

# A Grain of Salt

Q2 2017

## EUsalt Annual Meeting 2017

On 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June EUsalt held its Annual meeting in Brussels. The EUsalt safety award competition took place on 26<sup>th</sup> June and illustrated the commitment of salt producers since 2014 to consistently and further promote 'safety as a value; not just a priority'. The winner of this year was Compass Mineral (UK) – represented by James Noblett, Environment, Health and Safety Manager - with its safe stockpile management.

On 27<sup>th</sup> June, EUsalt hosted two conferences that gathered around 100 people each. The first addressed key challenges of the Nutrition and Health policy: what are the links between nutrition and health, how to effectively promote healthy diets, and how to achieve healthy lifestyles. Speakers presented thought-provoking reflections and innovative solutions. The second conference on Circular Economy looked into solutions responding to the many challenges, and the hurdles to scaling up innovation and empowering all members of society to contribute to the transition efforts.



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## ADVOCACY

### Joint Industry Action #Industry4Europe



On 27<sup>th</sup> February, EU salt signed a joint declaration, along with 127 other EU trade associations, calling for an EU-wide industrial strategy. The action has had significant echo in

the EU institutions so far as the European Council, the Council of the EU, and the European Parliament are calling on the European Commission to establish such a strategy:

1. Final formulation of Conclusions of the European Council (22-23<sup>th</sup> June): "Building on the Council conclusions of May 2017, the European Council underlined 'the essential role of industry as a major driver for growth, employment and innovation in Europe', and called for concrete action to ensure a strong and competitive industrial base of the Single Market".

Moreover, on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the Friends of Industry, the "Berlin Declaration" on Industrial policy was signed the 30<sup>th</sup> June by 18 Member States. Containing industrial policy demands and a clear call for a new European industrial strategy. It will be sent to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council.

2. Upcoming European Parliament Resolution on "**Building an ambitious EU industrial strategy as a**

**strategic priority for growth, employment and innovation in Europe**" (July 2018). During a Plenary Session in Strasbourg on 15<sup>th</sup> of June, MEPs from all political groups debated on an EU industrial strategy. They stated their support to Member States' and Industry's request for a Strategy and an Action Plan at EU level.

3. **EC Publication following EU Industry Day** DG GROW circulated a new EC publication summarizing the first EU Industry Day organised on 28<sup>th</sup> February. You can download the document [here](#).

4. **Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU**

The future trio presidency, composed of Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria published their 18-month Programme, in which they call again for "a strong European industrial base" as being of "vital importance for the EU economy". Check 18-Month programme [here](#).

5. Coalition of industry associations is undertaking to define the tenets of an EU Industrial strategy and launched **6 thematic groups** on: Research and Innovation, Internal market and public procurement, Skills and training, Trade and international market access, Business-friendly environment, Access to finance.

## Prodcum List

In connection with the revision of the EU ETS, and in view of a more precise and detailed statistical data on the salt sector, EUsalt submitted a request to the

European Commission for the identification of salt at PRODCOM level.

## Nutrient Profiles Consultation

EUsalt participated in recent consultations regarding the necessity for nutrient profiles. The salt industry supports the EU nutrition and health claims regulation, which purpose is to prevent any misleading claims made on foods that are not based on science. That was already assessed by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) in the past years.

Nutrient profiles could serve as an additional guidance for consumers to evaluate the nutritional balance of foods. However, considering them as the key to healthy diets is misleading. Moreover, forbidding nutrition or health claims – that have received a positive opinion from EFSA – based on a food's high content in fat, sugar, and/or salt could bear a prejudice to public health. For instance, salt fortified with iodine would not be allowed to raise



awareness about the iodine content and impacts on health. And yet, iodised salt is well-recognised worldwide as an instrument to fight iodine deficiency disorders in populations (and especially in children). Therefore, the impact of nutrient profiles on food information and education needs to be thoroughly investigated on a case-by-case basis.

## Revision of the Directive on Emissions Trading System (ETS)

Political negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council of the EU are still ongoing, as the third trilogue took place on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The salt sector is preparing for the carbon leakage's risk assessment that the European Commission will have to update in view of the new carbon leakage list for the period 2021-2030.

Whilst all eyes are on the revision of the EU ETS, other countries are setting up their own carbon taxation system. The ICIS Carbon Forum on 9<sup>th</sup> May

looked at the Chinese version of ETS. The latter should focus on four key sectors (power, cement, aluminium, and aviation), and allocate 50% of CO<sub>2</sub> permits based on the previous year's performance (the rest will be adjusted based on actual production). The Chinese government would be intervening to sustain a high carbon price. China expects to complete the data collection on the above-mentioned sectors by the end of 2017. Little is known, however, about the methodology used.

## EUSALT PROJECTS

### European Minerals Day (EMD) Steering Committee meeting

#### EUROPEAN MINERALS DAY 2017



The European minerals sector – an alliance of industry associations that includes IMA-Europe, CEMBUREAU, EuroGeoSurvey, Eurogypsum, Eurométaux, UEPG, and EUsalt that participates in the organisation of the European Minerals Day, with a support of European Commission.

The European Minerals Day is an excellent way to inform, educate and enthuse European citizens about the importance of the minerals sector in providing raw materials that are essential for so many everyday products. 200 Open Door events taking place at quarries, mines, plants and museums all over Europe during 22-24<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to make the link between the quarry or mine next door and the products we use in everyday life.

The EMD 2017 edition will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this pan-European awareness raising initiative. Biodiversity, resource efficiency, innovation, health & safety, regional development and care about the communities are the pillar initiatives that European Minerals Day want to talk about to the public.

