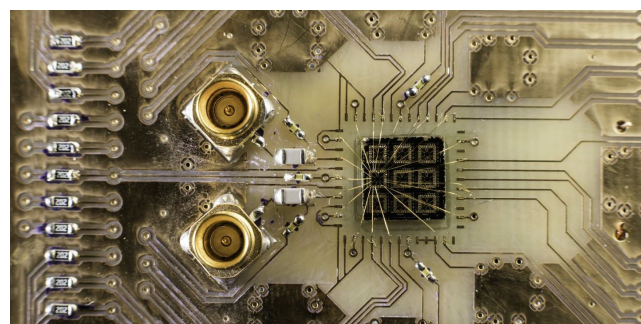
- **Global alliance for collaborative digital health:** The Pistoia Alliance, a global, not-for-profit alliance that works to lower barriers to innovation in life sciences R&D, today launched a new series of programs to help organisations collaborate on advancing the role of digital technology within life sciences R&D and healthcare. [Read more.](#)
- **Materials Informatics—The Time For Adoption is Now:** Materials Informatics is the key to enabling a paradigm shift in our approach to materials science R&D. Significant investment, notable adoption from key end-users, and technology leaps make it evident that it's time has come. Through primary-interview based analysis, IDTechEx has introduced the most comprehensive market report on the topic: "Materials Informatics 2020-2030". [Read more.](#)



- **New technique for higher resolution molecular imaging and analysis:** A Northwestern University research team has developed a new method to conduct spectroscopic nanoscopy, an approach that could help researchers understand more complicated biomolecular interactions and characterize cells and diseases at the single-molecule level. [Read more.](#)
- **Tracking the physics of biological cells using nanodevices (video):** For the first time, scientists have introduced minuscule tracking devices directly into the interior of mammalian cells, giving an unprecedented peek into the processes that govern the beginning of development. This work on one-cell embryos is set to shift our understanding of the mechanisms that underpin cellular behaviour in general, and may ultimately provide insights into what goes wrong in ageing and disease. [Read more.](#)



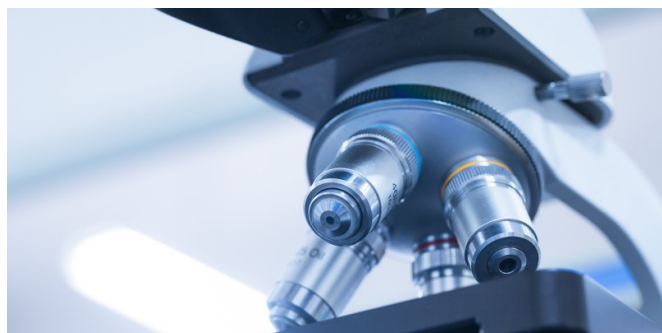
- **Biohybrid organic battery combines nanocomposite and bacteria:** Scientists from Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) have developed a programmable, biohybrid material system combining nanocomposite and bacteria for power generation. [Read more.](#)
- **Higgs Spectroscopy:** A new method to measure superconductors: From sustainable energy to quantum computers: high-temperature superconductors have the potential to revolutionize today's technologies. Despite intensive research, however, we still lack the necessary basic understanding to develop these complex materials for widespread application. 'Higgs spectroscopy' could bring about a watershed as it reveals the dynamics of paired electrons in superconductors. [Read more.](#)
- **AI to map impact of COVID-19 on the heart:** A joint UK-US research team is applying a pioneering artificial intelligence system to map how the COVID-19 virus attacks the heart with such deadly impact. The collaboration aims to quantify cardiac involvement in COVID-19 and help triage high-risk patients with myocardial injury. [Read more.](#)



- **Machine learning predicts nanoparticle structure and dynamics:** Researchers at the Nanoscience Center and at the Faculty of Information Technology at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland have demonstrated that new distance-based machine learning methods, developed in

the University of Jyväskylä, are capable of predicting structures and atomic dynamics of nanoparticles reliably. The new methods are significantly faster than traditional simulation methods used for nanoparticle research and will facilitate more efficient explorations of particle-particle reactions and particles' functionality in their environment. [Read more.](#)

