



*March 2020*

## Message from the President



Dear Friends,

We are facing an unprecedented time of uncertainty and confusion.

When I was in London for the Icis conference I truly believed that the worst of the coronavirus was over, as we were seeing the first signs of a slowing down in China. I would never have believed that now, less than a month later, I would find myself wondering when I would be able to visit my family and friends in Italy and constantly fearing for their well-being.

This situation also made me realize that I had taken for granted the essential role that traveling plays in my life – both on a personal and professional level. I always thought that it didn't matter where I was in the world, because everybody and everything was just a flight away. The outbreak of the coronavirus is showing us how vulnerable we really are.

I personally believe that the best we can do right now is to undertake any reasonable measure to protect our colleagues, our friends, and our community at large, and do our best to make sure that our companies and our industry navigate this challenging period in the best possible way (for some it seems that the best thing to do right now is to stock gigantic quantities of toilet paper – but then again, we all have different priorities). While several countries are closing borders to contain the spread, I am witnessing the amazing power of friendship and solidarity that reaches across borders.

[Read more](#)

*Valentina Serra-Holm*

*President*

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## Technical and Competition Committees

The first 2020 meeting of the UEIL Technical Committee took place in Brussels on 22 January. This was the first gathering under the new chairmanship of Helga Laporte, and the entire Committee would like to express its gratitude and thanks to Ad Van Genderen, who undertook this responsibility for two years (2018 and 2019).

As a reminder, Technical and Competition Committee meetings are combined. Hence, the 22 January gathering provided the opportunity for members of both Committees to exchange views and decide the follow-up on various technical and competition cases.

[Read more](#)

## Taxation Task Force

The European Commission is currently reviewing the Energy Taxation Directive that it withdrew back in 2015, as the file was blocked in Council, and will publish a revised Energy Taxation Directive probably in Q2/Q3 2020.

Related to UEIL's objective to prevent the inclusion of lubes under EMCS, certain EU Member States expressed their concern about increased fraud with lubes in Europe and are once again increasing the pressure to include lubes under EMCS. UEIL will continue its outreach to Member States in the coming weeks to express its concern and will propose a new definition of 'light lubes' at the request of the Member States.

[Read more](#)

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## UEIL 2020 Congress will focus on Sustainable Growth in the Lubricants Industry

This year, the Union of the European Industry of Lubricants will hold its annual Congress in Athens, Greece from 28 to 30 October 2020.

Building on the success of last year's event where participants discussed positive disruption in the lubricants industry, this year's Congress will assess how Europe's sustainability drive is set to impact the sector.

Key themes on the agenda include sustainable mobility, bio-based lubricants, 3D printing and feedstock selection. Participants will also hear about technical trends and regulatory challenges in areas like counterfeiting, quality management as well as the EU ecolabel. Check out the event programme and more information on the [UEIL website](#).

We would like to thank all the sponsors that have already offered their precious support for the 2020 UEIL Congress! For those still looking to increase their visibility in the lubricants industry, please consult the [Congress Sponsorship Brochure](#).

[Read more](#) and **Save the date as registrations will open later in the Spring!**



## EU UPDATE

### 1.) BREXIT

The UK officially left the EU at midnight on 1 February 2020 and is therefore no longer an EU Member State. During the transition period, which started from this date and is provisionally due to last until 31 December 2020, all EU legislation will still apply to the UK, and the country will remain a member of the Single Market and the Customs Union. Brexit reduces the number of EU Member States to 27.

### 2.) THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission (EC), gained Parliamentary support in July 2019 by promising to put climate action at the heart of the next European Commission and present a European Green Deal (EGD) within her first 100 days. Given the one-month delay in taking office, the Commission published its Communication on the European Green Deal after only 10 days, on 11 December 2019.

The Communication includes an initial roadmap of the key policies and measures needed to achieve the European Green Deal, which is to be updated as needs evolve and the policy responses are formulated. An accompanying annex provides an indicative timeline of expected policies, initiatives, and strategies.

*Key recent developments under the European Green Deal:*

- The European Climate Law
- The European Industrial Strategy
- The Circular Economy Action Plan

[Read more](#)

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## Call for Sponsorship of the UEIL Newsletters

Dear Members and Partners of UEIL,

We would like to put out a call for interest for any members who are interested in sponsoring the June, September and/or December 2020 version of the UEIL newsletter.

As you know, this is our association's showcase publication and therefore represents an excellent opportunity for regular exposure and profiling your organisation.

Sponsorship of the newsletter includes your logo featured prominently on the newsletter, with a hyperlink taking the reader to your organisation's homepage.

If you'd like to find out more about this opportunity, please do let us know by sending an email to [secretariat@ueil.org](mailto:secretariat@ueil.org).

Thank you and best regards,

UEIL Secretariat

[Read more](#)

## LUBRICANT INDUSTRY STATISTICS

Every year, UEIL develops its own set of industry statistics. Our Industry Statistics use an advanced estimation procedure developed in cooperation with the Fraunhofer Center for Economics of Materials CEM.

The model employs an econometric panel data approach, applying explanatory factors for lubricant sales to explain observable market data. The model then is employed to quantify estimates for countries with limited or without market data. It builds primarily on internationally comparable data on factors influencing lubricant sales. These range from car ownership to value added in key manufacturing industries. The model has been verified against other data sources and expert feedback to ensure a high level of accuracy. Its geographical coverage will be increased constantly, aiming at a model encompassing the whole European Union as well as Turkey.

Are you interested by our industry statistics? Contact our Secretariat for more information and to know our pricing schedule!

Contact: [secretariat@ueil.org](mailto:secretariat@ueil.org)

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### Contact

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