Dear Readers,

As September heralds our collective return to business after a troubled summer, characterized as it was by a new surge of COVID-19 cases across the globe, TIC Council continually strives to offer that stability and authority that the TIC sector requires in order to progress onward with its activities and future perspectives.

The Americas branch of TIC Council, in particular, has recently been successful in putting forward a number of interesting and valuable projects, among these the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Global Retailer and Manufacturer Alliance (GRMA) that allows for the sharing of information and for collaborations on projects of mutual interest to both parties. Through the MOU, the GRMA also recognizes the TIC Council Compliance program as meeting certain requirements of the GRMA trusted partner program.

Additionally, our 3-parts webinar series focused on counterfeits and online frauds is currently ongoing, supported by a valued group of speakers from a variety of stakeholders and interested parties, and marked by a great following by our members and contacts. This series of appointments has also been accompanied by an additional virtual panel centered on the cybersecurity on medical devices in North America.

To stay updated on all our current and future activities, visit the TIC Council website or follow our social media channels. We are looking forward to your continued support for the rest of the year.

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, in conjunction with ASTM, CCQTA and major H2S scavenger supplies, has developed and validated a precise method for quantitation of tramp amines in crude oil. [Read more.](#)
- Applus+ Velosi in Saudi Arabia has mobilised to carry out quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) site inspections on welding, pipe-coatings and electrical installations on a large refinery project in Saudi Arabia. [Read more.](#)
- Applus+ has extended the scope of its accreditation for the Quantitative Risk Analysis (QRA) activity, within the environmental inspection of soil and groundwater field associated with potentially polluting activities. [Read more.](#)
- Bureau Veritas and the ‘French Flag’ have developed a compliance approach for SeaOwl’s remotely-operated vessel project. [Read more.](#)
- Bureau Veritas has approved the hygiene measures implemented by the private airport operator VINCI Airports in its network of airports in France, the United Kingdom and Portugal. [Read more.](#)
- Control Union and Zero Plastic Oceans have launched a new component to their Ocean Bound Plastic (OBP) certification program. Initially designed to encourage the recycling of OBP, this program has been reinforced by the introduction of a label promoting the collection and proper disposal of nonrecyclable OBP. [Read more.](#)
- Cotecna has been appointed by SFDA (Saudi Food & Drugs Authority) as a Conformity Assessment Body to operate Verification of Conformity (VOC) programmes for Food and Cosmetic Products imported into Saudi Arabia. [Read more.](#)
- DEKRA has further expanded its automotive testing and certification services in Asia. [Read more.](#)
- DEKRA experts have developed an online assessment tool for determining the fitness of IT security and data protection during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)
- Eurofins Technologies has announced the world’s first AOAC performance tested methods SM status for a screening method to detect Aflatoxin M1. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek & Roquette have announced the launch of a new shared audit program dedicated to the food industry. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek has joined forces with Sinopharm Tech to establish an accredited face-mask testing laboratory in Hong Kong. [Read more.](#)
- Kiwa and ABS Quality Evaluations have launched a new COVID-19 preventive measures standard for the American hospitality industry. [Read more.](#)
- Kiwa has joined forces with AQS Nederland, strengthening its position in the food, feed and farm sectors. [Read more.](#)
- RINA has helped launching the new EU GREENFOOT H2020 project in order to finance football building energy efficiency renovations and renewable energy installations through a crowd-funding scheme. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV Nord has monitored a test programme for Transmashholding in Egypt to assess the reliability of wagons in real operation. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV Rheinland has implemented several projects with Startup Synthesia, a company for AI-supported video production. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD has developed a sustainability assessment scheme for battery production which is currently undergoing implementation for the first time in a pilot project with Microvast GmbH. [Read more.](#)
TIC Market Trends and Developments

