



TIC Council ANNUAL REPORT 2020

TIC Council

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TO OUR MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Foreword from Dr. Michael Fübi, President of the TIC Council

Dear Members,

Despite COVID-19 restrictions across our association, our membership has been resilient in adapting to societal changes and new challenges, supported by the determination and hard work of the TIC Council in maintaining regular exchanges. I am confident that with the steps taken, with regular virtual meetings amongst Committees and regions, this close cooperation has been beneficial for the TIC sector promoting its added value to society. I am very proud of the efforts the entire TIC Council membership and team have made to continue operations, raise visibility, and prove that we can adapt quickly to a challenging situation.

“I am very proud of the efforts the entire TIC Council membership and team have made to continue operations, raise visibility, and prove that we can adapt quickly to a challenging situation.”

The TIC Council immediately acted in supporting its membership in every possible way, by reaching out to policymakers around the world to highlight the critical role played by the TIC sector. We also worked jointly to promote the use of remote auditing alternatives where appropriate to ensure we continue providing our services under the travel, health and sanitary restrictions imposed by several countries. This has been supported through various communications including white papers, press releases and webinars.

“The TIC Council immediately acted in supporting our membership in every possible way, by reaching out to policymakers around the world, to highlight the critical role played by the TIC sector.”

We have deployed efforts to raise the visibility of our sector among policymakers and other key stakeholders, to ensure we continue pursuing our mission in being the independent and trusted voice globally for the TIC Industry. With fourteen webinars delivered last year, attended by 4000+ registrants and 1911 participants, this has proven to be an excellent tool in reaching out to a wide global audience and highlighting the myriad of ways in which TIC companies support all sectors of the economy.

Overall, I would like to thank the continued support of all our members in the various Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces. Your unwavering dedication, professionalism and robust expertise has firmly placed us on the pedestal to be more resilient than ever. I very much look forward to overcoming the challenges of 2021 and seeing our hard work come to fruition.

Dr. Michael Fübi

M. Fübi



Foreword from Hanane Taidi, Director General of the TIC Council

Dear Members,

TIC Council celebrated its first anniversary in June 2020, and this key milestone marks the deployment of the TIC Council organisational structure, approved by the Global Board in October 2019. Now progress is well underway in meeting our objectives to boost the reputation and visibility for the sector. By developing TIC Council's advocacy roadmap for 2020-2023, we have charted a clear path to reach our advocacy goals in promoting further safety and effective conformity assessment ecosystems across the globe. I want to personally thank everyone for their professional dedication, ability, and contributions to overcome the challenges of 2020. We look forward to working together and further cooperating in 2021.

Hanane Taidi



“We have charted a clear path to reach our advocacy goals in promoting further safety and effective conformity assessment ecosystems across the globe.”

TIC COUNCIL ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS 2020

- In response to the first wave of COVID-19, TIC Council ensured continued engagement with **members and stakeholders** by organising webinars on a variety of topics, highlighting the importance of TIC services in supporting economic and sanitary recovery.
- The **mix of speakers and topics throughout the year** allowed us to reach a wide audience in and outside of the TIC sector.
- Our most successful event was held on May 28th, with **280** people participating in the panel on “**Non-conform imported PPEs, medical devices and fake certificates**”, organised jointly with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

Webinars

Social Media Following

2020 has seen massive growth in our social network outreach. Currently, TIC Council has around **470 followers on Twitter** and **approximately 3,100 followers (+2350 compared to 2019) on LinkedIn**.

- Our publications have served as **vital tools** to convey our stance towards policymakers and key stakeholders.
- This year, we published **13 Position Papers and 2 White Papers** covering:
 - **Environmental, Societal Governance**
 - **Digitalisation**
 - **International Trade**
 - **Product Compliance and Safety**

Publications and Papers

OUR ACTIVITIES DURING COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented levels of uncertainty for consumers, businesses, regulators and governments. TIC Council immediately rose to the challenges presented by the pandemic, by positioning and advocating the sector as essential for both crisis



management and economic recovery, highlighting the critical role of its members in fighting the spread of the virus giving priority of their services to the testing of PPEs and medical devices during the pandemic.



