Message from our new president

After the departure of Mr. Giacomo D’Ali Staiti, Mr. François Hubert, president of Salins Group is temporarily acting as President of EuSalt until the next election.

‘We will continue to work with the EuSalt team and all the members to ensure the success of the salt industry at European level. Some challenges are ahead of the European industry, including the salt sector, namely the political vision in Europe to inspire business models that sustain the circular economy, a system restorative or regenerative by intention and design.

This will impact on the salt industry, but every challenge can also turn into an opportunity, hence the importance of developing our Roadmap to 2050, envisioning the future of the salt industry. We will further elaborate on that latter at our General Assembly 2016 in Thessaloniki (Greece) by reflecting on the role of “Salt in an evolving world”.

A number of other issues deserve our attention and require us to engage in a dialogue with stakeholders and institutions, e.g. the further development of climate change policies beyond 2020, the fitness check of the Health & Nutrition Claims legislation, the elaboration on nutrients profiles, as well as our commitment to support policies to support optimal nutrition.

We are also proud as a sector to announce our collaboration with the European Agency for Safety & Health at Work to ensure that the safety vision EuSalt members elaborated and committed to is further implemented.

EuSalt has been created to represent the interests of the salt industry in Europe and internationally. This has been also an achievement of my predecessor Mr. Giacomo D’Ali Staiti to unify all members from the salt industry into one reflection overreaching individual company interests. On behalf of all members, I express our gratitude for this achievement.

Looking forward to meeting all our members in Thessaloniki!’
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Circular Economy

EuSalt Circular Economy Expert Group

EuSalt held its very first internal workshop on circular economy on 3 February 2016 in Amsterdam. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the salt industry’s approach to the EU circular economy framework.

While attempting to determine their position on forthcoming initiatives announced in the European Commission’s Action Plan – e.g. strong emphasis on waste prevention and recycling, secondary raw materials, and resource efficiency -, salt producers expressed the need not to narrow their reflection to the policy focus, but to adopt a more holistic approach to their contributions to the circular economy model.

In this respect, the expert group will carry out a ground-zero analysis of its current contribution to circularity and service concepts. Further on, will they assess opportunities for improvement and transformation.

This work will be a core priority for EuSalt throughout 2016 and beyond. As a consequence, our General Assembly will be all about circular economy, identifying challenges, and finding solutions with the assistance of other key stakeholders.

Next step

An assessment of the EU salt industry’s sustainability performances will be carried out by an external consultant, to be decided upon in the coming month.

2016 Circular Economy Conference

A wide range of stakeholders gathered on 16 February to discuss the EU Action Plan. Commissioner for jobs and growth, Jyrki Katainen, depicted the private sector as the ‘secret to the transition’ to circular economy. There was broad momentum across stakeholders for calling for EU leadership and for a market for secondary raw materials.

Among the various ideas supported:

- **What and where is value?** Creating and maintaining value in our economy requires to redefine where ‘value’ lies. Some increasingly see it in the service, instead of the product, and in waste;

- **Levels and circularity:** A realistic approach would command to assess the sustainability and environmental footprint from a value chain perspective;

- **Green public procurement (GPP):** Whereas some suggested turning ‘green’ into ‘smart’ (MEP Gerbrandy), there was support to MEP Pietikäinen former proposal to make GPP the default approach to public procurement, including a requirement for lower prices;

- **Waste management:** Joining forces to prevent waste generation would contribute to make waste the ‘driver of economic development’ (Katainen). Industrial symbiosis was promoted as a relevant perspective to develop and implement waste prevention plans. Regardless, a better definition of ‘waste’ is required;
• **Environmental footprint**: Upon measuring stakeholders’ achievements and progress towards better sustainability, MEP Pietikäinen called for harmonised and compulsory environmental footprint;

• **Secondary raw materials**: Quality and functionality of those materials should be closely monitored. Not only can they increase the resource input to our economy, but also they need to comply with high health, safety and environmental standards. Another challenge is that of balancing the flows between primary and secondary raw materials, and securing a steady supply of the latter (e.g. through recycling targets). Close attention shall be paid to the composition of secondary raw materials for their quality shall not be lesser than that of primary materials; and

• **Financing**: Financial support to businesses, especially SMEs, needs to be further integrated in the EU circular economy package. It should be closely linked to the European Structural & Investment Funds (ESIF), for instance.

