



Wishes from our President

Dear readers,

This is the first year of my appointment as President of the Board of EuSalt, and it is a great pleasure to wish to the salt industry, particularly to all saltworkers, and to our European and international partners my best and sincere greetings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, also on behalf of all the EuSalt Board.

I think that this year, maybe more than in the past, we're facing a hard season, both because of the very troublesome economic situation of some of our countries, and because of the difficulty that a pair of mild winters brought along as we know how our industry is dependent on the winter climate. We have therefore to look forward to the next year with a less rhetoric hope and a real need that it has to be better than 2014.

Some important decisions are lying ahead of us on some strategic issues. It is my conviction that a single voice expressing the common interest of the stakeholders in the salt industry business has the best chance to be listened to, has the best chance to put on the table the position of a community, while respecting the rules of the competition among our companies as individual economic subjects on the market. This is the reason for which I have accepted the duty that our associates have decided upon, during the last General Assembly. This is the reason for which I ask all of the actors of the salt industry to put forward, within the association, their vision for our sector's future. Finally, this is the reason for which I look forward to enlarging the community of our association, both to larger companies that are still missing as well as to the smaller ones, whose voice is equally important for our association and will have the same audience, to the extent that it represents a diffused tissue and a large number of people and a significant economic and social subject in the European scenario.

Our association can represent the common vision of the European Salt industry vis-à-vis the non-European producers that often share similar problems and interests, and this is another important role EuSalt can play within a market that every day grows more global, where distances get shorter, and interconnections among different areas, both social and geographic, get closer and deeper.

Let me finally thank our wonderful staff in Bruxelles for their restless work. I extend to them, with you, your collaborators, your families and all the saltworkers, my best wishes.

Once more, a **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY 2015!**

Giacomo D'Alì Staiti

President of EuSalt

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Legislative Fitness Checks

REFIT of the General Food Law Regulation

The European Commission (DG SANCO) has called on for the fitness check of the General Food Law [Regulation \(EC\) No 178/2002](#) on the general requirements of food law and establishing the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA). The aim of the regulation was lay down a high standard for food production, especially with regard to safety and traceability (art. 18) issues, and ensure a high level of protection of consumers. The evaluation will be made by a group of consultants and will assess the appropriateness of the legislation, as well as its effectiveness with respect to the objectives set in the Regulation.

This initiative is part of the Commission’s ambition to promote more coherent body of legislation, by avoiding overlaps and

duplications. The consultants will, therefore, collect data via online surveys. In order to introduce the latter and the procedure of the fitness check, a first stakeholder meeting will take place on 19th December 2014. Following this workshop, stakeholders (both industry associations and companies) will need to:

- Send their contact details and areas of interest to FCEC by 15th January 2015, and
- Provide feedback on various issues related to the Regulation by 28th February 2015.

EuSalt will participate in the stakeholder meeting and contribute to the consultation.

Evaluation of the EU Packaging Directives



The European Commission (DG Enterprise & Industry) is reviewing three packaging directives with a view to assessing the degree of implementation and their effectiveness. For this purpose, two consultants, VVA and Technopolis Group, are carrying out stakeholder consultations targeting both industry associations and companies in a complementary way.

The following pieces of legislation are in the scope of the review:

- The ‘3-marking’ Directive (75/107/EEC) establishes requirements on the filling and measuring glass bottles. The 3-mark is placed on bottles produced and measured according to the directive,
- The e-marking Directive (76/211/EEC) establishes requirements on the filling and measuring of pre-packages. The e-mark is placed on pre-packages produced and measured according to the directive, and
- The ‘pack sizes’ Directive (2007/45/EC) allows selling pre-packaged goods in any size, except for wines and spirits which must be sold in fixed sizes.

EuSalt has already taken part in the consultation and calls on individual member companies to provide their feedback on the directives via the [online survey](#) by **6th February 2015**.

