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December 2021

Message from the President



Dear friends

Another year is coming to an end and it is a good time to look back at how the year has been – for our industry and for the association.

After a decrease of over 11% in 2020, during 2021 the European lubricant industry has been on a firm recovery trajectory, supported by a faster than expected rebound of the EU economy. During 2021, as vaccination campaigns progressed and restrictions started to be lifted, growth resumed in spring and continued unabated through summer, underpinned by the re-opening of the economy. At almost 14% in annual terms, the rate of GDP growth in the EU in the second quarter of 2021 was the highest reading on record – as high as the unprecedented fall in GDP in the same period last year, during the first wave of the pandemic. The EU economy regained the pre-pandemic output level in the third quarter of 2021 and moved from recovery into expansion.

However, in spite of the positive signals coming from the economic situation, as we write, the pandemic is not yet under control and new restrictions are being implemented across Europe.

Concerns on possible restrictions limiting mobility likely to impact the UEIL annual congress were the reason leading us to hold the 2021 Congress in a virtual form. But the attendance and feedback we received exceeded our most optimistic expectations!

Nearly 450 participants from 60 different countries registered for the congress, across the whole supply chain – from suppliers to OEMs, and even some participants from the academic world. While we all missed being able to meet in person, there is no doubt that a virtual platform enabled reaching out to a broader audience, with many participants joining the UEIL Congress for the first time. It was therefore particularly important to make sure that our Congress lived up to our mission, to educate stakeholders on the value and benefit of the lubricants industry for the economy, society, and the environment.

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Valentina Serra-Holm

President

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Industry Statistics Summary Report

European Lubricants Industry Association (UEIL)

Issue November 2021



Lubricant Market Data

Covers 17 European countries

Both Automotive and Industrial sectors

The global COVID-19 pandemic has caused a major shock to the European economy, posing an unprecedented challenge to all sectors of our economy. Now more than ever, businesses need to base their decisions and future strategies on data analysis. Market data are fundamental to a better understanding of industry trends and market dynamics that is key to underpinning business planning decisions.

The European lubricant industry statistics published by UEIL comprise official data from countries where they are made available supplemented by valid and reliable data estimates based on a sophisticated algorithm for the remaining countries.

The industry data for 2019 and 2020 are now available! The data are available for purchase in **Excel format** as well as in an analytical **Summary Report**. [Click here](#) to download the purchase form or get in touch via secretariat@ueil.org to find out more about purchase plans. UEIL members are entitled to a 50% discount!

Sustainability Committee

The UEIL Sustainability Committee published the results of its first Sustainability Survey in the October edition of Lube Magazine. With 189 respondents to the survey, the Committee has gained interesting insights on the importance of sustainability and existing or developing practices of companies and associations participating in the survey.

The results revealed that most companies have a sustainability survey and just over half of them have a sustainability strategy. As almost 20% of respondents said they would be willing to share their sustainability reports as best examples, the Sustainability Committee has launched a call to collect and publish these reports on the UEIL website.

If your company is willing to share its report, please email it to the secretariat@ueil.org email address by **20th January 2021**. Your contribution is extremely valuable as it could serve as guidance and support to other companies in the early stages of their sustainability journey!

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Technical and Competition Committees

The Technical and Competition Committees continue to make progress on a number of cases. OEM Bulletins on [Kubota](#), [VW and Audi](#) have been issued this month.

On the advocacy side, the Committees have continued to engage with the European institutions regarding the evaluation of the Motor Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation (MVBBER). As previously reported, the [evaluation report](#) on the MVBBER was published by the European Commission on the 28th of May.

The next step is for the Commission to decide whether to let the current MVBBER regime lapse by 31 May 2023, renew it or revise it. The Committees are drafting a new letter to the Commission urging them to maintain the MVBBER but also to make some amendments (as outlined in the [position paper](#)). Through concrete examples, this letter aims to make clear to the Commission that anti-competitive behaviour (notably regarding access to technical information) is a real problem which needs to be addressed in a revised MVBBER.

