

EUROLAB Newsletter

© Relacre

Newsbriefing No. 1/2020

Inside this issue:

National Members' News	2
TIC Market Trends	5
Accreditation and Standardisation	6
The Laboratory of the Future	9
Policy News	11
Chemicals	11
Circular economy	11
Counterfeit products	11
Cybersecurity and digitalization	12
Environment	12
Food	13
Medical devices	13
Trade	14
Events	16
EUROLAB statement on COVID-19	17

Contact details:

EUROLAB Secretariat
Rue du Commerce 20-22
B-1000, Belgium
Tel.: + 32 2 511 50 65
Fax: + 32 2 502 50 47

Dear EUROLAB members,

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



In this extraordinary historical moment that presents us with such a great world challenge, my first words are to greet you and wish that everyone is in good health, which, today, is the most important. The second thought that I have is related to the importance and the necessity of the work developed by the laboratories in each country, in Europe and in the World.

In this context, the action of many laboratories supporting health, but also key areas such as food, agriculture, energy, among others, reveals the need for this infrastructure to be efficient and assure the levels of confidence that, at this moment, are particularly important. Laboratories play a key role in service chains and are playing their role with high professionalism.

EUROLAB is close to celebrating its 30th anniversary and, remembering the idea at its origin, of promoting network cooperation in Europe, 30 years later, the importance of its action is demonstrated, validating these same principles today.

Now, EUROLAB shares efforts with the European Commission, with National Associations, with Laboratories and with the entire TIC sector in an effort to fight this pandemic. Together we are stronger and we will overcome this huge challenge.

Looking forward to increase co-operation with you, aiming to achieve the highest purpose of promoting the Laboratories contribution to the improvement of Safety and Quality of Life.

Yours Sincerely,

EUROLAB President

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro

eurolab

National Members News

ALPI News

- During these difficult times under the health emergency resulting from the spread of Covid-19, ALPI continues its activities in support of TIC companies in compliance with the government measures. In order to contain the risk of contagion, ALPI adopted the applicable measures indicated by the Authorities, guaranteeing maximum protection of employees and collaborators. Italian laboratories and bodies (CABs) are also working hard to ensure the continuity of conformity assessment services, using remote verification techniques where possible. For this reason, now more than ever, ALPI is close to its associates with new activities, news and updates, training courses and working groups in online mode. In particular, ALPI is doing everything possible to support its associates engaged in the certification of medical devices and personal protective equipment, integrating skills and information in the most efficient way. Furthermore, ALPI maintains close contacts with the Italian ministries to ensure the real perception of the situation regarding operational problems in the TIC sector. We are certain that with everyone's cooperation and effort will it be possible to overcome this difficult time.



Management and the Direction of laboratories department are involved in equipment purchasing and premise renovation.

Postal card of Central Laboratory of Panda:

-Staff: 60

-Clients: Internal: Gecamines (Metallurgical Research, Geological Research, Environmental Research, Metallurgical plant and Water care plant), External: ten (10) more.

- Equipment: AA 400, AA 500, CS LECO 250, ICP 2100 DV, ICP 8300 DV, MINIPLA 2 FRX, SEPCTRO LAB SPARK, AA SENSAS GBC, LAMBDA 25 PHOTOMETER, etc...

- Samples testing per month (average): mineral 6.000, solutions 4.000 and metal 200

After making a diagnosis, BU/US Management, Direction of laboratories department and ASCOLAB decided the following activity plan in four (4) stages:

1) Training of Staff in ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard and others associated standards. Writing quality manuals, SOPs and records, and generally checking on what needs to be integrated, updated, kept or deleted.

2) Internal audit, actions plan after audit. This work plan includes compliance actions, responsibilities and deadlines. Selection and training of internal auditors' candidates

3) Review management and a follow-up plan of the scheduled actions will be developed to assess the degree of achievement. This evaluation will be made by the Quality Team.

4) Documentation review and submission documentation for an initial assessment will be carried out / conducted by SADCAS.

All the best and good luck in accreditation process for the Gecamines BU/US Central Laboratory of Panda!

ASCOLAB News

- ASCOLAB IS ACCOMPAGNING AND ASSISTING THE GECAMINES BU/US CENTRAL LABORATORY OF PANDA IN ACCREDITATION PROCESS ACCORDING TO ISO/IEC 17025:2017 BY SADCAS.**



The Central Laboratory of Panda of Gecamines Business Unit/Usine de Shituru, in acronym BU/US, is located at the Likasi industrial area, 120 km from Lubumbashi, capital of

the Haut Katanga Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Gecamines BU/US is mainly focused on mercantile mining products intended in general for exportation. One of the objectives of Gecamines' BU/US Management of its strategic plan is to accredit the Central Laboratory of Panda in cathodic copper testing. BU/US



Croatian Metrology Society

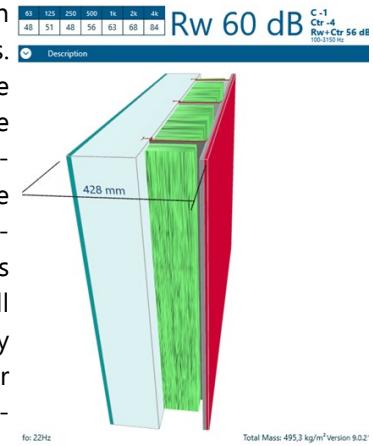
- The International Measurement Confederation IMEKO, Technical Committee 10 on Testing, Diagnostics & Inspection and EUROLAB aisbl kindly invite you to attend the 17th IMEKO TC 10 and EUROLAB Conference: "Global Trends in Testing, Diagnostics & Inspection for 2030" to be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on October 19-22, 2020. [Link.](#)



EUROLAB CZ News

Predicting of sound insulation

Technical and Test Institute for Construction Prague, SOE, member of EUROLAB-CZ, is now improving services in the field of sound insulation predictions. The purchased software allows predictions of the sound insulation of walls, floors, roofs, ceilings and windows; impact sound and rain noise of floors and roofs. The programme can be used to quickly evaluate new materials and systems, or to investigate the effects of changes to existing designs. It models materials using well known elastic plate theory including allowances for thick panel effects as published by Ljunggren, Rindell and others.



