Dear members,

As the fall season approaches, I am happy to see that, both within TIC Council and our membership, things are slowly proceeding towards that “new normal” which has filled the major headlines for the past few months and now seems to finally be a reality: our team is slowly but surely coming back to our offices on a regular basis – with the necessary sanitary precautions always in mind – and we are re-starting having face-to-face visits and hosting both formal and informal meetings. My hope is that, from now on, the situation can only improve.

This month, we have kickstarted the new season with a host of interventions and speeches in an effort to further promote the position and interests of our membership in a worldwide view: Martin Michelot, our Executive Director for the European region, was thrilled to represent TIC Council at the European Parliament Internal Market & Consumer Protection Committee on September 27th, discussing about how standards and certification can help protect consumers in relation to automated decision making and AI.

For my part, I was delighted to speak at the 2021 China International Fair for Trade in Services – once again, alongside my colleague Martin Michelot - highlighting the new and difficult challenges of digitalisation, as well as at the Global Quality Infrastructure Index webinar on cross-frontier accreditation on September 1st.

We have been active on the US side of things as well, with my colleague Karin Athanas, our Executive Director for the Americas region, presenting at the keynote address during the International Accreditors for Continuing Education & Training conference; specifically, she addressed how standardisation can play a critical role in supporting governments, industries, and societies.

Moving on, we would like to give a warm welcome to our new member Ningbo Lab Testing & Inspection Technology Co. Ltd., which has joined the TIC Council family from September 1st. And finally, last but not least, TIC Council would like to congratulate its member Eurofins for being recognised in the CAC 40 Index by the Steering Committee of the Euronext Indices, as it is indeed a significant milestone for our industry as a whole.

