Dear Readers,

While the world is currently feeling the effects of a second surge of COVID-19 cases and of the measures taken that are necessary for containment, TIC Council remains committed to provide guidance and support to all the actors in the TIC industry in these uncertain and testing times.

This month, our focus remains fixed on – among other matters - providing beneficial information on key topics that will shape the industry in the months and years to come, as well as developing and supporting notable projects of value that can raise awareness and interest of our stakeholders: at the start of the month, we have informed members in the conformity assessment sector of the upcoming legal framework and requirements that were previously published by the UK government. Our dedicated webpage contains relevant information and documentation provided by the UK authorities to support and inform the TIC sector during the Brexit and post-Brexit transitional period.

Moreover, on October 27th TIC Council and EUROLAB jointly organized a webinar entitled “The lab of the future and the future of labs”. Against the background of a worldwide pandemic, laboratories had to make urgent and drastic changes to their operations to adjust to this new environment. Another driver of change is the new technologies and innovations that were being introduced at a steady pace in these past years.

In an attempt to shed some light on these two drivers of change, the world pandemic and the new technological developments, TIC Council and its Associate Member EUROLAB have developed this joint webinar, which has been supported by 5 outstanding speakers from both members and stakeholders, and has been attended by 230 participants from all over the world. TIC Council wants to thank all those panellists, attendants, members and interested parties who have made this successful webinar possible.

We wish you all the best in the weeks to come and wish you health and safety.

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

**Business Developments**

- ALS has partnered with the advanced online oil condition monitoring (OCM) provider Poseidon Systems. [Read more](#).
- AmSpec has expanded Inspection & Testing Services in Huelva, Spain. [Read more](#).
- Bureau Veritas has received the Grand Prize at 2020 Transparency Awards in the ‘CAC LARGE 60’ category and has been ranked second in the Top 20 most transparent companies. [Read more](#).
- Bureau Veritas Group has been rated at “low risk” of experiencing material financial impacts from ESG factors. It ranks number 2, ahead of its peers and among the 63 companies of its market segment (Research and Consulting). [Read more](#).
- Bureau Veritas has been ranked in the top 500 companies in the list of “World’s Best Employers 2020” published by Forbes on October, 15. [Read more](#).
- Cotecna has announced a new service partnership with Rice Exchange. Cotecna will now be available to provide inspection services to Rice Exchange customers in relation to rice trades undertaken on the platform. [Read more](#).
- Cotecna has launched new Saudi Arabia website with live chat support. [Read more](#).
- Element Materials Technology (Element) has completed the formal rebranding of two of its acquired German businesses – product testing company EMV Testhaus, and materials testing company vohtec Qualitätssicherung (vohtec). [Read more](#).
- Element Materials Technology (Element) have signed a framework agreement with Saab AB, , to deliver calibration and materials expertise and testing services over the next six years, with a six-year extension option. [Read more](#).
- Element Materials Technology (Element) has increased its aerospace testing capabilities in pneumatics, dynamics, projectile impact and hot fuel testing at its Jupiter, Florida laboratory. [Read more](#).
- Intertek has renewed its contract with The Government of Gabon for its Programme Gabonais d’Evaluation de la Conformité (PROGEC) for exports to Gabon. [Read more](#).
- Intertek has been awarded a contract by The National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) for Egypt to provide Certification services for its Consignment Certification Programme for Food and Food Contact Materials. [Read more](#).
- RINA has developed a new thermal prognostic system for cable joints based on a machine learning algorithm. [Read more](#).
- RINA has certified the first company in Greece for remote inspections techniques through the use of drones. [Read more](#).
- SGS has completed its COVID-19 precaution assessment system evaluation for Emirates Flight Catering. [Read more](#).
- SGS has certified the Museum of Cycladic Art for its cleaning and disinfection procedures against COVID-19. [Read more](#).
SGS has announced its new accreditation in Brazil to provide energy efficiency product certification to two Latin American countries, Ecuador and Costa Rica. Read more.

SGS has gained the IECEE Test Laboratory Qualification within the Certification Body scheme, enabling the testing and certification of electronic furniture against IEC 60335-2-116:2019 standards. Read more.

SZU is continuing working on its new testing facility for heat and cooling technology. Completion is planned for the end of 2020. Read more.

TÜV Austria has certified the technology of Kaspersky according to the international standard IEC 62443-4-1. Read more.

TÜV Rheinland has announced that it has been granted a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for NOM-001-SCFI-2018 (safety testing) by Mexico’s Dirección General de Normas (DGN). Read more.

TÜV SÜD has recently installed additional battery cycling equipment at its Michigan environmental test lab. Read more.

TÜV SÜD has opened its new Centre for Mobility and Powertrains at Heimsheim, near Stuttgart. The new emissions testing laboratory is the largest independent laboratory of its kind in Europe. Read more.

UL has launched the UL 9540A database to recognize manufacturers who have completed testing for their energy storage systems. Read more.

