



SAVE THE DATE ! FOR EuSalt GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016

We will go back to the future and take a deep look into what the salt industry will look like and will have to offer in 2050. Since it goes without saying that the salt sector will remain an important part of that world, we'll dig into new ways it can contribute to our society and economy; hence the theme of our meeting: **'Salt solutions for a changing world'**. Join us and share your thoughts on the future of our sector. Registration is happening [here](#) until **31 January 2016!**



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EuSalt is hiring

a European Regulatory and Public Affairs Manager as of early 2016

More information [here](#).

Resource Efficiency & Environment

Revision of the EU ETS Directive

The European legislation on greenhouse gas emissions' trading system is under revision aiming for the period from 2020 onwards. The system compels industry to buy emission rights, thus encouraging businesses to invest in low-carbon technologies to reduce pollution.

The ongoing revision ([COM\(2015\)337](#)) also tackles the issue of carbon leakage after 2020, i.e. the risk for industry to relocate outside Europe under the financial burden induced by the ETS regime. The salt sector was recognised at risk of carbon leakage until 2019 and now needs to make its case for the next phase.

State of Discussions

Although a specific methodology is elaborated to assess the reality of risk – based on objective scientific evaluation and data gathering, some Members of the European Parliament are calling for a shorter list of sectors. In response, the Commission has confirmed only around 50 sectors will be awarded that status.

As Environment ministers first discussed the text on 26 October 2015 and the EP should draft its report by March 2016, it is time for

industry to take another look at its environmental performance past 2020.

The Salt Case

The carbon leakage assessment methodology hasn't changed much, but new reference years – still unknown – will be used for data collection. Therefore, the salt sector needs to demonstrate again that it is vulnerable to high CO₂ costs, both direct and indirect.

For this, EuSalt has requested from Ecofys a broad **data mapping** – to assess whether or not the salt sector would reach the benchmarks and qualify for carbon leakage – with timelines for the different actions to carry out. EuSalt's position consistently calls on to maintain the technological flexibility within the sector. Innovation requires a favourable policy and financial framework. It further contributes to the objectives of a low-carbon economy in relation with the different technologies used in salt production. With this in mind, EuSalt will actively make contact with the EU institutions and other industrial sectors to investigate possibilities for alliances and joint positions.

NETGREEN Project: Measuring Circular Economy



One of the critical elements in contributing to the EU aspiration to a circular economy lies in measurements. How can businesses engage with circular economy? What segments of the production would be relevant for them to

focus on? How to measure progress and what are the most reliable indicators?

The answers are often sector-, even company-specific. However, an EU funded project, NETGREEN, wants to give stakeholders a little help with that. NETGREEN provides an extensive database of existing indicators across the EU for measuring the various parameters of "green growth" (e.g. water use, resource efficiency, domestic extraction).

If the database does not rank assessment tools – acknowledging that no resource indicator is objective - it provides a good evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of each indicator.

To access the database and learn more: <http://measuring-progress.eu>.

Business @Biodiversity Platform

On 27th October, the 2nd Business @ Biodiversity conference gathered a wide range of stakeholders from EU, national, and local governments to industry to NGOs and research institutes to present the progress made by the platform towards its commitments. Biodiversity is an essential feature of EU policies and will gain more and more importance over the years, also in connection with the Circular Economy thinking and the (possible revision) of the EU Nature legislation.

Stakeholders were invited to share their experience and success stories in preserving and/or restoring biodiversity. For this three work streams of high relevance were identified in the past. The [report](#) on the first work stream dealing with Natural Capital Accounting was released, making recommendations for further

work, among others investigating how natural capital values and impacts could be better linked to LCA. As a consequence, new objectives were suggested for the work streams in 2016 and for which stakeholders are invited to provide case studies.

On that occasion, Euromines shared the example of the [Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative](#) (CSBI) carried out by various industries (incl. oil and gas, mining, and so on) and the financial sector. The initiative focuses on providing tools and guidance and sharing knowledge on implementing the hierarchy of (biodiversity) mitigation.

EuSalt is part of the platform! That means that any salt producer willing to share a case study with the platform can!

	WS 1: Natural Capital Accounting	WS 2: Innovation for Biodiversity & Business	WS 3: Access to Finance & Innovative Finance Mechanisms
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need increased data sharing • Missing data and data reliability issues • Missing integration of the finance and insurance sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more experience sharing • Need more incentives from decision-makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty to proceed with taxation changes (i.e. changing price signal mechanisms) • Low involvement of banks and the finance sector
2016 Work Stream Objectives: Several objectives were suggested (see Concept Note), on which stakeholders are invited to provide their views.			

Table 1 Work Streams of the Business @ Biodiversity Platform

Food & Health

Nutrient Profiles Roadmap

The European Commission's [Roadmap](#) published in October 2015 will evaluate whether the not-yet-set nutrient profiles – provided for in [Regulation \(EC\) No 1924/2006](#) on nutrition and health claims – are adequate and necessary to reach the regulation's objectives. The latter, of course, are to enable consumers to make healthier food choices and to avoid misleading information.

Nutrient profiles prescribes that nutrition (see Fig. 1) and health claims shall only be permitted on foods complying with thresholds for the usual suspects: fats, carbohydrates, sugars, and salt.

Therefore, starting January 2016 up to June 2017 and while the WHO is working on nutrient profiles at international level, the EC will attempt to answer several questions related to the nutrient profiles':

- **Effectiveness**, e.g. "Did the non-setting of nutrient profiles at EU level prevent the realisation of the Regulation's objectives?"
- **Efficiency**, i.e. the costs and benefits of the absence of nutrient profiles, possible, less burdensome alternatives that could help achieve the objectives,
- **Relevance**, asking if setting nutrient profiles are still relevant given market evolutions since 2008,
- **Coherence**, e.g. how and to what extent the non-setting affect food trade, and
- **Added-value** at EU level, e.g. how would Member States incorporate it in their national policies otherwise.

