

Season's Greetings and Our Best Wishes for 2016

Dear readers,

It is my great pleasure, as President of EuSalt and on behalf of the EuSalt Board and staff, to wish salt producers and particularly all salt workers my best and sincere greetings for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The troublesome economic situation of some of our countries is still not over, our industrial sector is facing a lot of challenges, linked not only to a stagnating market, but also to its own difficulties. We are, nevertheless, ready to tackle those challenges together: finding the common interests and designing a vision for the salt industry for the next decades, looking beyond the diversity of our companies to the interest of the entire salt industry, in one of them.

The Board has, therefore, committed itself and the association to define a roadmap to 2050. This is, to my understanding an important project for all members, whether large or small, and the final output should take into account both points of view, as well as the global trends of our market, climate change, and expected policy shifts and developments.

We thus all need to participate in this challenge to determine what we stand for, what we want to achieve together, and speak out with a unique voice. In that view and to help with coherence and creating synergies, EuSalt's working was restructured under four priorities being: circular economy, biodiversity and environment, optimum nutrition, and safety.

And to be a credible, unique and representative voice of our sector, it is essential to put restless efforts in enlarging the membership basis of EuSalt. Let me finally thank our staff in Brussels for their restless work. Once more, I extend my best wishes to them.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY 2016!



Giacomo D'Alì Staiti
EuSalt, President of the Board

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We Put Safety First, at all times!



‘Safety is a Value and not a priority’, Why? Priorities change but values remain the same.

Over the last two years, since its formation, the EU Salt Safety Experts Group have shared best practice and collaborated across organisations to make Salt companies across the EU safer places to work. The ultimate aim being best in class within Europe and proving the importance of that ‘Value’

Significant strides have been made in high risk areas such as Stockpile Safety and Vehicle/Personnel interaction as well as subjects such as behavioural safety to help improve workers understanding of Hazards and how to manage risk.

In 2015 EU Salt introduced an annual Award to recognise member organisations that have shown excellence in Safety either through solid safety performances or the introduction of Safety initiatives which have demonstrated a tangible improvement in Safe practices.

There has been a lot of progress in the short amount of time that the Safety Experts Group has been meeting, but there is still a great deal of work to be done.

The group is still only made up of a small number of members; so much more can be achieved with the participation of a wider spectrum of Safety experts. Challenges exist with language barriers but I am certain this hurdle can be overcome through interpretation and by varying the location of safety meetings. The EU has worked effectively for decades so established processes to overcome these barriers must exist.

I am extremely proud of the strides forward that the Safety Experts Group has made but I know this is only the tip of the iceberg; there is still a huge untapped resource that can add so much more to our group and make the EU Salt Association that leader in class for Safety

If you would like to learn more I am always happy to discuss this further so please contact me jamesnoblett@compassminerals.co.uk

I wish you all a successful and safe 2016

James Noblett

Chairman, EU Salt Safety Experts Group

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EuSalt News

New EuSalt Structure

The EuSalt Board of Directors of 4th November agreed upon a new structure for the working of our association. Based upon the outcome of the two internal consultations carried out since the summer recess, EuSalt is reorganizing its activities around four expert groups that corresponds to the main priority themes identified. Each group is presided by a CEO of the Board of Directors:

- The Circular Economy Expert Group, led by Nils Van der Plas,
- The Environment & Biodiversity Expert Group, led by Hubert François and Giacomo D'Ali Staiti,

- The Safety Expert Group, led by Erich Krug, and
- The Optimum Nutrition Expert Group (leader to be appointed – candidates should contact the EuSalt secretariat).

The profiles of the different groups, as well as invitations for experts to take part in the respective kick-off meetings will be circulated by the end of 2015/early 2016.

So we are looking for a fresh start for 2016, with many promising projects and hope we can count on the renewed support of our members to increase the visibility of the salt industry.

EuSalt General Assembly 2016

In 2016 we will take a look at our future as a strong, united sector, trying to anticipate not only challenges lying ahead, but also opportunities for positive changes.