- **A Turning Point for Digital Pathology:** Will the COVID-19 pandemic turn the tide for the widespread adoption of digital pathology? [Read more.](#)
- **Breakthroughs in Laboratory Medicine:** A snapshot of the latest news in pathology and lab medicine. [Read more.](#)
- **A 3D-Printable Material That Mimics Biological Tissues:** University of Colorado scientists are the first to 3D print a complex, porous lattice structure using liquid crystal elastomers, creating devices that can finally mimic biological tissues. [Read more.](#)
- **New Imaging Methods Illuminate Cell Surface Receptors:** Researchers have developed a variety of imaging methods that allow them to observe receptors in real time. [Read more.](#)
- **Teleportation May Be Possible between Electrons, Research Finds:** Quantum teleportation is an important step in improving quantum computing. [Read more.](#)



- **New Discovery Advances Optical Microscopy:** Finding enables researchers to directly visualize unlabeled objects that have deep sub-wavelength separations. [Read more.](#)
- **Award to Bring Machine Learning into Life Sciences:** Dr Gabriele Schweikert, a researcher at the University of Dundee's School of Life Sciences has received a £1.6 million Future Leaders Fellowship award from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to develop machine learning tools

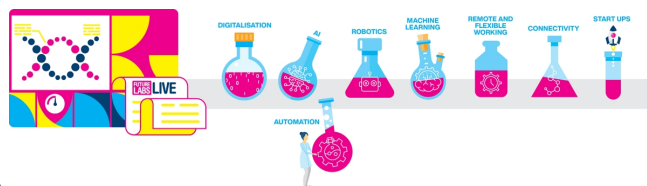
for better understanding of molecular processes in living cells and how these go wrong in diseases. [Read more.](#)

- **Identifying new Green Materials for Thermal Energy Storage:** Researchers from Aalto University in Finland have developed a technique for turning lignin from renewable biomass into hybrid nanocapsules that show potential as phase change materials (PCMs). Their recent paper (1), is the 9000th to be published as a result of research carried out at Diamond Light Source, the UK's national synchrotron, which involved the use of light scattering and microscopy applications. [Read more.](#)

## Laboratory Events

### FUTURE LABS LIVE

The Future Lab Live Congress is taking place on 28-29 September 2020 in Basel, Switzerland. The aim is to create the world's most important 'future lab' congress, covering all industries that will bring together practitioners, technicians, scientists, innovators, start-ups, and the vendor community. The event will have an exhibition floor with solution providers and start-ups, and a content rich agenda in order for all stakeholders to learn how these changes will impact them and the future of laboratories. [Read more.](#)



- On October 13-14, 2020, Amsterdam will host the **Meeting of Innovation, Collaboration and Technology**, a large scale, multidisciplinary conference and exhibition allowing participants to discuss and debate best practices with industry peers and solution providers. The event aims to drive the successful incorporation of new technologies and thinking into the lab to enable collaboration, foster innovation and deliver new medicines. [Read more.](#)
- On October 19-22, 2020, Analytica will organise

the World's Leading Trade Fair for laboratory technology, analysis, biotechnology and analytical conference: the digital transformation of the laboratory world. The event will be mainly focused on the changes of the laboratory world against the background of increasing digitalization. [Read more.](#)

- **Thailand LAB** has been postponed to **October 28-30, 2020** due to the further outbreak of the COVID-19. This year, Thailand LAB INTERNATIONAL will celebrate its 10th Anniversary with top-notch activities to be held. More than 60 conferences & seminars to be conducted both physically and virtually to update the recent industry news and knowledge for people around the world. [Read more.](#)
- The **ARABLAB+** event, originally scheduled for this September, will take place instead in Dubai on **22-24 March 2021**. The event will bring together more than 1,000 laboratories, who will have the chance to showcase their work and innovations to 10,000+ visitors and meet buyers from 100+ countries. [Read more.](#)

## Policy News

### Chemicals

- The European Commission published a [roadmap](#) for the upcoming Chemical Strategy.
- The European Commission developed a [draft act](#) on labelling of dangerous chemicals.
- You can watch the proceedings of the European Chemical Agency's (ECHA) "Safer Chemicals Conference" [here](#).

### Circular economy

- **Green claims:** According to the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Commission is expected to present an initiative proposing that companies substantiate their environmental claims using Product and Organisation Environmental Footprint methods. The Annex to the Action Plan specifies that the proposal is expected to be presented in 2020. While at this stage, it is not known what procedure the initiative will follow, more details are expected to be made available in the coming months.

