Dear Readers,

There are many lessons that we can and must collectively draw from this past year in order to improve preparedness and resilience against future sanitary crises and to mitigate their adverse effects, especially for the hardest hit sectors.

Whilst the pandemic has highlighted the disparities in recovery rates between countries, regions and sectors, it has also illustrated how tightly modern global supply chains and economies are intertwined. TIC Council remains committed to helping critical businesses, in particular SMEs in getting back on their feet. In May we will be organising a webinar to demonstrate how the TIC sector can support the reopening of the economy and improving long term resilience post COVID-19, we hope to see you there.

April has seen ambitious legislative developments taking place across all of our regions, on topics ranging from sustainable finance to artificial intelligence. As such, TIC Council has and continues to be a virtual hive of activity, working to increase visibility of the added value of our sector and to pursue the interests of our members. I encourage you to read our recently published Position Paper and Press Release on the EU Farm to Fork Strategy.

We have hosted and contributed to a number of successful webinars and events on a wide variety of topics, notably “Energy Management of EU Industries: Boosting Competitiveness and Accelerating Transition”, Enterprise Singapore and the Singapore Standards Councils’ Quality and Standards Conference 2021, and Inmetro’s “Regulatory Impact Analysis: what changes in regulation and conformity assessment?”.

We also participated in a virtual event with Inmetro’s President to discuss their upcoming regulatory reforms, an event organised by the Dirección General de Normas (DGN) of the Secretariat of Economy in Mexico, and our Americas Executive Director testified before the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission on critical priorities for the CPSC’s 2022 agenda. As part of the EU-OSHA campaign, we launched our joint TIC Council-DEKRA Occupational health and safety series, and will shortly open registration for our second webinar in the series. I also take this opportunity to invite you to register for our upcoming AGM on 20 May.

I wish all our members a healthy and productive month ahead.

