



IN BRIEF



February 2017

Welcome!

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

It might still be cold outside but when it comes to EU industrial policy, the temperature is certainly rising. The first Digitising European Industry forum (see below) brought together stakeholders from national and EU level to spark discussion and maintain momentum on this hot topic. And Orgalime will be playing an active part in the upcoming [EU Industry Day](#) that will see key players and thought leaders fire up debate on the future of industry in Europe.

This flurry of activity is very welcome: after all, manufacturing is the backbone of the European economy. To drive this message home, Orgalime has joined 91 other European industry associations in calling on the Commission to reinforce its commitment to manufacturing and pursue an ambitious industrial strategy. Read the [joint declaration](#) to find out more, and look out for the campaign on Twitter under the hashtag #Industry4Europe.

Read on to find out what else has been on our agenda 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:



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Forward

Digitising European Industry First Stakeholder Forum

Talking digitisation at European stakeholder forum

On 31 January, industry and policy movers and shakers descended on the German city of Essen for the first Digitising European Industry Stakeholder Forum.

Hosted by the European Commission and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, the two-day event combined site visits, workshops and panel debates – all centred on the question of how to make the digital transformation of manufacturing a reality across Europe.

Speakers included Orgalime President Tomas Hedenborg, who shared his insights on how SMEs and large enterprises can master the transition.

Visit the [event website](#) for reports and presentation slides.

European Parliament gives CETA the green light

From lengthy negotiations to last-minute roadblocks, the EU-Canada trade agreement CETA has had anything but an easy journey. But it has now moved a step closer to becoming reality, following the European Parliament plenary vote in favour of ratification on 15 February.

This is great news for Europe's manufacturing industry: by eliminating customs duties and lowering technical barriers, CETA would be a welcome boon to trade and a boost to the EU economy – as we outlined in a [joint letter](#) with the Alliance for a Competitive European Industry (ACEI).

parliaments.



Spotlight on waste policy

It's been a busy few weeks in the world of EU waste policy. On 24 January, a key vote was held in the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament on the Commission's proposed changes to a series of directives, including the Waste Directive and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive – two core pieces of legislation for the manufacturing sector.

Orgalime was happy to see progress made in a number of areas; however, as we underlined in our [press release](#), environmental ambition will need to be reconciled with economic realities to ensure sustainable outcomes.

Regarding the WEEE Directive, a further vote scheduled for 13 February in the Technical Adaptation Committee addressed calculation methodologies proposed in the Draft Implementing Regulation. Orgalime joined forces with other industry stakeholders to advocate for fair targets based on objective, clear and transparent criteria: read our joint comments [here](#).

Proposed RoHS changes – in line with circular economy goals

On 26 January, the Commission adopted a proposal on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive that includes revision of certain provisions of the directive's scope. This corrects wording in the existing legislation that would cause a ban of secondary market operations for products newly in the scope of RoHS, and allows for the repair of products newly in the scope of RoHS that were lawfully placed on the market before the transitional dates.

Orgalime considers the proposal consistent with the EU circular economy

upcoming position paper on the topic.



A call to save the New Approach in standardisation

For European manufacturers, the ‘New Approach to technical harmonisation’ – better known as the CE marking system – has been an effective ‘better regulation’ tool for over three decades, supporting the free circulation of goods within the Internal Market.

Unfortunately, the legalistic implementation pursued in recent years has left the New Approach mired in bureaucracy – with negative repercussions for industrial competitiveness. This is why Orgalime has been calling on the Commission to respond to the needs of standards users and restore flexibility to manufacturers.

For an example of the impact this legalistic approach is having on companies’ competitiveness, read our [open letter](#) on the lack of harmonised standards under the Radio Equipment Directive – and keep an eye on [our website](#) for an upcoming position paper on this key issue.

Catch up with the Orgalime Vision Paper

Haven’t had a chance yet to read our vision for the future of European engineering? Orgalime’s 2016 Vision Paper tackles all major policy fields impacting manufacturing today, giving our recommendations for how EU policy makers can help bring investment and jobs back to this key sector.

Available now to read in [an interactive online format](#) or [download in PDF](#).





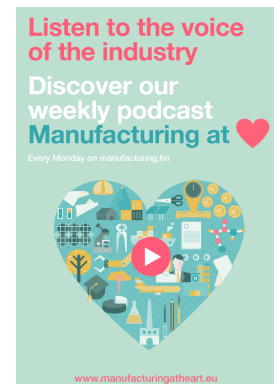
Deep-dive into Industry 4.0

The latest issue of The European Files magazine takes a 360-degree look at what the Fourth Industrial Revolution means for the EU, featuring contributions by high-level industry and political stakeholders from a variety of fields. Orgalime is represented by Director General Adrian Harris, who shares his insights on how smart production is transforming how manufacturers do business.

Find out more [here](#).

Manufacturing at Heart podcast – streaming now!

Has manufacturing captured your heart this Valentine's Day? From engineering innovation at Fraunhofer to bespoke automotive design at a Coventry SME; from smart grids and green energy to the world of fashion and textiles: the latest [Manufacturing at Heart](#) podcasts will ignite your passion for our industry – available to download now!



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)

