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September 2020

Message from the President



Dear readers,

In normal circumstances right now I would be working on the last arrangements for the UEIL Annual Congress that was scheduled to take place in Athens from 28 to 30 October. Unfortunately, due to Corona, the UEIL Board of Directors took the unprecedented decision to cancel this year's Annual Congress. It was a very difficult decision, as we had been working on the program since last October and had introduced new elements to make the Congress even more valuable for all the participants, and I was very much looking forward to it.

As my current mandate as President is coming to an end, I was also looking forward to presenting the highlights from the last two years and sharing our plans for the next two-year period. As this is not possible, I will take this opportunity to share some of this information below.

There are many initiatives that have been carried out during this period, and once again all the **Committees** have done a terrific job in working on some pressing issues for our industry – conducting advocacy campaigns, driving access to technical information, working for a level playing field for our industry, supporting the safe use of lubricants, developing reliable data for our industry, and much more. On behalf of the UEIL Board of Directors and myself, I would like to thank all those who have put their knowledge and time at the service of the Association in the various Committees, as well as all the

industry at large. If you would like to know more about the work of a specific Committee or would like to bring forward a topic you would like to address, please feel free to reach out to me, the Secretariat, or one of the Committee's Chair.

[Read more](#)

Valentina Serra-Holm

President

Sponsored by

A banner advertisement for SIP (Speciality Oils and Fluids). The banner features the SIP logo on the left, which consists of the letters 'SIP' in a large, white, serif font above the text 'SPECIALITY OILS AND FLUIDS' in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'OVER 30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN SUPPLYING CUSTOMERS IN EUROPE AND BEYOND' in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller white font, it says 'Medicinal White Oils, Premium Industrial and Sustainable Base Oils'. On the far right, the website 'www.sip.com' is displayed in white. The background of the banner is dark blue with a graphic of several overlapping, translucent blue spheres.

[Click on the banner to find out more](#)

Technical and Competition Committees

The Technical and Competition Committees held a virtual meeting on 16th September, during which members were updated on the latest developments concerning the open cases and agreed on a series of next steps to ensure swift progress.

The meeting was also the opportunity for the Technical Committee to elect a new Chair, following the announcement by Helga Laporte that she would step down from her role at the end of August. The Technical Committee unanimously welcomed the candidacy of Nigel R Bottom, Group Managing Director at the Witham Group and member of the United Kingdom Lubricants Association (UKLA), whose application was formally approved the next day by the UEIL Board. We would all like to thank Helga for her outstanding work at the head of the Committee and are looking forward to a fruitful collaboration with the new Chair.

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Health, Safety & Environment Committee

Like many other workgroup meetings, the HSE committee meetings are currently held as video conferences, but we are very much looking forward to the next physical meetings in Brussels, perhaps in January 2021. In the meantime, the ECHA continues to legislate on chemicals.

remind members to review the consultations on microplastics and fluorocarbons. .

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Taxation Task Force

The European Commission is currently reviewing the Energy Taxation Directive that it withdrew in 2015 (as the file was blocked in Council) and will publish a revised Energy Taxation Directive, probably in Q1/Q2 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 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 concerns and will propose a new definition of 'light lubes' as requested by Member States in Q1 2021.

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GEIR Update: "Habemus new GEIR President!"

After several years at the head of GEIR, Christian Hartmann stepped down from his role as GEIR President to pass the reins to Marco Codognola, CEO of Itelyum.

Marco, a qualified electronic engineer, spent a significant portion of his career in sales, business development, and M&A, working for the main players in the energy sector (conventional and renewables). He joined Viscolube in 2012, where he headed the growth and diversification process of the company which resulted in Itelyum Group, now active in regenerated base oil production, solvent and chemical purification, and industrial waste management.

His involvement in GEIR activities as a member of the Steering Committee, alongside former GEIR Presidents Detlev Brunhke and Christian Hartmann, coupled with his international and technical experience, make Marco an excellent fit for this leadership position.

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UEIL 2020 Virtual Networking Event

On 29 October 2020 from 4pm to 6pm, UEIL will host an interactive virtual event based on the theme "UEIL: Our contribution to Europe's sustainable future".

The event will provide an opportunity to engage with industry peers, UEIL members, and the UEIL Board of Directors, and address key upcoming EU legislation such as the Circular Economy Action Plan and the revision of the Energy Taxation Directive. Participants will also be invited to discuss the challenges and opportunities posed by COVID-19 for the lubricants industry. This will be followed by exchanges in topic-specific breakout rooms and virtual drinks, allowing participants to discuss these issues in an informal setting.

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On 21 July EU Member States [agreed](#) on a proposal from the European Commission on the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027, the EU's long-term budget, and Next Generation EU, a €750 billion recovery fund to overcome the crisis inflicted by the pandemic. The recovery fund, to be composed of €390 billion in grants and €360 billion in loans, will be attached to a new €1.074 trillion seven-year budget, bringing the total financial package to €1.82 trillion. The final agreement is currently subject to interinstitutional negotiations (trilogues) between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, representing the EU Member States.

European Commission college reshuffled after resignation of Trade Commissioner

On 26 August EU Commissioner for Trade Phil Hogan (Ireland) [resigned](#) over violations of coronavirus travel restrictions, forcing European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to reshuffle her team. Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commission Executive-Vice-President and previously Commissioner for financial services and stability, was nominated as the new Commissioner for Trade. Dombrovskis, a centre-right European People's Party (EPP) politician, is a two-term European Commissioner and former Prime Minister of Latvia.

European Commission ramps up climate ambition for 2030

On 16 September, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen confirmed in her [State of the Union address](#) that the European Commission will propose an increase to the EU's 2030 GHG emissions reduction target to at least 55% as part of a broader plan to achieve climate-neutrality by 2050. The following day, Frans Timmermans, Commission Vice-President for the European Green Deal, and Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy, presented the Commission's [impact assessment](#) and a [detailed plan](#) on all relevant policies that will be reviewed, ranging from agriculture to energy and transport.

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ASIAN LUBRICANT INDUSTRY GROUP ANNOUNCES NEW COUNCIL

The Asian Lubricant Manufacturers Union ([ALMU](#)) is pleased to announce the newly elected ALMU Council for the 2020-2022 term. Mr Tan Pai Kok, Vice President Operations, Lubricant, at Total Oil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, will serve as ALMU Chairman. Mr Tan has over 30 years' experience in the lubricant industry covering both business & supply chain, with the last 10 years in senior management roles. His expertise will be vital in guiding the organisation through what will be a turbulent time for our industry.

Mr Tan will be ably supported by Mr Wang Zijian, Dr T.C.S.M Gupta, and Mr David A. Barned who will act in a joint capacity as Vice-Chairman of ALMU. Mr Wang Zijian is Head of Overseas Business and Marine Oil Department at PetroChina Lubricant Company where he has been working in a managerial capacity since joining in September 2001. Dr T.C.S.M Gupta is Apar Industries Limited's Senior Vice President – Quality, R&D and Technical, and offers a strong background in quality control and assurance, manufacturing, product development and technical support. Mr David A. Barned, Global Vice President – Operations & Supply Chain at Master Fluid Solutions, joined the ALMU Council in 2020. He has extensive leadership experience from over 27 years with Master Fluid Solutions and will bring a fresh perspective to the organisation.

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

Contact

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