



# IN BRIEF



December 2017

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## Welcome!

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

As the end of the year rapidly approaches, the firms represented by Orgalime can look back on a successful twelve months. With [growth set to top 4%](#) in 2017, the European engineering industry is booming as digitisation starts to pay dividends.

It's been a busy 2017 for EU policymakers, too: the digital transformation has shone a spotlight on issues like [cybersecurity](#), and (for better or worse) prompted a rethink of questions such as [data ownership and use](#). Meanwhile, ongoing deliberations on the [Clean Energy Package](#) and the future [R&I Framework Programme 9](#) have the potential to reshape Europe's energy system and innovation leadership respectively; as to whether legislators can deliver on this potential, time will tell.

But most significantly for us at Orgalime, 2017 was the year when industrial strategy took centre stage at the European level. The Commission [Communication on a renewed EU industrial strategy](#) marked a welcome recognition of the need to connect the dots between all policy areas affecting industry. However, we think the Commission's approach is not yet ambitious enough: as echoed in the recent [Competitiveness Council conclusions](#), it's time for bigger and bolder thinking towards 2030 and beyond. As we move into

further manufacturing back to Europe – to stay.

Scroll down to find out what has been keeping us busy over the last few weeks...

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



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## Merry Christmas everyone!

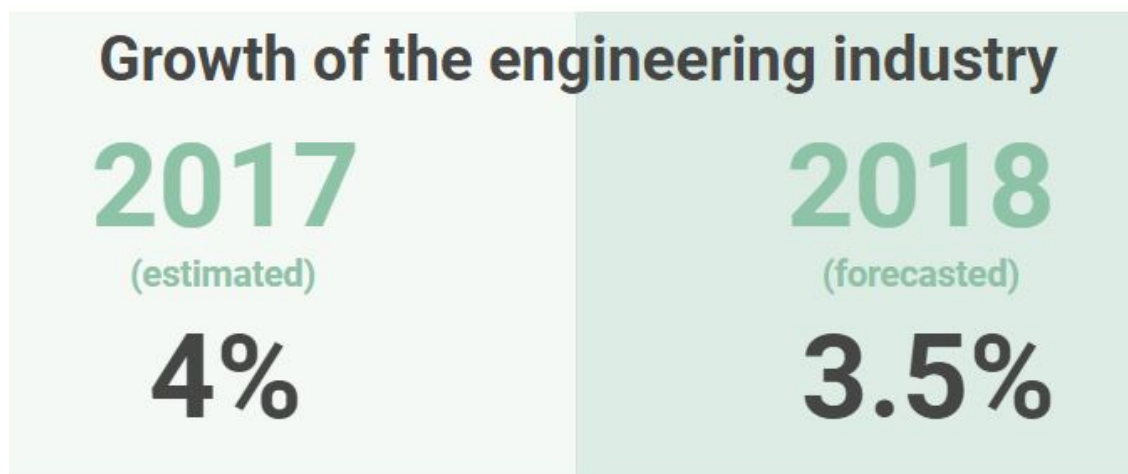
The Orgalime team wishes all our partners, colleagues and friends in Brussels and beyond a wonderful holiday season and all the best for the year to come!



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## Impressive results from the European engineering industry: key figures at a glance

Last month we released the latest report from Orgalime's economists on the performance of Europe's engineering sectors. The figures are impressive – as is clear from the at-a-glance overview now available [on our website](#) that compiles all key statistics, plus some interesting comparisons... For example, if you compared the turnover of our industry to the GDP of an EU state, which do you think would come closest? Take a look to find out!



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## A helping hand for manufacturers: Orgalime's Guide to the Gas Appliances Regulation

The Gas Appliances Regulation (GAR) is set to enter into force in April 2018. To help ensure as smooth a transition as possible between the previous Directive and the new legislation, Orgalime has published a GAR Guide to help manufacturers navigate the new requirements.

This user-friendly manual provides an accessible overview of the scope of the GAR, the main changes compared with the previous Directive, practical advice on CE marking and conformity assessment procedures, and many concrete use cases and examples. You can download the guide free of charge from the [Orgalime website](#).

