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## Priority Issues

### Revision of the EuSalt Business Strategy

Since last summer, EuSalt has engaged in thorough internal consultations with its members in order to define a new strategy, including the association's core priorities for the years to come. Given the various dynamics at play at EU and international levels, as well as rising regulatory initiatives and more integrated approaches to achieve ambitious political goals (e.g. a low-carbon and circular

economy), it is more than ever essential to unite the salt sector around a commonly established, clear, and forceful message.

Towards this aim, the next EuSalt Board meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> November will further discuss and agree upon a new strategy for EuSalt's activities.

### European Minerals Days 2015 – Open Days



*Blasting show at Cimalux, Rumelange*

The 2015 European Minerals Day was launched on 25 September at the cement production plant of Cimalux in Rumelange, Luxembourg. The event was the official start of the Open Days, during which minerals production plants – not only cement, but also gypsum, talc, glass and many industrial minerals – across Europe and the world, opened their doors to the public.

Organised with the support of the European Commission and as one of the projects under the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials, the aim was to raise public awareness about the importance of minerals to society and the EU economy.

The launch event gathered various stakeholders from the EU and Luxembourg to discuss the relevance of raw materials in moving towards a circular economy. Representatives from the European Commission, the Luxembourgish ministry of interior, and Members of the European Parliament shared the view that raw materials matter to EU economy and have an essential role to play in improving resource and energy efficiency, developing innovation, and enhancing biodiversity.



*Left: Mr. Daniel Calleja-Crespo (European Commission, DG Environment); Right: Luxembourgish MEP, Mr. Claude Turmes.*

On that occasion, Cimalux presented a diversity of ongoing projects illustrating the company's environmental, social, and economic responsibility – e.g. initiatives to

reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, to rehabilitate former extraction parts of the quarry to foster biodiversity, and so on.



Overall, 6.800 visitors in Europe joined us on the Open Days, making the event yet again successful. For more information, see our [press release](#).



Next step? In raising awareness about the importance of minerals, industrial sectors are not only reaching out to local communities and the public at large, but also to decision- and policy-makers as a way to contribute to the policy debate in a constructive manner.

Thus, an EU exhibition will be organised in the European Parliament. The exact date will be communicated later on. So stay alert and tuned through [www.mineralsday.eu](http://www.mineralsday.eu)!

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### Biocides: Implementation of art. 95 for in-situ generated active substances

The guidelines on the implementation and enforcement of art. 95 of [Regulation \(EU\) No 528/2012](#) (BPR) for in-situ generated substances was presented at the 61<sup>st</sup> Member States' competent authorities meeting of 16 September. The Commission intended to further clarify the legal interpretation of rules applying to precursors to active substances. The document reinforces the importance of intentionality, establishing a clear distinction between 1) precursors placed on the market with the intention to be used for the generation of active substances, and 2) precursors placed on the market with no

**declared intention** to do so. The latter case is out of the scope of the BPR and does not need to comply with art. 95. Likewise, sea water used as a precursor is not concerned.

EuSalt expressed regret over the adopted approach for it does not address all systems in a fair manner and fails to establish a level playing field, which is the main objective of Article 95. The Commission noted the concern. After some editorial changes were suggested and agreed by the Commission, Member States took note of the final document. More information on [CIRCABC Meeting documents](#).

## Revision of the EU ETS

The European Commission's [proposal](#) to 'enhance cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments – namely revising the EU Emissions Trading Scheme – was published in mid-July 2015. Both the European Parliament and the Council are now to discuss the text.

In this respect, leading the debate and in charge of drafting the European Parliament's report on the dossier is the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee. The different political groups composing the latter have, thus, nominated a rapporteur, MEP Ian Duncan (European Conservatives and Reformists Group – ECR, U.K.), and shadow rapporteurs as follows:

- MEP Ivo Belet (European People's Party – EPP, Belgium),
- MEP Jytte Guteland (Alliance of Socialists & Democrats – S&D, Sweden),
- MEP Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe – ALDE, Netherlands),
- MEP Katerina Konecva (European United Left-Nordic Green Left – GUE/NGL, Czech Republic), and
- MEP Eleonora Evi (Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group – EFDD, Italy).

Other EP committees will advise and provide their opinion to ENVI, including those for Budgets (BUDG), for Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), and for Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO). The latter's rapporteurs haven't been appointed yet.

As the European Parliament's committees are expected to review the Commission's proposal and submit amendments, some MEPs have already called for more stringent methods in assessing carbon leakage risk and in

establishing the list of sectors whose competitiveness would be severely impacted.

The Council is also holding discussions on the text. Its Environment Working Party met on 22-23 September, and environment ministers will debate the issue on 26 October.