Natura 2000

The legislative framework of Natura 2000 – a network of nature protection areas – is also subjected to revision. According to a late proposal, the Commission (DG Environment) is considering merging the Birds and the Habitats Directives. This has not yet been decided upon

and a stakeholder meeting is due to take place in 2015. Some associations and NGOs already stated their opposition to re-opening the two directives and merging them. A more critical issue would be to address the financing of the Natura 2000 network.

Environment

Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) & In-situ Generation



On 12th November 2014, the representatives of Member States Competent Authorities met to discuss the Commission's proposal on the management of in-situ generated active substances in the context of the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) ([EU No 585/2012](#)).

Out of safety concerns, the BPR foresees that all active substances (i.e. "a substance or micro-organism that has an action on or against a harmful organism") and their precursors shall be registered and authorised at European level to continue being marketed for biocide purposes after 2016.

Upon submitting an application to the European Chemicals Agency for the authorisation of a precursor, the supplier shall provide information about the associated active substance. For this purpose, the supplier needs a letter of access (LoA) to the application dossier of the active substance (active chlorine, in the case of sodium chloride). Suppliers have

until **1st September 2015** to complete the registration procedure (according to art. 95 of the BPR).

In the specific case of salt, Annex I to the Regulation mentions two active substances:

- N°939: "active chlorine generated from NaCl by electrolysis",
- N°432: "active chlorine generated from sodium hypochlorite".

Out of clarification and in view of such cases, the European Commission is to publish a guidance document on in-situ generation in January 2015.

In the meantime and with the help of Reach Centrum and ARCHE, EuSalt aims to create a consortium for sodium chloride and that aim to gather all relevant parties to electrolysis using sodium chloride and potassium chloride. The consortium will serve as coordinator and executor in view of establishing the

registration dossier. We are now launching a [call for interest](#) that will run until **20th January 2015**. Responses will be collected by ReachCentrum and ARCHE, who will also help mobilise parties at both national and international levels.

We encourage all interested parties (salt and potash producers, device manufacturers,

“No Net Loss” initiative

The European Commission is expected to come up with a “No Net Loss” initiative in 2015 that aims to further promote biodiversity conservation and mitigation in areas located outside the Natura 2000 network. Preparatory work included a year-long consultation with stakeholders ranging from industry to NGOs, including Member State representatives and scientists.

As the Commission is soon to issue the initiative, however, a particular contentious point remains as the agriculture would not be included in the scope. This has sparked concerns within the Non-Energy Extractive Industry (NEEI) for this would further support unfair distribution of efforts towards biodiversity conservation and mitigation. Contrary to Natura 2000 areas, “No Net Loss”

Mining Waste

The European Commission (DG Environment and the Joint Research Centre) is currently reviewing the 2009 BAT (Best Available Techniques) document regarding the management of waste from extractive industries¹. Although they are not legally binding, BAT serve as guidance to national (inspection) authorities.

¹ The BAT addresses waste management at mining sites. It does not concern extraction or backfilling.

water treatment businesses and associations, and so on) to answer the call as soon as possible. The more parties to the consortium, the better the costs of the procedure can be distributed for the benefit of all. For more information, please contact the EuSalt secretariat at info@eusalt.com.



deals with “ordinary biodiversity”. Consequently, it should equally apply to all activities.

NEEI sectors will take part and raise those concerns at the stakeholder meeting foreseen in the first semester of 2015.

The scope of the new BAT has been extended to all raw materials, therefore including salt, compared to 2009. In order to collect data from industry, the European Commission will circulate a questionnaire by mid-January. This consultation will run until July 2015.

Raw Materials

CEN 337/TC

The CEN Technical Committee 337 has submitted the three following draft standards for de-icing agents to national CEN secretariats, as per the CEN adoption procedure:

- prEN16811-1 on Sodium Chloride,
- prEN16811-2 on Calcium Chloride and Magnesium Chloride, and

- prEN16811-3 on other solid and liquid agents.

