

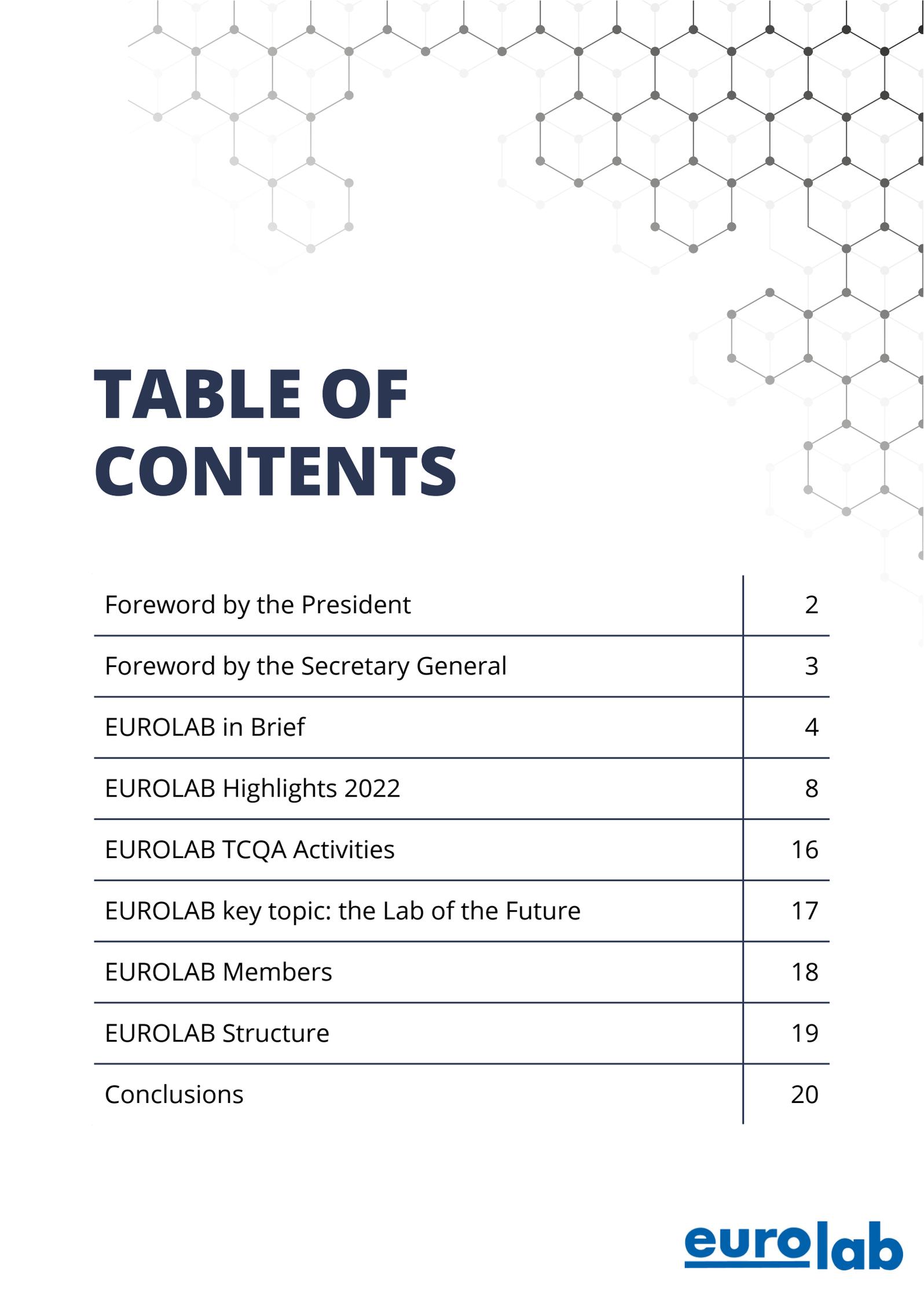


EUROLAB

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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**eurolab**



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# Foreword by the President

2022 has seen our structure, the Secretariat and the colleagues who represent us among the stakeholders, engaged in various activities.