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**Non-Energy Extractive Industry Platform (NEEIP)**

Deputy Head of Unit of the European Commission (EC) DG Growth, Ms. Flor Diaz Pulido, joined the NEEIP meeting of 24 February. Ms. Pulido informed about the current EU focus to stimulate initiatives and projects under the second, i.e. domestic pillar of the Raw Materials Initiative. The EC is particularly looking for national collaboration projects that participate implementing a bottom-up approach to sustainable extraction.

Eurogypsum intends to submit a project proposal under the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials called ‘European Network for Sustainable Quarrying and Mining’. The project aims to promote multi-stakeholder dialogue at national level to facilitate cooperation and acceptance of new mining projects. The proposal will be submitted on 11th March.

**Raw Materials Supply Group**

NEEIP members expressed interest in elaborating a single industry presentation to the next Supply Group of 8 June, so as to demonstrate a unified industry vision on a raw materials strategy, and an assessment of the policy framework to date.

**NEEIP Forum**

The next NEEIP Forum will take place on 20 April 2016 in Brussels (10.30 – 13.00). The theme is timely: ‘Keeping the Circular Economy Rolling’. EU institutions representatives (DGs Environment and Growth, the European Parliament and national governments) will discuss the circular economy from a resource efficiency perspective.
Revision of the EU ETS Directive

EP Public Hearing – 18 March

The European Parliament’s Environment Committee organised a public hearing on the EU ETS proposal post-2020 (COM(2015)337). Commissioner for Climate Action, Miguel Arias Cañete, partly attributed the current low carbon price to the effectiveness of the EU ETS. He then pleaded for further efforts in order to achieve the objectives of the directive and meet the COP21 ambitious agreement.

Panel debates involved MEPs, academics and consultants, as well as stakeholders (representatives from the steel and electric sectors, WWF, and Sandbag). Discussions focused on the following points:

- **Carbon leakage**: The European University Institute presented the outcome of an impact assessment of the EU ETS. According to the latter, there is no evidence so far that the trading system has induced carbon leakage. Besides, widespread consensus to reduce the list of sectors deemed at risk of carbon leakage to those sectors ‘who really need it’, many MEPs and stakeholders are in favour of assessing the risk based on trade intensity and effective exposure to international trade;

- **Four-tiered approach** (as jointly proposed by the Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, and the UK): The EC and different MEPs are inclined to consider this alternative to the Commission’s proposal (high risk Vs. low risk) insofar as it would allow a more targeted approach to carbon leakage and protect highly energy-intensive industries (i.e. steel, cement, aluminium, and the like);

- **Carbon accounts**: some MEPs required the EU ETS to apply to a wider sectors and not only to industry. Further down the road, the issue of carbon accounts and offsets was raised. For instance, Member States could balance carbon emissions and natural carbon capture – thanks to forests or wetlands – when reporting on national progress in emissions reduction. Land use should be brought into the ETS discussion, also since the Land Use and Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) directive is to be revised;

- **Re-industrialising Europe**: Several MEPs called for a framework that provides incentive for cleaner technologies, but that does not constrain industry. They reminded the committee of the need for coherence between the EU climate policy and the re-industrialisation strategy for the objective of the EU ETS is to neither weaken nor decimate the European industry; and

- **Energy costs**: Climate commissioner, Miguel Arias Cañete, insisted on the fact that the real problem for industry was not carbon leakage, but high energy costs. Addressing the latter calls on for redesigning the energy market.
The Salt Industry’s Position

Meeting with MEPs (ENVI and ITRE committees) and Member States representatives, EuSalt is advocating for:

- A technology approach to the carbon leakage risk, in view of a more targeted and accurate assessment; and
- An equal treatment of direct and indirect carbon costs, so as to guarantee a level playing field within the sector.

For more details, see our position paper.