As a reminder, the main tenants of the EU ETS revision are:

- A **reduction of the allowances** placed on the market (consistent with the MSR dispositions): however, since the share of auctioned allowances will remain identical to that of the 2013-2020 period, the reduction will mostly affect emission allowances allocated for free (i.e. carbon leakage sectors).
- Less **carbon leakage**: The proposal intends for a limited list of sectors at risk of carbon leakage (around 50, according to the Commission's estimates). The list is supposed to "reflect industries' technological capacities and progress over time". In order to determine the sectors that will be deemed at risk of carbon leakage, the Commission will differentiate between those at "high risk" and those at "low risk". While the former will be entitled to receive free allocations, the latter group will be considered able to pass the cost induced by the ETS system onto their product prices.
- **Compensation for indirect costs**: the proposal establishes that "Member States should partially compensate certain installations in sectors or sub-sectors exposed to a risk of carbon leakage and in line with the State Aid rules" due indirect carbon costs passed on in electricity prices, "while maintaining the incentive to save energy". However, the State Aid rules only

list a restricted list of sectors entitled to such compensation.

- **Social aspect of the EU ETS:** the trading system is put back into the broader perspective of a “low-carbon economy”. For the first time, it openly recognises the

social costs of the technological and economic transition by promoting adaptation measures, whereby companies need to promote “skills formation and reallocation of labour affected” by the move towards a “decarbonised economy”.

## Food & Health

### Fortified Salt Labelling

#### Nutrition declaration for iodised salt

Table Salt	
<b>Nutrition Facts</b>	
Serving Size 1 teaspoon (6g)	
<b>Amount Per Serving</b>	
<b>Calories 0</b>	
	<b>% Daily Values*</b>
<b>Total Fat</b> 0g	<b>0%</b>
Saturated Fat 0g	<b>0%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 2325mg	<b>97%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 0g	<b>0%</b>
Dietary Fiber 0g	<b>0%</b>
Sugars 0g	
<b>Protein</b> 0g	<b>0%</b>

On 22-23 September, the Commission’s Advisory Group on the Food Chain discussed the effectiveness of the General Food Law with a wide range of stakeholders. On that occasion the issue of iodised salt labelling in the face of provisions laid down in the Food Information to Consumers [Regulation \(EU\) No 1169/2011](#) was raised. According to the latter, the detailed composition of compound ingredients contained in foods shall be labelled. That implies specifying the source of iodine added to salt – sodium iodide, potassium iodide, sodium iodate, or potassium iodate - whether

sold directly to consumers or used in food processing. Such obligation would threaten certain flexibility and pose accuracy issues for different sources of iodine may be used by a same supplier, depending on availability. In addition, that information does not contribute to the objectives of the regulation, which is to help consumers make well-informed choices.

EuSalt responded with a letter to DG SANTE services supporting the afore-mentioned argumentation and calling for iodised salt to be exempted from the mandatory nutrition declaration, as well as requirements applying to compound ingredients.

#### Nutrient profiles

The European Commission has published a [Roadmap](#) to evaluate whether [Regulation \(EC\) No 1924/2006](#) on nutrition and health claims made on food is fit for purpose regarding nutrient profiles. Indeed, in view of helping consumers make healthier choices and avoiding misleading information, nutrient profiles shall be established. The latter requires food products to comply with thresholds for the ingredients of the mandatory nutrition declaration – e.g. fat, saturates, carbohydrates, protein, sugars, and salt – in order to make nutrition and health

claims, provided that those are substantiated scientifically.

The Roadmap works towards further harmonisation of nutrition and health claims at EU level for health but also commercial purposes, i.e. freedom of goods. 5 parameters will be assessed for nutrient profiles:

effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, and EU added-value.

As the evaluation is foreseen to start in January 2016, EuSalt will convey its position to DG SANTE calling for fair consideration of fortified salt and their relevance with regard to certain national health policies.

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### Organic Production and Labelling

The European Parliament Agriculture (AGRI) Committee is expected to vote on MEP Martin Häusling's [draft report](#) on the European Commission's proposal for Regulation on organic production and labelling ([COM\(2014\)180](#)), on compromised amendments (agreed upon between the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs in the European Parliament, but not released as yet), as well as on the opening of inter-institutional negotiations with the Council on 13 October 2015 (see [agenda](#)).



Following this vote, the European Parliament will engage in inter-institutional dialogue with the Council of the EU in view of reaching an agreement on and adopting the text in first reading.

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### Mandatory Country of Origin Labelling

The European Parliament debated the Commission's report on mandatory country of origin labelling (COOL) for single ingredients, processed foods, and ingredients representing more than 50% of a food. The Commission's (DG SANTE) assessment deemed that extending mandatory COOL requirements to those foods would be burdensome for the food industry in comparison with expected benefits for the consumers in terms of leading to well-informed choices. The cost-effectiveness of such a measure was called into question and voluntary origin labelling recommended.

However, the European Parliament's ENVI Committee challenged the EC assessment on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015 as some MEPs are in fervent support of mandatory origin labelling and called the EC to review its position. There is no consensus within the committee on this issue however. We may expect that the European Parliament will respond to the Commission with an own-resolution initiative in the next months.

## In the Pipelines

### News from the EU

**ENERGY** – The European Commission organised a consultation forum on its **heating and cooling strategy**. The event aimed to gather stakeholders' views prior to establishing said strategy, which is expected in November 2015. The Commission's intentions focus significantly on boosting heating and cooling systems powered by biofuels (instead of fossil fuels), especially since demands for cogeneration represents 50% of the EU energy consumption).