UL has unveiled a new testing facility in India to support growing solar PV industry. Read more.

UL has launched a fiber optics testing and research laboratory in Abu Dhabi. Read more.

UL has been accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) as a Certification Body for household appliances in India. Read more.

UL has joined the International Society of Automation (ISA) Global Cybersecurity Alliance (ISAGCA) as a founding member. Read more.

DNV GL has appointed Mr. Jon Fredrik Baksaas as its new Chair of the Board. Read more.

Mergers and Acquisitions

Applus+ has agreed to acquire the entire share capital of a vehicle inspection group in Sweden, Besikta Bilprovning i Sverige Holding AB (Besikta), from Volati AB. Read more.

DEKRA has announced the merger of their UK Process Safety and Organisational Reliability businesses. Read more.
Accreditation

ILAC

- ILAC has held the 24th Virtual General Assembly on 22 October 2020. The adopted resolutions have now been uploaded to the ILAC website here.
- ILAC has circulated information regarding the status of the document on Cooperation between Accreditation Bodies and provided a version 5. A legal opinion is still pending. Comments have not been requested.
- BIPM-ILAC are organizing a joint webinar on Mining KCDB 2.0 in the Context of Accreditation to be held on 21 January 2021. You can register here for the 9:00 AM session or here for the 4:00 PM session.

IAF/ILAC

- Registration is now open for upcoming IAF and ILAC meetings. More information here.

EA

- EA will hold its 46th EA General Assembly on 25 and 26 November 2020. The meeting will be held online through Microsoft Teams. To register, follow this link.
- EA is organizing training on EA 2/17: Accreditation for Notification Purposes on December 3 but targeted to NAB’s. Interested parties can register here before Monday, 9 November 2020.
- EA is organizing a Virtual Conference on Accreditation in light of Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Digitalisation on 26 November 2020 afternoon (14:00 – 17:00 CET). Registrations will be open until mid-November. You can register here.
- EA is running a survey on the EA website (CPC Survey - Feedback on EA Website). You can answer here until Monday, 2 November 2020.
- EA has issued the draft agenda for the 26th General Assembly to be held virtually on November 25 and 26

Standardisation

ISO CASCO

- The answer to a clarification request on ISO IEC 17065 clause 7.6 has been published. All the clarification requests on CASCO standards addressed by the maintenance groups responsible for those standards and all their answers are uploaded on ISOTC CASCO public folder and can be accessed publicly. They are also linked from the ISO website on the Conformity Assessment resources page.
- Cristina Draghici has been named the new head of Conformity Assessment to replace Sean McCurtain who will be retiring early in 2021.
- Two informative sessions will be offered by ISO CASCO on November 2 to provide an update on the outcomes of the recent WG56 & WG57 meetings. These open sessions will be run via Zoom by the WG Convenors and the Secretariat, and will be organized twice during the day:
  - November 2nd, 08:00 - 09:15 (CET), here.
  - November 2nd, 15:00 - 16:15 (CET), here.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of the EU Affairs

The European Commission published during this October its work programme for 2021. This important document will, as usual, structure the priorities of TIC Council’s work for the year to come. It is divided between new initiatives and legislative texts that will be revised. In the category of new initiatives, the following are of particular importance for our sector:

In the field of ESG:

- The “Fit for 55” package, which includes all of the EU’s climate and energy legislation with the aim of increasing the 2030 target for emissions reduction from 40% to at least 55%. Of direct importance to the sector is the planned revision of the energy performance of Buildings Directive (Q4) and the Amendment of the Energy Efficiency Directive to implement the ambition of the new 2030 climate target (Q2). Indirectly, the TIC Council secretariat will keep a close eye on the Revision of the EU Emissions Trading System (Q2) and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (Q2).
- The “Circular Economy Package”, comprised of the Sustainable products policy initiative, which includes a revision of the Ecodesign Directive (Q4), and a non-legislative action (precising previous legislative acts) on Circular Electronics (Q4).
- A planned initiative on Minimising the risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with products placed on the EU market (Q2).
- The Revision of Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive in order to reinforce the essential requirements for packaging to be placed on the EU market (Q4), which will also envisage measures to tackle over-packaging and to reduce packaging waste.
- The Revision of Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (Q4). The revision aims at enhancing the directive’s contribution to the zero pollution objective and its consistency with climate, energy and circular economy policies. The Revision of the Construction Products Regulation (Q3), which will tackle problems linked with the development of harmonised technical specifications and especially the blockage of standardisation to improve market surveillance and to deal with still existing problems with national marks or national additional requirements/tests.

In the field of Digitalization

- The planned update of the new industrial strategy for Europe (Q2), which covers a wide range of legislative initiatives, including some linked to environmental standards.
- The “Data Package” is of particular interest, especially the planned Data Act (Q3).