Contact: Pavel Rubáš, Ph.D., rubas@tzus.cz, Phone: 00420 602 115 450

TURKLAB



- The Ordinary General Assembly of TURKLAB was held on February 05, 2020. In the General Assembly meeting held with the participation of our 54 members, Permanent and Associate members of the Executive and Supervisory Boards have been chosen to serve for 2020-2021 period.

1st Meeting of the Board of Directors for the 2020-2021 Period

In the Board of Directors meeting held on February 13, 2020, the distribution of tasks were settled as follows: Chairman of the Board: Halit Karaboga; Vice Chairman



of the Board: Mehmet Hüsrev; Vice Chairman and Bookkeeper: Sabahnur Demirci; and Secretary General: Çağatay Turan.

As part of the agenda, the chairmen were elected and the working plan was discussed for the Food Committee, Environmental Committee, Calibration Committee, Communication Committee, Compliance Assessment Committee of Construction Materials and Consumer Product Laboratories Committee.

In order for the Communication Committee to be more active this period, suggestions were received and a work plan was established. The planned and targeted activities for 2020 – 2021 period were discussed, and relevant decisions were taken. It was an efficient meeting with the intense participation of the members of the Board of Directors.



Visit to the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

On February 26, 2020, Halit Karaboğa, Chairman of the Board of Directors of TURKLAB, Sabahnur Demirci, Vice Chairman of the Board, Çağatay Turan, Secretary General, and Pınar Akalın, Communication Committee Chair, visited Mr. Harun Seçkin, General Director of Food and Control at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and Mr. Ali Torun, Head of the Department of Laboratories, in their office. During these meetings, lots of suggestions were brought up and TURKLAB's opinions were asked in relation to the new regulations and analysis on behalf of our members.

Visit to the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning



On February 27, 2020, Halit Karaboğa, Chairman of the Board of Directors of TURKLAB, Murat Hacıomeroğlu, Environmental Committee Chair, and Arzu Ballıkaya, Communication Committee Chair, visited Mr. Ercan Gülay, Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning General Director of Environmental Impact Assessment, Permit and Inspection, Mr. Soner Olgun, Head of Department of Environment Reference Laboratory, Mrs. Nazan Özyürek, Head of Air Management Department, and Mr. Muhammet Ecel, General Director of Environmental Management, in their office.

Mr. Ercan Gülay was informed about the Board of Directors of TURKLAB, who will serve for 2020-2021 period, and conversations were held about the MELBES system.

Also, negotiations were held with Mr. Soner Olgun on the MELBES system, and we were told that the results of the Second Central Laboratory Identification System



(MELBES) Workshop, held in Antalya, would be announced soon. During the meetings, it was also stated that the establishment of a new laboratory would not be allowed, and the device and scope would not be increased.

The opinions of Mr. Muhammet Ecel were asked on the abolishment of the "Regulation on Waste Oil Management" published on 21.12.2020. It was commented that waste oil recycling companies would be taken over in this process, and their numbers would decrease in one year. It was mentioned that oil group analysis could be carried out within the companies themselves.

During the visit to Mrs. Nazan Özyürek, the draft "Regulation on the Control of Industrial Air Pollution" to be issued was discussed. And she told which R&D studies were carried out and what kind of functions they performed in this process.

The Workshop of TURKLAB Food Committee with the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry



On March 03-05, 2020, Çağatay Turan, Food Committee Chair, and the members of the Food Committee, namely Sabahnur Demirci, Tuncay Çınar and Ali Bahadır Çelik came together with the representatives of the Department of Food Control and Laboratories of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry at the workshop on the draft "Regulation on Private Food Control Laboratories" organized at the Hotel Büyük Abant by TURKLAB and the Ministry.

The study TURKLAB prepared in line with the opinions and suggestions of their members regarding the "Regulation on the Establishment, Duties, Authorities and Responsibilities of Food Control Laboratories and Determination of Working Procedures and Principles" was discussed and evaluated. It was a highly productive workshop for the industry.