Kind regards,

Hanane Taidi
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- APAVE has obtained QUALIOPI certification, a new quality standard for training organisations and providers of skills development activities. [Read more.]
- Applus Services has been awarded a 5-year contract for Facility NDT and Inspection in Canada. [Read more.]
- Applus Services has provided non-destructive testing for an alternative and renewable geothermal energy provider in Hawaii. [Read more.]
- Bureau Veritas has received the Platinum EcoVadis medal, placing Bureau Veritas among the top 1 percent of companies assessed by EcoVadis. [Read more.]
- Bureau Veritas has joined the CAC 40 ESG Index, designed to identify the 40 companies that demonstrate the best ESG practices. [Read more.]
- Bureau Veritas has received high marks in the “Institutional Investor Europe” study, including “Most Honoured Companies” and “Best IR Team & Best IR Professionals”. [Read more.]
- Bureau Veritas has been selected among the best companies of its sector on sustainability according to Vigeo-Eiris (V.E). [Read more.]
- Bureau Veritas has been selected for inclusion in the FTSE4Good Index series. [Read more.]
- Intertek has earned accreditation for ISO/IEC 27701, a privacy information systems extension to ISO/IEC 27001. [Read more.]
- Liftinstituut has announced the International Elevator & Escalator Symposium (IEES-2021), which will be held on December 6-7 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. More information and registration are available via the official website. [Read more.]
- Kiwa has announced its presence, and a presentation, at Intersolar Europe 2021, from 6-8 October in Munich, Germany. [Read more.]
- Kiwa Sweden has partnered with Engineers Without Borders, a non-governmental organisation that works to address challenges linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. The aim is to let employees actively participate in the global work of Engineers Without Borders and volunteer in international projects. As a partner, Kiwa can contribute with testing and technical consultancy, and with inspection services. [Read more.]
- QIMA has announced its sponsorship of the 2021 @rethinkhk Sustainable Business Forum & Solutions Expo. This will be held October 5-6 in Hong Kong. [Read more.]
- QIMA has published a new White Paper aiming to take a deep-dive into the state of modern slavery, the impact of COVID-19 on forced labor, and how consumer awareness and new legislation are driving a sea change for human rights in supply chains. [Read more.]
- QIMA has been recognized as an outstanding technology company at the Hong Kong Technology Excellence Awards 2021 for its QIMAone technology. [Read more.]
- RINA has been awarded a contract funded by The World Bank to propose solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Kazakhstan’s food & beverage, transport manufacturing, chemical and metallurgy industries. By performing a series of energy analyses and leveraging RINA’s expertise, the aim is to support the Kazakhstan government in achieving its 2060 zero carbon emissions goal. [Read more.]
- RINA has announced the start of a new project exploring solutions to enable decarbonisation in Orkney has started. It is called HIMET, and it is one of 55 projects selected as part of the UK Government’s Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition. RINA is an official partner of HIMET. [Read more.]
- RINA has announced the opening of new offices and laboratories in Leatherhead, UK. [Read more.]
- RINA has joined the EU 3project CO2SMOS, aiming to develop breakthrough conversion technologies to transform the carbon emissions generated by bio-based industries into high added-value chemicals. [Read more.]
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- SGS has qualified for the Grain and Feed Trade Association (Gafta) Sustainability Pledge. [Read more]
- SGS has celebrated 80 years of Delivering Renowned Metallurgy to the Global Mining Industry. [Read more]
- SGS has started a collaboration with ECCRT for Pharmacy Team GMP Training. [Read More]
- SZU has strengthened the official cooperation with aAmerican testing laboratory and certification company UL LLC. The key area of this partnership will be products and equipment concerning the so-called e-mobility (e.g. electric bikes and electric scooters), EMC and LVD for electrical equipment and the heating technology field. [Read more]
- TÜV AUSTRIA has introduced the new "OK Recycled" label to promote environmentally friendly consumption. The objective of the OK Recycled scheme is to encourage environmentally friendly use of plastic materials and provide credibility for environmental claims promoting products in an ecologically informed marketplace. [Read more]
- TÜV Rheinland has confirmed Significant Extension of UKCA Certification Services. TÜV Rheinland is now approved for Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulations 2016, Pressure Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016, Radio Equipment Regulations 2016, Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 and Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011 and ready to serve its customers. [Read more]
- TÜV Rheinland has certified Eurotunnel according to hygiene and infection protection management standard. Eurotunnel was the first transport company to receive the certificate “Hygiene and Infection Protection Management” from TÜV Rheinland. [Read More]
- TÜV Rheinland has announced the Issuance of its First IVDR 2017/746 Certificate under the EU In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device Regulation 2017/746. It marks the first IVDR CE certificate for Siemens Healthineers that has been issued by TÜV Rheinland under the IVDR regulation (EU) 2017/746. [Read more]
- TÜV SÜD has started providing certification of wind turbines for regions impacted by tropical storms. TÜV SÜD had developed a computer model to demonstrate suitability for these regions based on the international IEC 61400 standard within the scope of type certification. [Read more]
- TÜV SÜD has inaugurated $100 million regional hub in Singapore and announced strategic partnerships in sustainability and digital trust. The new regional hub, TÜV SÜD @ IBP, reaffirms the company’s commitment to partner Singapore in the city-state’s next stage of growth. [Read more]
- TÜV SÜD has developed AI quality management training which uses a systematic quality management approach to support fast, quality- and market-focused development of AI-based applications. [Read more]
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Mergers & Acquisitions

- Bureau Veritas has acquired AET France, reinforcing BV's position in the European consumer goods retail market. Read more.
- Element Materials Technology Group has acquired Impact Analytical, further expanding its life sciences footprint in North America. Read more.
- Intertek has acquired SAI Global Assurance. Read more.
- SOGOTECH Consulting, Inc. has completed the acquisition of Forge Engineering, a Naples, Florida-based company specializing in Forensics Engineering, Marine Engineering, Building Sciences Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, and Construction Materials Testing. Read more
- SOGOTECH has acquired Hanselman Group, expanding its geographical coverage in the Netherlands. Read more
- TÜV AUSTRIA has acquired consulting engineers firm FHK. With the acquisition of consulting engineers firm FHK Ingenieurbüro GmbH by TÜV AUSTRIA, the internationally active group of companies is massively expanding its service portfolio in the field of real estate management. Read more