The national secretariats are to provide their comments, if any, and accept or reject the proposed standards by 24th April 2015. The next EuSalt WG De-icing of 2nd-3rd February 2015 will address the outcome of the draft standards.

European Minerals Days 2015



A new edition of the European Minerals Days will take place in 2015 as one of the projects under the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials. In accordance with previous years, participating associations and companies aim to further the public awareness about and knowledge of raw materials and how much they matter to our daily lives.

The event will be organised on two levels:

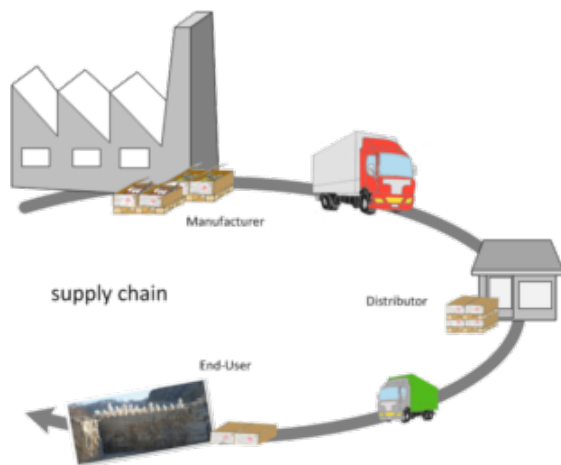
- The “Open Days” (25th-27th September 2015) take place at national, even local, level. Companies wishing to

participate in the EMD open their doors to the public;

- The European event (1st week of December 2015) target European stakeholders and decision-makers and seeks to connect the two levels.

EuSalt will eagerly participate in the preparation of the event which represents a considerable opportunity to make the salt sector known to a wider audience, while showing the relevance of minerals and addressing challenges they are facing.

Explosives for civil uses



The EU Directive 2008/43/EC aims to set a harmonised system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil uses. Yet, its implementation was postponed and the

European Commission required the establishment of an action plan common to the whole supply chain in order to facilitate implementation.

As a result, manufacturers and exporters have the obligation to mark explosives by 5th April 2013 and the supply chain has the obligation to keep data collection and records by 5th April 2015. For instance, this concerns the end-users and the last place of storage prior to use. Specific requirements, as well as types of explosives excluded from the scope, are screened in the [Task Force Guidance Document](#).

Food

Country of Origin Labelling

In early 2014, the European Commission (DG SANCO) has initiated work on the possible extension of mandatory country of origin labelling (COOL) to products other than meat and dairy, and including:

- Single ingredient products,
- Unprocessed foods, and
- Ingredients that represent more than 50% of a food.

The two consultants, FCEC and Agreas-Consulting, have engaged with industry to assess the feasibility of mandatory COOL to a wide variety of food products. The resulting

study was submitted to the Commission's services in late September. As a consequence, DG SANCO is now expected to come up with the final report in January 2015 (instead of end of 2014 as initially announced). However, Member States have requested the Commission to provide insight into the report and the reached conclusions in view of the meeting of the Environment Council representatives of 16th December 2014. In his call to the Commission, the Council reminded of the need to take into account the need for consumers to be informed about COOL, when assessing the feasibility and appropriateness of such a measure.

Low Impact Food

Friends of Europe and LiveWell dedicated a conference to the Low Impact Food in Europe (LIFE) project on 11th December 2014. The project demonstrates how low-carbon, healthy diets can help the EU food supply chain achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The programme of the conference elaborated on the current trends in global and European food production and consumption and its effects on individuals' health and environment. It further discussed the existing EU policy framework and effective policies that are still needed to address current and future nutritional challenges.



EU News

The Commissioners EuSalt follows

Following individual auditions with the European Parliament in September and October 2014, the new college of European commissioners has taken office on 1st November 2014. Additionally, the structure of the Commission itself has changed under the political vision of its new president, Jean-Claude Juncker. In this context, here are the commissioners that EuSalt will follow particularly in the next five years.