You may, thus, already pencil in the dates of **25 to 27 May 2016** in your agenda to hear about '**Salt solutions for a changing world**'. As we dare hope that as many of you will join us in Thessaloniki (Greece) to share your thoughts on the future of our sector, we cannot wait for you to register ([here](#)); hence the deadline of **31 January 2016!**



Climate and Circular Economy

Revision of the EU ETS Directive



The European legislation on greenhouse gas emissions' trading is ongoing revision ([COM\(2015\)337](#)) for the period from 2021 to 2030 (Phase IV). As the system aims to foster investments in low-carbon technologies by putting a (high) price on carbon, the negative effect it can have on industrial competitiveness is recognised through the 'carbon leakage' status. The latter guarantees free emission allowances to industrial sectors – for direct carbon costs – and financial compensation – for indirect costs.

The salt industry is benefiting from the carbon leakage status until 2019 so far, but only for direct costs. This has led to some competition distortion between different segments of the salt sector.

Concerning Phase IV, EuSalt thus intends to advocate for:

- Maintaining and securing the carbon leakage status for salt beyond 2020, and

- An equal treatment of direct and indirect carbon costs, so that both are compensated for and a level playing field within the sector restored.

In so doing, we are proposing to have technologies or types of installations listed as being at high risk of carbon leakage. For more details, see our [position paper](#).

State of the Discussions

At the last meeting of the Council Working Party on Environment on 14 December, a group of states (Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, and the United Kingdom) presented their [views](#) on a tiered approach meant to assess the relative risk of carbon leakage (high, medium, low, none).

In addition, representatives of the Dutch presidency of the EU have stated that equal treatment of direct and indirect costs is not so likely as it would imply too important changes to the system. Reluctance in this regard might also grow from the international (partially) binding climate agreement reached in Paris on 12 December. Although governments are not compelled to achieve their self-imposed targets, all 195 countries are to establish their national strategy to contribute to the international commitment to fight climate change.

Finally, parliamentary debates are heavily awaited next year on, as the draft report of the EP Environment Committee is expected for March 2016.

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State of the Energy Union Report

On 18 November, the European Commission published its first [State of the Energy Union report](#), along with a series of studies on the energy market, the progress towards energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, and towards climate targets. The report acknowledges that the EU is on the right track to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020 (compared with 2005 levels). Likewise, progress are being made in terms of energy security cleaner energy sources.

Measure to be carried out in 2016 towards achieving the energy union are listed in the annexed [roadmap](#) and include, among others:

- Renewable Energy Package (expected for 2016),
- 'Waste to Energy' Communication (2016),
- Revision of the EU ETS Directive (ongoing),
- Review of the Effort-Sharing Decision for non-ETS sectors (2016),
- Review of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2016),
- Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments to support investments in energy efficiency (2015 onwards),

- Analysis of energy prices and costs (2016), and
- Review of the guidelines for state aid for environmental protection and energy.

Yet, much still needs to be done to reach the 2030 targets (43% emission reduction for ETS sectors, 27% for renewables, and 27% for energy efficiency). Moreover, one of the study on 'Energy Consumer Trends 2010-2015' shows that European consumers (both households and industry) pay the 'highest electricity prices in the world on average', except for Japan.

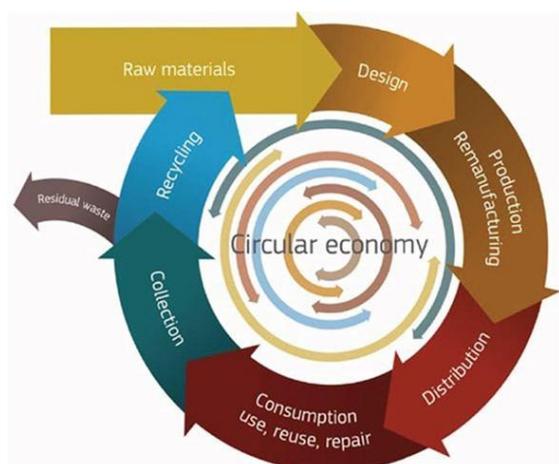
This element was also stressed in the European Parliament's [final report](#) on the Energy Union, adopted in plenary on 15 December. The latter recognised that current fragmentation of the EU energy market and its damaging impact on EU competitiveness and energy security. The EP also regretted that EU 2030 targets were not ambitious enough and called for Member States to establish long-term strategies to reach '80 to 95% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2050'.

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Circular Economy



On 2 December, the European Commission (EC) presented its [communication](#) towards achieving 'a sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient and competitive economy'. The objective is to promote new paradigms and ways of thinking production and consumption across value chains.

