



NEWSLETTER



March 2021

Message from the President



Dear readers,

After a period of resilience which has lasted longer than any of us could have imagined, it is now time to develop a strategy to grow in a post-pandemic business environment.

The pandemic crisis has acted as a catalyst for change in many aspects of life, and the lubricant industry was no exception. The crisis generated a sense of urgency that accelerated decisions and change. Remote working and digitalization are prime examples of the changes that have happened at a pace which would have been unimaginable a year ago for a traditional industry such as ours.

This crisis challenged our beliefs and proved to us that we could do things differently yet still be successful. It tapped into huge creative and resilient potential. It is now crucial not to waste these learnings, but to build on them and embed them into new initiatives across our organizations. A study conducted by McKinsey shows that 85% of the jobs that will exist in 2030 have yet to be created. Change is unavoidable. Successful organizations should embrace change, re-imagine the way they operate and re-think their business models to create the foundations for future growth – a future in which sustainability and the green economy will play a pivotal role.

[Read more](#)

Valentina Serra-Holm

President

Technical and Competition Committees

The Technical and Competition Committees' latest meeting was held on the 27th of January, during which they discussed the ongoing work on the 21 cases currently open.

On the advocacy side, the Committees participated in a public consultation launched by the European Commission on the evaluation of the Motor Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation. The consultation, which opened on 12 October 2020 closed on 25 January 2021.

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Sustainability Committee

The newly created UEIL Sustainability Committee held its first meeting of the year on the 11th of February. On this occasion, all of the Committee's working groups and sub-groups gathered to exchange information on the latest activities carried out and to discuss next steps.

When it comes to environmental policies, the Raw Materials working group will be focusing its efforts on developing a calculation scheme to enable members to provide information on their carbon footprint, and to provide members with a toolbox to measure and reduce their carbon footprint. The Energy Efficiency working group will focus on product lifetime improvements, product efficiency and improved performance, carrying out a series of communication activities including the gathering of testimonials and positive case studies, and the development of a lexicon and infographic.

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Health, Safety & Environment Committee

The meeting of the HSE Committee in January took place once again as a webconference. However, we hope to have a physical meeting later this year. One topic discussed was the REACH review process in light of the new EU green deal. Amongst others, the Commission is primarily focusing on the following three issues: essential uses; persistent, mobile and toxic criteria; endocrine disruptors criteria; and mixture assessment factors (MAFs). These will most certainly impact the lubricant industry.

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Taxation Task Force

The European Commission is currently reviewing the Energy Taxation Directive which was withdrawn by the European Commission in 2015 and will publish a revised Energy Taxation Directive, most likely after the Summer of 2021.

Related to UEIL's objective to prevent the inclusion of lubes under EMCS, certain EU Member States are concerned about increased fraud with lubes across Europe and are once again increasing the pressure to

include lubes under EMCS. UEIL will continue its outreach to EU Member States in the coming weeks to express its concern and will discuss with the European Commission the option of a definition of 'light lubes' that might be included under EMCS in the near future.

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Covid-19 and the shortage of raw materials for the lubricant industry

All lubricant manufacturers are heavily reliant on the timely and full supply and delivery of base oils, additives and chemicals which are crucial to the development of lubricants. The production process itself involves the manufacturers selecting and mixing raw materials and testing them against the specifications shared by the users or developing tailor-made lubricants for various applications in collaboration with OEMs.

It is of course no surprise that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to shortages in the supply of such raw materials and presented the industry with several new challenges, including the lack of availability of these materials in the desired quantity and the dependency on fewer suppliers.

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Asian Lubricant Manufacturers Union announces name change

The Asian Lubricant Manufacturers Union (ALMU), a Singapore-based organisation that represents the interests of a broad range of lubricant industry businesses throughout Asia, today announced a new corporate name following approval by The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA). ALMU will now be known as the Asian Lubricants Industry Association or "ALIA". The new name reflects the diverse membership of the trade association and more closely aligns with ALIA's ambition to become the trusted voice of the wider Asian lubricants industry.

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EU UPDATE

Parliament agrees on the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility

On 10 February, the European Parliament approved the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#) (RFF), the biggest building block of the Next Generation EU stimulus package. The €672.5 billion in grants and loans will be available to finance national measures designed to alleviate the economic and social consequences of the pandemic.

No breakthrough in Climate Law negotiations

Following the [endorsement](#) of a binding collective EU target for a reduction of at least 55% in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030, on 26 February, the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU sent a set of new [compromise proposals](#) to Members States regarding demands made by the European Parliament.

Brexit update

On 24 December 2021, after months of intensive negotiations and preparations for a no deal scenario, the European Commission and the UK reached an [EU-UK Trade Cooperation Agreement](#) on the terms of future cooperation. The agreement sets out arrangements in various areas, such as trade in goods and in services, aviation and road transport, energy or fisheries.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Join OilDoc Conference & Exhibition!

The OilDoc Conference & Exhibition has been the meeting point for international experts and practitioners from the lubrication and maintenance industry since 2011. The next edition of the event will be held in Rosenheim (near Munich) from June 08-10, 2021 - naturally in compliance with all hygiene and safety regulations then in force.

[Read more](#)

STLE Brings 75th Annual Meeting & Exhibition Online

The STLE Virtual Annual Meeting & Exhibition — the lubricant industry's most respected event for technical information, professional development and international networking opportunities — will be held May 17-20, 2021.

The four-day event will be hosted entirely online, leveraging a user-friendly, virtual platform that will safely provide attendees with a full conference experience — including daily keynote and plenary talks, live Q&A opportunities with academic and industry leaders, nearly 300 technical presentations, posters, virtual exhibits, and a plethora of networking time with lubricant industry professionals.

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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 2021 editions 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

Thank you and best regards,
UEIL Secretariat

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