TIC Market Trends

Business Developments

- **ALS** has chosen to partner with the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), committing a EUR 36.347 (\$40.000) donation to help those who have been impacted by bush fires to get their lives back on track and help communities rebuild. [Read more](#).
- **Apave** has renewed its partnership with OPCO ATLAS * for better prevention against asbestos. The partnership between ATLAS and Apave allows the branch of Engineering Technical Offices and Consulting of OPCO to benefit from training adapted to asbestos risk. [Read more](#).
- **Appplus+** has incorporated GeoApp+ into geological and geotechnical study digitisation process. [Read more](#).
- **Appplus+** has announced that it has been approved by DNV-GL to provide services for the classification of offshore objects. [Read more](#).
- **Bureau Veritas** has planned to hire 12 000 of the new employees including engineers, surveyors, inspectors, auditors, laboratory technicians, as well as business support. [Read more](#).
- **Cotecna** helped support SRCC Children's Hospital in launching a first-of-its-kind Neurofibromatosis Clinic (NF Clinic) in India. [Read more](#).
- **DEKRA** has expanded industrial business in China. [Read more](#).
- **DEKRA** and Telefónica have officially opened a new 5G research and development laboratory in Málaga, Spain. [Read more](#).
- **Eurofins Food Safety Solutions UK** has announced joining its forces and expertise to existing synergies in the Eurofins Group within the new International Business Line Eurofins Food Assurance. [Read more](#).
- **Intertek** Acumen Security Facility in Mumbai has become First Private Common Criteria Lab in India. [Read more](#).
- **TÜV Rheinland's** Photovoltaic Testing Laboratory has been recognized by Bureau of Indian Standards. [Read more](#).
- **TÜV Rheinland** has opened Furniture Testing Lab in Grand Rapids, Michigan. [Read more](#).
- **TÜV SÜD** has become a member of the Amazon Packaging Support and Supplier (APASS) network. [Read more](#).
- **SGS** has sold their US pre-owned vehicle inspection activities to Ten Oaks Group. [Read more](#).
- **UL** has opened New Customer Service Center in Houston. [Read more](#).
- **UL** has signed Memorandum to Ningbo David Medical Device Co., Ltd. with Witness Test Program Lab Certificate. [Read more](#).
- **VDE & CGC** opened a comprehensive laboratory in East China that mainly focuses on household appliances and auto parts industries. [Read more](#).

Personnel

- **Eurofins Agroscience Services** has announced Morgane Salaun as new Senior Regulatory Expert for biostimulants and biofertilizers. [Read more](#).
- **UL** has announced that Terrence R. Brady began his new position as President, CEO and Trustee of Underwriters Laboratories Inc. [Read more](#).

Mergers and Acquisition

- **SGS** has sold its Pest Management and Fumigation (PMF) Activities in Benelux to Anticimex. [Read more](#).

- **SGS** has announced the acquisition of Thomas J. Stephens & Associates, Inc. (Stephens). [Read more](#).

Business Results

- **DEKRA**

- ✓ Revenue up by almost 3% in 2019, staff headcount by around 500
- ✓ New foundation in eight service divisions and eight regions takes effect
- ✓ New business areas opened up thanks to digital services

- **SGS**

- ✓ Total revenue grew by 1.2% at constant currency to EUR 6.1 billion (CHF 6.6 billion).
- ✓ Organic growth of 2.6% was achieved across the business portfolio.
- ✓ The adjusted operating income increased by 4.6% at constant currency to EUR 0.99170 million (CHF 1,063 million).
- ✓ The adjusted operating income margin increased from 15.6% to 16.1% at constant currency basis.

Accreditation and Standardisation

Accreditation

IAF

- IAF sent a call for nomination(s) for the Position of IAF Director Representing CAB Association Members (2020 - 2022). Two nominations have been received for the IAF Quality Manager position:
 - ⇒ Mr. Pedro Alves
 - ⇒ Mr. Mario Andrade Castro
- The Results of the 30-Day Ballot – **Joint IAF-OIML Assessment Procedure in the Field of Legal Metrology** were published. The result of the ballot is valid. 77 Members voted in favour of the document, 0 voted against, and 16 abstained. Accordingly, the vote passed.
- The IAF Technical Committee (TC) is submitting a proposal to withdraw **IAF ID 9: 2015 Transition Planning Guidance for ISO 9001:2015**, **IAF ID 10: 2015 Transition Planning Guidance for ISO 14001:2015**, and **IAF ID 11:2015 Information on the Transition of Management System Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015** from ISO/IEC 17021: 2011 to all IAF Voting.
- The IAF-ILAC Mid-Term Meetings planned to be held in Beijing on 30 March - 06 April 2020 were cancelled. The **IAF/ILAC Joint Executive Committee has agreed to not proceed with re-scheduling the Joint Mid-Term Meetings**. This decision was made based on a number of factors, including the difficulty in re-organizing the meetings in such a limited time frame, the global uncertainty around the future spread of the coronavirus, the potential scheduling and budgetary issues for IAF and ILAC Members as a result of moving the meetings and the current level of fluidity around flight and other travel restrictions.
- IAF sent out a **summary report proposing that IFS Management GmbH (IFS) be admitted to membership in IAF**. The IAF Board and Executive Committee have reviewed the report in support of the application and the Board has recommended that the IAF members vote in favour of inviting IFS to join IAF as an Association Member.

- The draft minutes of the 19th IAF/ILAC Joint General Assembly, held in Frankfurt on 29 October 2019, have been distributed.
- Result: 30-Day Ballot - **IAF/ILAC-A1:XX/202X – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group** - 75 Accreditation Bodies and 19 Association Members had voted, which means a quorum existed; 86 Members voted in favour of the document, 0 voted against, and 8 abstained. Accordingly, the IAF vote passed.
- Result: 30-Day Ballot – **IAF/ILAC-A3:XX/202X – IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements): Template report for the peer evaluation of an Accreditation Body based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017** - 76 Accreditation Bodies and 19 Association Members had voted, which means a quorum existed. 86 Members voted in favour of the document, 1 voted against, and 8 abstained. Accordingly, the IAF vote passed.
- The following documents are now available on the IAF website; additionally, two new videos have been posted on the IAF/ILAC Youtube channel. Please find all the relevant links below:
 - ⇒ [Joint IAF-OIML Assessment Procedure in the Field of Legal Metrology](#)
 - ⇒ [IAF-ICAO CORSIA Training MoU](#)
 - ⇒ [Accreditation: Adding Value to Supply Chains](#)
 - ⇒ [Accreditation, Adding Value to Supply Chains: The Medical Devices Supply Chain](#)

