



IN BRIEF



April 2018

Welcome!

Welcome to the April edition of In Brief – the newsletter that keeps you up to date on the latest Brussels developments affecting engineering, technology and manufacturing.

Digitisation has been high on the EU policy agenda this month, as the European Commission launched a package of measures designed to boost innovation and the data economy in the Digital Single Market.

For the engineering and tech sectors represented by Orgalime, the most eagerly anticipated announcement was the presentation of an [EU approach on Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#) – a key technology that is fuelling the digitisation of our industry while enabling innovative solutions to societal challenges.

The Commission's initiative is a welcome sign that EU policymakers share our ambition to strengthen Europe's global leadership in AI. And by focusing on boosting investment, fostering dialogue on the socio-economic impacts and ensuring the right legal and ethical framework, the proposals reflect to a large extent the [priorities promoted by Orgalime](#) – more on that below.

Scroll down to find out what else has been keeping us busy this month...

Know someone who would be interested in reading the latest on Orgalime's work? Feel free to share this newsletter with your network:

Our recommendations to maximise the benefits of AI for Europe

Artificial Intelligence will not only be a central pillar of Europe's future competitiveness, it will enable solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing European society today – from energy to mobility, healthcare to cybersecurity. Yet public opinion remains split between optimism and scepticism, fuelled in part by predictions owing more to science fiction than current facts.

This is why it will be essential to ensure the right approach at EU level: a stable regulatory framework that allows innovation to flourish; policies fostering investment in R&I, technology adoption and skills development; and space for an informed and inclusive debate, based on a shared understanding of how AI is being used today and the benefits it can bring.

Read our [5 key recommendations](#) for EU policymakers as summarised by Orgalime Director General Malte Lohan on Euractiv last week – or get the full picture in our detailed [position paper](#).



EU Sustainable Energy Week: register now!

[EU Sustainable Energy Week](#) (EUSEW) is the foremost European conference

take place in Brussels from 4 to 8 June.

Together with a number of partner organisations, we will be hosting a session on 7 June entitled 'Clean Energy 4.0: Designing a New Era for All Europeans Together', looking at the irreversible digital and clean energy transition and discussing how Europe's citizens stand to benefit. [Registration is open now](#) – we hope to see you there!



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

US tariffs on foreign steel and aluminium – Orgalime responds

Representing as we do one of Europe's foremost export industries, Orgalime has long been a vocal advocate of free trade and the multilateral system under the World Trade Organisation (WTO). So it goes without saying that the recent US decision to impose tariffs on foreign steel and aluminium was a worrying development for our sectors.

Yet we are convinced that an even-handed response is needed: our latest [position paper](#) on this issue cautions against a hasty use of re-balancing measures on the part of the EU – something that would ultimately only support the advocates of protectionism.

Orgalime regrets to see that the current US administration seems to be pulling away from the multilateral trading system under WTO rules. By imposing tariffs on steel and aluminium, the US is provoking countermeasures from its trade partners, which will threaten the international trading system developed over the past decades.

Malte Lohan, Orgalime Director General

infogram

EPBD outcome: making ‘energy efficiency first’ more than a slogan

The European Parliament adopted the final text of the review of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) on 17 April, marking a milestone in the European clean energy transition.

The revised EPBD now emphasises how we manage energy in buildings to realise further savings and allows for buildings to be considered part of the future energy system – empowering consumers while boosting energy efficiency and minimising carbon footprint. Get the full story in our [press release](#).



Time to deliver on ambition for remaining Clean Energy files

Rapidly finalising the remaining files of the Clean Energy Package with a



32

national member federations



10

associate members
(European sector associations)



23

countries represented



11 million

direct workers



2000 billion

turnover (in 2016)

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.



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