### Counterfeit products

- The European Commission published [a roadmap for the upcoming Digital Services Act](#) and on [large platforms acting as gatekeepers](#). These include announcements for measures to address counterfeit products at online marketplaces. The roadmap is open to consultation until 30 June.
- The European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF) [reported](#) on its inquiry into fake COVID-19 products.
- **EPA Orders Amazon, eBay to Stop Selling faulty Coronavirus, Pesticide Products:** The Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday sent a notice to Amazon and eBay ordering the two e-commerce giants to stop selling pesticides and faulty coronavirus-related products. The agency said third-party or direct sellers are listing these "unregistered, misbranded or restricted-use" pesticide and COVID-19-related products on Amazon and eBay's platforms. Source: [Yahoo Finance](#)
- **EU governments lose €15bn a year due to counterfeiting, EUIPO says:** Governments across the EU lose €15 billion each year due to counterfeiting, which is increasingly often linked with other serious crimes, according to a report by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) published on Wednesday (10 June). Source: [Euractiv](#)
- **COVID-19 drives EC to change rules on notified body designations:** The European Commission has cleared member states to deviate from normal procedures for overseeing notified bodies during the COVID-19 pandemic, per [an amendment to implementing regulation](#). The Commission said member states can renew designations under the outgoing device regulations without performing the on-site assessment required in normal times. The legislation also relaxes the rules on surveillance and monitoring. The EC published the law on the same day as [guidelines](#) outlining when devices cleared for use by national authorities without conformity assessments can be made available across the European Union

### Cybersecurity and digitalization

- **Stakeholders weigh in on EU's future AI plans:** A cross-section of stakeholders has responded to the EU's plans to build an ethical framework for the development and deployment of next-generation Artificial Intelligence technologies, highlighting concerns ranging from the use of biometric technology to the operation of Automated Decision Making (ADM) software. Source: [Euractiv](#)



- **Special subcommittee on AI – EP:** A new special committee on AI has been established at the European Parliament, for an initial 12-month term. 33 MEPs will be appointed to the Committee, which will study the impact and challenges of rolling out AI, and propose a roadmap with objectives for the EU in the field of AI and the steps that need to be taken to achieve them.
- **EU grants €38 million for protection of #CriticalInfrastructure against #CyberThreats:** The Commission has announced that it is committing more than €38 million, through Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme, to support several innovative projects in the field of protection of critical infrastructure against cyber and physical threats and making cities smarter and safer. Source: [EU Reporter](#)
- **Study:** A new [study](#) was published on the challenges and opportunities for digital services that are provided by artificial intelligence, in particular which regard to consumer protection, data protection, and providers' liability.
- **Report:** DIGITALEUROPE published a [report](#) on application and functioning of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- The European Commission published a [report](#) on current and near-future applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine and healthcare. Moreover, the European Parliament's ITRE Committee prepared [several non-binding on artificial intelligence](#).
- The European Commission published a [report](#) on the liability regime for online intermediaries.
- **EU calls for greater regulation of US tech companies.** The need in Europe for tighter rules on US internet giants has become "urgent," says its anti-monopolies chief Margrethe Vestager. Brussels is seeking submissions by September on its planned 'Digital Services Act.' The rush for US internet services during the coronavirus crisis showed the "urgent" need for the European Union to proceed with its planned Digital Services Act, Margrethe Vestager told the German newspaper Welt am Sonntag. Source: [Deutsche Welle](#) (DW)
- **Two years of the GDPR: Questions and answers:** What are the main conclusions of the [report by the European Commission](#)?
- **U.S. Government to Spend Over \$18 Billion on Cybersecurity.** According to an Atlas VPN investigation, the US government is set to allocate \$18.78 billion for cybersecurity spending in 2021. In September 2018, the White House published the National Cyber Strategy, which provides strategic steps towards securing the government and all critical infrastructure from cyber threats. The Department of Defense (DoD) in the Cyber Strategy report [outlines](#) the main threats that the US faces regarding cybercrime. [Read more.](#)
- The [Stakeholders Cybersecurity Certification Group](#) (SCCG) led by the Commission and the European Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) met for the first time on 24th June. TIC Council, SGS and VdTUV are members of the group, which will provide advice on strategic issue regarding cybersecurity certification and assist the Commission in the development and implementation of the Union rolling work programme. The aim is to create market-driven certification schemes and help reduce fragmentation between various existing schemes in the EU Member States.