EA

- Further to EA Resolution 2017 (40) 17: *The General Assembly, acting upon recommendation of the Certification Committee, agrees that the EA CC starts a new work item to revise EA-3/12: EA Policy for the Accreditation of Organic Production Certification, according to the rationale for revision set out in EAGA(17)79*, the EA Certification Committee (CC) WG Food finalized the enclosed draft revision of **EA-3/12: EA Policy for the Accreditation of Organic Production Certification**.
- EA circulated for comments, the TFG revised draft "Consultancy, and the Independence of Conformity Assessment Bodies", taking onboard the first round of HHC comments.
- The revised EA publication **EA-INF/17 “Register of EA resolutions for use by National Accreditation Bodies and EA evaluators”** is available on the EA website in "Information and promotional documents": [click here](#). In addition includes all resolutions adopted and to be enforced by the EA.
- EA has distributed the revised **EA-0/10 “Procedure for EA meetings”** (including GDPR disclaimer and Image Release Form) which is available online on the EA public website in "Secretariat Management System and related documents" at: [click here](#).
- 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)

ILAC

- The draft minutes and action items of the last ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC) have been circulated to the ILAC members.

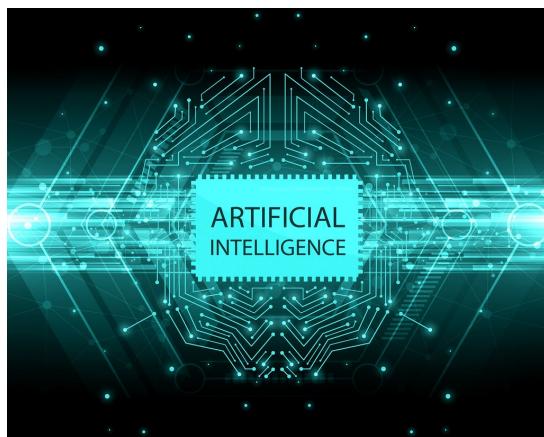
Standardisation

ISO CASCO

- The reports of the 32nd CASCO CHAIRMAN POLICY COORDINATION GROUP (CPC) meeting that took place on the 5 December 2019 in Geneva Switzerland and the report of the 23rd IAF-ILAC-ISO JOINT STRATEGY GROUP (JSG) meeting that took place on the 3rd December 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland, have been distributed.
- TIC Council has been approved as A Liaison to CASCO with 100% of CASCO P members voting.
- A clarification request on ISO/IEC 17021-1 "Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems —Part 1: Requirements" submitted by IIOC has been addressed by the maintenance group of WG21.

The Laboratory of the future

- **EUROLAB presentation on how to become the lab of the future:** Paolo Moscatti, EUROLAB Vice-President and President of ALPI Associazione, has drafted a presentation titled "How to Become the Lab of the Future", detailing the major innovations and new trends that will characterize the activity of laboratories and accreditation bodies in the near future. [Read more](#).
- **Biopharma's Lab of the Future Can't Wait:** Connectedness, automation, and digitalization are transforming the biopharma lab—whether you're ready or not. [Read more](#)
- **A new type of medicine, custom-made with tiny proteins:** In a quick, informative talk, molecular engineer and TED Fellow Christopher Bahl explains how he's using computational design to create powerful peptides that could one day neutralize the flu, protect against botulism poisoning and even stop cancer cells from growing. [Read more](#).
- **How AI can enhance science's most powerful tools:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the fastest growing areas of science and technology. It is not only a field in its own right helping to expand the capabilities of computer-based learning, but is also a powerful tool that, when applied to science and technology research, has the potential to transform how scientists conduct experiments. [Read more](#).



- **Smart sensors are a game changer for the construction industry:** The construction industry is as old as the hills, but that doesn't mean it can't benefit from cutting-edge technologies. Sensor technology has ad-

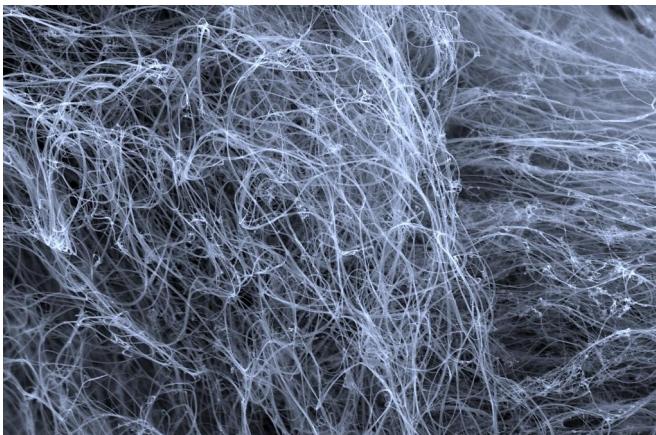
vanced by leaps and bounds in recent years. [Read more](#).

- **Neural network computation helps with drug investigation:** The use of data-independent acquisition for tandem mass spectrometry potentially produces a vast amount of useful information, but the sheer volume of data poses a challenge. Researchers from the University of Zurich investigated the use of machine learning involving artificial neural networks (ANNs) to analyse such MS/MS data from samples containing commonly abused drugs. [Read more](#).