Personnel Developments

- UL's Jasmin Omerovic has been appointed as the Chair of ExNBG (ATEX Directive Notified Body Group). Mr. Omerovic has been an active contributor to the field of global conformity assessment related to the development and operation of market-relevant conformity assessment schemes since March 2002. Read more

Accreditation and Standardisation News

IAF

- The results of the ISO Survey 2020 on ISO management system standards certifications have been published and the full results can be downloaded here. The results show the number of valid certificates, as of 31 December 2020, for each country for 12 ISO management system standards and the number of sites and sectors covered by those. This is an annual Survey conducted by ISO and the providers of data are the certification bodies accredited by the IAF MLA Members.

IAF-ILAC

- IAF and ILAC have published a list of their upcoming joint meetings. It is viewable here.

ILAC

- The ILAC-WADA MoU, originally signed in 2007, is scheduled for review and renewal in 2021.

ISO CASCO

- ISO/IEC 17030 – General requirements for third-party marks of conformity has been published.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of the EU Affairs

On 15 September 2021, Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission’s President, delivered her annual State of the European Union speech. President von der Leyen highlighted the need to prioritise the fight against COVID-19 and climate change on the one hand, and to achieve greater strategic independence and diminish reliance on external supply chains for computer chips and semiconductors on the other hand.

The Commission President opened her speech on the subject of the global health crisis, praising the bloc’s response, with over 72% of adults fully vaccinated in the EU. However, she opted to remain cautious by announcing that the bloc has committed to spending €1 billion to accelerate the production capacity of mRNA vaccines — which include Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna — in Africa and to share 250 million doses with other countries.

Then, the European Commission’s President developed these following points that are of particular interest for the TIC sector:

- EU Health Union: a €50 billion investment to strengthen the European health union was announced, in efforts to position the EU as a world leader on health. She announced the formation of a new health agency to respond to future pandemics and pledged to make the bloc more resilient to cross-border health emergencies by 2027.

- European Cyber Defence Policy: the Commission’s President announced a Cyber Resilience Act aimed at setting common cybersecurity standards for connected devices and making Europe fit for the digital age. The Commission is also expected to come forward with a Roadmap on security and defence technologies, that will fall under the European Cyber Defence Policy.

- The road to COP26: Von der Leyen highlighted the need for the EU and US to come together on the matter of climate financing. In particular, major economies need to “close the gap” on climate financing in order to increase the chances of success at the COP26 UN climate summit in November. Contextually, she announced an additional €4 billion of climate finance until 2027 on top of the current $25 billion provided by the EU and its member states every year.

- Strategic independence: finally, the EU Chief also announced a plan to present a European Chips Act which is meant to boost Europe’s production capacity for semiconductors, thus reinforcing its existing drive for strategic autonomy. The Commission is now envisioning a “European chip ecosystem including production and insurance” which aims at developing European tech.
The Current State of Affairs in US Politics

The latest developments on anti-counterfeiting from the US policymakers

During this past year, TIC Council Americas has been very active on the topic of anti-counterfeiting practices, addressing the needed changes to combat the sale of counterfeit products in US markets:

- We have promoted a 3-part virtual panel series to explore the proliferation of online fraud and sale of counterfeit products.
- We have published a press release this March, publicly declaring support of the introduction of the INFORM Consumers Act, a legislation to increase transparency and accountability for online marketplaces amid the rapidly growing problem of illicit goods sold online.
- We have published a position paper in March 2020 to assist e-commerce platforms in halting the threats to public health and safety represented by counterfeited product sold online.