## Environment

- The European Commission published a [roadmap](#) for the Strategy to Adaptation to Climate Change.
- **Farm to Fork Strategy:** The TIC Council attended the [8th meeting of the European Commission's platform on food waste and food losses](#). The Summary is available on the [TICC extranet](#).
- **EU defines green investments to boost sustainable finance:** To boost the shift towards eco-friendly investment the EU is introducing rules to define what qualifies as green or sustainable activities. During

the June plenary session, MEPs will vote on a framework that determines which activities can be considered sustainable. This would establish a common classification system across the EU, provide business and investors with clarity, and encourage an increase in private sector funding for the [transition towards climate neutrality](#). Parliament and Council negotiators [reached a provisional agreement](#) in December 2019. Parliament's economic affairs and environment committees backed the agreement on 28 May. Source: [European Parliament](#)

- **New Industrial Strategy:** The European Parliament Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) published its [draft Opinion](#) on a New Industrial Strategy for Europe.
- The European Commission has published a [roadmap for batteries' sustainability](#). The roadmap is open to comments by 29 July.
- The European Commission published a [roadmap](#) with measures to reduce the use of pesticides. The roadmap is open to comments until 7 August.
- The European Commission published a [roadmap for adopting new rules against persistent organic pollutants \(POPs\)](#). The roadmap is open to comments until 7 August.
- **Green Deal:** key to a climate-neutral and sustainable EU: Parliament wants the Green Deal to be at the core of the EU's Covid-19 recovery package. Find out more about this roadmap for a climate-neutral Europe. [Read more.](#)

## Food

- BEUC, an influential NGO representing consumers at EU level, has published a report on [consumers' perceptions to sustainable food](#).
- The European Commission adopted a comprehensive new [Biodiversity Strategy to bring nature back into our lives](#) and a [Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system](#). The two strategies are mutually reinforcing, bringing together nature, farmers, business and consumers for jointly working towards a competitively sustainable future. In line with the [European Green Deal](#), they propose **ambitious EU actions and commitments to halt biodiversity loss in Europe and worldwide and transform our food systems** into global standards for competitive sustainability, the protection of human and planetary health, as well as the livelihoods of all actors in the food value chain. [Read more.](#)
- The European Commission published the [2019 annual report](#) of the EU Food Fraud Network and the System for Administrative Assistance and Food Fraud. There was an increase in the number of requests of administrative assistance concerning suspicion of food fraud, from 234 in 2018 to 292 in 2019.
- Following a request of the European Parliament, the European Commission published the "[Analysis of the links between the CAP and the Green Deal](#)". This analysis examines the contribution of the [CAP reform proposal](#) to the EU's environmental, climate and biodiversity protection commitments set in the European Green Deal and identifies the steps needed to make the future CAP fully compatible with the Green Deal and its strategies such as the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

## Medical devices

- **Vaccine strategy:** The European Commission has [published a strategy](#) to accelerate the development, manufacturing and deployment of vaccines against COVID-19.
- **Tracing applications:** Member States, with the support of the Commission, have agreed on a [set of technical specifications](#) to ensure a safe exchange of information between national contact tracing

apps based on a decentralised architecture. This concerns the vast majority of tracing apps that were already – or are about to be – launched in the EU.

- **CEN/CENELEC:** In light of the evolving situation of the coronavirus outbreak in Europe, CEN, the European Committee for Standardization, after the urgent request from the European Commission, developed a new CEN Workshop Agreement on community face coverings, which is made available. The new [CWA 17553:2020 'Community face coverings - Guide to minimum requirements, methods of testing and use'](#) provides the minimum requirements for the design, production and performance assessment of community face coverings (barrier masks) intended for consumers, single or reusable.
- The European Commission published a [rolling plan](#) for the adoption of implementing measures for the medical devices Regulation.
- The European Commission launched a consultation on its [roadmap](#) towards a pharmaceutical strategy.
- **PPE exports:** On May 26, 2020, the European Commission [announced](#) that it would not prolong the Export Authorization Scheme for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) it had put in place due to the COVID-19 crisis. The Commission explained that the scheme has “served its purpose” in ensuring adequacy of supply of PPE in the EU. The measures ceased to apply on the same day. Since April 26, 2020, exporters have requested more than 1,300 authorizations, of which 95% have been approved. As a result, over 13 million protective masks, around 1 million protective garments and over 350,000 protective masks and visors have been exported from the EU since April 16.
- The [Commission Communication](#) on Guidelines on the adoption of Union-wide derogations for medical devices in accordance with Article 59 of Regulation (EU) 2017/745 was published in the EU Official Journal on 19 May 2020. The Communication provides guidelines on the adoption of EU-wide derogations from conformity assessment procedures, in particular the criteria taken into account by the Commission in assessing whether a national derogation can be extended to the entire territory of the EU. In addition, the document clarifies the process and general conditions that the Commission should set for EU-wide derogations by means of implementing acts, pursuant to Article 59 of Regulation (EU) 2017/745.
- **Clinical Evidence Requirements for CE certification under the In Vitro Diagnostic Regulation in the European Union:** MedTech announced on Thursday the [publication](#) of “Clinical Evidence Requirements for CE certification under the in vitro Diagnostic Regulation in the European Union” Regulatory eBook developed by MedTech Europe’s Clinical Evidence Working Group (IVD). Source: [MedTech Europe](#)
- **MedTech Europe publishes Basic UDI-DI guidance document:** MedTech Europe renders its Basic [UDI-DI guidance document](#) public for the benefit of all stakeholders involved in the Basic UDI-DI assignment and assessment such as manufacturers, system or procedure pack producers, issuing agencies and notified bodies.

