In our newsletter this month:

### APRIL HIGHLIGHTS
- Perspectives on Health & Food Safety  
  - EUthyroid project: mapping iodine intake and supply

### CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT
- EU ETS: Progression of the Tiered-approach
- Circular Economy
  - Policy updates
  - #GoCircular Conference

### SAFETY
- EuSalt partners the EU OSHA Health & Safety Campaign 2016-2017
- Health & Safety meetings
  - Euromines conference
  - EuSalt Safety Working Group Meeting

### MORE NEWS
- News from the EU Bubble
- World Salt Symposium: Call for Papers
- Publications
- Events
Perspectives on Health & Food Safety

WHO Guideline on micronutrient powders

The World Health Organisation published a guideline on micronutrient powders for point-of-use fortification of foods consumed by pregnant women.

Member States asked to be guided on the effects and safe use of those powders for food fortification intended for pregnant women. This tool should help Member States make decisions on actions to improve nutrient intakes in pregnant women. It should also support efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The document is intended for a wide audience, and especially for governments, stakeholders such as nongovernmental organisations, healthcare workers, scientists and donors. This should serve as the basic support for future design and implementation of micronutrient programmes and antenatal care services. Likewise, the guidelines will be integrated into national and subnational public health strategies and programmes.

EU perspective for 2020

Newly appointed Director General for Health & Food Safety, Xavier Prats Monné, insisted on the necessity for Europe to increase its knowledge about European health and healthcare.

To achieve this objective, he wants to trigger new partnerships between the private and public sectors stepping away from working “in-silo”. He also wants to reinforce meaningful dialogues with civil society. Finally, he welcomed the European food industry’s recovery from the economic crisis, and acknowledged its efforts towards being closer to consumers’ needs and health challenges.

EUthyroid project

The Horizon 2020 research project ‘EUthyroid’ aims to map the effective levels of iodine intake (and deficiency) across Europe, as well as the iodine supply. To this end, it is putting together a harmonised monitoring system for such data collection.

EuSalt closely and eagerly follows the project as a meaningful initiative in view of better national public health policies.
EU ETS Revision: Updated EuSalt Position

EU Member States are currently discussing the terms and options for the revision of the EU ETS under the strong lead of the Dutch presidency of the Council. EuSalt recently met with a representative of the Danish government and the office of MEP Hans-Olaf Henkel, vice-president of the European Parliament’s Industry and Enterprise Committee, on the matter.

Discussions – within the European Parliament and amongst Member States – crystallise around the following points:

- Many share concerns for the non-harmonised treatment of direct and indirect carbon emissions. Yet, it seems unlikely that indirect emissions will not sweep in the EU-level governance. The diversity of energy markets and national energy mixes remains a solid rampart to a fairer system;
- Little support has been expressed so far for the France-UK Non-paper for a Tiered Approach to the carbon leakage risk assessment. Many feel it would make the EU ETS even more complex, and seek ways to deliver swiftly and in the most cost-effective way on the COP21 commitments. Discussions also heavily focus on the methodology for the risk assessment as proposed by the European Commission;
- The innovation and modernisation funds is also on the radar, especially with regard to governance issues. Some stakeholders and decision-makers are also keen on enlarging the scope of the former.

Finally, the broader perspective is needed to appreciate the turn negotiations might take, as trade-offs in upcoming negotiations will also concern the upcoming revision of the Effort-Sharing Decision for non-ETS sectors and of the Agriculture and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Decision).

Aside from political negotiations, the European Commission held an expert meeting on the technical dispositions of the EU ETS on 21st April.
Circular Economy (CE) Updates

Non-Energy Extractive Industries Platform (NEEIP)

The NEEIP Forum of 20th April focused on the circular economy. The European Commission (EC) exposed its strategy and objectives on the matter in a debate with various stakeholders. The action plan includes different legislative proposals and is a long-term project, whose objectives are to achieve more sustainable value chains, increase competitiveness of European industries, re-industrialise Europe, create jobs, and stimulate innovation.

For now, the European Parliament and the Council are putting together their opinion on the EC strategy. The Dutch presidency wants to ensure that the latter is not a burden for EU businesses and that the impact assessment of each initiative shows clear added value. Regarding primary and secondary raw materials, in particular, indicators and measurements for their use, reuse, and about waste generation will be developed.