Our efforts towards members

We have been providing support for our members by advocating for the importance of third-party TIC services towards policymakers. Our response during the COVID-19 pandemic was to help guide members and key stakeholders through these troubled waters to mitigate the impact on their operations during the pandemic.

TIC Council committed to being fully responsive to all communications and queries of members despite COVID-19's constraints



Clarity and guidance for the TIC sector

In March, the TIC Council COVID-19 webpage was set up as an immediate response to provide members and external visitors with practical and trustworthy information to navigate through the new guidelines related to accreditation and conformity assessment activities. The demand for this clarity has been explicit, with over 6,100 page visits since its creation, and it has proved to be a valuable tool to communicate effectively how the TIC sector has adapted to the constraints.

We informed policymakers on what TIC services need to operate as critical services in the fight against COVID-19

TIC Sector – A key role in fighting the spread of COVID-19

TIC SECTOR HELPING TO FIGHT CORONAVIRUS



Our members test, audit, inspect, certify the conformity of pharmaceuticals, medical laboratories and manufacturers of medical devices and PPE according to the correspondent legislation and relevant international standards:



MEDICAL PRODUCTS



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



RESPIRATORS



INFRASTRUCTURE



FOOD SUPPLY



TESTING MASKS



ELECTRICAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

In addition to this, our members access the essential sectors of industrial production and transport, such as:



GAS STATIONS



REFINERIES



DRINKING WATER



COMMODITIES



PIPELINES



POWER PLANTS



CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Our services support the continuity of such operations, including international supply chains for essential products, whilst ensuring safe conditions for both employees and the general public.

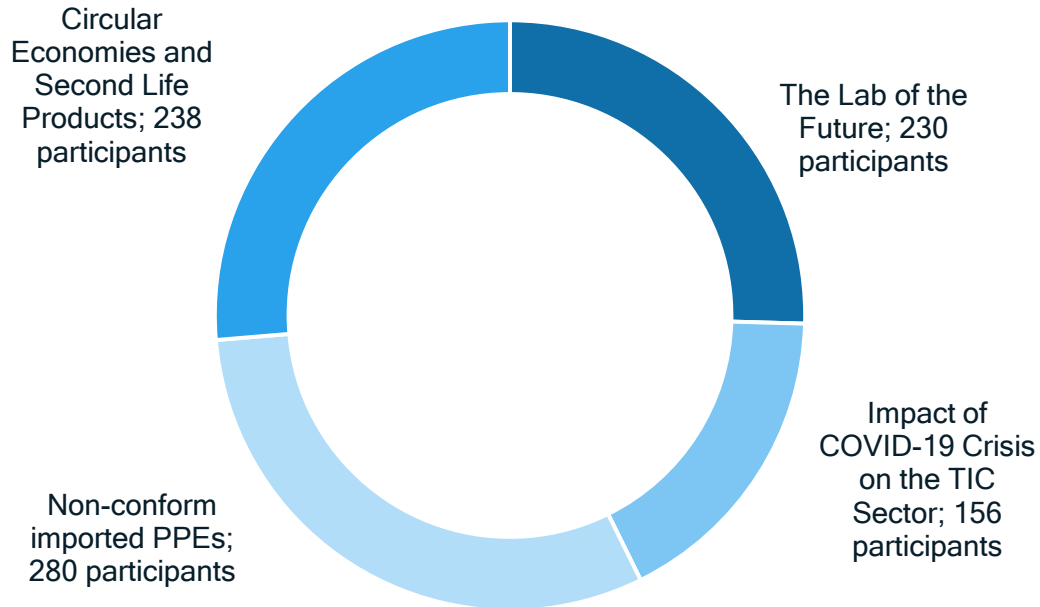
OUR WEBINARS

Throughout 2020, TIC Council hosted virtual events on a wide range of topics, including remote auditing, non-conformities, the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis and anti-counterfeiting. Through these well-attended events, we have reached new audiences and provided an outlet for communication to a community separated by travel restrictions and other pandemic-related difficulties.