These meetings, and other contacts promoted by the Secretariat and Members, are useful, I would say indispensable, to make EUROLAB better known to our partners and stakeholders. This allows us to increase the possibilities of collaboration with partners and, at the same time, make more relevant the representation of the laboratory sector, a sector that produces the data necessary to develop knowledge in every area (protection of health, safety, environment, technological development, etc.), and therefore deserves great attention.

It is of general interest that laboratories should be adequately represented within the European quality infrastructure and within each individual country; membership of a national laboratory association, or its creation where it does not yet exist, is essential to stimulate collaboration with national stakeholders and with each one's National Accreditation Body. It is also useful to the same Accreditation Body, which will be able to find prepared and contributory interlocutors: each in their own field, with their own skills and responsibilities; all together at the service of health, safety, environment, quality, and innovation.



**Paolo Moscatti** “

EUROLAB as the European Federation of National Laboratory Associations, highlights and supports the usefulness of associations, national and international, as an indispensable tool for improving the efficiency and harmonisation of the entire quality infrastructure.

Our task cannot be delegated, it requires the participation and commitment of every person who is aware of the importance and influence that the activity of the laboratories has, and will increasingly play, in our society. There is so much to do, we are already doing it, help us do it better and sooner.

# Foreword by the Secretary General



**Laura Martin** “

The past year was marked by many changes, new doors opened to new opportunities and many successful projects and activities developed in close collaboration with our members and key stakeholders.

Following the retirement of Drewin Nieuwenhuis, the EUROLAB General Assembly, voted in favour and approved my candidacy as Secretary General, a role that I have been honoured and delighted to take on since then and work together with all our members and key stakeholders in supporting and bringing an added value to the laboratory community.

In 2023, EUROLAB's focus will be on further exploring opportunities to get engaged and further research projects opportunities around the topic of the Lab of the future and not only, organising seminars and bringing around the table experts on specific topics around the identified 2023 policy priorities, such as: Microplastics, Food, Blockchain, AI, cybersecurity, machine learning and robotisation. EUROLAB will also enhance the involved in sectors such as metrology and calibration as well as accreditation and standardisation matters, through the activities developed in TCQA.

In addition, the secretariat will continue focusing on raising the EUROLAB visibility, not only through participation and representation in high level events, but in the online environment as well with a strong presence and active engagement on the [website](#), [LinkedIn platform](#) which is reaching soon almost 6000 followers. Building up a strong collaborative platform is key for EUROLAB, providing its members not only regular up-to-date information on key topics of interest, but offering the opportunity to get engaged in those topics contributing to awareness raise activities, technical events, finding national partners and projects opportunities, while bringing an overall contribution to the fast development of the laboratory community.

# EUROLAB in Brief

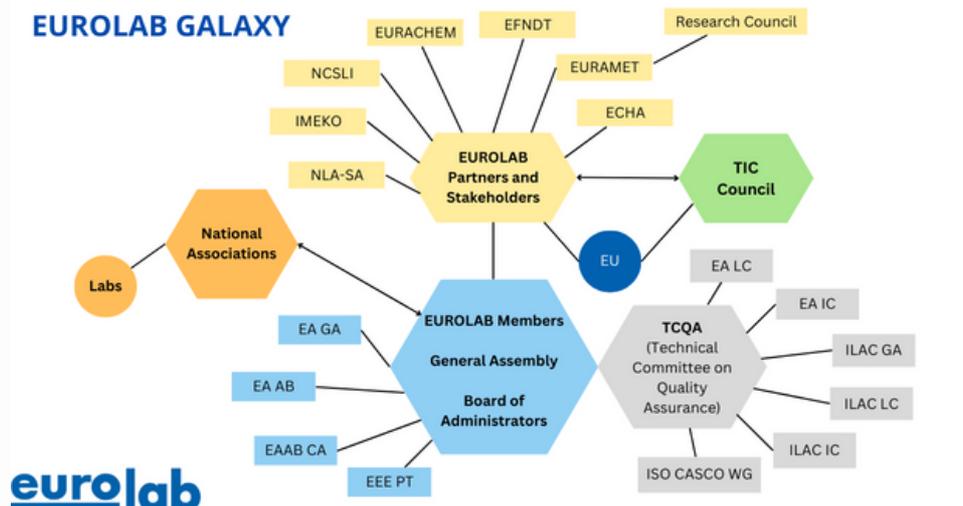
EUROLAB is the European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories, grouping together 25 National Associations of accredited laboratories, composed of 18 Active Members, 3 Associated Members, 1 Observer Member and 3 International Affiliates from Europe and beyond.