Kind regards,
Ms. Hanane Taidi
Director General, TIC Council
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- Alfred H. Knight Energy Services has recently joined the North East Recycle Forum (NERF). Read more.
- Alfred H. Knight has opened a new copper commodities analysis laboratory, increasing analyses operational space by up to 54%. Read more.
- Applus has expanded its services to monitor the structural health of railway bridges in Alicante, Spain. Read more.
- Baltic Control has been listed by NAFED as an international survey/inspection agency for sampling, assaying and inspection of agri commodities at both loading and discharge ports in India and across the world. Read more.
- Baltic Control India has been approved by APEDA as an accredited inspection and certification body. Read more.
- Bureau Veritas has joined the Science Based Targets initiative. As a member of this group, Bureau Veritas commits to aligning climate targets to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Read more.
- Bureau Veritas has contracted by Carnival Corporation & plc, to verify safety and hygiene standards and measures on the company’s cruise ships. Read more.
- Control Union has announced that its regenerative agriculture initiative "regenagri" will support in the launch of the 'Homegrown/Homespun' Jeans project on regenerative fashion. Read more.
- Cotecna has announced a new service partnership with Maalex.com, a digital platform simplifying cross-border trade, whereby Cotecnna will provide inspection and certification services to Maalex.com customers. Read more.
- Cotecnna has announced that NofaLab, part of the Cotecnna Group, a sampling and testing laboratory specialising in the field of food, feed and environmental safety is now completely back to its full original accreditation scope. Read more.
- Cotecnna has opened a new environmental monitoring facility under the National Accreditation Board For Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) in India. Read more.
- CWM has announced that it will offer auditing and certification for sustainable tourism for the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) standards. Read more.
- DEKRA has opened its first periodical technical inspection station in Chile. Read more.
- Element Materials Technology has signed a Shared Service Agreement with the Bristol Earthquake and Engineering Laboratory (BEELAB) at the University of Bristol to provide commercial seismic qualification testing. Read more.
- Element Materials Technology has received approval to take part in the FDA’s Accreditation Scheme for Conformity Assessment (ASCA) pilot program for medical device testing. Read more.
- Element Materials Technology has received UKAS accreditation for creep and stress rupture testing at its Magna Way Laboratory in Sheffield. Read more
- Element Materials Technology has announced that it is a founding member in the development of OpenBuilt, a new open hybrid cloud platform to connect the construction industry’s fragmented supply chain. Read more.
- Element Materials Technology has announced a new agreement with Rolls-Royce that will provide Element’s customers with access to the rig and component test capability and engineering expertise of Rolls-Royce in Germany. Read more.
- Intertek has announced that it has been awarded a contract by the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Green and Digital Economy (MICEVN) of Morocco to support its Verification of Conformity Programme (VoC) for exports to the country. Read more.
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- Intertek has announced an agreement with Chrysos Corporation to install two Chrysos PhotonAssay units at Intertek’s new Minerals Global Centre of Excellence in Perth, Western Australia. Read more.
- Intertek has been selected as an accredited testing laboratory under the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Accreditation Scheme for Conformity Assessment (ASCA) Pilot Program. Read more.
- Intertek has announced the launch of Intertek Protek Maritime, a health and safety solution for the maritime industry that will provide guidance to ship owners and crew. Read more.
- Intertek has announced that the scope of accreditation for its North American Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Center of Excellence has been expanded to include evaluation of barrier face coverings to ASTM F3502. Read more.
- Intertek has launched a suite of transaction due diligence services to assess quality, safety, sustainability, and regulatory risks. Read more.
- Kiwa Italy has issued an ISO 9001 certificate to the “Studi e Applicazione Normativa” (Studies and Regulatory Enforcement) unit of Rome’s local police force. Read more.
- RINA has been awarded Assessment Body (AsBo) and Notified Body (NoBo) contracts for the construction of the Favrholm station in Denmark. Read more.
- RINA has been awarded a framework contract to provide engineering and consultancy services by Vopak LNG in support of their Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) growth strategy. Read more.
- RINA has provided due diligence services and support to SUSI Partners in completing the acquisition of four lithium-ion battery storage assets in the UK. Read more.
- SGS has announced that SGS Geneva is now a Gafta (the Grain and Feed Trade Association) approved Superintendent, following the successful completion of a Gafta Standard Audit. Read more.
- SGS has been officially approved by the Microfibre Consortium (TMC) as a Third-Party Laboratory Member and will soon be extending its fiber fragmentation testing services beyond consortium member organizations. Read more.
- SGS has announced that the Harrisburg, PA laboratory has expanded with a new vitamin laboratory, offering full, integrated testing to the dietary supplement market. Read more.
- TCRC has been accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB). Read more.
- TÜV Austria has announced that SberCloud - Cloud & Artificial Intelligence has successfully passed an audit according to the ISO/IEC 27001, 27017 and 27018 standards, audit performed by TÜV Austria itself. Read more.
- TÜV Rheinland has been designated by the German Federal Motor Transport Authority as technical service for vehicle cybersecurity according to UN-R 155. Read more.
- TÜV SÜD has published its new white paper, “Achieving Global Market Access for xEV Battery Systems”. It discusses the key safety and performance issues that must be addressed in all xEV battery designs as well as the special requirements applicable to xEV battery systems in the EU, the USA, China and other major markets worldwide. Read more.
- TÜV SÜD has become a member of “We Stay PRIDE” programme, presented by Uhlala Group. This LGBT+ Employer Excellence Programme supports companies to embrace diversity within their working environment. Read more.
- TÜV SÜD has joined the World Economic Forum as a Platform Partner, covering areas within advanced manufacturing and production and focusing on the four initiatives of CO2 Reduction in Production, Additive Manufacturing, Smart Industry Readiness Index and Smart Safety in Connected Manufacturing. Read more.
- TÜV SÜD has issued a certificate to FUJIFILM for IVDR, which regulates the sale of in vitro diagnostic products to the European marketplace. This is the first review project conducted by TÜV SÜD Japan to issue IVDR certification. Read more.
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- UL and The Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) have announced plans to expand their relationship to increase manufacturer access to testing to the IBHS Impact Resistance Test Protocol for Asphalt Shingles. Read more.
- UL has received from the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) a Leveraging and Collaboration Award. Read more.
- UL has received designation as an accredited ISO/IEC 17025 laboratory under the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Accreditation Scheme for Conformity Assessment (ASCA), a voluntary pilot program for medical device safety and performance testing. Read more.
- UL has become a Registered Signatory of the Building a Safer Future (BSF) Charter, a U.K.-based effort to improve leadership commitment and culture in relation to building safety. Read more.
- UL has announced that they are now an U.K. Approved Body for Products used in Hazardous Location. Read more.
- UL has successfully extended its authorization scope to facilitate the Saudi Quality Mark (SQM) service for gas appliances in North and South America. Read more.
- Vinçotte has announced its validation of Clear Channel Belgium as a CO2 Neutral company. Read more.