2nd EU Energy Summit

The Paris Agreement of last 12 December was praised by a wide range of stakeholders and policy makers as a strong international commitment to tackle climate change. At the 2nd EU Energy Summit, EU Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete heralded it as key to redirecting investments, e.g. via the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

Thus, the Paris Agreement will have important consequences on the EU climate and energy policy at different levels:

- **Competitiveness**: Ever declining industrial competitiveness is a concern to many. To preserve the latter, policy makers and stakeholders called for a workable framework supportive of investments and affordable energy prices throughout the transition to a decarbonised economy.

Market distortions abound and need to be tackled to support investment capacity;

- **A bottom-up approach**: Local and regional cooperation is presented as the precondition to common EU energy goals;

- **Decarbonisation**: Circular economy is key to decarbonisation, in complement with energy efficiency and renewable energy targets. Energy intensive industries and decision makers (European Commission, MEPs Turmes and Pargneaux) are in favour of a high carbon price meant to sustain innovation and competitiveness. Pricing should also be adjusted at EU borders;

- **Investments and modernisation**: The importance of modernisation shouldn’t be dismissed and will help the transition to a low-carbon economy (Mr. Artur Runge-Metzger, DG CLIMA). Furthermore, emissions reduction efforts should be better distributed across economic sectors, i.e. those outside the EU ETS, e.g. households, agriculture, transport, and so on. In terms of innovation, the EU still needs to find solutions to important
challenges. Heat recovery and energy storage are critical examples; and

- **Energy efficiency**: Many shared the opinion that the climate debate is too much hijacked by idealistic discourses promoting all out, disruptive innovation. Yet, energy efficiency does contribute to climate and energy objectives. Industry already made significant progress in this respect (Mr. Dominique Ristori, DG ENER) and should be further encouraged.

### Call for Contributions: Sustainable Energy Week

The EU Sustainable Energy Week will be taking place from 13th to 17th June. Stakeholders may participate through four different formats, i.e. by applying for: a session (namely organising a debate from moderation to the speakers’ selection), a speaking slot, a networking slot (e.g. as one of the exhibitors), or the EU Sustainable Energy Award.

The deadline for applications has been postponed to 9th February [link].

### Fitness Check of the Health & Nutrition Claims Regulation

**Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006** on nutrition and health claims made on foods was adopted in 2006 to govern the use of these claims in the labelling, presentation and advertising of foods. It aimed in particular at enabling consumers to make healthier choices by protecting them from misleading information and ensuring a level playing field for food business operators within the internal market. Nutrition claims are statements such as 'low fat', 'high fibre', while health claims make the link between a food constituent and health, e.g. 'vitamin D is needed for the normal growth and development of bones in children'.

In Spring 2015, WHO-Europe published a [guide for Europe Nutrient Profile Model](#). This should support the European Commission fitness check procedure in the second half of 2016.

EuSalt developed a position paper to raise awareness about the importance of iodine, folic acid and fluoride added to salt. EuSalt asks to be able to communicate about the beneficial effects of those nutrients and allow well-informed choices.
Food industry voluntary reformulation plan

At the end of February, the European Food Industry took the commitment to plan until 2020 reformulation of products. It is endorsed by Member States, public health organisations, and food industry operators. The Plan includes commitments to reduce levels of salt, saturated fats and added sugars. The deadline to meet the targets is 31 December 2020. Working groups of experts from member states will be established and the EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health will establish principles for Public-Private collaboration and share best practices. An independent scientific check will monitor.

‘Healthy Workplaces of All Ages’ Campaign

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work will be launching a two-year campaign entitle ‘Health Workplaces for All Ages’ on 14th April 2016. The objective is to promote healthy ageing across generations and at the earliest stages possible. The campaign will thus also stress the importance of prevention throughout working life.

EuSalt is proud to be a partner of the upcoming campaign. For more information about the campaign, please visit ‘Healthy Workplaces for All Ages’.
Joint Research Centre (JRC) Work Programme

The JRC intends to carry out a study on best available techniques (BAT) for industrial cooling systems and energy efficiency. The two documents would be merged and a section on resource efficiency (raw materials use and water savings) would be further added. This revision will take place in the framework of the implementation report on the Industrial Emissions Directive.