It represents and voices the opinions of measurement, testing and analytical laboratories regarding economic, political and technical issues having a direct impact on laboratories' activities both on the European scene and worldwide.

Any laboratory may join and become a member of the European community that EUROLAB represents by subscribing to its National Association.



EUROLAB collaborates with a wide range of European and International stakeholders. It has Memoranda of Understanding with IMEKO, Eurachem and EURAMET, and works closely with TIC Council, My Green Lab, ECHA and other partners from the industry and laboratory sectors.



EUROLAB is an Associated Member of TIC Council - the International Association representing independent testing, inspection and certification companies - and shares joint Secretariat in Brussels.

EUROLAB represents its members' interests in influencing the development of international standards and accreditation rules through its engagement with ISO, ILAC and EA and their constituent working groups.

# Membership Categories

EUROLAB members are divided in four categories, based on different requirements depending on the profile of the applicant. All of them must be constituted under the laws and regulations of their country of origin:

**Active members:** one legal not-for-profit entity per member of the European Union (EU) or the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which must have demonstrated its representative character concerning public or private measurement, testing and analytical laboratories within its national community;

**Associated members:** one legal not-for-profit entity per country from countries eligible for membership to the EU or EFTA, or which country is a participating member of the European Neighbourhood Policy, which must have demonstrated its representative character concerning public or private measurement, testing and analytical laboratories within its national community;

**Observer members:** legal entities or associations or groups of organisations not eligible for active or associated membership, with an interest in measurement, testing and analytical activities;

**International affiliate members:** legal entities or associations or groups of organisations constituted under the laws and regulations of their country of origin not eligible for active or associated membership, with an interest in measurement, testing and analytical activities.



# Objectives



Representation by formulating and voicing the opinions of European laboratories regarding political and technical issues having a direct impact on their activity, both on the European scene and worldwide.

Coordination by interfacing with all European organisations having activities of interest to the laboratory community, and striving to avoid duplication of efforts and activities.

Action by providing adequate means for exchange of information and experience, such as the publication of our Position Papers, Technical Reports, Newsletter, Seminars, Working Groups, etc.

Promotion of cost-effective testing, calibration and measurement services, for which the accuracy and quality assurance requirements should be adjusted to the actual needs.

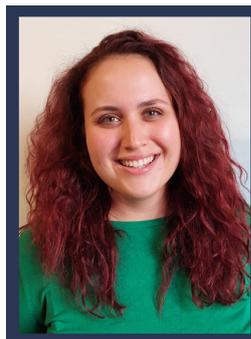
# Secretariat



**Secretary General**

**Laura Martin**

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**Policy Officer**

**Martina Razzaboni**

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In order to be a recognised stakeholder and to be actively involved in EU-related matters and increase its visibility on the EU scene, it is important for the EUROLAB Secretariat to be located in Brussels.

The EUROLAB General Secretariat firstly provides a platform for our members to discuss their issues of concern and to exchange information and viewpoints, and, secondly acts as a facilitator of members' interests to the EU institutions. The General Secretariat supports also the Technical Committees, which provide expert input on key legislative or standardisation initiatives, as well as working closely together with key stakeholders on common issues of interest for the laboratory community.

## **Services provided by the EUROLAB Secretariat:**

- Representation in the EU institutions;
- Monitoring selected EU legislation and international developments;
- Organising meetings and events;
- Publication of quarterly newsletter, position papers, communication materials;
- Cooperation with international stakeholders;
- Raising visibility within laboratory communities;
- Active involvement in EU projects.

## **EUROLAB priority areas for 2023:**

- Regulation Bodies: developments in European legislation on testing, conformity assessment and product safety in the fields:
  - ESG, including sustainability, Green Deal, Corporate Social Responsibility
  - Food
  - Medical Devices
  - Energy
- Metrology and Calibration
- Accreditation and Standardisation
- The Lab of the Future developments, including machine learning, digitalisation, cybersecurity, robotisation, AI, blockchain, etc

# EUROLAB Highlights 2022

## Memoranda and agreements with key stakeholders

In light of a close and fruitful cooperation, **EUROLAB and EURAMET signed their Memorandum of Understanding on 31 May 2022 in Vienna**, during EURAMET General Assembly.