- TÜV SÜD has summarised its services for a sustainable hydrogen industry under the banner of “Hydrogen: fuelling a green future”. Read more.
- UL has collaborated with Agilis to simplify chemical material and ingredient sourcing. Read more.
- UL has received First Accreditation in India for testing grid code compliance as per central electricity authority standards. Read more.
- UL has joined forces with Portable Lights American Trade Organization on Portable Light Performance. A new collaboration between UL and PLATO helps to certify the performance of flashlights, headlamps, area lights, bike lights and spotlights. Read more.
- UL’s European Lighting Laboratory has received Accreditation to Test Street Lighting Products for Import to Saudi Arabia. Read more.
- UL has been granted the right by Mexico’s Ministry of Economy, General Directorate of Standards (DGN) to conduct safety and energy efficiency testing globally for electronic products and equipment imported into that country. Read more.
- UL has introduced its first-ever consumer and commercial robot certification document to address human-robot interaction safety concerns. Read more.
- Vallis Group Limited has assisted Yara International in the coordination and management of the logistics for the distribution of the fertilizer to farmers across Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia. Read more.

Mergers and Acquisitions

- Control Union and Finotrol Oy have agreed on an acquisition in which the entire share capital of Finotrol Oy have been transferred to Control Union. Read more.
- Eurofins has announced the acquisition of the SunDream Group. Read more.
Accreditation

IAF

- The IAF Executive Committee has decided to hold a half day virtual IAF General Assembly on 05 November 2020 to update Members on the progress of IAF activities since the 2019 IAF GA. Please note that voting on draft resolutions will not be done during the General Assembly itself, but via ballot immediately subsequent to the meeting. The meeting agenda, the exact timing of the meeting, the registration details, and draft resolutions will follow at a later date.
- With the nomination period for a new Financial Oversight Committee Accreditation Body Member closed, the IAF Board has appointed Mr. Yuzuru Moriuchi (JAB) to the position.
- The IAF Board has appointed Mr. Mario Andrade Castro for a three year term as Quality Manager, effective immediately. Mr. Pedro Alves was thanked for his exemplary service during his two terms as Quality Manager.
- The ISO 9001 Auditing Practices Group News informs that the paper on “Effective use of ISO 19011” has been revised and expanded to give an overview of ISO 19011:2018. A new paper on “Auditing Digital Processes” has been published. Both can be found in “Auditing General”. The paper “Electronic Documented Information Systems” has been removed as its former content is now covered by the papers on “Auditing Digital Processes” and “Remote Audits”.

ILAC

- ILAC is inviting nominations for the ILAC Financial Audit Committee (FAC) positions for a 3-year term. The FAC work is undertaken via email. The FAC currently consists of three members, 2 of whom come from ILAC Full Members and one from an ILAC Stakeholder. The current Stakeholder member is willing to serve another term.
- The virtual ILAC General Assembly (GA) will be held on 22 October 2020. Voting for the elections and draft resolutions will be conducted prior to the virtual GA meeting on the 22nd October, electronically. Relevant papers will be available for review and questions in advance.
- ILAC P14:09/2020 ILAC Policy for Measurement Uncertainty in Calibration was approved for publication and is now available from the ILAC website.

IAF/ILAC

- The IAF/ILAC Joint Working Group A-Series has published a series of frequently asked questions on the implementation of specific clauses of ISO/IEC 17011. Read more here.
- The IAF and ILAC Secretariats have confirmed the status of the upcoming IAF and ILAC and Joint IAF and ILAC main committee meetings for the next several months.
Accreditation and Standardisation News

EA

- EA has planned an online event on IT security and digitization on 26 November 2020 in the afternoon (14:00 - 17:00 CET). Please block the date for this online event. You will receive soon more information, including about the registration.
- The following EA publication is now available online: INF/05 “Directory of European legislations and EU schemes with provisions on accreditation and/or conformity assessment”.
- Due to the Covid-19 related situation, the EA Executive Committee has decided to cancel all Spring 2021 face-to-face EA meetings, including the EA General Assembly. All meetings will take place virtually.
- EA will have a special online workshop on the assessment/accreditation of CABs in the regulated railway sector which will take place on 08 December 2020. Further information will follow in due time.
- SWEDAC is issuing an invitation to a webinar on the Future of Accreditation to be held on 19 October 2020. For any question, please contact Linnea Holm at Linnea.Holm@swedac.se.
- INF/04 “Statement on acceptance and recognition of activities under the EA MLA” has been published and is available here.