In the field of Product Compliance

- The Revision of the Machinery Directive (Q2), which will mostly address the risks stemming from new technologies while allowing for technical progress.
- The Evaluation of the ‘New Legislative Framework for Products’ (Q1 – TBC), assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value of Decision No 768/2008/EC on a common framework for the marketing of products and the accreditation and CE marking provisions of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008. It should also assess if these instruments are fit for the digital age and a greener economy and if they accelerate our green and digital transition and our economic resilience. The result of this work may be a non-legislative act.
- It is interesting to note that no work is planned concerning the General Product Safety Directive, after stakeholders have been invited to submit comments to the Commission earlier this year.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of Affairs in US Politics

On November 3, 2020, the United States will go to the polls to elect a new leader for the nation. Hoping to return for a second term, President Donald Trump has run as a leader on issues of jobs, combatting COVID-19, ending the US reliance on China, healthcare and more. Former Vice President Joe Biden has also spoken on the need to fight COVID-19 and his vision for the future on employment, economic recovery, the US response to climate change, healthcare and more. Both candidates are, for now, stacking up on issues of foreign policy, as detailed here.

In the areas of tech and digitalization, the Trump administration first indicated support for development of Artificial Intelligence in a 2019 Memorandum (2019 EO). This was shortly followed by the 12 August 2019 publication of a "Plan for prioritizing federal agency engagement in the development of standards for artificial intelligence (AI)" by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

In 2020, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a request for comment on a draft memorandum “Guidance for Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Applications”, and NIST has continued to explore the matter of 'trustworthiness' in AI through workshops and industry outreach.

Cybersecurity has also been a key talking point on the hill and beyond, with 18+ legislative bills being introduced in 2020 both in the House and Senate. Included in these are issues of IoT security, privacy, and health and safety. With more Americans using online tools to attend meetings and perform work, issues of cybersecurity and connectivity are expected to grow. For a listing of U.S. cybersecurity-related policies and issuances by federal government, we encourage you to read this handy policy chart issued by the Cyber Security & Information System Information Analysis Center, here.

Moving into 2021, IoT, Artificial Intelligence, and cybersecurity will be at the forefront of discussions on infrastructure, transportation and more. The Forum for Chief Information Officers (CIOs) warns that "Threats to cyberspace pose some of the most serious challenges of the 21st century for the United States.” The Trump administration has invested more than “$1 billion in awards for the establishment of 12 new AI and QIS research and development (R&D) institutes nationwide” and artificial intelligence is being explored and researched as a key support tool for diagnosing and tracking COVID-19 illnesses.

For further insights about Trump and Biden’s stance on standards on technology policy, see these additional publications:

- Reuters – Factbox: Where do Trump and Biden stand on tech policy issues?
- Brookings - What to expect from Biden-Harris on tech policy, platform regulation, and China.
Upcoming Events

**November**
- 8-11 November 2020: *14th world conference on injury prevention and safety promotion*, WHO – Adelaide
- 10 November: *Civil Society Dialogue with Helena König on Australia, New Zealand and South and South East Asia*
- 12 November: *Europe’s future trade strategy: free, fair, open?* – Orgalim
- 12 November: *The final (Brexit) countdown* – Cooley
- 13 November: *Civil Society Dialogue with EVP Dombrovskis*
- 16-17 November: *European Business Summit Edition 2020*
- 16-20 November: *Stakeholder Conference of the Environmental Liability Directive*
- 17 November: *Innovation with a Purpose* – Orgalim
- 23 November: *Digital Health Conference* – Digital Europe
- 24 November: *Civil Society Dialogue with the Chief Trade Enforcement Officer*
- 25 November: *Will the EU be ready for all packaging to be sustainable by 2030?* – POLITICO
- 26 November: *“EA Virtual Conference on Accreditation in light of Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Digitalisation”* – European Accreditation
- 26 November: *Civil Society Dialogue with Rupert Schlegelmilch on EU-US trade relations after the US elections*

**December**
- 2 December: *Industrial AI and its impact on the existing legislation* – Orgalim

**February**
- 22-25 February 2021: *ICPHSO Annual meeting* – Orlando
TIC Council Highlights

At the start of October, we have informed members in the conformity assessment sector of the upcoming legal framework and requirements that were previously published by the UK government.

Tweet of the month

Top Tweet earned 1,616 impressions

TIC Council and EUROLAB are proud to present a virtual webinar entitled 'The Lab of the future and the future of Labs' on Tuesday, 27 October, 15h - 16:30h (CET).

Learn more by visiting: tc-council.org/news-and-event... pic.twitter.com/mpZrFGddns

'The Lab of the future and future of labs'

Moderators:
- Horace Take, Director General, TIC Council
- Etty Feller, ILAC Chair
- Horst Winkenber, European Commission, DG JRC Joint Research Centre
- Eric Roman, President & CEO at Pace Analytical Services LLC
- Anna Hindmarch, BDJRA Chair