EUROLAB and EURAMET work closely together in identifying key activities to further develop, undertake collaborative tasks, as well as exchange of expertise on topics of common interest.



The regular communication between the Board of Directors and Secretariats enables coordination and joint positions on policy matters of interest to the European laboratory community and its customers, such as the European Commission R&D programmes, pre- and co- normative and accreditation activities, QA standards for laboratories, etc.

Both organisations coordinate the content and programming of workshops and seminars, contributing to the joint work in working groups of mutual interest, and supporting participation in European and international activities.

In August 2022, **EUROLAB was officially accepted as an accredited stakeholder to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).**

Accredited stakeholders are involved in the Agency's work in a variety of ways – through discussions, workshops and events, joint activities and regular updates about topical issues, to collaborate towards the common goal of protecting human health and the environment and to ensure the safe use of chemicals.

EUROLAB has expressed its interest to participate in the following bodies and networks, and experts have already taken part in some of the meetings:

- HelpNet (EU/EEA network of BPR, CLP and REACH helpdesks)
- Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC)
- Biocidal Products Committee (BPC)
- Updating of guidance documents



# Strategic Meetings

The **EUROLAB General Assembly and Board Meeting** were held on **19 May 2022** in person at Cavour Convention Centre (Rome) and remotely.

The day started with the Board Meeting, during which various issues were discussed. Attention was given to the cooperation with other relevant organizations, among these EURAMET, IMEKO, TIC Council, EURACHEM, together with other notable key stakeholders; Lab of the Future project; latest updates from the Technical Committee on Quality Assurance and the work of its Working Groups; and internal administrative and membership matters.



The Board meeting was followed by the EUROLAB General Assembly, which was opened by the EUROLAB President, Paolo Moscatti and among the key topics discussed there were:

- The presentation by Laura Martin, Secretary General, of EUROLAB Activity Report 2022 and strategy, including activities and projects developed with other organisations (EURAMET, EURACHEM, IMEKO, TIC Council, My Green Lab, UNIDO), latest advancements regarding the EUROLAB projects as the Lab of the Future, communications and visibility key actions, and engagement strategy with National Members.
- An update on the latest EU policies of interest for the EUROLAB members, alongside the confirmation of our policy priorities for 2022.
- Contributions from the Members, including presentations by MAKLAB, TURKLAB and RELACRE.
- The approval of the financial report for 2021 and the budget for 2022.
- Re-elections of the Board of Administrators.
- Election of Laura Martin as the new EUROLAB Secretary General.

The **EUROLAB National Members' Meeting, Extraordinary General Assembly and Board Meeting** were held on **20-21 October** in person at Elite World Istanbul Hotel (Istanbul) and remotely.

The first day started with the Board Meeting, which was followed by the Extraordinary General Assembly.

On the second day, the National Members' Meeting was opened by the EUROLAB President, Paolo Moscatti and among the key topics discussed there were:

- The presentation by Laura Martin, Secretary General, about the key updates with regards to the Secretariat activities, focused on further enhancing the collaboration and development of joint projects and events with the stakeholders, IMEKO, EURAMET, EURACHEM, My Green Lab and enhanced dialogue with the EU institutions representatives. Moreover, an update was provided with regards to the actions developed in communications, key publications, awareness raise and visibility via various platforms and participation in international events and webinars.
- EUROLAB strategic planning for 2023, alongside the confirmation of our policy priorities for the coming year.
- Contributions from the Members and invited stakeholders, including presentations by EUROLAB CH, GeLab, IMEKO and TIC Council.

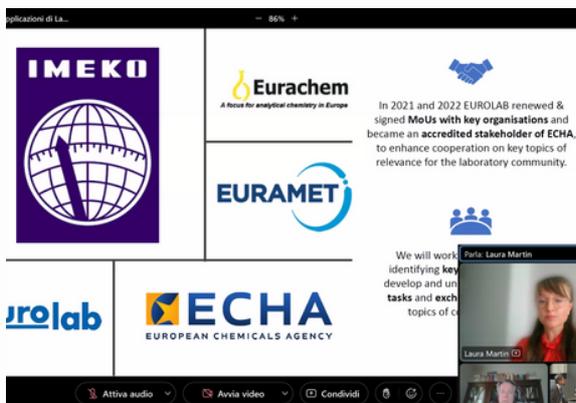


EUROLAB had a meeting with **DG TRADE of the European Commission**, Unit E4 Global Regulatory Cooperation, Technical Barriers to Trade and International Procurement Negotiations. We are in close contact with the Unit on the topic of Testing and Certification Barriers in EU Export Markets.