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Health, Safety & Environment Committee

This year proved to be challenging for different UEIL committees, including the Health, Safety and Environment Committee. The committee would ideally meet three times per year allowing for personal exchange, the personal contacts that make it easier to work together in a spirit of common goals. While the lack of in-person meetings sometimes made work difficult, authorities used this time to further develop CLP and REACH decisively. The foreseeable further developments will heavily influence our business due to availability and usability of chemicals. An example is the proposed restriction of various triazoles, PFAS and MCCP, but also the classification of boric acid aside of combining REACH with consumer and worker protection measures. The ever-expanding legislation leads to complex rules under which chemicals can be approved and used in lubricants, requiring the Committee to adapt to this environment.

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Taxation Task Force

The European Commission published its revised Energy Taxation Directive (ETD) on 14 July 2021, which was withdrawn by the European Commission in 2015. Lubricants are outside of the scope of the ETD, but UEIL would prefer that lubricants were within the scope as this will promote a level playing field for lubricants within the EU.

Related to UEIL's objective to prevent the inclusion of lubes under the Excise Movement and Control System (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 months 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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GEIR Update

Since the publication of the Green Deal on 11 December 2019, a broad range of legislative proposals have been introduced by the European Union to reach climate neutrality. In this context, the European Commission is expected to adopt a proposal to review the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) in the second half of 2023. In that respect, GEIR is actively advocating for the elaboration of a potential EU regeneration target for waste oil that the WFD revision could address. Over the last months, GEIR has been involved in discussions with both DG Environment and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). This, in order to provide input on the ongoing feasibility study conducted by the JRC with the aim to assess whether such a regeneration target could be envisaged.

Nevertheless, other upcoming trends for waste oil would find their origin in the recent [publication](#) of the "Fit for 55 Package" by the Commission. This comprehensive and interconnected set of 12 legislative proposals aims to deliver the Green Deal by cutting 55% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 in the EU.

[Read more](#)

UEIL Congress 2022

Thank you to our 400+ participants, speakers, partners and sponsors for their active participation in the first ever virtual edition of the UEIL Congress. We look forward to meeting you all again next year - this time in Athens and in person!

Please save the date of 19-20-21 October 2022 and get ready for a congress around the theme of innovation. The call for papers is open, so if you would like to propose a topic or a speaker, or if you would like to become a sponsor, we would love to hear from you (info@ueilcongress.org).

More than ever, in an era of accelerating change, challenges and exciting opportunities, the UEIL Congress is the place to network, learn and discuss the most important issues affecting our industry and we look forward to some interesting case studies and insights.

Best wishes and see you in Athens!



EU UPDATE

Outlines of the French EU Presidency

From January 1st 2022, the French delegation will take over the Presidency of the EU Council until June 30th 2022. This presidency will start **the next presidency trio** with Czech Republic and Sweden. On Thursday 9th December 2021, President Emmanuel Macron presented **France's 3 priorities** for its presidency.

1. **A more sovereign Europe**
2. **A new European model of growth**
3. **A 'more human' Europe**

Second batch of the Fit-for-55 package to be proposed

As part of the European Green Deal, the EU has set itself the ambition to **become the first climate neutral continent by 2050**. To achieve it, a first target was set to cut emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared with the levels of 1990. The first batch of the Fit-for-55 package, a set of legislative proposals to review and update the current EU legislation in terms of climate, energy, and transport, was adopted on 14 July 2021. A second batch of three legislative proposals were **announced on 14-15 December 2021**.

The European Commission adopts a report on improving EU chemical legislation

The European Commission, together with a **high-level roundtable on the EU's chemicals strategy**, adopted a **report on improving compliance with the EU's chemical legislation** on Tuesday 23 November. The roundtable consisted of **32 representatives from the industry, civil society, and academia** who have jointly **put forward 10 recommendations** for the report. The chemicals industry was mostly represented by Solvay, the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), and the European Chemical Society (EuChemS).

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Call for sponsorship of the UEIL Newsletters

Dear Members and Partners of UEIL,

As you know, this is our association's showcase publication and therefore represents an excellent opportunity for regular exposure and profiling your organisation. We would like to put out a call for interest for any members who are interested in sponsoring the 2022 editions of the UEIL newsletter.

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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