The annexed Circular economy [action plan](#) lists a mix of legislative and non-legislative measures to be carried out by 2020 (including standards, reporting and measurement tools). They will tackle a wide range of issues –

production, consumption, packaging, waste management, secondary raw materials, biomass and bio-based materials, innovation and so forth.

In contrast with the former circular economy communication (published in 2014, then withdrawn), the new policy paper shows a more balanced and realistic approach to circularity and recycling, recognising the importance of primary raw materials input into the European economy, as well as the need to develop and expand the market for secondary raw materials.

‘Primary raw materials, including renewable materials, will continue to play an important role in production processes, even in a circular economy. In this context, attention must be paid to the environmental and social impacts of their production, both in the EU and in non-EU countries.’

The salt sector will pay particular attention to the following expected measures:

1. Resource efficiency

- Best reference available techniques for resource use and waste generation,
- **‘Waste to Energy’** initiative (to be proposed by mid-2016), promoting more sustainable energy sources including the increased use non-recyclable waste as a

fuel. The environmental impacts of biofuels and biomass will also be looked at,

- Measure targeting **water reuse**, including in industrial processes,
- Instruments measuring and monitoring progress in **resource efficiency and reuse** (see the [Resource Efficiency Scoreboard](#) and the [Raw Materials Scoreboard](#)).

2. Secondary raw materials and waste as a resource

- Promotion of **secondary raw materials** and the development of **quality standards** for turning waste or by-products into new resources and products. The EU thus intends to facilitate that practice and ‘help ensure a common understanding of the rules on by-products and remanufacturing’ across the Member States. This is also a way to inspire consumers’ trust in such innovation, and
- The **chemicals legislation**: standards and regulations targeting water reuse and secondary raw materials will be established in close connection with the legislation on chemicals.



The European Salt Industry is currently working on its contribution to the circular economy and intends to address the concerns and opportunities highlighted in the EC communication in 2016.

Food & Health

Feed Materials Catalogue

A new entry to the EU Feed Materials Catalogue was proposed recently for the following by-product: 'salt from distillation of crude glycerol produced from vegetable oil', and described as 'By-product obtained from the distillation of crude glycerol produced from vegetable oil. Composition: NaCl (ca. 90%), glycerol (max. 10%), residual organics (max. 0.2)'.

EuSalt challenged this introduction and raised concerns about public health and safety with FEFAC – the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation – who is part of the administrators of the register. The latter reminded that the feed material catalogue is not an authorisation procedure. Therefore, scientific evidence of products' safety is not required to be listed. Objections to a new entry shall be motivated by serious, evidenced-based concerns about a



substance and well-substantiated.

The European Commission is still awaiting the Catalogue's decision about the proposed substance in view of the next DG SANTE Animal Nutrition Standing Committee of 25-26 January 2016.



EuSalt is still engaged in discussions with DG SANTE, FEFAC and other members of the Feed Materials Catalogue about this issue.

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Organic Production & Labelling



MEP Martin Häusling's [report](#) adopted last October 2015 by the European Parliament Environment Committee on organic production and labelling is now available. The latter clears out some initial confusion regarding salt.

As hinted before, recital 9 (which previously mentioned 'sea salt') was aligned with the amendment to Annex I, both now referring to 'salt' – in general – as eligible to label 'organic' provided that it satisfies the production requirements laid down in said legislation.

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Food Additives – EFSA Re-evaluation of E 551

As per Regulation ([EC 1333/2008](#)), **silicon dioxide (E 551)** is under re-evaluation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The agency is thus calling for data regarding the usage level and/or concentration in food and beverages intended for human consumption.

Since the safety of all substances in Batch 4 ought to be re-assessed by the end of 2016, the



deadline for data submission is 31 May 2016.

Into 2016

News from the EU

BIODIVERSITY – The deadline for amendments on the European Parliament’s [own-resolution](#) on the mid-term review of the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy was 16 November 2015. The ENVI committee just voted on the amendment on 21 December 2015. In its resolution, the EP asked for better integration of nature and economic development (instead of the two being mutually exclusive). MEPs further called for a full and better implementation of the Nature Directives (Birds and Habitats), considering them elements of ‘smart regulation’. They also urged the Commission to draw an accurate list of invasive alien species and regularly update it. Another concern lies in the progress of biodiversity preservation in relation with agriculture. With regard to the future ‘Not net loss’ initiative, the EP requests that the EC ‘develop an appropriate framework for preventing the net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services’.