Our virtual events, including webinars, panels and more, have received acknowledgement and recognition by members, stakeholders and external partners alike, thanks to the wide range of topics addressed and by the high level of the speakers involved. TIC Council continues to seek and develop new opportunities for the coming months and we invite you to consult our dedicated page on our website to stay updated on all the latest news on the subject. We are also always open for new ideas and possibilities of cooperation to develop panels on specific issues of relevance for the industry.

We would like to say “thank you” to all our members and speakers that have volunteered their time in support of our virtual events, both in the planning and in participation.

Most Successful Webinars in 2020



1911

**Total Webinar
Participants**

4000+

**Total Webinar
Registrants**

39

**Speakers In
2020**

14

**Webinars
Held In 2020**

THE NEW TIC COUNCIL STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

Introduction

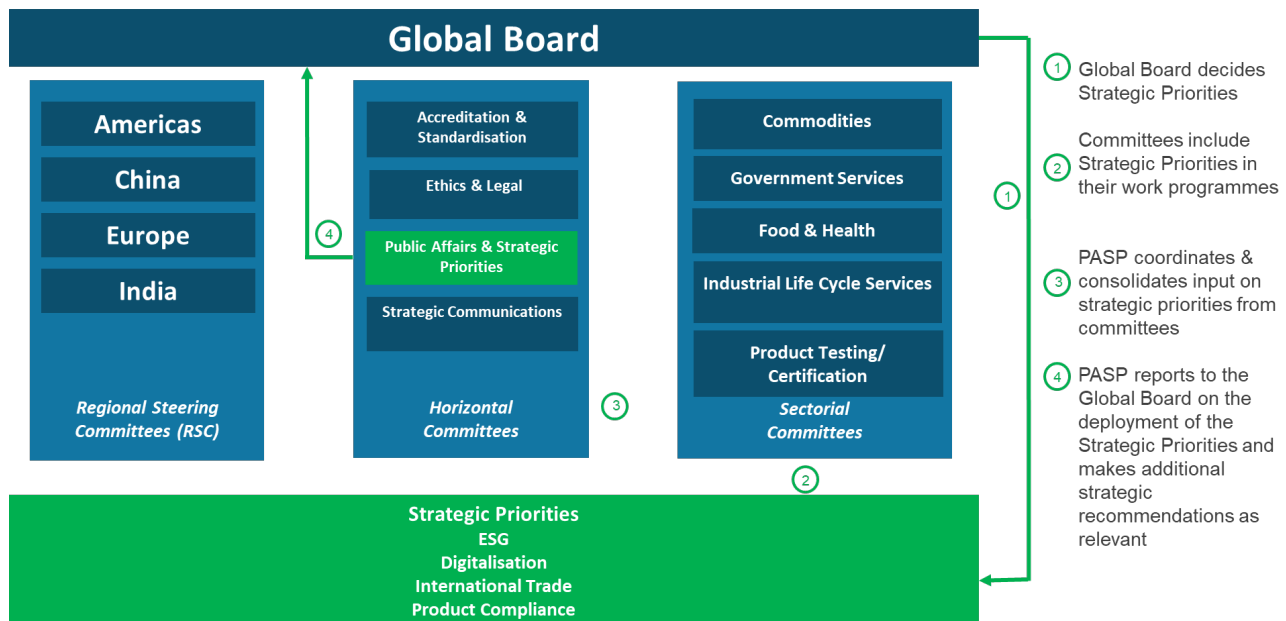
When IFIA and CEOC merged, TIC Council did not have a complete and unified structure of committees and workstreams in place. For that reason, with the start of the new decade we wanted to commit to developing a new, horizontal structure which would fully involve our four key regions, our main priorities and our topics of interest in an integrated way.

We are proud to have successfully deployed in 2020 a new committee structure which fully integrates all of these areas. This more efficient manner of operating ensured that the committees were able to agree on their scope and action plans by July 2020 and to actively start implementing their workflows during the second part of the year.

