



# IN BRIEF



January 2018

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## Welcome!

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

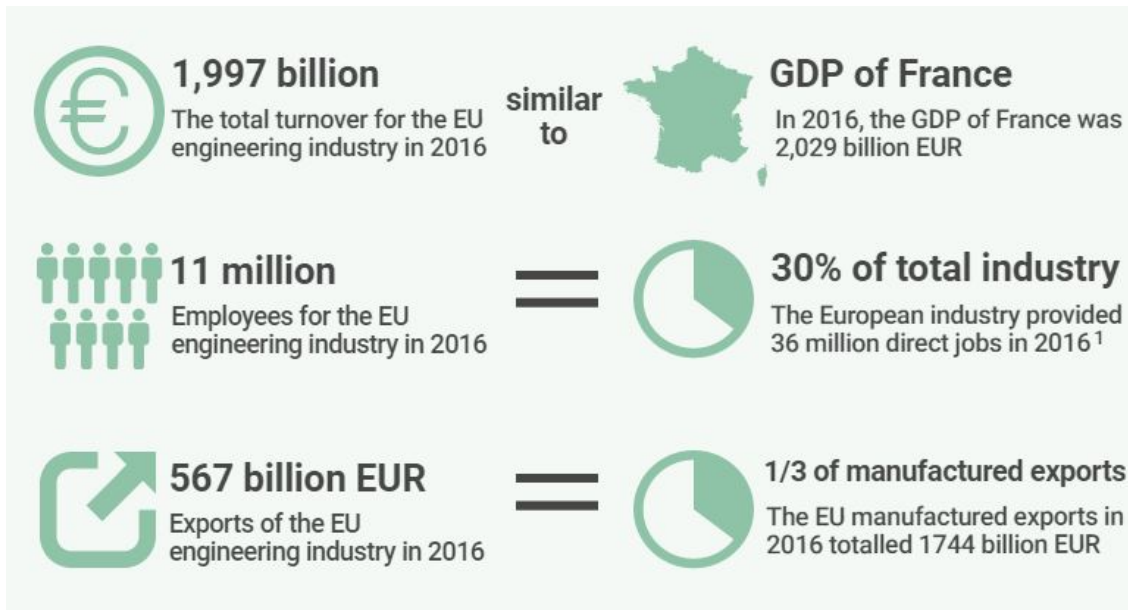
It's the start of a new year, and the outlook could hardly be better for Europe's engineering and tech firms. The industry can look back on an enviable growth rate of 4% for 2017, and 2018 is set to scale similar heights as output is forecast to rise by 3.5%. With a total turnover of almost €2,000 billion and headcount of around 11 million, our industry continues to be instrumental in creating jobs and growth across the EU.

How can we keep this momentum going over the next twelve months and beyond? EU policymakers will have a big role to play. Take digitisation, the key to the success story playing out in our industry right now: the coming months will see debates come to a head in policy fields that will be crucial to the success of Europe's digital transformation – from cybersecurity, to artificial intelligence, to the data economy.

Of course, support for digitisation will be most effective if it is integrated within a [forward-looking industrial strategy](#) at European level. And many of the priorities on EU policymakers' agendas for 2018 will also be decisive in delivering this holistic approach: from moves to strengthen the Internal Market in the recently announced [Goods Package](#), to planning for the next [R&I Framework Programme](#), to the urgent need for renewed ambition on the [Clean Energy](#).

toughest challenges facing European society today.

Scroll down for more on what's keeping us busy as we look ahead to 2018...



**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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## Registration open for EU Industry Day: join us there!

Following the success of last year's inaugural EU Industry Day, the European Commission is organising a follow-up event on 22 and 23 of February. The first day will feature a [programme of stakeholder workshops](#) – and Orgalime has been selected to host one of these sessions.

Entitled 'Digital meets Energy Union meets Circular Economy: what's in it for Europeans?', the workshop will tackle the burning question of how investment in technologies that support digitisation, energy efficiency and resource efficiency can translate into more opportunities and benefits for all EU [citizens](#).

[Registration](#) for the event is open now. Check back on our [website](#) or [follow us on Twitter](#) for more updates. We look forward to seeing you there!



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## Orgalime welcomes Malte Lohan as Director General

Malte Lohan has joined Orgalime as Director General as of 1 January, following an accomplished career spanning the corporate, trade association, agency and institutional worlds – most recently in the role of Head of Corporate Affairs Europe for Anheuser-Busch InBev.

After a whirlwind introduction to the European engineering and technology sector in the months leading up to his official start at Orgalime, he has a few thoughts to share on the challenges and opportunities facing the industry – read his take [here](#).



"From smart electricity grids to e-mobility networks, connected healthcare to energy-efficient building systems, the technologies developed by path-breaking engineering firms are laying the groundwork for **a greener, healthier and more sustainable future for Europe.**"

Malte Lohan, Orgalime Director General

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## Two steps forward, one step back: the Estonian Presidency in review

The end of 2017 marks the end of Estonia's Presidency of the Council of the EU. How did the Baltic nation fare? It undoubtedly delivered on industrial strategy, consistently calling on the Commission to be more ambitious and set strategic long-term objectives – something Orgalime has also called for in [our](#)

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as the data economy, cybersecurity and skills development.

Unfortunately, those two steps forward were followed by one step back: despite the EU's ambition to become a global clean energy leader, the Council has watered down the ambition of the European Parliament and the Commission in negotiations on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and other Clean Energy proposals – compromises that risk slowing Europe's energy transition and damaging the competitiveness of the technology industries driving the change.

Now it will be up to the Bulgarian Presidency to live up to the goal the Council itself has set for the EU: mainstreaming the concerns of industrial competitiveness across all policy areas.

Read our full review of the Estonian term [here](#).



**Estonian Presidency  
of the Council of the  
European Union**



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## **Goods Package: a positive step forward for EU market surveillance**

A smart approach to market surveillance is vital for the smooth operation of the Single Market – and, as a result, for the competitiveness of European manufacturing. This is why Orgalime has repeatedly called for a simpler and more effective framework at European level, which will minimise burdens on legitimate economic operators, while tightening control on the elusive few who try to cheat the system.

The 'Goods Package' put forward by the European Commission in late December makes good progress in answering this challenge: a proposed Regulation on compliance and enforcement would strengthen the ability of national authorities to ensure products sold in the EU meet the relevant legal requirements.

Now the Commission passes the baton to the European Parliament and the

statement on the proposal [here](#).

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