



# IN BRIEF



May 2017

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## Welcome!

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

The last few weeks have proven exciting times both in terms of the current political climate and for the engineering industry.

The buzz at the Hannover Messe, one of the world’s largest trade fairs, reflected a pick-up in business in early 2017, including from new data-driven models – while the ongoing evaluation of the achievements of Horizon 2020 has been feeding into the discussion on the future Framework Programme 9 (FP9), already underway. On top of that, we celebrated Europe Day on 9 May, reminding us of the importance of the EU to us as citizens and as industry since it laid the foundations for a solid internal economy.

So, without much further ado, scroll down for more details on the latest developments...

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## Digitisation front and centre at the 2017 Hannover Messe

Industry 4.0, robotics, future energy systems, integrated factories... these were just some of this year's major focus areas at the Hannover Messe, one of the world's largest trade fairs, with 225,000 visitors, 6,500 exhibitors and 5.6 million business contacts. This year's fair was intended to draw attention to Industry 4.0, and the role of integrated factories in defining the future of the manufacturing industry.

There was a definite buzz as investment and capital goods are on the rise with noticeable effects. Companies were clearly presenting visible data-based solutions, and proposing ideas with a real potential impact for the future.

As the association speaking for the industry at the forefront of these trends, Orgalime was represented by our President Tomas Hedenborg at several events. We encouraged a greater push for the digitisation of industry for companies of all sizes and across Europe to ensure a growth of jobs and industrial output.

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## Eyes already on FP9 for research, development and innovation

As the European Commission conducts its mid-term review of the Framework Programme Horizon 2020, discussions are already underway for the shape and direction of the future Framework Programme (FP9). To drive this debate forward, we co-organised an event with the European Forum for Manufacturing (EFM) and Teknikföretagen at the European Parliament on 3 May. The event was aimed at drawing attention to the future of manufacturing in Europe and the role played by industrial research funding.

It was encouraging to hear the broad support voiced by MEPs from across the political spectrum and company speakers for a driven, focused and ambitious

greater investment in European research and development is clearly needed and our industry expects the EU to play its part in this.

If the event made one thing clear, it was that policy makers and industry representatives all understood the trials and opportunities ahead: the very real potential for creating more jobs, economic growth, maintaining Europe as a vital innovation centre, and ensuring a targeted Framework Programme that will help tackle social, environmental and economic challenges that face the EU.

To view the photos from the event, [click here!](#)



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## Building a European data economy

At the heart of the digitisation of industry is the role of data – which in turn is leading to new business models. In a flourishing data economy, there requires a free flow of data across borders and sectors. In January 2017, the Commission adopted a Communication on building a European data economy. This was followed by a public consultation to which Orgalime responded.

We explained that the need to create a new body of law adapted to the digital realm is superfluous. Indeed, laws already exist (intellectual property, contracts, trade secrets protection) and these can be applied at the digital level. The proposal made by the European Commission for open data within Horizon 2020 projects would also be a damaging step to take and would discourage active participation. The opportunities that data usage is offering for business models are ever growing, and so a cautious approach is necessary so as not to stifle innovation.

The subject will be taking centre stage at our next event co-organised with the European Forum for Manufacturing (EFM) on 21 June at the European Parliament in a session chaired by MEP Bütikofer and with Mr Roberto Viola as the keynote Commission speaker.

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## Orgalime at European Sustainable Energy Week

Coming up next month will be European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) which will spotlight a number of EU energy policy issues important to industry and societal stakeholders. Built around a month-long series of activities and initiatives, including workshops, power station visits and competitions, the aim of the event is to promote the use of renewables and energy efficiency.

Orgalime has been chosen as a Strategic Partner, along with a select group of organisations. We will be involved in a panel concerning flexible energy markets which will look at the role of demand-side flexibility in achieving a cost-efficient and sustainable transition towards a decarbonised power system.

Our nomination stems from the recognition of our longstanding and active engagement on EU energy policy issues. Many of the issues that will be discussed during EUSEW are reflected in our [position paper](#) on the European Commission's Clean Energy Package of November 2016.



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## Direction Windsor for the Orgalime General Assembly!

In June, we will be holding our summer General Assembly, this year in Windsor in the UK. Although set in the charming and calm country scenery, the GA, hosted by our British Members will be eventful with many a hot topic on the agenda. First and foremost: Brexit. The details that will come out of trade negotiations between the UK and the EU could have important effects on the engineering industry.

High on the agenda will also be the continued support for a European-level ambitious industrial policy, a support stemming from a context in which the digital future is close at hand and Industry 4.0 now a mainstream notion. We look forward to what will most likely be a lively discussion on the next steps to

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More information on the event's main focus points can be found in a recent article in The Manufacturer. Click [here](#) to access it.

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## Product Liability Directive - Let's keep it as it is!

The Product Liability Directive is back on the Commission's agenda. It is a piece of legislation with the aim of creating legal certainty around cases in which defective products cause damage to the property of consumers or personal injury or death. Under the Directive, it remains the task of the injured party to prove that the defect, the damage and the causality are linked. It has overall been able to both simplify the ease for the damaged party to claim for damages whilst allowing certain safeguards for the producers.

The Directive has re-emerged because of the transformation that products are undergoing, that is, digitisation, automation, and the use of novel technologies. We believe as we have stated in our [Position Paper](#) that despite the timely review of the Directive by the European Commission, it continues to prove fit for purpose and does not need to be updated: it is technology-neutral, well balanced between parties, and is essentially applicable even to the latest technologies.

The Product Liability Directive provides the needed and consistent legal framework for liability claims. Why change it?

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## Manufacturing at Heart Podcasts

Listen to the latest Manufacturing at Heart [podcast](#), featuring Kate Hills, founder of 'Make it British' and find out why she gave up working for some of the best known high street brands to work on promoting local manufacturing and craftsmanship in Britain.

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



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## 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.



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