- **Agilent extends digital lab capabilities:** Agilent Technologies has extended its digital lab capabilities with Agilent CrossLab Asset Monitoring, an advanced service for laboratories seeking increased visibility and control over operations. Agilent CrossLab Asset Monitoring securely measures how labs use assets of virtually every type, from any supplier. The service integrates Agilent's lab-wide sensor technology and data analytics platform to provide unparalleled breadth of monitoring and reporting accuracy, enabling lab management to make confident, fact-based decisions. [Read more](#).
- **Agilent and Visiopharm Co-promote Advanced Digital Precision Pathology Solutions:** Agilent Technologies Inc. and Visiopharm have entered a co-marketing agreement. The announcement was made at the USCAP 109th Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA. Based on a joint vision of end-to-end quality and standardization of tissue diagnostics, the partnership

will address the currently unmet needs of pathology labs around the world. The companies' shared goal is to provide specific technologies, products, and services that will improve the standardization of pathology labs and accelerate accurate diagnoses. [Read more](#).



- 3D printing of tissue-like vascular structures:** In a new study published today in *Nature Communications*, led by Professor Alvaro Mata at the University of Nottingham and Queen Mary University London, researchers have developed a way to 3D print graphene oxide with a protein which can organise into tubular structures that replicate some properties of vascular tissue. [Read more](#).
- New NanoScience Center Europe for Academic & Industrial Research:** With the beginning of 2020, Park Systems, a innovator of atomic force microscopy (AFM) technology, increases the business investment in Europe by inaugurating a new scientific facility for academic and industrial research in Mannheim, Germany. The Grand Opening Ceremony of the new Nanoscience Center Europe took place February 18, 2020, gathering customers, collaborators and business partners from all over Europe and South Korea. [Read more](#).
- Groundbreaking technology which can detect MRSA in just 15 mins revealed at Medlab Middle East:** The new system offers the world's most rapid detection of bacteria and viruses by analysing samples taken from a patient in as little as 15 minutes. New technology and the latest innovations in laboratory medicine were the main focus of the inaugural Transformation Talks, taking place at Medlab Middle East until Thursday 6th February at the Dubai World Trade Centre. [Read more](#).

Laboratory Events

- On 7-9 September 2020, in Dubai, **ARABLAB+** will take place. 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](#).

EUROLAB will partner with Terrapinn for the **Future Lab Live Congress**, 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 analytica 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](#).

Policy News

Chemicals

- The European Commission published for public commenting a [draft delegated regulation](#) for the import and export of dangerous chemicals.
- The European Commission published for public commenting a [draft delegated regulation](#) which would update the current rules for biocides with endocrine-disrupting properties.

Circular economy

- The European Commission adopted a new [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) - one of the main building blocks of the [European Green Deal](#), Europe's new agenda for sustainable growth. With measures along the entire life cycle of products, the new Action Plan aims to make our economy fit for a green future, strengthen our competitiveness while protecting the environment and give new rights to consumers. Building on the work done since 2015, the new Plan focuses on the design and production for a circular economy, with the aim to ensure that the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible. The plan and the initiatives therein will be developed with the close involvement of the business and stakeholder community. [Read more.](#)

Counterfeit products

- The European Commission launched a public consultation on [counterfeit products and piracy](#). The consultation will remain open until 12 May.
- **White House Releases Long-Awaited Counterfeiting Report, Calls for Increased Liability for E-Commerce Platforms:** As first reported by [the Wall Street Journal \[iz4.me\]](#) and [Reuters \[iz4.me\]](#), the White House, in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security, has finally released their long-awaited report on the ever-growing issue of counterfeits. Of note, the report paints a scathing picture of e-commerce platform's unwillingness to police their platforms to prevent the sale of fake goods from third parties, calling for greater government scrutiny and penalties if they don't take serious steps to stem the tide of fakes. Specifically, the report says law enforcement will begin identifying cases immediately and "seek all available statutory authorities to pursue civil fines and other penalties against these entities."
- **We bought dozens of products from AliExpress, Amazon, eBay, Walmart and Wish. Over half were suspected fakes:** It's quick, convenient and ships right to your front door. But a *Marketplace* investigation found that you can't always trust what you purchase online — even if the seller, platform or price seems legit. To test how prevalent counterfeits are online, *Marketplace* purchased dozens of well-known products — ranging from electronics to sportswear to cosmetics — from five popular online retailers: AliExpress, Amazon, eBay, Walmart and Wish. Each product listing seemed legitimate, with some prices that compared to retail stores and official-looking advertisements. More than half of the products *Marketplace* received were suspected or confirmed counterfeits, with knockoffs found on every platform. And in some cases, *Marketplace* found that the risk of ending up with a knockoff might be more than just a financial hit. 66% of products tested from online marketplaces AliExpress, Amazon Marketplace, eBay and Wish failed safety tests. New research has revealed that a staggering 66% of the 250 products bought from online marketplaces have failed safety tests. We've spent the past year working in collaboration with five other European consumers' associations to test products sold through online marketplaces such as AliExpress, Amazon, eBay and Wish to see how safe they are. We can report that two out of three of the products tested – or 165 products in total – didn't pass relevant safety tests. [Read more.](#)
- **The dangerous world of recalled and counterfeit cosmetics:** the U.S. law doesn't require FDA approval for cos-

metics and most ingredients, But the FDA does do spot tests, and the administration has found asbestos in some make-up over the last year. After the results of these tests, it recommended consumers stop using certain make-up products. A company that tested the products on behalf of the FDA found asbestos in the cosmetics, and companies then made voluntary recalls. [To can see the products that have been recalled over the last year, you can click here.](#) They included several Beauty Plus Global Products, make up marketed toward children, and Claire's make-up palettes. In October, Johnson's baby powder was also voluntarily recalled after certain containers tested positive for asbestos, according to the FDA. The issue is that asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that is often found near talc. The FDA says talc is a common ingredient in many cosmetic products. [Read more.](#)