Mergers & Acquisitions

- Bureau Veritas has announced the acquisition of Bradley Construction Management, a US-based provider of construction management services for the renewable energy sector. Read more.
- RINA has acquired the Italian-based company Interconsulting Engineering, which is specialised in aerospace systems, to expand their expertise in safety-critical software engineering and complex electronic systems prototyping. Read more.
- SOCOTEC Italia has announced the acquisition of Tecnolab Srl, an Italian company specialized in construction material testing and geotechnical services. Read more.
- SGS has announced that SYNLAB Analytics & Services will now be known as SGS Analytics, following its previous acquisition. Read more.
- SGS has announced the acquisition of the minority stake in The Lab (Asia) Ltd (TLA). It now becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of the SGS Group following the initial acquisition of 51% in 2016. Read more.

Personnel Developments

- Bureau Veritas has announced the co-optation of Christine Anglade Pirzadeh as a Director. Read more.
- Intertek has announced that Ross McCluskey has been promoted into an operational role as Executive Vice President Europe and Central Asia. Moreover, Jonathan Timmis has been appointed an Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of Intertek. Read more.
- SGS has announced the appointment of Yvonne Tse as Vice President, Global Softlines division. Read more.
- TÜV SÜD has announced that Matthias Rosenthal is the new Vice President Consumer Products (CPS) for TÜV SÜD’s Business Line Softlines. Read more.
Accreditation

IAF

- IAF is seeking nominations for the position of IAF Technical Committee Chair (2022-2024). Nominations have been received from Mr. Kevin Belson of UKAS Ms. Nathalie Saveant of COFRAC. A third nomination was received from Mr. Rajesh Maheshwari (NABCB).
- The Korea Accreditation Board (KAB) has suspended the accreditation of Korea Compliance Certification Assurance Co., Ltd. (KCCA) on 26 February 2021 for three months for violating the prohibition against providing consultancy, which impacts the assurance of impartiality by the CA.
- In March, IAF requested nomination(s) for the position of IAF JWG A-Series Co-Convener because the Co-Convener, Mr. Thomas Facklam, was stepping down. Two nominations were received, Mrs. Maria Papatzikou, Quality Manager of ESYD and EA MAC Chair and Mr. Norman Brunner, Director of AA and IAF MLAC Chair. In accordance with the Terms of Reference for this position, the two nominations will be referred to the IAF Executive Committee for decision.
- IAF informs that, as of 28 April 2021, the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) will withdraw all accreditations of Assure Quality Management Certification Services Pvt. Ltd. (AQMCS), 1172 Sector-11, Panchkula Tri City Chandigarh 134109 INDIA, for the issuance of certification without any procedural compliance, and merely in exchange of money. JAS-ANZ will maintain any certifications issued by AQMCS on its register for ninety days from the date of public notice being included in the Times of India newspaper, to enable those clients to transfer to another JAS-ANZ accredited certification body.

ILAC

- The ILAC Inspection Committee held its 18th meeting on April 22 under the new chair, Lorraine Turner of UKAS.

EA

- The revision of EA-5/02: Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020 in Vehicle Inspection, was approved by the Inspection Committee at its last meeting on 23 March 2021. It is available on the EA website.
- The signatory status of the National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine (NAAU) to the EA MLA for the accreditation of Product certification bodies using ISO/IEC 17065 has been suspended as of the 24 March 2021. Consequently, the signatory status of NAAU to the IAF MLA for the accreditation of Product certification bodies using ISO/IEC 17065 has also been suspended, effective 24 March 2021.
- The EA General Assembly will be held virtually May 20-21. The draft agenda is here.
- The EA 2020 Annual Report is available here.
- EA is revising its Articles of Association and Rules of Procedure. The documents will be discussed at the upcoming GA, on the first day May 20. The documents will be circulated for a 60-day comment period on May 21.