## Trade

- **EU-UK:** In a [resolution](#) adopted by a large majority on Thursday, the European Parliament has taken stock of the EU-UK negotiations on a new partnership so far. They emphasise that a comprehensive agreement is in the interest of both parties. However, having the UK side cherry-pick certain policies and push for access to the single market after Brexit is “unacceptable” for the EU, says the text, expressing deep concern over the British government’s insistence on only wanting to negotiate areas that are in the interests of the UK. On 25th June, the European Council adopted a [conclusion](#).
- **Trade public consultation:** The European Commission has launched a major review of the European Union’s trade policy, including a public consultation seeking input from for the European Parliament, Member States, stakeholders and civil society. The Commission’s objective is to build a consensus around a fresh medium-term direction for EU trade policy, responding to a variety of new global challenges and taking into account the lessons learned from the coronavirus crisis. The text of the consul-

tation is [available here](#).

- **Trade of healthcare products:** The European Commission has supported an [international initiative](#) to facilitate trade in healthcare products with a group of World Trade Organization (WTO) partners known as 'Ottawa Group'. These ideas address the ongoing international discussion on how to facilitate access to affordable pharmaceutical and medical goods and avoid trade disruptions in times of crisis, and could form part of an international agreement open to all WTO members.
- **EU – Chile:** The European Commission has published a [report](#) on the 7th round of EU-Chile trade negotiations. According to the report, the parties made good progress on several outstanding provisions. However, some areas will require further discussions, in particular [conformity assessment](#) and regulatory cooperation.
- **Australia:** The last round of [negotiations](#) between the EU and Australia took place between 4 and 15 May. Both sides focused on conformity assessment, including the updated of the existing Mutual Recognition Agreement. The EU side further explained its recent proposal on cooperation on market surveillance and safety of non-food products. Articles on technical regulations, international standards, transparency and marking and labelling were also discussed.
- **Customs Union:** The European Commission published a [report](#) on the Customs Union.
- **US-European trade talks stalled over 'unsafe' American food.** US trade talks with the European Union and Britain have stalled in part due to suspicions of poor American food standards, Washington's chief negotiator said Wednesday (17 June). US-EU trade talks have been stalled for months, locked in disputes over subsidies to Boeing and Airbus and digital taxation as well as agriculture. In early May, Britain and the United States began negotiations for an "ambitious" free trade agreement to be implemented after the post-Brexit transition period at the end of the year. High British taxes on the US tech sector is also a sore point in talks. **Source:** [Euractiv](#)
- **Vietnam ratifies free trade deal with EU:** Vietnam ratified a free trade agreement with the European Union on Monday (8 June) that will cut or eliminate 99% of tariffs on goods traded between the South-east Asian country and the bloc, and provide Vietnam with a much-needed post pandemic boost. **Source:** [Euractiv](#)
- **22nd EU-China Summit:** At the summit on 22 June, the EU expressed reassurance that the China-US "phase 1" deal will be implemented in accordance with the obligations of World Trade Organisation (WTO) and without discrimination against EU operators. The WU expects European exporters to benefit from trade facilitating measures in the agri-food sector. Lastly, the EU encouraged negotiating an EU-China Comprehensive Investment Agreement that would ensure a level playing field and addresses asymmetries in market access.