EUROLAB is also part of the together.eu Partners Community of the **Directorate-General for Communication of the European Parliament**.



# Collaboration and key representation at events



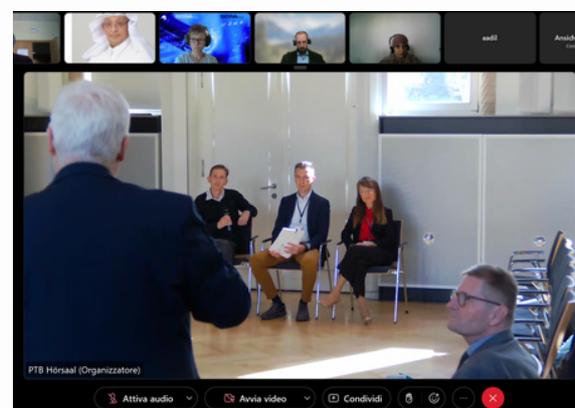
EUROLAB Secretary General, Laura Martin, presented EUROLAB activities during the **IMEKO 2022 General Council Sessions** on 27 August 2022.



Ms. Martin also provided a keynote presentation at the **6th IMEKOFOODS Conference** on EUROLAB scope, and outlined key data on Food Fraud and the impact that counterfeits have on consumers' safety.



Ms. Martin gave a presentation at the **EUROLAB-IMEKO TC11&TC24 Joint Conference**, on 17-19 October 2022 in Dubrovnik (Croatia). She presented our main activities, "The Lab of the Future" and the joint initiatives with our international stakeholders. Our work on relevant topics for the audience was also touched upon, such as traceability, chemical testing, and validity of test reports.



EUROLAB held a special session at the **IMEKO TC6 International Conference**, which took place on 19-21 September in Berlin (Germany). After a brief overview of our activities on The Lab of the Future, representatives from our member laboratories provided insights on the digitalization process in small and medium laboratories.



EUROLAB is continuing the close collaboration with TIC Council, working together on various key topics in relation to accreditation and standardisation matters.

As part of this collaboration, EUROLAB participated in the **Conference Emerging Global Trends in Laboratories for AtmaNirbhar Bharat** jointly organised by TIC Council India and the Bureau of Indian Standards on 3 November.

EUROLAB, represented by Laura Martin, Secretary General, joined as institutional supporter the **MATHMET satellite workshop** in Porto on 2 September.

The workshop followed the **Joint IMEKO TC1 TC7 TC13 TC18 Symposium 2022** "Cutting edge measurement science for the future".



Ms Martin also attended the following International Conferences organised by our Members:

- **Test Measurement 2022 International Conference** organised by NLA-South Africa on 24-26 October in hybrid format, with the session "Developing an international cooperation. The Laboratory Sector in the post pandemic era".
- **V International Conference Quality and Competence 2022** organised by MAKLAB and IARSM, in Ohrid Macedonia from 29 September to 1 October, with a presentation on EUROLAB key collaboration activities with international stakeholders and key data on market developments impacting the TIC Sector.



# Online Events



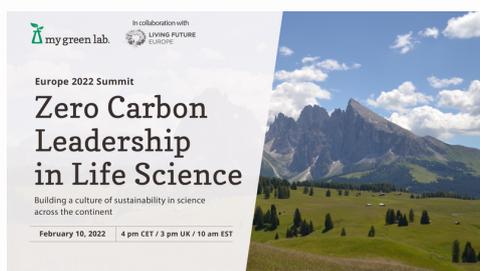
EUROLAB and Eurachem jointly organised the online event **“Discussion Forum on the Validity/Validation of Sampling Procedures”** on 4 May. The event, which wanted to kick start the work of the Joint Task Group on the same topic, was very successful, with more than 200 participants. After the event, a report was developed and sent to the participants, as a comprehensive summary and analysis of the discussions occurred.