This will culminate this fall with the much-anticipated publication from TIC Council Americas of a new position paper aiming to further address this important issue. This publication comes at a time in which the efforts of many policymakers and stakeholders are especially focused on combating counterfeited products and the damage that they can inflict on both markets and consumers:

- The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recently held in July a congressional hearing for CPSC nominees to the Commission, during which the issues of counterfeiting, port inspections, and small e-commerce shipments were discussed, with one attendee in particular specifically calling the lack of oversight of e-commerce shipments “a blind spot”.
- On the subject of the INFORM Consumers Act, TIC Council is currently actively working as a member of the Buy Safe Coalition, meeting with legislators to discuss the effects of counterfeiting on the TIC industry on the one hand, and also promoting and highlighting the learning points from the TIC Council White Paper on the Identification and Impact of Counterfeit Test Reports and Certificates in the Global Marketplace.
- Recently this year, the “Shop Safe” Act was reintroduced in the 117th Congress, with the aim of incentivising online platforms to establish best practices such as seller vetting to ensure their legitimacy, and removing counterfeit listings. This amends the Trademark Act of 1946, allowing to provide for contributory liability for certain electronic commerce platforms for use of a counterfeit mark by a third party on such platforms.

Finally, in other news:

- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recently issued a public warning that a growing number of pain medications bought on the black market are laced with the synthetic opioid fentanyl or the stimulant methamphetamine, causing risks of overdosing across the country.
- A research paper published by Smart Protection has revealed that brands and their consumers are at an ever-increasing risk of counterfeits and brand abuse.
- On September 13, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Chicago port of entry seized a shipment from China that contained 86 championship rings, which were determined to be counterfeit due to the fact that all of the goods were constructed of poor quality and lacked security features.

TIC Council is actively working toward helping to guarantee the health and safety of consumers and actors of the market by promoting good practices in anti-counterfeiting and spreading the word by actively participating at relevant events worldwide.
Upcoming Events

October

- 4-7 October: Sustainability Week: Countdown to COP26
- 7 October: Energy system integration - can stakeholders agree on the best path forward? - Euractiv
- 11 October: From global to local: Joining forces to help global standards create local impact - CEN-CENELEC
- 11 October: Transitioning to new energy systems: What impact will it have on society and on our lives? - European Commission, SAPEA
- 12 October: Farm to Fork: what the analysis and data tells us - Euractiv
- 12 October: 9th Annual Cyber Resilience Summit hosted by CISQ
- 14 October: Orgalim: The road ahead for energy system integration in Europe
- 14 October: The EPBD revision: how to make the building sector decarbonised, energy efficient and healthy through smartness - Lighting Europe
- 14 October: The New EU Emissions Trade Scheme - How To Mitigate the Risks for European Consumers and SMEs - SME connect
- 14 October: AI Regulation and The Future Of Work - What Are the Opportunities and Concerns? - Euractiv
- 18 October: Webinar ‘Harmonized Standards under the Machinery Directive’ - CEN-CENELEC
- 20 October: Artificial intelligence (AI) for environmental sustainability - International Telecommunication Union
- 21 October: CECE Summit 2021
- 25-29 October: ANSI World Standards Week (WSW)
- 26 October: Concrete Measures for The Food Industry to Go Carbon-Neutral - Euractiv
- 27-28 October: POLITICO Healthcare Summit 2021
- 27-28 October: OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development (GGSD) Forum

November

- 1-12 November: 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference
- 5-6 November: QSH events 7th International Conference on Construction, Safety and Health
- 9-10 November: Climate-neutral steelmaking in Europe - technology, financing and policy conditions
- 9-12 November: GRMA Summit
- 16-18 November: 2021 OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development (GGSD) Forum
- 24-25 November: Electrical Product Safety Conference 2021 - Electrical Safety First
- 29 November: FT live: Tech and Politics Forum 2021

December

- 1-2 December: CEPS Cybersecurity Summit 2021
Our meeting with UNIDO on September 9

Newsletter Engagement Survey

We would like to share with you a survey prepared by our Communications Team, ranking the sections of this newsletter in order to gather useful inputs for the future issues. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Find the survey here.