## International Events

- 10 July, 2020: [An ecosystems approach to industrial resilience](#) - Orgalim - online
- 1 September, 2020: [Virtual Brussels Playbook Interview With Thierry Breton](#)—Politico—online
- 9 September, 2020: [International Conference on Sustainable Development](#) - Rome
- 19 September, 2020: [9th ENISA-EC3 Workshop: CSIRTs and LE Cooperation](#) - Brussels
- 22 September, 2020: [Trust Services Forum](#) - CA Day 2020 - Berlin
- 24 – 25 September, 2020: [Politico – Agriculture & Food Summit 2020](#) - Brussels
- 28-29 September, 2020: [Future Lab Live Congress](#), Basel
- 29 September, 2020: [IoT driving Europe's technology sovereignty and leadership](#) - AIOTI - Berlin
- 30 September – 1 October, 2020: [POLITICO AI Summit: Innovation & Governance 2020](#) - Brussels
- 5-9 October, 2020: [DigiTranScope Autumn Institute 2020](#) - Florence
- 13-14 October 2020: [Meeting of Innovation, Collaboration and Technology](#), Amsterdam
- 14-17 October, 2020: 16th international conference "[LABORATORY COMPETENCE 2020](#)", Brijuni Archipelago, Istria.
- 19-22 October 2020: [17th IMEKO TC 10 Conference: "Global trends in testing, diagnostics & inspection for 2030](#)", Dubrovnik
- 27-28 October, 2020: [ICPHSO International Symposium](#) - Brussels
- 28-30 October 2020: [Thailand LAB](#), Bangkok
- November TBD: [Innovation with a purpose](#) - Orgalim - Stockholm
- 8-11 November 2020: [14th world conference on injury prevention and safety promotion](#), WHO - Adelaide
- 22-24 March 2021, [ARABLAB+](#), Dubai
- 5-6 May 2021: [Digital Transformation in Legal Metrology](#) - OIML - Berlin

## EUROLAB Events

- 16 July, 2020: EUROLAB BoA Meeting, Conference Call
- 22 July, 2020: EUROLAB TCQA Meeting, Conference Call
- 28-30 October, 2020: EUROLAB National Members' Meeting and 30th Anniversary Conference 2020, Vienna- Postponed/date TBC

## **EUROLAB message for its 30th anniversary**

We are very happy to celebrate this year the EUROLAB 30th anniversary!

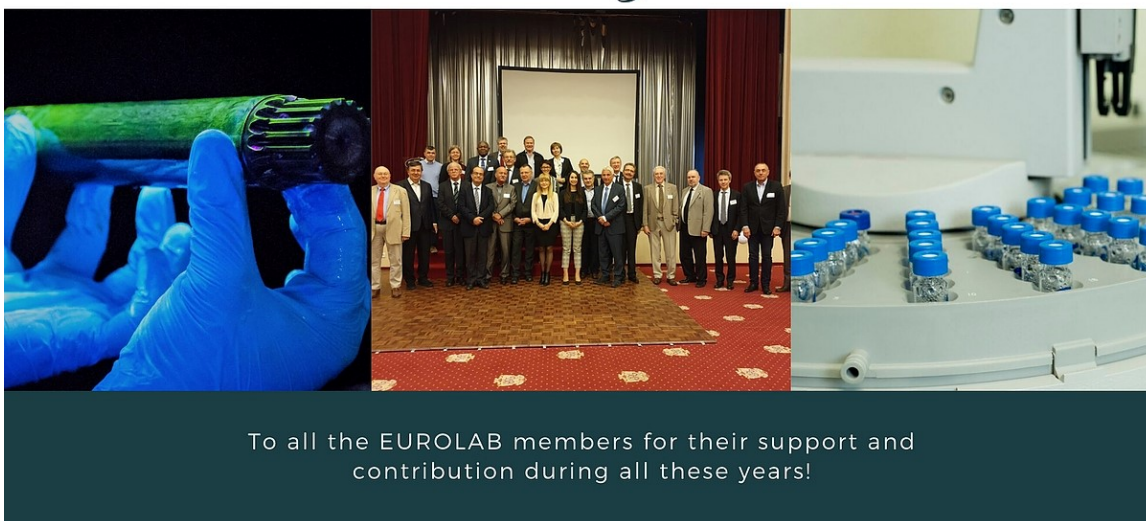
We would like to thank all our members and partners for their valuable contributions and support during all these years. Please follow the link above to watch a short message from the EUROLAB President, Álvaro Silva Ribeiro.

We wish you good health, and to stay safe in these difficult times.



• EUROLAB CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY! •

*Thank you!*



To all the EUROLAB members for their support and contribution during all these years!