Thanks to EURAMET support, EUROLAB participated as a stakeholder organisation to the **Metrology for Climate Action Workshop**, organised online by BIPM and WMO. The workshop, which took place online on 26-30 September, was open to experts and stakeholders active in the fields of climate science, observations, modelling, GHG mitigation and measurement and measurement science willing to contribute to the development of recommendations on key technical challenge areas for metrology in these fields.

EUROLAB partnered up with My Green Lab on two interesting events in 2022:

- **Europe 2022 Summit on “Zero Carbon Leadership in Life Science”**, 10 February. The event aimed at helping participants learn practical strategies to reduce the environmental burden of scientific laboratories activities.
- As marketing partner of the **My Green Lab Summit 2022**, 26 May. The event featured interactive sessions, technical talks covering waste, energy, water, and chemicals, as well as panels about community engagement around lab sustainability.



# Key Publications

EUROLAB has published several newsbriefings that are of interest for its membership and laboratory community.

The briefing looks into the details of the **CETA Protocol on Conformity Assessment**, highlighting the opportunities for European CABs to perform conformity assessment services for the Canadian market through the implementation of the Protocol.



## EUROLAB Special Briefing

CETA Protocol on Conformity Assessment

The briefing provides an overview of the **Corporate Sustainability Reporting** in the EU, outlining its scope and application in EU and third-country companies. It moves on with a focus on the sustainability reporting standards that are being developed to report under the directive.



## EUROLAB Special Briefing

Corporate Sustainability Reporting

The briefing reports the new policy measures announced by the United Kingdom to further support businesses transitioning to **UKCA marking**. The government has been engaging extensively with industry to support businesses prepare for UKCA. Therefore, on 20 June 2022 they announced a range of changes to make it simpler for businesses to apply new product conformity markings for most products placed on the market in England, Scotland and Wales.



## EUROLAB Special Briefing

UKCA Policy Measures

The briefing focused on the **evaluation of the New Legislative Framework (NLF)** for industrial products in the EU. The main purpose of the evaluation is to look into the performance of the NLF, to assess its effectiveness, efficiency and relevance, as well as its coherence with similar initiatives.

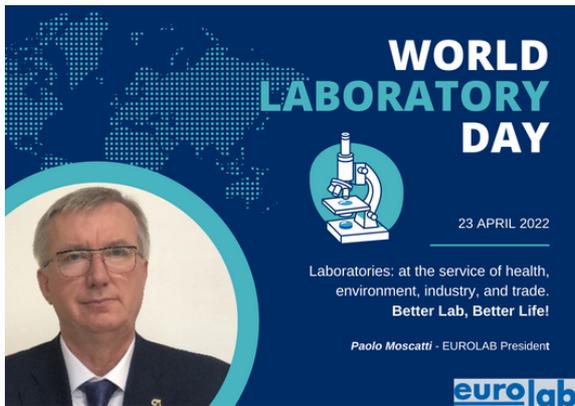


## EUROLAB Special Briefing

Evaluation of the New Legislative Framework (NLF)  
for industrial products in the EU

# Key Dates

## World Laboratory Day 2022



On this day, we celebrate the medical and technological developments of laboratories, and their key role in scientific research, testing and measurement. EUROLAB will continue putting its efforts and commitment in representing the voice of laboratories in Europe and beyond.

## World Metrology Day 2022



Measurement science plays an integral role in scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing, international trade and in protecting the global environment. The theme for 2022 was "Metrology in the Digital Era".

## World Accreditation Day 2022



This global initiative established by ILAC and IAF, promotes the value of accreditation.

Last year's theme, Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment, focused on how accreditation supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

## World Quality Day 2022



EUROLAB celebrated this day joining the 4th International Congress on Food Safety and Quality, which took place in Dubrovnik (Croatia), under the slogan "One Health". The presentation outlined key data on Food Fraud and the role of the TIC sector in fighting this phenomenon.

# EUROLAB TCQA Activities

## New Workig Groups

The **Working Group “Technology and Digitalisation” (WGTD)** was set up in October 2022 with the mission to produce guidance documents aiming to help laboratories to meet ISO 17025:2017 requirements regarding the use of computerised systems through all laboratory activities. The WGTD is currently working on an update of EUROLAB Technical Reports 2006/2, EUROLAB Cook Book 12 (Use of Excel) and EUROLAB Cook Book 13 (Technical records) and will produce both “full” technical reports and shorter Cook Books.

