Dear members,

I am delighted to be writing to you from our Brussels office. The introduction of new measures is permitting, at least for certain regions, a gradual return to a degree of normalcy. However we must be sure to move forwards with caution, capitalising upon the lessons learnt from the pandemic to improve long term preparedness against future health crises and thereby the resilience of world economies. On that note, I invite you to see our webinar, position paper or for some lighter reading our blog which features Eurofins’ CEO, Gilles Martin.

June has been marked by a flurry of political activity, with the G7, EU-US Summit, the approval of the NextGenerationEU recovery and resilience plans for EU Member Stakes, EU Green Week and a flush of official World Days highlighting a number of the key areas in which TIC Council is heavily invested. In addition to World Anti-Counterfeiting Day and World Food Safety Day we celebrated World Accreditation Day, notably with the publication of our Accreditation Principles. This paper which sets out to explain the main concepts behind accreditation, demonstrates how TIC conformity assessment bodies fulfil requirements for competence, consistency and impartiality.

Committed as ever to furthering our ESG agenda, one of our four advocacy pillars, TIC Council submitted its public comments to developing a Sustainable Products Policy Initiative. As an integral part of the European Commission’s Circular Economy Action Plan this initiative will help to support the transition to a cleaner and more competitive Europe.

Meanwhile, TIC Council Americas continues to tackle the concerning rise of online fraud and the sale of counterfeit goods by joining forces with other industry leaders to express support for the Shop Safe Act. Our Americas team is also committed to ensuring the safety and security of Internet of Things (IoT) enabled devices. This rapidly growing market presents unique challenges for consumers, industry, and others to establish appropriate benchmarks for safety, security, and reliability so that the burden isn’t solely placed on consumers. In case you were unable to attend I warmly invite you to watch our recent interactive panel on this topic and to see concrete case studies in our report launched last month.

On behalf of TIC Council, I wish you the best for the month ahead.