Standardisation

ISO CASCO

- ISO CASCO has issued a clarification on ISO IEC 17065. For further information, see here and here.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of the EU Affairs

On 21 April, the European Commission published its proposal for a Regulation on a European approach for Artificial Intelligence, which contains new rules and actions aiming to regulate AI and to "turn Europe into the global hub for Artificial Intelligence (AI)."

The text proposes to follow a risk-based approach for regulating the use of AI in certain cases, by classifying AI systems according to the severity of harm they can cause and the likelihood of their occurrence, and by assigning specific requirements and compliance rules to them:

- AI systems that may cause "unacceptable risk" are considered prohibited AI practices that contravene EU fundamental rights and values. They will be banned from the EU market. The Draft Regulation includes a list that contains: AI systems that distort human behavior, implement social scoring or are used for real-time remote biometric identification in publicly accessible spaces.

- AI systems that may pose "high risk" are authorized after having undergone the appropriate conformity assessment procedures. They include:
  - AI systems that are component of products that are already subjected to EU sectoral legislations for safety reasons: these include machinery, safety of toys, lifts or radio equipment, medical devices, motor vehicles, aviation, etc.
  - AI systems explicitly listed by the Draft Regulation. The list includes stand-alone AI systems that may be allowed or prohibited in other cases but are classified as high-risk when used under certain circumstances because they pose special risks to established fundamental rights. For example, the list includes remote biometric identification systems when they are not in real time.

- AI systems that may pose a "limited risk", such as chatbots. They will be allowed but subject to specific transparency obligations similar to those of the GDPR;

- At the bottom of the pyramid are AI systems that may cause "minimal risk". These constitute the majority of AI systems, for example AI-enabled video games, and will not be subject to significant regulatory obligations.

For high-risk AI systems, a conformity assessment of the AI system must be carried out before the product is placed on the market, or when a substantial change is made to the product. For these systems, the provider may opt to carry out a self-assessment and issue an EU declaration of conformity.

Third-party conformity assessment is specifically listed as being required for:

- All the products which contain an AI system and that already currently undergo third party conformity assessment according to other EU product safety legislations.

- High-risk AI systems intended to be used for remote biometric identification and public infrastructure networks.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of the EU Affairs

As in most EU product safety regulations, the primary obligations are almost always owed by the party placing the system on the market, i.e., the provider. This means that providers would have to comply with a series of technical parameters and transparency requirements, such as the implementation of a risk management system, the establishment and registration of technical document or a certain level of robustness, accuracy and cybersecurity.

Providers of non-high risk AI systems will be encouraged to sign up to voluntary codes of conduct, intended to foster the voluntary application of the mandatory requirements that apply to high-risk AI systems.

The Proposal for Regulation on AI will follow the European ordinary legislative procedure. The text will be transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council of the EU in the coming weeks that will both review and amend the proposal. TIC Council secretariat will keep members informed on the progress of the text, either through the EU weekly or through meetings of the relevant Committees.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of Affairs in US Politics

The Leaders Summit on Climate and the US’ take on climate action

On April 23rd, 2021, President Biden convened with over 40 world leaders (heads of state and government, as well as representatives from international organizations, businesses, subnational governments, and indigenous communities) in a global Leaders Summit on Climate. Over the course of two days, Biden announced that the US will target reducing emissions by 50-52 percent by 2030 compared to 2005 levels, with a further Net-Zero goal by 2050. This follows the previous commitment by the Biden administration to rejoin the Paris Agreements on climate and, in general, to tackle full-on all those problems arising due the current climate change crisis.

President Biden’s aim, in this sense, is to galvanize efforts by the world’s major economies to reduce emissions during this critical period. He underlined the need to pursue all the transformations and innovations needed in order to keep a limit of 1.5°C on global average temperature rise within reach. He also underscored America’s commitment to leading a clean energy revolution and creating more work opportunities by taking full advantage of the economic possibilities and benefits provided by the environmental transformation.

