



IN BRIEF



April 2017

Welcome!

Welcome to the April edition of In Brief – your monthly round-up of Orgalime’s work on the policies impacting engineering in the EU.

25 March marked the 60-year anniversary of the signing of the EU’s founding Treaty of Rome. The celebrations offered a chance not only to look back, but to look forward – including to the future of European manufacturing in the age of digitisation. The Commission organised a “Digital Day” to coincide with the EU60 programme, which served as a launch pad for its initiative to network national platforms for the digitisation of industry.

The event cast a welcome spotlight on a key issue for the engineering industry. However, here at Orgalime we are convinced that if support for digitisation is to truly make a difference, it must be embedded in an ambitious, coordinated industrial strategy – a message that we have been busy promoting in Brussels and beyond.

Keep scrolling for more on these stories and to find out what else has been on our agenda this month...

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Forward



Europe's digital future

Held in Rome on 23 March to coincide with the EU60 celebrations, [Digital Day](#) brought together stakeholders from the worlds of politics and industry to discuss how digital technology is shaping the future of Europe. Needless to say, the digitisation of manufacturing was high on the agenda, with the event also acting as a springboard for the launch of the European Platform of National Initiatives.

To mark the occasion, the European Commission asked a number of leading stakeholders to write guest blog entries for its Digital Single Market website. Orgalime President Tomas Hedenborg was among the featured authors: his contribution addressed the need to interweave support for digitisation into a broader industrial strategy – one that connects the dots between all relevant policy areas.

Read what he had to say [here](#).

Gearing up for the Estonian Presidency

As the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union draws to a close, eyes are beginning to turn to the next Member State to take up the mantle: Estonia.

The Estonian Presidency will run from July through December 2017 – and with [priorities](#) including ‘an open and innovative European economy’ and ‘a digital Europe and the free flow of data’, it will be a prime opportunity to address some of the most pressing challenges facing engineering and manufacturing firms.

Orgalime President Tomas Hedenborg travelled to Estonia in March to address a high-level conference attended by Mrs Urve Palo, the Minister of

Mr Hedenborg explained how by pursuing a joined-up approach to industrial policy, the incoming Estonian Presidency could further promote the development of a framework favourable to innovation and growth – at a time when our industry continues to grow both in terms of employment and output, which have now reached close to 11 million and 1900 billion euro respectively.

Read the full speech [here](#).



Getting priorities right in R&D&I

The engineering firms that Orgalime represents are innovators by nature – and the innovations they pioneer in products, systems and manufacturing processes boost the competitiveness of European industry worldwide.

This makes EU funding for research, development and innovation (R&D&I) a much appreciated factor in economic growth and societal wellbeing. Now that the Horizon 2020 programme is more than halfway through the funding period, the European Commission is starting to explore options for the Framework Programme (FP) that will succeed it – for now simply known as FP9.

Orgalime has released a [position paper](#) outlining our preliminary views on how FP9 can help European manufacturing uphold its leading edge globally. And at an upcoming event in the European Parliament on 3 May, co-hosted with the European Forum for Manufacturing, we will have the opportunity to discuss these priorities with MEPs and with the Commission.

Energy efficiency – time for the next level

In late March, Europe reached another landmark on the road to boosting energy efficiency, as the Council and European Parliament struck a deal on a new energy efficiency labelling framework. Read Orgalime's take on this significant step forward [here](#).

‘Energy Efficiency First’ from the level of individual products to the systems integrating these products. This means taking an ambitious approach to the review of the Energy Efficiency and Energy Performance of Building Directives.

These proposals to boost energy efficiency were outlined in the Commission’s Clean Energy Package. Orgalime has presented a number of recommendations for ensuring timely and ambitious delivery on these goals in our comprehensive [position paper](#) on the package.



Machinery Directive: if it ain't broke...don't fix it!

The Machinery Directive is the core piece of legislation for the much of the industry Orgalime represents. As the Commission carries out a review into the Directive’s performance, Orgalime has been providing input from the companies working with the legislation on the ground.

Our central message is that the Directive works well, is flexible enough to adapt easily to new technological developments – and so does not need to be revised at this point in time.

In a new position paper on the Commission’s review, we present our comments in more detail: read it [here](#).

Manufacturing at Heart Podcasts

Do you have a manufacturing story to tell? We would love to hear from you! If you are interested in

To listen to all the latest episodes, [visit the website.](#)



About Orgalime

Orgalime is the European federation representing the interests at the level of the EU institutions of the European mechanical, electrical, electronic and metal articles industries as a whole.



31

national member federations



9

associate members (European sector associations)



22

countries represented



10.9 million

direct workers



1900 billion

turnover (in 2015)



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