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

Business Developments

- Alfred H. Knight has commissioned a new sample preparation facility of base metal concentrate materials in Poti, Georgia. Read more.
- ALS Industrial has been awarded ConocoPhillips' 2020 Doing Business Better award for the Asia Pacific region. Read more.
- Applus+ in Canada has entered into an agreement with a national agency for the provision of welder qualification testing. Read more.
- Applus+ in Canada has announced that it will be providing Geotechnical Engineering and Consulting Services on a transportation expansion endeavour serving Vancouver, British Columbia, and its surrounding municipalities. Read more.
- Applus+ in Turkey has announced it will participate in an oil and gas project for a Turkish NDT company, delivering the digital radiographic service and training for technicians to use the proprietary Applus+ technology Rayscan. Read more.
- Applus+ in the UK has been recognised with the Constructionline Gold Award and is now verified as a pre-qualified contractor to provide services to the construction industry within the country. Read more.
- Applus+ has announced it will carry out LDAR monitoring of the fugitive emissions from the tanks of an industrial complex at an energy multinational in Cyprus. Read more.
- Applus+ has been contracted to conduct a helium leak test at a chemical plant facility in Muscat, Oman for a suspected vacuum leak. Read more.
- Applus+ has supervised water and sewage infrastructure construction in the Ngâbe Buglé region of Panama. Read more.
- Applus+ in Indonesia has performed a Jack-Up Rig Simulation Integrated Test (SIT) and Endurance Test for an oil operator in offshore East Kalimantan. Read more.
- Baltic Control Uruguay has received ISO/IEC 17020:2012 accreditation. Read more.
- Bureau Veritas has been selected to undertake project certification for the Moray West offshore windfarm in Scotland. Read more.
- Bureau Veritas has been awarded a project management assistance contract for the Nefes Assos Village project, Turkey's first sustainable village. Read more.
- Bureau Veritas has signed a three-year framework agreement with the Veolia group, which lists Bureau Veritas as a preferred supplier for regulatory and non-regulatory verifications and certification of Veolia group sites. Read more.
- Camin Cargo Control Inc has announced that its Corpus Christi Laboratory is now offering Amines by GC-NCD and Alcohol Amines by IC. Read more.
- CIS Inspections has announced that the South Sudan National Bureau of Standards based in Juba, Republic of South Sudan has authorised CIS Commodity Inspection Services, to test, inspect and verify conformity of all goods. Read more.
- CITADEL engineering company (CEC) has announced a partnership with NSL ASCO lifting, logistics, and management training center. Read more.
- Control Union has announced the launch of the new version of the regenagri digital hub, regenagri 2.0. Read more.
- Cotecna's Gandhidham lab has been granted Approved Analyst status for Grain and Feed testing by GAFTA. Read more.
- Cotecna Philippines has been approved by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources to operate Air Pollution Source and Control Installations for 5 years. Read more.
- Control Quality has completed an initial audit to the Gafta Standard for Supervision, Sampling & Check Weighing 2019. Read more.
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- Element Materials Technology has received the Nadcap accreditation for chemical analysis at its Antwerp, Belgium laboratory. Read more.
- Element Materials Technology has announced that the Element Jeddah laboratory has expanded its scope of services to offer environmental testing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Western Province. Read more.
- Eurofins has launched a new multiplex PCR assay for rapid detection of the B.1.617 “India” SARS-CoV-2 variant. Read more.
- FORCE technology has announced its participation in a new Danish research project with the aim of developing an automated solution to in-service inspection of wind turbine blades. Read more.
- HQTS Group has been listed as a third party Pre-shipment Inspection Agency under the Department of Plant Protection in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, of the Government of Pakistan. Read more.
- Intertek has announced the approval of its first lab in Canada as an ATEX notified body. Read more.
- Intertek has been appointed to undertake technical assessment for the Energinet Energy Islands Project in Denmark. Read more.
- Intertek has launched ‘Tradeable’, a portfolio of solutions to support validation of suppliers or manufacturers as well as production, shipment and goods handling processes across the international supply chain to mitigate supply chain risks. Read more.
- Intertek has signed a MoU with PRECISE for anti-COVID-19 surface protection. Read more.
- Kiwa Korea has received an award for supporting the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. Read more.
- Kiwa Sweden has been approved to perform Rainforest Alliance Supply Chain certification. Read more.
- RINA has announced the completion of the Biosafe SHIP notation evaluation with CMHI for a newbuilding expedition cruise ship. The vessel is under construction at China Merchants Heavy Industry yard in Jiangsu. Read more.
- RINA has announced its support for ship owners and managers in complying with the new measures introduced by IMO MEPC 76. Read more.
- SGS has been selected by SHELL NEFT, LLC to provide fuel quality monitoring at Shell petrol stations in Russia. Read more
- SGS has developed and launched with PublicisLive Live & Safe, a program developed to provide the meetings, incentives, conferencing and exhibitions (MICE) industry with a health and safety blueprint for events. Read more
- SGS has announced the opening of a new filtration performance laboratory in Suzhou, China. Read more
- SGS China has opened a new facility in Xiamen for cosmetics testing. Read more
- SGS has announced that its Canary Islands site in Spain has expanded its scope to include bitumen testing as well as gas oil and fuel oil testing. Read more
- SGS has been selected by Cepsa to provide fuel quality monitoring at Cepsa petrol stations in Spain and Portugal. Read more
- SGS has announced the opening of its new food testing laboratory in Papua New Guinea. Read more.
- SOCOTEC Certification UK Ltd, the UK division of SOCOTEC Certification International, has officially launched its new website. Read more
- SZU has recently opened its newly built testing laboratory for heating and cooling technology. Read more
- TÜV Rheinland has launched a global hydrogen competence center. Read more
- TÜV SÜD National Engineering Laboratory has launched a Joint Industry Project (JIP) that will support regulatory authorities and industry to establish new standards and practices for the use of online oil-in-water analysers at remote locations. Read more
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- TÜV SÜD Division Mobility has announced a new collaboration with SAE International over cybersecurity training for the automotive industry. Read more
- TÜV SÜD has been designated by Germany’s Federal Motor Authority (KBA) as a Technical Service for cyber security and software updates in motor vehicles. Read more
- UL has announced it will recognize PSA Certified as a fast-track for achieving UL’s Secure IoT Component Qualification to help demonstrate that components incorporate industry best practices for Internet of Things (IoT) cybersecurity. Read more
- UL and Stantec GenerationAV, the autonomous vehicle consulting arm of global design firm Stantec, have announced that they are collaborating to advance the safe deployment of autonomous vehicle (AV) projects. Read more

Mergers & Acquisitions

- Cotecna has announced the acquisition of Shandong Baier Inspection Limited Company, a food safety testing laboratory in China. Read more.
- Eurofins has announced that its subsidiary, Eurofins Clinical Testing US Holdings, Inc has entered into an agreement to acquire DNA Diagnostics Center (“DDC”). Read more.
- Kiwa Germany has announced that ZERTPUNKT GmbH, specialised in management system certification for sustainability and social standards, has become part of Kiwa Germany. Read more.