The first meeting of the **Executive Task Force Group in the Project Horizon Europe WG** in the TCQA took place on 20 May. The idea behind the group is to develop a narrative to be communicated to the EU including several projects developing the use of new technologies to improve the market experience, the laboratories experience and the EU experience.

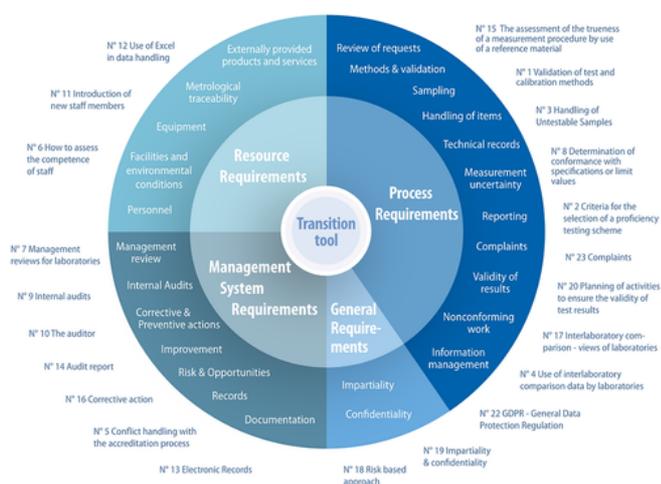
The work of the group will be reframed in 2023 with a project on blockchain.

EUROLAB experts in the **Joint Working Group with Eurachem on Validity/Validation of Sampling Procedures** are continuously invited to report to TCQA meetings.

A **new tool for online revision** of Cook Books and all other publications has been implemented.

EUROLAB issued its **position on the possible revision of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017** General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, after collecting the opinions of the members of TCQA through an internal survey.

EUROLAB Cook Books are now **available also on the [EURAMET website](#)**.



## Undergoing publications:

- Cook Book 24 - Method Validation in Calibration Laboratories
- Revision of the current Guide to NMR Method Development and Validation – Part I: Identification and Quantification
- Report and documents in the context of the WGTD

# EUROLAB key topic: the Lab of the Future



EUROLAB has been organising various activities on The Lab of the Future, and for the year 2023, we are planning different conferences, workshops and webinars around the topic. In particular, focus areas will be blockchain for metrology, digital transformation and digital solutions for labs, LIMS, challenges to free trade for laboratories and the lab of the future in developing countries.

All these activities will be organised in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, among which DG TRADE (European Commission), NLA South Africa, Plastic Trace Project, IMEKO, and many more.

In the frame of the EUROLAB General Assembly 2022 & Accompanying Events, **The Lab of the Future International Conference** also took place. Jointly organised by EUROLAB, ALPI and ASSOTIC, the main topics addressed were digital transformation, cybersecurity for the lab of the future, evolution of metrological skills in the digital factory and lab, and the green lab of the future.

Along the EUROLAB National Members' Meeting 2022, two important events also took place in the frame of The Lab of the Future topic:

- **International Conference "Lab of the Future, Future of the Labs"**, which focused on the key vectors influencing the tools and directions for the lab of the future, taking into account various factors, including new frontiers in the field of testing, the industry perspective and other developments in sustainability, cybersecurity and new technologies.
- **Seminar "Best Practices for Sustainable Laboratories"**, which explored best practices for laboratories to address the challenges and opportunities of developments in the field of sustainability, focusing on topics such as corporate sustainability reporting, legislation on sustainability and public grants, and concrete examples of sustainability practices in local laboratories.