Some of the initiatives announced by the administration include:

- Enhancing climate ambition and enabling the transformations required to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, with a “whole-of-government” approach ensuring that climate considerations are incorporated across all U.S. engagements both at home and abroad.
- Mobilizing financing to drive the net-zero transition and adapt to climate change, through the first-ever US international climate finance plan to assist developing countries in implementing ambitious emissions reduction measures, protect critical ecosystems, build resilience against the impacts of climate change, and promote the flow of capital toward climate-aligned investments and away from high-carbon investments.
- Transforming energy systems, supporting ambitious renewable energy goals;
- Revitalizing the transport sector in order to cut emissions and create new job opportunities, aiming towards zero-emissions;
- Building workforces for the future and ensuring U.S. competitiveness;
- Promoting innovation to bring clean technologies to scale;
- Implementing nature-based solutions, funding nature-based approaches towards ecosystem resilience and halting deforestation;
- Supporting action at every level, recognizing that fully addressing the climate crisis requires an “all-of-society response”.

Following on from the Leaders Summit, there has been a slew of discussions, proposals and actions on the table. First off, Biden’s climate envoy John Kerry said that he is currently on speaking terms with some of the largest financial leaders and asset managers in the US about mobilizing capitals for clean energy, aiming to develop a partnership between the private sector and the federal government. Kerry further pointed to the growing popularity of environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing as an example of the private sector in action to tackle the issues arising from climate change and environmental concerns.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of Affairs in US Politics

Furthermore, among the initiatives discussed at the Leaders Summit there is the US’ intention to form a so-called Net-Zero Producers Forum together with other relevant countries. With a joint statement issued on April 23rd, Canada, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United States, collectively representing 40% of global oil and gas production, have stated their intention to come together to form a cooperative forum that will develop pragmatic net-zero emission strategies, including methane abatement, advancing the circular carbon economy approach, development and deployment of clean-energy and carbon capture and storage technologies, diversification from reliance on hydrocarbon revenues, and other measures in line with each country’s national circumstances.

Finally, along these same lines, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen called for an ambitious effort across the entire U.S. economy, from pollution-emitting businesses to big financial institutions, to tackle climate change, citing the importance of the public and private sectors working together to cut emissions and move the world towards a greener future. She also mentioned initiatives such as the Clean Electricity Standard, that aims at achieving carbon-free electricity generation by 2035.

Through all these efforts, TIC Council remains committed to monitor developments and look for opportunities to highlight the important role the testing, inspection and certification sector will play in ensuring reliability, consistency, and safety.
Upcoming Events

May
- 5 May: Shell: Energy Visions Series – Fit for 55 – How will the EU move towards climate neutrality?
- 5 May: Data Innovation: What’s Next on the EU’s Proposed AI Law?
- 5-6 May: OILM Digital Transformation in Legal Metrology
- 6 May: FDF Webinar - Dealing with Food Compliance Risks & Prioritising Activity? The Food and Drink Forum
- 11 May: ECESP event: Towards a circular European infrastructure
- 17 May: UN Biodiversity Conference: Convention on biological diversity
- 18 May: UDT Technology shapes the development. Safety innovations for industry in the 21st century conference
- 20 May: Orgalim: Fragmentation: Europe’s cybersecurity challenge
- 24-25 May: FT: ENERGY SOURCE LIVE The Biden era: The great US energy reset?
- 25 May: RethinkDigital event: 5th Summit, Shaping Europe’s digital future
- 26 May: COM/Mannheim: European Social Economy Summit
- 26 May: ECESP event: SMEs as drivers of green growth; turning challenges into opportunities with standards
- 27 May: Council EU/NOVA: Corporate due diligence and sustainable finance
- 31 May: Politico AI Summit 2021

June
- May 31 - June 4: EU Green Week 2021
- 1-2 June: Orgalim: Cybersecurity for manufacturing summit
- 4 June: Alliance for Internet of Things Innovation: Future of the Ecodesign Directive and the Sustainable Products Initiative
- 9 June: IAF/ILAC World Accreditation Day
- 10 June: CEN approach on addressing environmental issues in standardization
- 14-15 June: Single Market Forum (SIMFO)
- 21 June: Recovery Summit - Shaping European Growth
- 22 June: Climate Change Adaptation conference
- 22-23 June: International IP Enforcement Summit
- 23 June: ICPHSO 2021 Virtual North America Workshop
The TIC Council AGM is scheduled for May 20, 2021. We invite you to register at this webpage.

Moreover, the TIC Summit 2021 has been postponed to November 16-17 in Brussels, Belgium. We encourage you to save the date in your calendars.