Personnel Developments

- UL has announced the appointments of Charles W. Hooper, Lisa M. Lambert and Michael Thaman to its board of directors. These appointments bring UL Inc.’s board of directors to 11 members. Read more
IAF

- Version 5.1 of the FSSC 22000 scheme has been accepted by the IAF Executive Committee following review by the IAF liaison sector representative and MLA Committee Chair in accordance with IAF PL3. The IAF MLA Status document has been updated accordingly and is available on the IAF website under the IAF PR 4 listing in the Publications - Procedures Documents area, and on the IAF MLA page.
- IAF is calling for nominations for:
  - IAF Financial Oversight Committee Association Member (2022-2024) – Dr Micheal Berger (PEFC) is completing a first three-year term, and has indicated his availability to run for a second term.
  - Chair of the IAF MLA Committee (2022-2024) - Mr. Norman Brunner (AA) has completed his second three-year term. One nomination was received for Kylie Sheehan of JAS-ANZ.
  - Chair of the IAF Communications and Marketing Committee (2022-2024) – Mr. Brahim Houla of GAC (GCC) is completing a first three-year term. He has confirmed his willingness to run for a second term.
- Another round of voting for the position of IAF Vice Chair is being conducted as none of the three original candidates received more than 51% of the votes. Lori Gillespie of ANAB and Wolfram Hartmann of DAkkS are on the second ballot.
- Kevin Belson of UKAS has been elected Chair of the IAF Technical Committee.
- A Task Force “to produce a definitive document on remote auditing/assessment” has been established by IAF.
- An Accreditation WG has been established in IAF. The first task of the WG Accreditation is to review IAF MD15:2014 IAF Mandatory Document for the Collection of Data to Provide Indicators of Management System Certification Bodies’ Performance.

IAF-ILAC

- The in-person 2021 Joint IAF-ILAC Annual Meetings are cancelled. Remote meetings are being planned along the same lines as the 2020 Annual Meetings and in a similar time period to the originally proposed in person meetings, ie 28 October - 06 November 2021.
EA

- The ballot for a revised "EA-4/20 Guidance for the assessment of laboratories against EN ISO 15189 and EN ISO 22870 Point-of Care Testing (POCT)" was successful. The revised document will be published soon on the EA website.
- For information: ENISA published the first scheme under the Cybersecurity Act - called Common Criteria based European candidate cybersecurity certification scheme (EUCC). It includes provisions on the certification of ICT products by accredited CBs and with involvement of accredited Laboratories (ITSEFs). The scheme cannot be used yet, because ENISA has to establish first the implementing act. But it is a good source for preparation. ENISA is currently working also on the guideline for the accreditation of ITSEFS and the rules for the Cybersecurity label.
- Fredrik Langmead (SWEDAC) has been elected as the new Vice-Chair of the HHC.
- EA-3/01 “EA Conditions for the use of Accreditation Symbols, Logos and other claims of accreditation and reference to the EA MLA Signatory status” has been approved and is available here.
- Save the date: on 24 September 2021 (presumably 09:30 - 13:00 CET) EA will be hosting a webinar in support to the preparation of the implementation of the EUCC scheme.

EA-IAF-ISO CASCO

- A question on consultancy in the context of ISO/IEC 17021-1 was raised in the EA Certification Committee where it was agreed that a request for clarification should be submitted to ISO CASCO. Procedurally, the request had to go through IAF TC.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of the EU Affairs

The EU Digital COVID Certificate and the reopening of the EU economy

On 1 July, the Digital COVID Certificate has been made available in all EU Member States. The technical backbone of the EU Digital COVID Certificate originally went live as of 1 June.

Available in digital format or on paper, it is proof that a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, tested negative, or recovered from an infection, and it aims to verify certificates in a secure and privacy-friendly way. As of today, twenty Member States have already decided to start using the platform, while certain countries have decided to launch the EU Digital COVID Certificate only when all functions are deployed nationwide. The EU certificate was originally proposed by the Commission to resume safe travelling this summer. The aim is to gradually resume free movement all across the EU while allowing to control the spread of the virus.

In parallel to the certificate, the European institutions have continuously tried to update the rules limiting free movement on the European territory. On 20 May, the European Council updated the “Recommendation on the coordination of free movement restrictions in the EU”, building on the ongoing rollout of the vaccines and the COVID certificates and aiming to progressively resume the principle of free movement. It also amended the common criteria for risk areas and introduced an ‘emergency brake’ mechanism, to address new coronavirus variants of concern or interest.