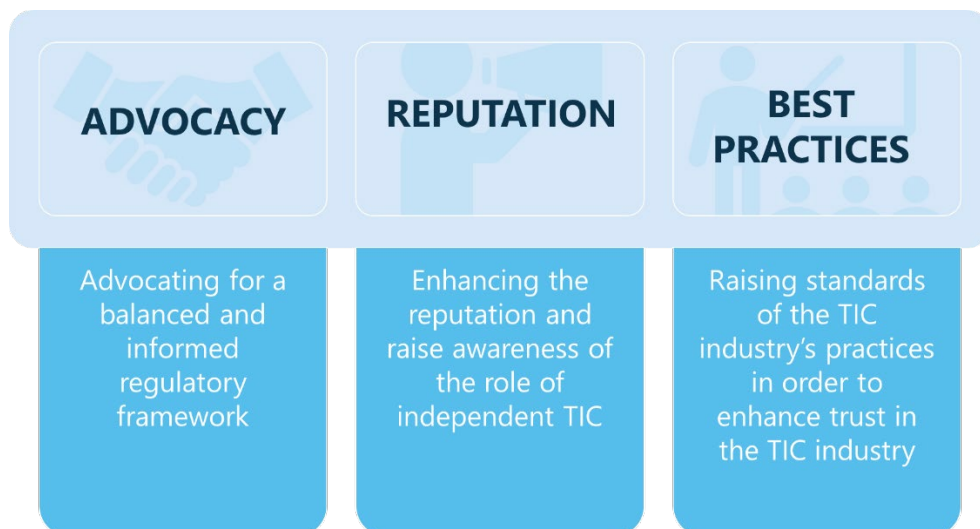
The hard work and perseverance of our sponsors, chairs and vice-chairs has made this result possible.



The TIC Council Committee Structure



The TIC Council Strategic Objectives



In 2019, the Global Board identified TIC Council's objectives, which you may see above. During 2020, each committee within TIC Council has developed action plans to work towards these three objectives.

As regards advocacy, one of TIC Council's objectives, the Global Board agreed in 2020 to pursue the following:

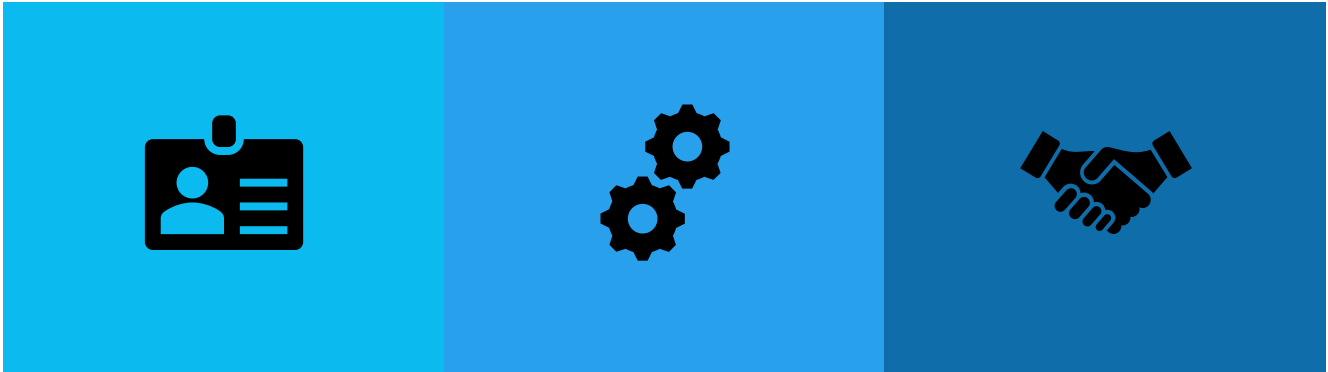
- ESG: offering conformity with environmental requirements, equality policies, human rights protection and healthy working conditions throughout the value chain.
- Digitalisation: testing digital solutions and products against connectivity, cybersecurity, privacy and safety requirements;
- International Trade: facilitating trade by enabling economic operators to test and certify their products with requirements of other world regions and by promoting a risk-based approach in selecting conformity assessment procedures;
- Product Compliance & Safety: conduct conformity assessment of products and actively engaging against counterfeited products and certification marks.