Cybersecurity and digitalization

- ENISA shared the [presentation](#) from its conference on cybersecurity standardisation.
- The [Eurobarometer](#), a survey for Europeans' perceptions, showed support for data sharing and sustainability.
- **E-privacy:** The Council's presidency published [amendments](#) to its proposal for a compromise on the draft Regulation.
- **Secure 5G networks: Commission endorses EU toolbox and sets out next steps:** On January, 29th, 2020, The Commission endorsed the joint toolbox of mitigating measures agreed by EU Member States to address security risks related to the rollout of 5G, the fifth-generation of mobile networks. This follows the European Council's call for a concerted approach to the security of 5G and the ensuing Commission Recommendation of March 2019. Member States have since identified risks and vulnerabilities at national level and published a joint EU risk assessment. Through the toolbox, the Member States are committing to move forward in a joint manner based on an objective assessment of identified risks and proportionate mitigating measures. With its Communication adopted, the Commission is launching relevant actions within its competence and is calling for key measures to be put in place by 30 April 2020. [Read more.](#)
- **Shaping Europe's digital future: Commission presents strategies for data and Artificial Intelligence:** The Commission has unveiled its [ideas and actions](#) for a digital transformation that works for all, reflecting the best of Europe: open, fair, diverse, democratic and confident. It presents a European society powered by digital solutions that put people first, opens up new opportunities for businesses, and boosts the development of trustworthy technology to foster an open and democratic society and a vibrant and sustainable economy. Digital is a key enabler to fighting climate change and achieving the green transition. The European [data strategy](#) and the policy options to ensure the human-centric development of [Artificial Intelligence](#) (AI) presented today are the first steps towards achieving these goals. Digital technologies, if used with purpose, will benefit citizens and businesses in many ways. Over the next five years, the Commission will focus on three key objectives in digital:
 - ⇒Technology that works for people;
 - ⇒A fair and competitive economy; and
 - ⇒An open, democratic and sustainable society.
- **Introducing the OECD Artificial Intelligence Policy Observatory:** In May 2019 the OECD adopted its [Principles on Artificial Intelligence](#), the first international standards agreed by governments for the responsible stewardship of trustworthy AI. The OECD Principles on AI include concrete recommendations for public policy and strategy. The general scope of the Principles ensures they can be applied to AI developments around the world. In our recent report [Artificial Intelligence and Society](#), a chapter on [public policy considerations](#) reviews salient policy issues that accompany the diffusion of AI. It supports the value-based OECD Principles on AI and outlines national policies to promote trustworthy AI systems. The [OECD AI Policy Observatory](#), launched in February 2020, aims to help policy-makers implement the AI Principles. [Read more.](#)

Environment

- **Transport:** Mobility associations published a [joint position paper](#) on the EU's Green New Deal.
- **Renewable energy share in EU reaches 18 percent:** The share from renewable sources in energy consumption in the EU reached 18 percent in 2018, up from 17.5 percent a year earlier, Eurostat said Thursday. The EU's target is to reach 20 percent by 2020, and 12 member states have already reached their national binding targets. Sweden has the highest share with 54.6 percent and the Netherlands has the lowest with 7.4 percent. [Read more.](#)
- **Committing to climate-neutrality by 2050: Commission proposes European Climate Law and consults on the European Climate Pact:** The Commission presents a proposal to enshrine in legislation the EU's political commitment to be climate neutral by 2050, to protect the planet and our people. The European Climate Law sets the 2050 target and the direction of travel for all EU policy, and gives predictability for public authorities, businesses and citizens. At the same time, the Commission is launching a public consultation on the future European Climate Pact. Through this consultation the public will be involved in co-designing this instrument. With the European Climate Law the Commission proposes a legally binding target of **net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050**. The EU Institutions and the Member States are collectively bound to take the necessary measures at EU and national level to meet the target. The Climate Law includes **measures to keep track of progress and adjust our actions accordingly**, based on existing systems such as the governance process for Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans, regular reports by the European Environment Agency, and the latest scientific evidence on climate change and its impacts. Progress will be reviewed every five years, in line with the global stock take exercise under the Paris Agreement. [Read more.](#)
- **Changing how we produce and consume: New Circular Economy Action Plan shows the way to a climate-neutral, competitive economy of empowered consumers:** The European Commission adopted a new [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) - one of the main building blocks of the [European Green Deal](#), Europe's new agenda for sustainable growth. With measures along the entire life cycle of products, the new Action Plan aims to make our economy fit for a green future, strengthen our competitiveness while protecting the environment and give new rights to consumers. Building on the work done since 2015, the new Plan focuses on the design and production for a circular economy, with the aim to ensure that the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible. The plan and the initiatives therein will be developed with the close involvement of the business and stakeholder community. [Read more.](#)

Food

- The Official Controls Regulation entered into force in December 2019. See an assessment [here](#).
- The European Commission published for public commenting a [roadmap](#) highlighting the main goals of its upcoming "**Farm to Fork Strategy**". According to the roadmap, the strategy will include measures:
 - ⇒ To reduce the use and risk of chemical pesticides
 - ⇒ To reduce the use of fertilizers and antibiotics
 - ⇒ Actions seeking an improvement of animal welfare
 - ⇒ To improve food information such as on where the food comes from and its nutritional value.
- The European Commission launched a [consultation](#) regarding legislation on food irradiation. The consultation will remain open until 25 May.
- The European Commission launched a [consultation](#) on a draft act permitting under conditions hydroxyanthracene derivatives in food supplements. The consultation will remain open until 1 April.
- Euractiv, an EU-focused media outlet, published an [article](#) based on a leak of the upcoming farm-to-fork strategy.