The resuming of travel also goes hand-in-hand with the reopening of the economy. On 2 June, the European Commission presented the “European Semester Spring Package”, which focuses on providing fiscal guidance to Member States as they continue the process of gradually reopening their economies. This guidance aims to help them making the best possible use of the Recovery and resilience Facility, the key instrument at the heart of NextGenerationEU.

Finally, the European Commission presented a communication on the early lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic and building on them to improve action at EU and national level. Among the proposed initiatives there is, of note, the proposal for a European pandemic information gathering system based on surveillance and data-collection, which is to be launched during 2021.

TIC Council members who are interested in learning more about the reopening of the economy in Europe and beyond can find more information thanks to our webinar on the subject, which was held on June 7. The following rules currently apply in the EU Member States.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of Affairs in US Politics

The latest on product safety developments in the US.

- On 23 June, ICHSO held its regional conference welcoming regulators and industry from around the world. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Acting Chair Adler offered his thanks to the long tenure of cooperation with industry through his career with the CPSC. He noted that this ICHSO was most likely his last as he is scheduled to retire from the CPSC in October 2021. No word yet on forthcoming nominations. The next ICHSO International Virtual Symposium will be held on 27-28 October.

- Health Canada provided an overview of the CCPSA program, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary since enactment. It was mentioned in their talking points that they had moved to offering hybrid inspections and have decided to continue offering this moving forward. They also highlighted an increased focus on IoT and AI and on 3rd party Ecommerce platforms.

- In regulator updates provided by Cooley, it was noted that the FDA is expected to publish guidance on AI and Machine Learning (ML) in medical devices later this year.

- The CPSC will have two vacancies in 2021 when Acting Chair Adler and Commissioner Eliot Kaye end their terms. President Biden is expected to nominate two Democrats to fill these vacant seats; however, no word yet on timing of those nominations.

- On May 21, 2021, CPSC published a report on artificial intelligence and machine learning in consumer products. The report highlights recent CPSC staff activity concerning AI and ML, proposes a framework for evaluating the potential safety impact of AI and ML capabilities in consumer products, and makes several recommendations that the CPSC can take in identifying and addressing potential hazards related to AI and ML capabilities in consumer products. CPSC also recently established an “AI/ML Working Group” and held a virtual forum on AI and ML in March 2021 where TIC Council also spoke. More information on the forum and its themes can be found here. Finally, CPSC also held a webinar on 28 June with the goal of receiving feedback on the recent updates performed to its website and to assess the impact, if any, that the improvements will have on the website’s utility and usability and the Fast Track Recall Program.
Upcoming Events

July
- 2 July: Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA): Energy transition and the EU Hydrogen strategy
- 5 July: Hearing of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health on the draft opinion on European solidarity in public health emergencies
- 5 July: Farming in a climate neutral Europe - Politico
- 5 July: EU policies for healthy food environments - What role for all stakeholders? - EURACTIV
- 6 July: Harmonised European standards: Drafting standards compliant with EU legislation - CEN-CENELEC
- 6 July: The role of science in sustainable food and how to communicate it - Euractiv

September
- TBD: Fragmentation. Europe’s cybersecurity challenge - Orgalim
- 19-22 September: XXII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work
- 23 September: EU Product Safety Award
- 27-30 September: 10th Eurachem Workshop on Proficiency Testing in Analytical Chemistry, Microbiology and Laboratory Medicine
- 28-30 September: 20th International Metrology Congress CIM 2021
- 29 September: CEN-CENELEC - Harmonised European standards: Drafting standards compliant with EU legislation
LinkedIn post of the month

Today, TIC Council is thrilled to announce our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Consejo Mexicano de Normalización y Evaluación de la Conformidad (COMENOR) signed on the 3rd June 2021.

This solid international cooperation between the two associations will serve to be one of the pillars in strengthening quality infrastructure and establishing a formal mechanism for sharing information and coordinating joint activities.

We would like to thank COMENOR President Just Manuel Rodón Sáez for his encouraging words and continued commitment.

Like Comment

TIC Council Highlights

Webinar Highlights!

On Friday 28th May, TIC Council hosted a webinar entitled “Substantiating green claims in the age of greenwashing”.

This panel offered a global EU and TIC sector perspective on this salient topic which coincides with the release of our new report on the Value of TIC. The most comprehensive study of the sector to date, it shows that TIC empowers consumers, drives business confidence and supports policymakers to address critical public policy challenges.

Like Comment