Standardisation

ISO CASCO

- Registration for the ISO CASCO Plenary to be held virtually on January 28-29, 2021 is now open and will last until January 11, 2021. The meeting will be held starting at 12:00 CET (6:00 am Eastern time) and will last about 3 hours each day.
- A ballot has been launched in ISO/TC 309 – Governance of Organizations to develop ISO/IEC TS 17021-13, Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Part 13: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of compliance management systems. A parallel Committee Internal Ballot (CIB) and call for experts is being organized in ISO/CASCO from 2020-09-01 to 2020-11-23. If the work is approved, the TS will be developed in a joint working group (JWG) with ISO/TC 309 under CASCO administrative lead.
- The results of the ISO Survey 2019 on ISO management system standards certifications have been published and the full results can be downloaded from the ISO CASCO website.
- EQALM - C- Liaison with CASCO/WG57 has been approved.
- ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1 is confirmed for the next 5 year following the recent Systematic Review ballot.
- The Committee Draft of ISO/IEC 17030 Conformity assessment — General requirements for third party marks of conformity was approved with 99% of positive votes. The Working Group 55 will address the comments during its November meeting.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of the EU Affairs

On the 16th of September 2020 the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, delivered her first State of the European Union address. In this announcement, a number of new priorities and objectives, with varied scales of ambition, were announced that will impact the TIC sector.

In particular, a “new strategy for the future of the Schengen area” was announced, in the context of making the Single Market more efficient and breaking down the remaining barriers to the four freedoms (free circulation of people, goods, capital, establishment and provision of services). This announcement comes on the back of the heavy disruptions in the Schengen area, especially the border closings that have severely hampered free circulation of goods and people, including TIC sector workers and services. Additionally, the European Commission will propose an updated Industrial Strategy, as well as an adapted competition framework in the first half of next year.

In addition, The Green Deal also formed an important part of the address. The President announced that 37% of the 750 billion € recovery package (called NextGenerationEU) “will be spent directly on European Green Deal objectives”, which amounts to 277 billion €. Three main objectives will be financed from NextGenerationEU, and may involve a role for conformity assessment bodies:

- The creation of new “European Hydrogen Valleys to modernise our industries” and “power our vehicles” to harness the “potential of hydrogen to support industry with a new, clean, licence to operate”.
- The creation of one million electric charging points across the continent.
- And finally, very importantly, the necessity to “kickstart a European renovation wave and make our Union a leader in circular economy”, with the objective of making buildings more energy efficient.

In the field of digitalization, von der Leyen highlighted the importance of the data economy as a “powerful engine for innovation and new jobs” and of “common data spaces” for the energy and healthcare sectors. She announced the creation of a “European cloud” based on GaiaX. The President also called for “clear rules if something goes wrong” in the realm of AI, following the lead of the previous Commission white paper on high-risk AI, adding that “algorithms must not be a black box”, therefore potentially paving a role for ex-ante conformity assessment.

The TIC sector, with its variety of competences, can play a role in delivering on all these priorities that will structure the work programme of the EU for 2021 in becoming green, digital and more resilient. TIC Council will carefully monitor initiatives and other opportunities to shape these priorities to ensure that the priorities and interests of the TIC sector are reflected.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of Affairs in US Politics

Online Fraud and the Sale of Counterfeit Goods

The sale of counterfeit products, and those counterfeit marks and reports that help to convince consumers of a products’ authenticity, touches all industries and risks the safety of consumers and trust in products sold on online markets.