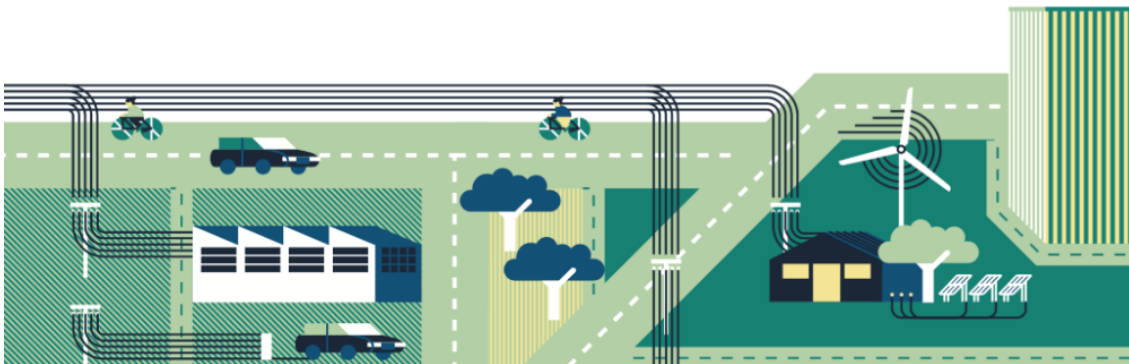
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## EPBD in triologue: provisional deal reached

Measures to enhance energy efficiency in buildings are a win-win for the EU: not only do they help the planet by reducing carbon emissions and give

smarter – creating jobs and growth in the process. This is why Orgalime has been advocating for an ambitious review of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), as part of the Commission’s broader Clean Energy Package.

As the EPBD review entered the next legislative phase – the ‘trilogue’ negotiations between the Commission, European Parliament and Council – there have been concerns that Member States wished to water down key targets. In our [position paper](#) on this issue, Orgalime had called on the Council to step up and match the level of ambition in the European Parliament’s report on the file. While reports are now in that a provisional deal has been reached this week, concrete details have yet to emerge and final adoption has been shifted to 2018. Watch this space for updates in the new year.



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## Industrial applied research - a cornerstone of EU industry's competitiveness

The competitiveness of Europe’s engineering firms has always been closely intertwined with their innovative strength. By supporting collaborative industrial research and innovation through the funds of the ‘Industrial Pillar’, the EU’s Horizon 2020 Research Framework Programme (FP) has helped these firms stay at the leading edge internationally.

This makes R&I policy a central element in any future strategy to support European industry – something the Commission itself acknowledged in its September Communication on a renewed EU industrial policy strategy. Yet there are worrying indications that in discussions on the next EU Research Framework Programme (FP9), policymakers are losing sight of the huge contribution that collaborative industrial research makes to the competitiveness of Europe’s firms and the strength of its economy.

Orgalime’s latest [position paper](#) on the topic makes the case for why industrial



## The Low Voltage Directive: fit for the future

In place since 1973, the Low Voltage Directive (LVD) has stood the test of time – providing industry with a stable means of demonstrating legal compliance when placing electrical products on the EU market, while ensuring the utmost level of safety for consumers.

Despite changes in technology over the years, the core elements of the LVD have remained the same. However, the European Commission has now decided to undertake an evaluation of whether the LVD remains fit for purpose, primarily with an eye to developments such as digitisation and the Internet of Things.

Orgalime firmly believes the LVD is as reliable as ever – and is confident that the Commission’s evaluation will demonstrate just that. Our [position paper](#) explains in detail how the Directive is ready for any challenges digitisation might bring.

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## Got Manufacturing at Heart? New podcast out now

The [Manufacturing at Heart podcast](#) is back with a brand-new episode available to stream now – spotlighting a host of hot topics such as Industry 4.0, big data, cybersecurity and ransomware.



Do you have a manufacturing story to tell? We would love to hear from you! If you are interested in participating in the Manufacturing at Heart podcast, just [drop us a line](#).

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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.

national member federations



**10**

associate members  
(European sector associations)



**23**

countries represented



**11 million**

direct workers



**2000 billion**

turnover (in 2016)

[www.orgalime.org](http://www.orgalime.org)



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