GB Sponsors

Horizontal Committees	
Sponsor	Committee
Ugo Salerno, RINA	Accreditation & Standardisation
André Lacroix, Intertek	Public Affairs & Strategic Priorities
Paul Hesselink, Kiwa	Ethics & Legal
Didier Michaud-Daniel, Bureau Veritas	Strategic Communications
Sectoral Committees	
Sponsor	Committee
Sébastien Dannaud, Cotecna	Government
Peter Boks, Saybolt	Commodities
Stefan Haas, TÜV AUSTRIA	Industrial Life Cycle Services
Axel Stepken, TÜV SÜD	Product Testing/Certification
Gilles Martin, EUROFINs	Food & Health
Regional Committees	
Sponsor	Committee
Jennifer Scanlon, UL	Americas
Frankie Ng, SGS	China
Dirk Stenkamp, TÜV NORD	EU
Karina Engstrøm Nielsen, Baltic Control	India

We would like to thank our sponsors for their time and dedication. Their expertise is critical to driving the committees' actions and plans, guaranteeing the necessary guidance and involvement from our members and helping to push TIC Council's strategic objectives to their fullest.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



Boosting the visibility of our sector's value, both in responding to the pandemic and in promoting policy developments globally, has required direct involvement from all regions. This hard work has been pivotal in making legislators aware of the incredible importance which conformity assessment bodies provide.

European Union



Engaging in regular communication with the European Union's institutions and relevant stakeholders has proven fundamental to reinforcing the TIC sectors' position in Europe. In 2020, we were very active in responding to the European Commission's public consultation opportunities. In this context, we advocated for our views on, among other issues:

- The revision of the Blue Guide and of the New Legislative Framework;
- The revision of the General Product Safety Directive;
- The revision of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive;
- The White Paper on Artificial Intelligence in the EU;
- The European Circular Economy Action Plan;
- The upcoming initiatives for enabling consumers towards the green transition, the sustainable products initiative and the legislative plans for substantiating green claims; Also, the implementation of the EU's Taxonomy Regulation, where we also published a position paper to illustrate our sector's role as an enabler of green investment.



European Commission's Circular Economy Action Plan

The Circular Economy Action Plan aims to transform consumption patterns, so that waste generation is reduced.

It includes horizontal measures and sector-specific measures on electronics and ICT, batteries and vehicles, packaging, plastics, textiles, construction and buildings, food water and nutrients. The most material measures for the TIC sector:



In addition, we significantly improved our visibility and influence potential by participating in key experts groups of the European Commission. These include:

- Notably, TIC Council was selected to sit on the Stakeholder Cybersecurity Certification Group (SCCG). It advises the European Commission and the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) on strategic issues regarding the European cybersecurity certification framework;
- The Commission's expert group on Machinery Directive, giving us access to policymakers on a directive that is going to be revised during 2021;
- The experts sub-group on Artificial Intelligence (AI), connected products and other new challenges in product safety. This sub-group will be part of the broader informal consultation group known as Consumer Safety Network;

We have reached an increased level of interaction with the various Directorates-General (DGs) of the Commission, who regularly solicit TIC Council's expertise. Interviews have been conducted with the DG for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT) around the planned "horizontal cybersecurity framework" and on future certification in the field of AI, and another with the DG responsible for EU policy on justice, consumer rights and gender equality (DG JUST) on the future AI conformity assessment schemes.

On top of this, DG JUST also asked TIC Council provide comments on the "Behavioural Study on Strategies to Maximise the Effectiveness of Product Recalls", which aims to give clear and policy-relevant insights to support the European Commission in developing initiatives aimed at enhancing recall effectiveness.

Finally, in May 2020 TIC Council presented several amendments to the European Parliament report titled “Addressing Product Safety in the Single Market”, having virtual meetings with the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs for the report. In this way, TIC Council successfully expressed its views and networked with Members of the European Parliament. This has helped us in finding new opportunities for co-operation – for example, in finding high-level speakers for our international panel at the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO) virtual international symposium in October 2020, accompanying the EU’s Product Safety Week.