Medical devices

- The Medical Devices Coordination Groups is expected to discuss on 11 and 12 march a joint implementation plan of the Medical Devices Regulation and In Vitro Medical Devices Regulation. So far, 11 notified bodies (NBs) have been designated under the new Regulation (and 3 under IVDR). Recently two NBs were officially notified in the NANDO database under the MDR. These are DNV GL Presafe AS ([NB#2460](#)) and the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) ([NB#0050](#)).
- The impact of the new EU AI & Data strategies' on digital health:** The European Commission published on 19 February 2020 the [European Strategy for Data](#) and the [White Paper on Artificial Intelligence: a European Approach](#), under the umbrella of the [Communication on Shaping Europe's Digital Future](#), which express a commitment of the new Commission to build a data economy on the basis of European values and principles. These developments bring great potential for digital health due to substantive plans and resources for the deployment of data sharing tools and platforms, the creation of governance frameworks, and the focus on quality and interoperability of data. MedTech Europe has issued a [statement](#) on the new documents, and will participate in the stakeholder consultative process. [Read more.](#)

Trade

- European Parliament ratifies Vietnam trade deal:** European Parliamentarians on Wednesday voted in favor of a trade agreement between the EU and Vietnam, taking the deal over its last hurdle. Some 401 MEPs voted in favor, with 192 against, according to Parliament's trade committee. The pact [pits the EU's aspirations](#) to gain a foothold in one of Southeast Asia's most important and expanding markets — with a population of 96 million — against the concerns of activists on human rights and environmental issues. Indeed, the European Parliament held off the vote until Hanoi promised to sign up to basic international labour standards. [The agreement](#) is set to enter into force in the summer, and will eliminate virtually all customs duties on exports to and from Vietnam over the next decade, with 65 percent of EU products and 71 percent of exports from Vietnam enjoying duty-free access from day one. [Read more.](#)
- On 10 February, the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#) and the EU held a meeting to discuss the promotion of sustainable development in the ASEAN region through channeling development funding to sustainable transition.
- 2nd #ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development: Towards Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals:** The 2nd ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development: Towards Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals opened on 10 February in Brussels. The aim is to promote ASEAN-EU cooperation on the implementation of the [UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the Paris Agreement. The dialogue underlines political support to the sustainable development dimension of ASEAN-EU co-operation. The dialogue brings together senior officials from the EU and ASEAN to focus on climate change, green growth and financing, regional integration in inclusive and sustainable development, and gender equality and women's economic empowerment. Other participants include representatives from relevant sectoral European Parliament committee chairs, the OECD, UN agencies, from the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue as well as European and ASEAN private sector representatives. [Read more.](#)
- The [European Commission](#) has decided to withdraw part of the tariff preferences granted to Cambodia under the European Union's Everything But Arms' (EBA) trade scheme due to the serious and systematic violations of the human rights principles enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- The EU Trade Commission Philip Hogan presented a new [transparency package](#) which includes the publication of:
⇒The European Commission's decision authorising Member States to conduct bilateral investment negotiations

- ⇒ Non-business sensitive summary records from the meetings of the Trade Defence Instruments Committee
- ⇒ Commission recommendations for negotiating directives, not only for preferential trade agreements, as this is already the case, but also for non-preferential ones.

- The European Commission launched a [public commenting period](#) on its upcoming initiative to evaluate customs co-operation and mutual administrative assistance between the EU and China since the signing of the EU-China Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement in 2004. The roadmap is open for comments until 3 April.
- **EU, China, others agree on WTO body to settle disputes:** Seventeen World Trade Organization members, including the EU and China, agreed Friday to create a temporary mechanism to settle trade disputes after the US paralysed the WTO's appeals body last month. The contingency step would preserve the WTO's two-step dispute system until its own Appellate Body became operational again, the EU commission said. Washington froze the body, the supreme court for international trade, by blocking appointments for over two years. [Read more](#).
- **Trump: Time to negotiate 'very seriously' with EU on trade:** President Donald Trump said Monday (10 February) the time has come to pursue trade negotiations with the European Union which he said imposes "incredible" barriers to US goods. "Europe has been treating us very badly," Trump said at a White House event with US state governors. After reaching a series of trade deals with Canada, Mexico and Japan, and a phase-one agreement with China, Trump said, "The next thing could be Europe, where we talk to them very seriously." Relations between the two major economies have lingered for months in a tense truce. Trump has imposed punishing tariffs on EU goods like French wine in disputes over steel imports or government subsidies for Airbus. [Read more](#).
- **Action Plan for Single Market Rules:** The European Commission presented its "[long term action plan for better implementation and enforcement of single market rules](#)", along with a Report on [barriers in the Single Market](#).