Frans Timmermans
1st Vice-President of the European Commission
DG Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional
Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of
Fundamental Rights



Maros Sefcovic
Vice-President of the European Commission
DG Energy Union > Presiding over DGs CLIMA
and ENVI



Vytenis Andriukaitis
DG Health & Food Safety



Miguel Arias Cañete
DG Climate Action & Energy (CLIMA)



Elzbieta Bienkowska
DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship
and SMEs



Karmenu Vella
DG Environment, Maritime affairs & Fisheries
(ENVI)

Work Programme of the European Commission

Presenting the [priorities](#) and the budget of the European Commission, President Juncker put the EU utmost priority on jobs, growth and investments. Finding a way out of the crisis and restoring good levels of growth, as well as trust in the economy are the drivers, not only of the Commission's programme, but also of its structure. For this purpose, the Commission will review the EU's trade and investment policy strategy and seek to foster a more integrated and coherent Single Market. Better regulation and "cutting red tape" (i.e. avoiding unnecessary regulations and overlapping elements of legislation) have been announced as core means to that end and will shine

through the different policies. Finally, on the background of the Lima Climate discussions and in view of the 2015 COP21 summit in Paris, the third EU priority will focus on energy and climate policy, of which energy security is a pillar.

With reference to the respective portfolios, the European Commission has published its work programme for 2015, announcing [new initiatives](#), [REFIT actions](#) (e.g. evaluation or review of legislation already into place), and a list of [withdrawals or modification of pending proposals](#).

Latvian Presidency of the European Union

On 1st January 2015, Italy will hand the presidency of the Council of the EU over to Latvia. The country stated that competitiveness and growth will drive its programme until the end of June 2015.

Sustainability and energy security will also be addressed through the prism of regional governance. Press releases and events related to the presidency are available online: <http://www.es2015.lv/en/>

Publications

WHO (2014). *Guidelines on the fortification of food-grade salt with iodine for the prevention and control of iodine deficiency disorders*, WHO Document Production Services, Geneva, Switzerland.

Schulp, C.J.E., Thuiller, W. & Verburg, P.H. (2014). "Wild food in Europe: A synthesis of knowledge and data of terrestrial wild food as an ecosystem service". *Ecological Economics*.

Li Matzke, M., Jurkschat, K., & Backhaus, T. (2014). „Toxicity of differently sized and coated silver nanoparticles to the bacterium *Pseudomonas putida*: risks for the aquatic environment?" *Ecotoxicology*.

SSRF Report, N°12, December 2014.

EEA (2014). "Tracking progress towards Europe's Climate and Energy Targets for 2020", *EEA Report*, N°6/2014.

EuSalt Internal Meetings

- 21 Jan. 2015** Safety Working Group Meeting (Brussels)
- 2-3 Feb. 2015** De-Icing Working Group Meeting
- 10 Feb. 2015** Roadmap Working Group Meeting (Brussels)
- 11 Feb. 2015** Board Meeting (Brussels)
- 11 Mar. 2015** Analytical Working Group Meeting (Brussels)
- 12 Mar. 2015** Technical Committee Meeting (Brussels)
- 6 May 2015** Safety Working Group Meeting (Brussels)
- 3-5 Jun. 2015** General Assembly (Salzburg)

Upcoming Events			
19 Dec	REFIT Stakeholder Meeting	2 Apr	Kellen European Conference
14-18 Jan	World Salt Symposium Preparatory Meeting	27 Apr	NEEIP Meeting
13 Jan	High Level Conference of the EIP on Raw Materials	5-7 May	CEN/TC 337 (Berlin)
14 Jan	Caobisco New Year Event	6 May	EuSalt Safety WG Meeting
20 Jan	EMD Communication Meeting	26-27 May	CEN/TC 337 (Berlin)
30 Jan	Biocides Consortium Meeting	1 Jun	EFLA Workshop (Vienna)
4-7 Mar	Salt Institute Annual Meeting		