The launch event will be held in Estonia the 22<sup>nd</sup> September and kindly hosted by Nordkalk AS. For more information please visit the webpage: <http://www.mineralsday.eu>

## EVENTS



### EUsalt Safety Working Group

The EUsalt Safety working group met in Aigues-Mortes, France on 17<sup>th</sup> May to share best practices for measuring and monitoring health and well-being programmes, namely Hand Arm Vibration, Whole Body Vibration, and healthy work environments. The meeting was followed by the visit of Salins' salt marsh. Experts agreed on setting specific topics for future EUsalt safety expert group meeting. Thus, the next meeting will focus on 'Near Misses'.

## OTHER NEWS

### EU Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy

The European Commission released its Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017. It aims to improve the implementation of the Nature Directives, i.e. the most important problem that stemmed from the fitness check on the Birds and the Habitats Directives. To that end the Action Plan defines a list of 15 actions to be undertaken between 2017 and 2019, and organised under four priorities:

1. Improving guidance and knowledge and ensuring better coherence with broader socioeconomic objectives,
2. Building political ownership and strengthening compliance,

3. Strengthening investments in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments, and

4. Better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities.

As a partner of the European Network for Sustainable Quarrying and Mining (ENSQM), EUsalt is acting with other EU industry associations (Eurogypsum, Cembureau, IMA-Europe, UEPG, Cerame-Unie) towards priority n°4. The Network aims to facilitate national dialogues around the interactions between biodiversity preservation and extractive activities. Following Spain in February

2017, the next national dialogue will take place in Germany (Berlin) in April 2018.

### Call for expression of interest for the Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform



The European Economic and Social Committee and the European Commission launched the call for expression of interest for the coordination group of the EU Circular Economy

Stakeholder Platform on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017. 24 representatives need to be appointed that represent the variety of stakeholders (public

authorities, EU federations, industry, civil society, and the knowledge community). The deadline for expressions is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

EUsalt is looking forward to sharing its experience and approach to circular economy in the framework of the platform. Over the past year, the salt industry has been carrying out its sustainability project with the aim to measure the sector's performance with regard to indicators pertaining to circular economy, CO2 footprint, and CSR. The results of the sector's initiative are expected for the end of 2017.

### Programme of the next Council's trio

A new trio is taking on the presidency of the Council of the EU from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 onwards and for the

next 18 months: Estonia (July-December 2017), Bulgaria (January-June 2018), and Austria (July-December 2018).



EUsalt welcomes the trio's joint programme, published on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017, especially with regard to the following priorities and statements:

- **Environment and sustainable development:** The priority in this field will remain Circular Economy. The trio vowed to work on eco-innovative initiatives that focus on the efficient use of resources, and the reduction of environmental impacts in production and consumption;
- **Investment in the future:** All three countries reaffirmed that a 'strong European industrial base'

## Estonian Presidency of the EU



Estonia took a role of Presidency of the Council of the EU from Malta on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017. The priorities are particularly well aligned

with the Commission's plans like opening innovative European Economy aiming to create a simple environment that enables job creation and

is of vital importance for the European economy. That is in line with the Council conclusions of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, as well as industry's joint statement (#Industry4Europe), calling on the European Commission to adopt a strong EU Industrial Strategy.

- **A forward-looking climate policy:** Achieving a low carbon economy is the key ambition of the EU. The trio is thus committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the revisions of the EU ETS and the Effort Sharing directives.

companies to grow and operate without unnecessary barriers or inclusive and sustainable Europe where Estonian presidency aims to modernise rules to promote labour mobility and ensure equal opportunities in the labour market and social inclusion as well to focus on climate change, the circular economy and eco innovation. More about the programme you can find here.

## EUsalt becomes European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) registered stakeholder

EUsalt's application to become a registered EFSA stakeholder met the eligibility criteria and since now our organisation takes part of Stakeholder Engagement Approach. It aims to improve the opportunities given to EFSA stakeholders to contribute to its activities and to better meet the expectations of the EU citizens.

EFSA is a European agency funded by the European Union that operates independently of the European legislative and executive institutions and EU Member States. The General Food Law created a European food safety system in which responsibility for risk assessment (science) and for risk management (policy) are kept separate. EFSA is responsible for the former area, and also has a duty to communicate its scientific findings to the public. Due to this system, European consumers are among the best protected and best informed in the world as regards risks in the food chain.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source : <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/aboutefsa>

## Our Calendar of Events

<b>1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	European Minerals Day's Steering Committee Meeting
<b>6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Companies and Entrepreneurs in the salt industry ( <i>Basel, Switzerland</i> ) ( <a href="#">more information</a> )
<b>22<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September</b>	European Minerals Day: Opening Event ( <i>Estonia</i> ) ( <a href="#">more information</a> )
<b>13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	EuroChlor's Annual General Assembly ( <i>Antwerp, Belgium</i> )
<b>11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	EUsalt Board meeting
<b>7<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Euromines safety conference ( <i>Luxemburg</i> )
<b>14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Salt 2017 Middle East ( <i>Marriott Hotel, Dubai</i> )
<b>15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November</b>	World Iodine Association General Assembly ( <i>Pisa, Italy</i> )
<b>21<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Healthy Workplaces Summit - EU OSHA ( <i>Bilbao, Spain</i> )
<b>7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>	<b><i>EUsalt's General Assembly</i></b> ( <i>Basel, Switzerland</i> )
<b>5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	International Saltworks Symposium ( <i>Arc-et-Senans, France</i> )
<b>2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Sustainable Mining Conference ( <i>Portugal</i> )
<b>19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup> June</b>	World Salt Symposium ( <i>Park City, Utah, U.S.A.</i> ) ( <a href="#">more information</a> )