In the United States, counterfeits continue to grow as a concern for regulators and is growing problem for industry and consumers. Just this year, Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) has reported seizing 1 million US dollars in cocaine and counterfeit clothing in Kentucky, over 20 thousand fake N95 masks in Boston, and over 3 million dollars in counterfeit goods at Dulles International Airport just to name a few. The movement of counterfeit products is further exacerbated by online fraud and the theft of intellectual property.

With the onset of COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders issued throughout the world, consumers have largely respected the lockdowns. This has spurred a rise in online purchases and low-value, direct-to-buyer shipments. In the United States, the CPSC estimated in their 2019 CPSC e-Commerce Assessment Report that “the value of e-Commerce shipments CPSC regulates is estimated to reach $415 billion by Calendar Year 2023, representing almost 38 percent of the total value of imports under the agency’s jurisdiction.” CPSC commissioner Baiocco has offered her thoughts on this issue during the TIC Council’s second virtual panel on this theme, entitled “The Cost of Online Fraud and Counterfeits”, on 1 October 2020.

The first panel of the TIC Council’s 3-part virtual panel series exploring the scope of online fraud and sale of counterfeit products was held on 22 September, and welcomed attendees from around the world including government, industry, and consumer groups. This kick-off panel included a presentation from Michael Hanson, Senior Executive Vice President of Public Affairs at the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA), Palmer Orlandi, Director & Chief Science Officer at AOAC International, and Rick Rosati, Vice President of Government Affairs and Industry Standards in the Americas at Bureau Veritas Consumer Product Services (BVCPS).

The aforementioned second keynote included as speakers Commissioner Baiocco from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Kimberly Gianopoulos, Director in the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) International Affairs and Trade mission team, and Jill Notini, VP of Communications at the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

Other media reports of note regarding counterfeit products:

- **Bloomberg Law: New Balance Wins $500,000 Over Chinese Company’s Counterfeits**
- **The Detroit News: FBI eyeing baseball crew in counterfeit sports memorabilia, art case**
- **Inside Nova: Dulles customs officers seize $3 million worth of counterfeit designer goods**
- **Bloomberg Law: Amazon Sued by Chinese Mask Maker Over ‘Tag Along’ Listings**
- **Forbes: 2020 Consumer Purchasing Behavior And The Pivotal Events That Shaped It**
Upcoming Events

October
- 6 October: Digital skills for citizens’ empowerment - Digital Europe
- 5-9 October: DigiTransScope Autumn Institute 2020 - Florence
- 13 October: Shaping together the circular economy for nonwovens - Edana
- 14 October: World Standards Day 2020 - CEN and CENELEC
- 15 October: A Circular Economy supporting Europe’s Green Deal climate ambitions - Orgalim
- 19 October: Conference on the value of Accreditation - SWEDAC
- 22-23 October: Annual Privacy Forum (ENISA) - Online
- 27 October: Artificial Intelligence in healthcare (stakeholder workshop) - CEN and CENELEC
- 27 October: The Lab of the future and future of labs - Eurolab and TIC Council Joint Webinar - Online
- 27-28 October: ICPHSO International Symposium - Brussels

November
- 3-4 November: European Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference
- 8-11 November: 14th world conference on injury prevention and safety promotion, WHO – Adelaide
- 17 November: Innovation with a purpose - Orgalim

December
- 2 December: Industrial AI and its impact on the existing legislation – Orgalim
TIC Council Americas announces that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with the Global Retailer and Manufacturer Alliance (GRMA) to allow for the sharing of information and collaborations on projects of mutual interest.

TIC Council Americas is currently presenting a 3-part virtual panel series to explore the proliferation of online fraud and sale of counterfeit products, aiming to explore the depths of this issue and how online fraud and the sale of counterfeit goods is affecting the industry, government, and consumers.