# EUROLAB Members

## Full members

-  AUSTROLAB (Austria)
-  BELAB (Belgium)
-  BULLAB (Bulgaria)
-  CROLAB (Croatia)
-  EUROLAB-CZ (Czechia)
-  EUROLAB  
Danmark (Denmark)
-  Finntesting (Finland)
-  EUROLAB France (France)
-  EUROLAB  
Deutschland (Germany)
-  Hellaslab (Greece)
-  ICELAB (Iceland)
-  ALPI (Italy)
-  FENELAB (Netherlands)
-  POLLAB (Poland)
-  RELACRE (Portugal)
-  EUROLAB Spain (Spain)
-  EUROLAB Sverige (Sweden)
-  EUROLAB CH (Switzerland)

## Associate members

-  LEBLAB (Lebanon)
-  MAKLAB (FYROM)
-  TURKLAB (Turkey)

## International affiliates

-  ASCOLAB (Congo)
-  NLA-SA (South Africa)
-  NCSL (USA)

## Observer members

-  Croatian Metrology  
Society HMD (Croatia)



# EUROLAB Structure



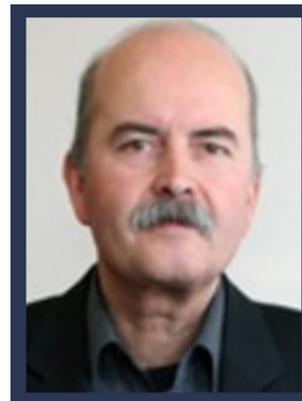
**President**

Paolo Moscatti  
ALPI



**Vice-President and Chair TCQA**

Irache Visiers Sanz  
EUROLAB Spain



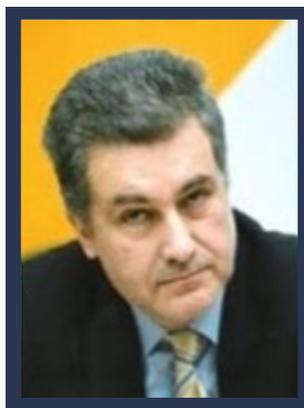
**Vice-President**

Alexander Šafařík-Pštrosz  
EUROLAB-CZ



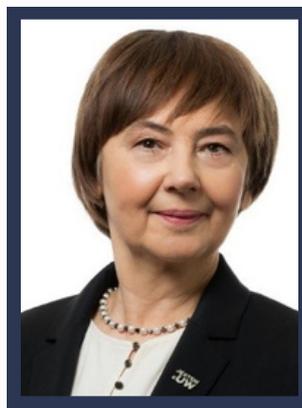
**Treasurer**

Jean-Luc Laurent  
EUROLAB France



**Board Member**

Pericles Agathonos  
HellasLab



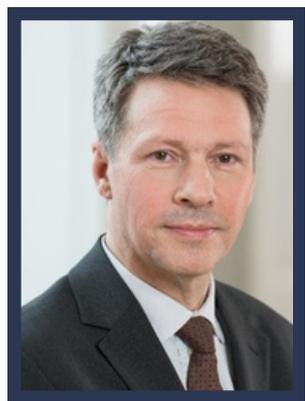
**Board Member**

Ewa Bulska  
POLLAB



**Board Member**

Leif Madsen  
EUROLAB Denmark



**Board Member**

Michael Nitsche  
EUROLAB Germany



**Board Member**

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro  
RELACRE



**Board Member**

Luc Scholtis  
Fenelab



**Representative of  
Associated Members**

Ömer Güzel  
TURKLAB

# Conclusions



All the EUROLAB activities, contacts, MoUs, need to be followed, taken care of, to take full advantage of them, and then they must be transposed to the level of national associations, so that they can have beneficial effects on their members, the laboratories. The results obtained at the EUROLAB level need to be conveyed by the individual associations to their respective members to exploit their full potential. Just as it is essential that requests from the membership base reach EUROLAB in order to be able to direct its activities.

We must therefore, on the one hand, strengthen EUROLAB engagement with our international stakeholders and partners and, on the other hand, make the connections with national associations more fluid, systematic and collaborative. We need to make the most of EUROLAB's activities and this is a goal that we can only achieve by working together.

Paolo Moscatti, EUROLAB President



EUROLAB is grateful to its Presidency and Board Members for all the valuable contributions and fruitful cooperation, while we look towards the future, with new ideas and new approaches.

As another challenging but productive year has ended, EUROLAB would like to express all the gratitude for the kind support and cooperation to all its members and stakeholders, while continuing our dialogue and joint work in promoting and enhancing the role and importance of the laboratory community to the safety and quality of life.

On behalf of EUROLAB, we look forward to a new successful year ahead, with new opportunities and fruitful ideas to further develop and implement, bringing an added value to the laboratory community that EUROLAB represents.

MARCH 2023

## Contacts

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