The screenshot shows a webinar interface with five participants at the top: Giuseppe Filiti (GF), Rory Brown (RB), DG CNECT - Aristote (DT), Martin Michelot, and Andreas Mitrakas. The main slide is titled "Certification framework: Roles" and lists the following roles:

- Ad-hoc working group**
 - Representatives of the community, invited by ENISA ED
 - Advises ENISA while preparing a specific candidate scheme
- ENISA**
 - In charge of drafting candidate schemes
 - Leads the preparation work
- ECGG**
 - European Cybersecurity Certification Group
 - Representatives of the Member States (National Authorities)
 - Member States implement schemes
- European Commission**
 - Coordinates the work on schemes through requests to ENISA
 - Implementing acts related to the candidate schemes
 - Manages comitology
- SCOG**
 - Stakeholders Cybersecurity Certification Group
 - Representatives of the community, advises on work programme

The slide also includes a "Building a scheme" link and a "Cybersecurity Act" footer.

From the TIC Council Webinar “The contribution of the TIC sector to cybersecurity: implementation opportunities and challenges of the European Cybersecurity Act”, 18 June 2020

Americas



In 2020, TIC Council Americas continued its work with relevant stakeholders, regulators, and the community to highlight the value TIC brings in enhancing consumer safety and the reliability of products and services. In response to the pandemic, TIC Council reinforced the essential service that the industry provides in assessing the conformity of products such as personal protective equipment and supporting the continued operation of other essential services.

With a focus on the United States, Brazil, Mexico, and Canada, TIC Council met frequently with government and industry contacts to advance the sector's policy priorities in these markets.

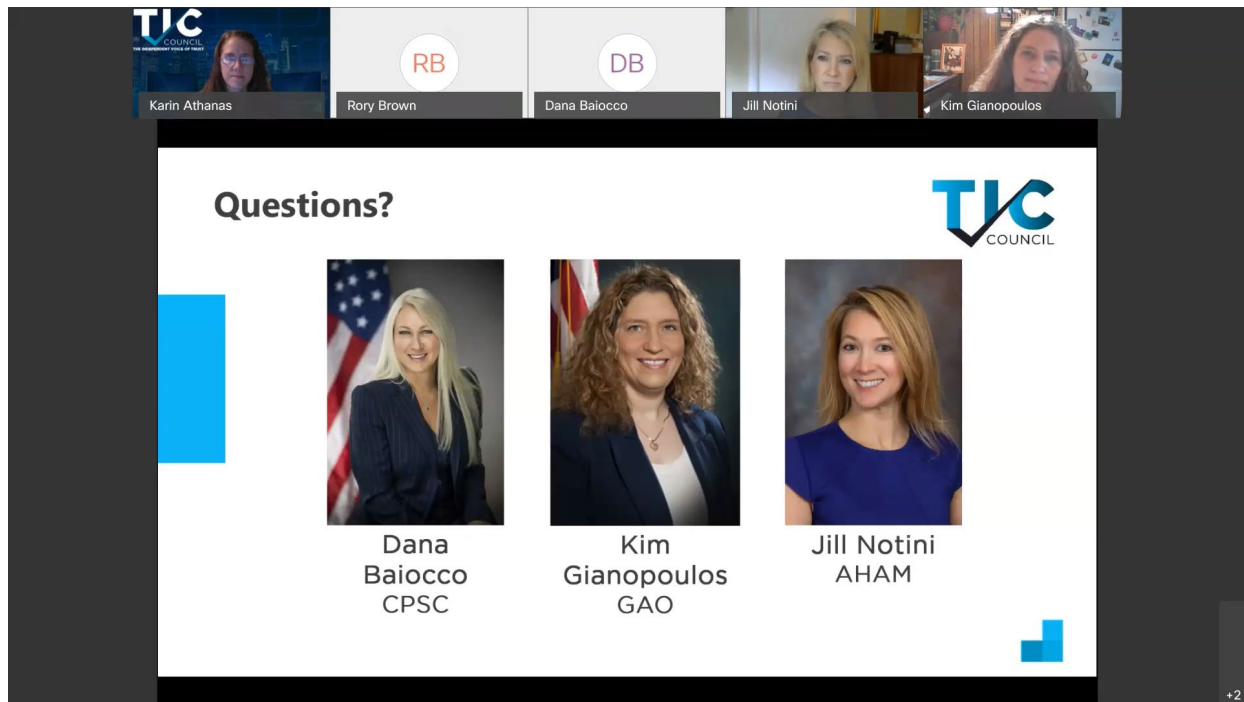
To bring visibility to the impact that counterfeit products and Marks are having on communities, the TIC Council Americas organized a three-part virtual panel series. The series included participation from government officials, TIC members, and stakeholders, such as members of the Buy Safe Coalition, of which TIC Council Americas is an active as well as representatives from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Government Accountability Office (GAO), United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Intellectual Property Crime Unit.