ENERGY – The EU is launching a [public consultation](#) on the review of the **Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)**. The review aims to further adapt the Directive’s provision to reach the 27% energy efficiency improvement target for 2030. The consultation further puts the focus on national obligation

schemes, funding, billing, and reporting and monitoring. Deadline for responses: **29 January 2016**.

ENVIRONMENT – DG Environment is launching a [stakeholder consultation](#) on ‘streamlining monitoring and reporting obligations in environment policy’. The objective is to assess whether current requirements are fit for purpose. As a consequence, the EC leaves the door open to adding new requirements, as well as dropping others that could be burdensome. Stakeholders are invited to shared their views by **10 February 2016**.

INDUSTRY – Last 17 November 2015, the European Gypsum Association (Eurogypsum) organised its forum on circular economy in the building sector. [Key messages](#) and [reports](#) on the Gypsum-to-Gypsum initiative are available online.

INDUSTRY – The Cement industry also presented its initiative and progress in circular economy thinking at the occasion of the Concrete Dialogue 2015, held on 19 November 2015 in Brussels. Key presentations from various stakeholders highlighted the significant contributions that the concrete and building sectors can make to low-carbon economy,

growth and sustainability. Yet, the implementation of low-carbon economy, as well as financing remain critical points of the

process, on which further work is required. All the event's presentations are available [here](#).

The Dutch Presidency of the EU



As of 1 January 2016 and for the next six months, the Netherlands will take on the presidency of the European Union. As such, it will be the role of the Dutch Council representatives to chair Council meetings and

facilitate negotiations on the different dossiers currently under discussion. Among announced key priorities to focus on: the circular economy package, decarbonisation and the reform of the EU ETS, and the Internal Market strategy for goods and services.

Following the Netherlands, Slovakia will hold the EU presidency for the last semester of 2016.

Publications

- [European Health Report](#) (2015). World Health Organisation,
- [‘The role of Gas Storage in Internal Market and Ensuring Security of Supply’](#) (August 2015). European Commission. DG Energy,
- [‘CO₂Stop Final Report: Assessment of CO₂ storage potential in Europe’](#) (April 2015). Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland. Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Building,
- [‘Circular economy, innovation and businesses’](#). European Forum on Eco-innovation [website](#).
- [Proceedings](#) of the NETGREEN Conference (2015). Centre for European Policy Studies,
- [Overview](#) of reported national climate change mitigation policies in the EU28 (2015). EEA Report,
- [Presentations](#) and [Flash Report](#) from the 24th Plenary Meeting (November 2015), EU Platform for Nutrition, Diet and Physical Activity. European Commission. DG SANTE,
- World Energy Outlook 2015 (November 2015). [Executive Summary](#). IEA,
- Ex-post Investigation of Costs pass-through in the EU ETS: An [Analysis of 6 sectors](#). 25 November 2015. On the basis of the 6 case studies, the report concludes that industry does pass through a part of the ETS-related costs to their final product.

Events

EuSalt Meetings

January 2016 (tba)	EuSalt Circular Economy Expert Group Kick-off Meeting
2 February 2016	Board Meeting (Brussels)
3 February 2016	EuSalt Circular Economy Expert Group (Amsterdam)
25-27 May 2016	EuSalt General Assembly Meeting (Thessaloniki)

SAVE THE DATE! The next **World Salt Symposium** will take place on **19-21st June 2018** in park City (U.S.A.). More information to come!

Upcoming Events			
5 Jan.	Council Working Party (WP) on Environment Meeting	8 Mar.	Carbon Market Forum: ETS and Carbon Leakage
14 Jan.	EP ENVI Committee Meeting	17-20 Mar.	Iodine Global Network’s Board Meeting
21 Jan.	- Priorities of the Dutch Presidency - European Minerals Day Steering Committee Meeting	18-22 Apr.	European Minerals Day Exhibition (European Parliament)
25 Jan.	Circular Economy in Europe Workshop (Rotterdam)	20 Apr.	NEEIP Forum
28 Jan.	EP AGRI and ITRE Committees’ Meetings	15-16 Sep.	EFLA Congress (Krakow)
24 Feb.	Non-Energy Extractive Industry Platform (NEEIP) Meeting	17 Nov.	The Concrete Dialogues 2016

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