While supporting sustainable materials use, the EC should follow a realistic approach and take into account particular cases where waste avoidance and material reuse is not possible or limited.

#GoCircular Conference

At another event organised by the European Aluminium Association, the EC revealed that new proposals concerning waste should be published in 2017. The purpose is to bring the EU competitive edge to the forefront, saving in materials and energy use as well, to make the best out of what is produced. Regarding secondary raw materials, the focus should be on quality standards, traceability of materials, and risk management of chemicals.

Opening the conference, Commissioner Vella acknowledged that the recycling targets are ambitious. However, the EC is also creating many incentives (financial among others) to support the transition across sectors. The debate highlighted the need to increase the companies’ awareness about opportunities, as well as the necessity to take into account Member States’ specificities: the CE shouldn’t increase the development gap between countries!

The CE Package is as much about economy as about the environment. The political ambition is to change the ground on which companies compete, making competitiveness and sustainability part of the same objective.
EU OSHA Campaign

On 15th April EU-OSHA, together with the European Commission and the Dutch Presidency of the Council, launched its 2016-17 campaign: ‘Healthy Workplaces for All Ages’. The new campaign focuses on the benefits of good occupational safety and health for workers, companies, and society. It thus promotes healthy ageing from the beginning of working life and draws on risk prevention throughout the career.

EuSalt formally committed to the campaign and is looking forward to be an important partner.

Follow developments and spread the news with the hashtag #EUhealthyworkplaces.

Health & Safety Meetings

Euromines Salt and Health Conference

On 20th and 21st April, the European mining association, Euromines, organised its conference dedicated to health and safety. The event revolved around experience sharing amongst mining companies worldwide on how to achieve a safety culture and the challenges they are facing. The objective for businesses is not only to make safety a priority, but most importantly a value that drives workers’ individual behaviour and team spirit.

The mining industry is working towards ‘Vision Zero’ (see the 7 Golden Rules developed by ISSA Mining) to improve occupational safety and reduce the occurrence of accidents, near-misses or fatalities. One of the common challenges is to change behaviours rooted in old habits. Companies thus reported on various solutions and initiatives that they implement and that promote prevention (training and information to workers), learning (reporting and detailed analysis of incidents), and responsibility (fostering team spirit and active caring).

EuSalt Safety Working Group (WG) Meeting

EuSalt decided to engage more in external communication and collaboration with other European sector associations in view of raising awareness about how industry tackles occupational health & safety at work. EuSalt thanks esco GmbH for hosting the meeting and organising the visit of the Bernburg salt mine.
World Salt Symposium

The Tenth World Salt Symposium organized by the Salt Institute will be held in Park City (USA) from 19th to 21st June 2018. The theme is: "Salt of the Earth" and the technical sessions will be grouped into three main tracks: Salt Production, Salt and Health and Salt, Safety and the Environment.

Prospective authors have until 30th November 2016 to submit their abstract electronically to: techcomm@worldsaltsymposium.org.

More information is available on the Salt Institute website.

Publications


- EU Diet, physical activity and health platform, presentations from the High Level Group meeting, 6 April 2016; and presentations from the platform’s plenary meeting, 7 April, 2016.

Events

SAVE THE DATES!

The next EuSalt General Assembly will take place in Brussels from 22th to 24th May 2017. Meetings with policymakers, industry representatives and stakeholders are foreseen, taking place all around Brussels. Stay tuned for more info!

The next World Salt Symposium will take place on 19th-21st June 2018 in park City (U.S.A.). The call for papers is still open. More information to come!
## Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12th May</td>
<td>2nd Conference on Materials and Products in Contact with Drinking Water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th May</td>
<td>Conference on Tackling Childhood Obesity in Europe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th May-3rd Jun.</td>
<td><strong>EU Green Week</strong>: ‘Investing on a Greener Future’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Jun.</td>
<td>Raw Materials Supply Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th-17th Jun.</td>
<td><strong>EU Sustainable Energy Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Sep.</td>
<td>ECHA Biocides Stakeholder Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th-16th Sep.</td>
<td>EFLA Congress (Krakow, Poland)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th Nov.</td>
<td>The Concrete Dialogues 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>