* * *

CEN – CENELEC 2016 Work Programme

The CEN Technical Committee ‘Environmental characterization’ (CEN/TC 444) will look at facilitating the standards for test methods in the fields of waste, sludge, soil and biowastes. The CEN should also develop test methods for iodine in food (M/422). Finally, their main focus for this year is the development of cooperation with business and industry, and also with training providers in order to ensure that information produced is integrated into all types of trainings.

Open EU Consultations & Roadmaps

Consultation on the auctioning regulation under the EU ETS: Industrial sectors that are not at risk of carbon leakage have to buy emissions rights on the carbon market. The EU ETS has undergone recent changes: first, with the creation of a Market Stability Reserve aims to sustain a high carbon price; second, the Backloading decision removes accumulated surplus of CO₂ allowances from the market. Taking those amendments into account, the EC will be revising the rules for auctioning CO₂ rights. Stakeholders are invited to provide their views on the matter by 15 March 2016 (link). Deadline for contributions: 24 April 2016.

Roadmap on the maximisation of water reuse in the EU: as part of the Circular Economy, the EU is to adopt measures fostering safe and cost-effective water reuse. The EU aims to promote broader waste water reuse, for instance for irrigation or industrial purposes, to support and create ecosystems (e.g. wetlands), and to decrease the ‘nutrient pollution load to rivers and the associated risk of eutrophication’. An impact assessment is expected for autumn 2016. It will feed into the fitness check on EU Freshwater policy.

Consultation on the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA): A group of Mediterranean countries submitted a proposal for the EU to take part in a joint research and innovation programme focused on the development and application of innovative solutions for food systems and water resources in the Mediterranean basin. Thus, stakeholders involved in this field are invited to provide their opinion on the nature and scope of the partnership. EuSalt will take part in the consultation. For more information, see the link. Deadline for contributions: 24 April 2016.
European Commission Funding – LIFE

Europe’s coastal and marine areas are particularly vulnerable to climate changes. LIFE has co-financed projects that address those threats. Challenges will be tackled through ecosystem-based approaches and instruments, such as integrated coastal management. As a result, tools such as the Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the Maritime Spatial Planning are part of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directives (2014/89/EU) because Member States acknowledge that there is a need for climate change adaptation in coastal and marine areas.

For more information, follow the European Commission’s Maritime Affairs.

European Innovation Platform Water

Stakeholders from the water management field gather in the Netherlands to exchange on latest innovations and initiatives. EIP-Water offers an online hub for free where they are all listed according to their speciality. EIP Water is about helping companies find solutions and partners to technical problems. The conclusion form the debate underlined the lack of incentives for water research, despite the great capital that water holds (as a source of energy, a source of life and a source of jobs creation and new technologies). The main conference outcome, ‘The Leeuwarden Declaration’ is now available for download here. The conference documentation also includes:

- a summary of reflections on the conference
- a series of interviews on their Youtube channel
- the majority of the conference presentations on their slideshare account

The conference was organised on the WaterCampus that plays an important role in educating and training water professionals, supporting research at different university levels. The WaterCampus also hosts the Water Alliance, a partnership between government, research institutions and industry in the fields of innovative and sustainable water technology and Wetsus, which makes the link between the WaterCampus and the Water Alliance, combining scientific excellence and commercial relevance. Some of Wetsus spin-off companies include a cost-effective sensor that can be used to measure water quality and corrosion and another one making microbial fuel cell technology more efficient by using bacteria-coated electrodes instead of platinum-coated one.
## Publications

- European Commission, ‘Minventory Report: Study on Structured Statistical Information on Quality and Quantity of EU Raw Materials Deposits’. Available at [DG GROW website.](#)

## Events

### 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 **25th to 27th May 2016** in your agenda to hear about ‘Salt solutions for a changing world’. As we are eager to hear your thoughts on the future of our sector, we just couldn’t wait for you to register; hence the (now past) deadline of 31st January 2016. If you’ve missed it and want to participate, you definitely should contact us at [info@eusalt.com](mailto:info@eusalt.com) asap!

**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

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<td>5th International Conference on Biodiversity (Madrid, Spain)</td>
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<td>European Minerals Day Steering Committee Meeting (Eurometaux)</td>
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