In the fall of 2020, TIC Council Americas was proud to announce the Global Retailer and Manufacturer Alliance (GRMA) as an MOU partner

and to speak at a GRMA Virtual Summit Series Panel on Virtual Auditing. TIC Council also coordinated a virtual presentation with industry partners, namely the Consortium for Information and Software Quality (CISQ) and the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) and spoke at and moderated several sessions at the US-Brazil Conformity Assessment Workshop.

In Latin America, TIC Council is advocating for effective policies that strengthen the conformity assessment ecosystem and promote quality, safety and innovation in the region.

In Mexico, TIC Council engaged with Mexican trade associations and presented the sector's position on the new Quality Infrastructure Law during a public hearing at the Mexican Senate.



From the TIC Council Webinar: "TIC Council Americas Virtual Panel 2: The Cost of Online Fraud and Counterfeits", 1 October 2020

In Brazil, TIC Council has been invited to provide the global TIC perspective to Inmetro officials at multiple engagements and public events in support of Inmetro's regulatory reforms. TIC Council also presented and moderated several sessions at the 2020 US-Brazil Conformity Assessment Workshop under the U.S.-Brazil Commercial Dialogue, hosted by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Brazilian Ministry of Economy.

With an eye towards 2021, TIC Council Americas will continue its work engaging with policy makers and stakeholders with focus on the regulatory changes underway in Brazil and Mexico, and in priorities areas in the United States including Digitalisation, Consumer Product Safety and Compliance, and continued efforts to promote the Value of TIC.

China



The China Regional Steering Committee succeeded in attracting positive media attention at a moment when doubts about counterfeit PPEs were on the rise though the coordination of an initiative to provide free pre-shipment inspection of PPE for governments, NGOs and civil society groups. Furthermore, to improve future crisis management, TIC Council reached out to Chinese customs authorities and offered to establish formal cooperation on epidemic prevention quality control.

These outreach efforts to further strengthen relations have built a strong basis for future activities. TIC Council is particularly proud to look forward to the completion of the TIC Council China legal entity registration in 2021, which was one of our key objectives for this region and represents a great step forward for future expansion of our worldwide activities.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the State Council announced a new version of the “Certification and Accreditation Regulations of People’s

Republic of China”, which is marked by the removal of a previous article restricting foreign-funded certification bodies.



China Regional Steering Committee Meeting, 1 December 2020

To further develop the formation and future aims of this legal entity, the committee met with Mr. Chen Lei, a representative of the Shanghai Administration for Market Regulation: his motives for attending the meeting were to understand what progress had been made in preparation for registering the office and to understand more about the TIC Council. Following this, he offered his full support for registering the China TIC Council office, hoping for a close relationship in the future between TIC Council and the Shanghai AMR.

In true 2020 style, our Director General Hanane Taidi participated remotely in the TIC China 2020 meeting following an invitation from our member CIQA. You can access her video message [here](#).

India



During 2020, TIC Council's India Regional Steering Committee was active in advocating for conformity assessment policies in the fields of telecoms, toys, medical devices, appliances, and electronics. The committee also joined the Direct Guidance in Civil Aviation India (DGCA) to contribute to the development of a voluntary certification scheme on drones.