International Events

- 2 April, 2020: [ETSI Conference](#), Sophia Antipolis—Postponed/date TBC
- 6-10 April, 2020: [ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42 Meeting on standardization of AI appliances](#), Paris—Virtual conference
- 11-12 May, 2020 [DigiTranScope Spring Institute 2020](#), Florence
- 13-14 May, 2020: [EA General Assembly](#), Luxembourg—Virtual conference
- 26 May, 2020: [Innovation with a purpose](#), Orgalim Stockholm
- 27-28 May, 2020: [Digital Transformation in Legal Metrology](#), OIML Berlin
- 1-5 June, 2020: [EU Green Week 2020](#)
- 2 June, 2020: [TIC Council Summit 'TICKing a Green Deal'](#), Brussels—Postponed/date TBC
- 2-3 June, 2020: [Safer Chemicals Conference 2020](#), ECHA Helsinki—Postponed/date TBC
- 8-11 June, 2020: [ETSI Security Week](#), Paris
- 22-26 June, 2020: [EU Sustainable Energy Week 2020](#), Brussels
- 1 July, 2020: [Competitive Europe Summit](#), Brussels
- 22 September, 2020: [Trust Services Forum CA Day 2020](#), Berlin
- 29 September, 2020: [AIOTI IoT driving Europe's Technology sovereignty and leadership](#), Berlin
- 8-11 November 2020: [14th world conference on injury prevention and safety promotion](#), Adelaide

EUROLAB events

6-8 May 2020: EUROLAB General Assembly and 30th Anniversary Events, Madeira—Postponed/date & place TBC

28-30 October 2020: EUROLAB National Members' Meeting and 30th Anniversary Conference 2020, Vienna— **Postponed/date & place TBC**

28-29 September, 2020: [Future Lab Live Congress](#), Basel

19-22 October 2020: [17th IMEKO TC 10 Conference: "Global trends in testing, diagnostics & inspection for 2030](#), Dubrovnik

EUROLAB website new/page on COVID-19

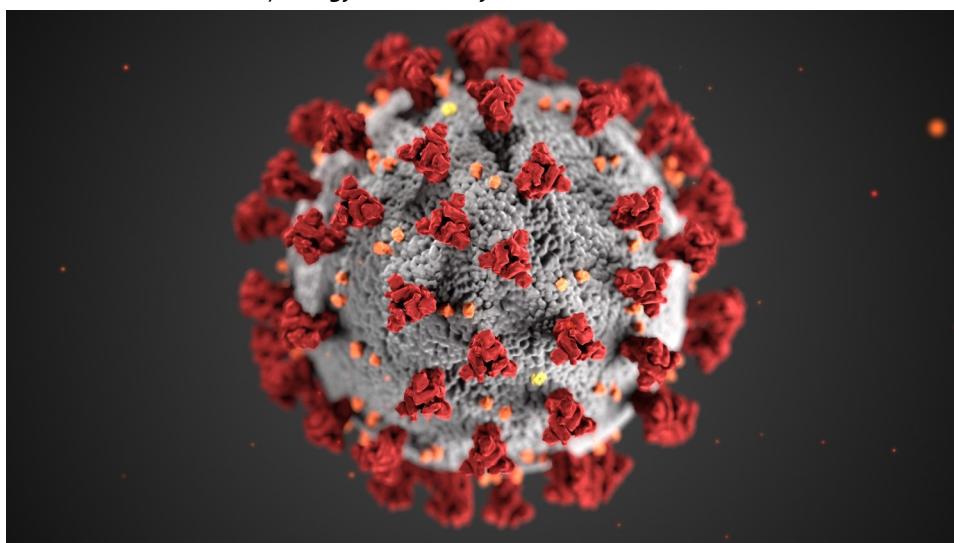
Find below the latest news and updates with relation to the current COVID-19 situation. EUROLAB is continuously monitoring this subject and informing its members on the latest developments. Testing is playing a critical role during these difficult times and EUROLAB members and national labs are heavily involved in supporting the identification and prevention of the virus spread.

All the latest updates and news will be communicated on the EUROLAB website.

Useful links and references:

- TIC Council COVID-19 Statement supported by the EUROLAB Members: [download here](#)
- European Commission Recommendation on conformity assessment and market surveillance procedures within the context of the COVID-19 threat. This text is addressed to conformity assessment bodies operating in the EU. View the full text [here](#).
- European Commission [measure](#) - Covid 19: more flexibility for Member States to carry out official controls on animals, plants, food and feed
- European standards for medical supplies made freely available to facilitate the increase of production. More information [here](#).
- EA communication about the impact of the COVID-19 virus: [available here](#).
- EA communication Coronavirus outbreak: Accredited laboratories for face masks testing: [available here](#)
- EA Communication on Coronavirus and face mask testing: [available here](#)
- European Center for Disease Control (ECDC)'s COVID-19 Overview: [available here](#).
- EU-OSHA webpage on COVID-19 with many links to informative docs or other sources: [available here](#).
- IAF Frequently Asked Questions COVID-19 outbreak [available here](#).
- Interview with BBC News, where South Korea's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha emphasized the importance of testing and good laboratory practices, which have been key factors in Korea's successful battle against the Corona virus epidemic: [available here](#).
- World Health Organisation's workplace guide: [available here](#).

A digital illustration of the ultrastructural morphology exhibited by the new coronavirus, created at the American Center for Disease



Control (CDC) by Alissa Eckert, MS, and Dan Higgins, MAMS