And since decision-makers are no sight geeks, they need input from:



Figure 1 Nutrient Profiles: It's out of the pipelines, but will it be back on track?

1. Stakeholders! For this, an open public consultation and a stakeholder consultation (focusing on SMEs) are planned for the 2nd half of 2016,
2. Science: an external study based on quantitative and qualitative data collection will be carried out on the points highlighted above and will feed into the evaluation.



EuSalt's Radar and Actions

Not only did nutrient profiles never desert our radar, but we think it's time to level up our actions on this. Far from opposing nutrient profiles being set up, the salt industry take seriously its role in educating the public about optimum nutrition. Salt may be used as a carrier for essential micronutrients (iodine, fluoride, folic acid), and that needs to be taken into account.

EuSalt will respond to the questions raised in the roadmap and make contact with EC services to convey the salt industry's position. So stay tuned as we will solicit you!

Organic Production & Labelling



The European Parliament Agriculture Committee adopted MEP Martin Häusling's amended [draft report](#) on the proposal for a Regulation on organic production and labelling ([COM\(2014\)180](#)) by 33 votes against 4 on 13 October 2015.

Salt: Clarifying, yet confusing

As regards salt, adopted amendments do not add up well as the following made it through:

- **Compromise amendment 1**, supporting the EC proposal: ' [...] *Finally, **sea salt** should be included in the scope of this Regulation because it is produced by applying natural production techniques and its production contributes to the development of rural areas, and thus falls within the objectives of this Regulation.*'

- **Amendment 979**, which include "**salt**" – and no longer "sea salt" as in the EC proposal – in Annex I that lists products that may be labelled organic provided that production methods are in accordance with the Regulation.

EuSalt contacted the European Parliament about this apparent inconsistency, asking for clarity on the interpretation of the vote. According to our latest information, the secretariat of Mr. Häusling was still concerting with other MEPs on the issue.

Meanwhile, trilogues (discussions between the Council of the EU, the European Parliament and the Commission) are starting. Member States experts discussed the issue last 29-30 October, the outcome of which is still to come.

Food Additives

As a reminder, food additives that have been approved for use with the EU, according to Regulation [\(EC\) 1333/2008](#), are to be re-evaluated by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Here are the deadlines not to miss as far as salt is concerned:

- E 551, silicon dioxide: 31 December 2016, and
- E 511, magnesium chloride: 31 December 2018.

Ahead of 2016

European Commission 2016 Work Programme

On 27 October 2015, the EC presented its [work programme](#) for next year, and it will be busy. Among relevant issues to the salt industry are:

- New initiatives: the Circular Economy Package and the Energy Efficiency package,

- Fitness check of current legislation (REFIT): Nature legislation, General Food Law, and Nutrition and Health Claims legislation.

News from the EU

ENVIRONMENT – The EC has published a report on the '[State of Nature in the EU](#)'. The latter concluded that not enough efforts and improvements were made in the preservation status of nature to reach the first target of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#), i.e. to improve the conservation status of habitats and species by 2020. While 52% of all bird species are deemed secure, only 16% of habitat types were deemed in favourable status. Under unfavourable status, some habitat types are significantly deteriorating, e.g. coastal and freshwater habitats, bogs, mires and fens. The

report will support the current fitness check of the EU Nature legislation currently under way.

ENVIRONMENT – In its [own-resolution](#) on **Marine Knowledge 2020 Strategy**, the European Parliament ITRE committee on the Commission's [communication](#) calls for establishing favourable conditions for investing in renewable energy sources, and for greater support for areas facing problems, such as the degradation of coastal systems, ecosystem resilience and restoration, coastal erosion.

Publications

- 'Eat for Health' (2015), European Parliament, Environment Committee, Workshop presentations available [online](#),
- EU Energy in Figures: Statistical [Pocketbook 2015](#) (2015), European Commission,
- [Science for Food](#): Thematic Report (2015), Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission,
- The EU ETS Structural Reform for Phase 4: Views on the Commission's Proposal (August 2015), Carbon Market Forum, CEPS, available [online](#),
- New Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency Projects Funding Programme: €194 million in 2016 and 2017. Learn more: <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/horizon-2020-energy-efficiency>,
- Natural Capital Accounting [Reporting](#), Business @ Biodiversity Platform, First Work Stream.

Events

EuSalt Meetings

4th November 2015	Board Meeting (Brussels)
TBA	ETS WG Meeting (Brussels)
15th December 2015	Safety WG Conference Call
2nd February 2015	Board Meeting (Brussels)
25-27th 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

2-6 Nov.	Amsterdam International Water Week	19-20 Nov.	VKS Herbstagung
4 Nov.	EC DG SANTE General Food Law Meeting	23-27 Nov.	EP Plenary Vote on the Energy Union Strategy
6 Nov.	Smart Cities & Communities Information Day	24 Nov.	FAIB, Political Advocacy for Associations Workshop
9-10 Nov.	EP ENVI Committee Eurogypsum Forum: Circular economy for the Constructing Sector	1 Dec.	EP Ceramics Forum
17 Nov.	The Concrete Initiative: "Citizens at the heart of a sustainably-built environment"	3 Dec.	EuSalt meets the World Iodine Association
19 Nov.		2016	European Minerals Day Exhibition at the European Parliament (tbc)

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