**SAFETY** – The European Parliament's Employment Committee discussed the Commission's EC Strategic framework on **Health and Safety at Work for 2014-2020** ([COM\(2014\)332](#)) and the [EP draft report](#) of MEP Ole Christensen on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The Framework aims to provide for a more comprehensive body of EU legislation addressing the most significant occupational risks and providing common rules. Despite the fact that almost all EU Member States have put in place national strategies, implementation remains one of the biggest challenges, as well as the emergence of new risks.

**FOOD** – The European Parliament and the Council had until 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to examine the draft measure on the use of **iron tartrates as anti-caking agent in salt** and its substitutes. Since no objection was submitted, Regulation (EU) 1333/2008 on the use of additives in foods will be updated with this new addition. More information [here](#).

**ENERGY** – On 21-22<sup>nd</sup> September, the Commission launched a **Strategic Energy Technology** (SET) Stakeholder Conference. The

objective was to investigate different aspects of the SET plan with the idea to promote a more competitive European technology sector, while supporting consumer participation in energy transition, sustainable energy for transport, and so on. The EU ambitions to become the world leader in developing the next generation of renewable energy technology, efficient energy system, financing challenges and instruments. Following on its 2013 communication on energy technology, the Commission will present its Action plan to the Council Research Working Party on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**FOOD** – The Commission is to organise a stakeholder consultation in view of revising the HACCP guidance document under the Regulation on hygiene of foodstuffs.

**FOOD** – The last plenary meeting of the EU Platform on Diets, physical activity, and health was held on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Various stakeholders informed about evolutions in the food industry addressing political objectives to promote healthier food choices and nutritional quality. Innovation in food also stands high on the agenda of the international event Expo Milan. Presentations are available [online](#).

**ENVIRONMENT** – Discussions are ongoing between some extractive sectors and the NGO BirdLife Europe in view of establishing a common position on the revision of the EU Nature legislation. Several stakeholders are in favour of focusing efforts on better implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives rather than amending them.

## Publications

- [Flash report](#) from the plenary meeting of DG SANTE's EU platform on diet, physical activity and health. Several presentations addressed the issue of reformulation and reduced salt, fat and sugar in foods ([link](#)),
- 'Balanced Diets and Healthy Lifestyles' Initiative, FoodAndDrinkEurope, 2015,
- [Report](#) to the European Parliament and the Council regarding the mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for unprocessed foods, single ingredients, and ingredients that represent more than 50% of a food, European Commission, DG Agriculture (AGRI), 2015,
- [Report](#) on 'Productivity in mining operations: Reversing the downward trend', McKinsey, May 2015,
- '[Roadmap on a Circular Economy Strategy](#)', European Commission, DG Environment and DG Growth, 2015,
- '[Open Innovation in Industry](#)', European Parliament, Industry, Transport and Energy Committee, September 2015.

## Events

### EuSalt Meetings

<b>8<sup>th</sup> October 2015</b>	Feed Additives Meeting: Scientific Assessment of E 535-E 536 (Frankfurt)
<b>4<sup>th</sup> November 2015</b>	Board Meeting (Brussels)
<b>TBA</b>	ETS WG Meeting (Brussels)
<b>15<sup>th</sup> November 2015</b>	Safety WG Conference Call
<b>25-27<sup>th</sup> May 2016</b>	EuSalt General Assembly Meeting (Thessaloniki)

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



Upcoming Events			
<b>10 Oct.</b>	“Innovation in Food” Conference (more information <a href="#">here</a> )	<b>6 Nov.</b>	Smart Cities & Communities Information Day
<b>12-13 Oct.</b>	EP Agriculture & Industry Committees	<b>9-10 Nov.</b>	EP ENVI Committee
<b>13 Oct.</b>	“Eat for Health” EP Workshop	<b>17 Nov.</b>	Eurogypsum Forum: Circular economy for the Constructing Sector
<b>15 Oct.</b>	- “Climate and Energy Outlook”, Friends of Europe “Accelerating the transition to a green economy”, CEPS	<b>18 Nov.</b>	NEEIP Forum (Thon Hotel, Brussels)
<b>19 Oct.</b>	- European Environmental Bureau Annual Conference	<b>19 Nov.</b>	The Concrete Initiative: “Citizens at the heart of a sustainably-built environment”
<b>21 Oct.</b>	EFLA EU-US Food Law Conference: The Role of Trade Agreements in the Food Sector ( <a href="#">info</a> )	<b>19-20 Nov.</b>	VKS Herbstagung
<b>24 Oct.</b>	MINATURA 2000 Workshop on Mines and Natura 2000 Framework (Lisbon, Portugal)	<b>2016</b>	European Minerals Day Exhibition at the European Parliament (tbc)
<b>4 Nov.</b>	EC DG SANTE General Food Law Meeting		

#### CONTACT

EuSalt aisbl - Square de Meeûs 38/40– 1000 Brussels

T. +32 (0)2 401 61 33 – F. +32 (0)2 401 61 35

[info@eusalt.com](mailto:info@eusalt.com)

[www.eusalt.com](http://www.eusalt.com) – [www.de-icing.eu](http://www.de-icing.eu)