Furthermore, the successful presentation of our position paper on cybersecurity received positive attention, which was then followed up by the invitation to join a dedicated decision-making committee on the issue.

As the turnover to 2021 took place, our activities in India have rumbled on to boost our visibility, through the involvement with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Quality Council of India (QCI) in the 3 months-long "Udyog Manthan" webinar series. This is a marathon focused on sector-specific webinars for promoting quality and productivity in the Indian industry, aiming to draw in the best practices and experiences of selected sectors and industry experts to identify and solve challenges.

HORIZONTAL ACHIEVEMENTS



As TIC Council navigated through its priorities to increase visibility towards policymakers and stakeholders, our horizontal committees have been equally focused on seeking global alignment of our position and strategy.

Public Affairs & Strategic Priorities

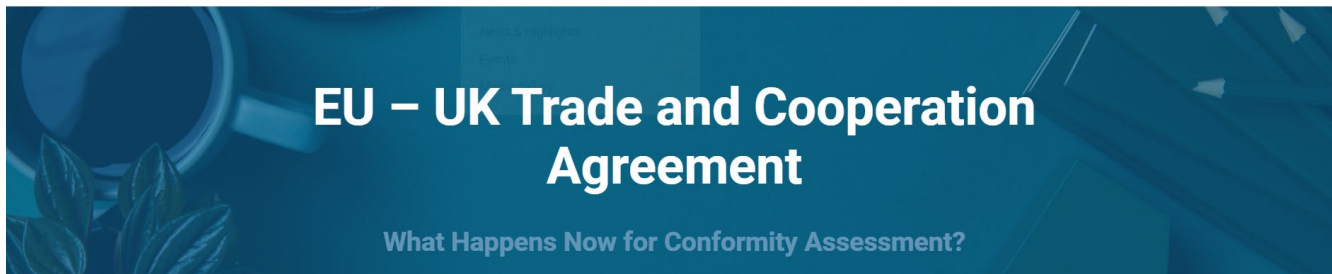


During 2020, the PASP Committee, including its Environmental Social Governance (ESG) working group and the Trade working group, coordinated the development of TIC Council's advocacy roadmap for

2020-2023, a methodology for assessing our progress with key performance indicators and advocacy scorecards to keep TIC Council members better informed regarding our activities.

The working groups of PASP have been very active in their respective fields. For example, the ESG WG is supporting regional steering committees in their advocacy work on the relevant policy topics. In particular, its focus is on the EU Green Deal, where it advocates together with EU RSC the optimal use of TIC services for achieving the Green Deal's objectives.

As ever, the Trade working group remains committed to delivering on its key mission, namely to raise the profile and relevance of the TIC sector among regulators and key stakeholders. This is achieved through the development and deployment of a global advocacy strategy in relevant matters related to international trade. In this context, we have published a horizontal position paper on [Trade Negotiations](#).



Moreover, TIC Council kept the members informed about the Brexit negotiations and its impact in conformity assessment with a dedicated [Brexit Guidance Page](#).

Accreditation & Standardisation

To succeed in reaching TIC Council's goals for the sector, accreditation and standardisation is of the utmost importance for obtaining recognition to sit at the table with other accreditation bodies. TIC Council's Accreditation Committee provides the forum where members develop their input on accreditation matters and applicable standards; through this committee, they expertly manage TIC Council's collective dialogue with the accreditation bodies.

In doing so, we have secured close collaboration with organisations such as the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC) and others. To achieve the members' goals, TIC Council has published a horizontal trade position paper. In the paper, we clearly state the need and benefits of including third-party conformity assessment bodies in all trade deals to ensure that compliance for products, processes, services, and systems is provided in the most efficient and least burdensome manner.

This page served to help members implement the new rules set with guidance documents provided by the UK government on the new legal framework for CABs operating in the UK. In addition, TIC Council also made clear our position on the issue via our blog article on the subject, stating that trade agreements should not prescribe the method of demonstrating conformity. Regulators should have the prerogative and flexibility to choose the appropriate method of assessing conformity according to their risk assessment, policy objectives, market characteristics, and confidence needs.

Ethics & Legal

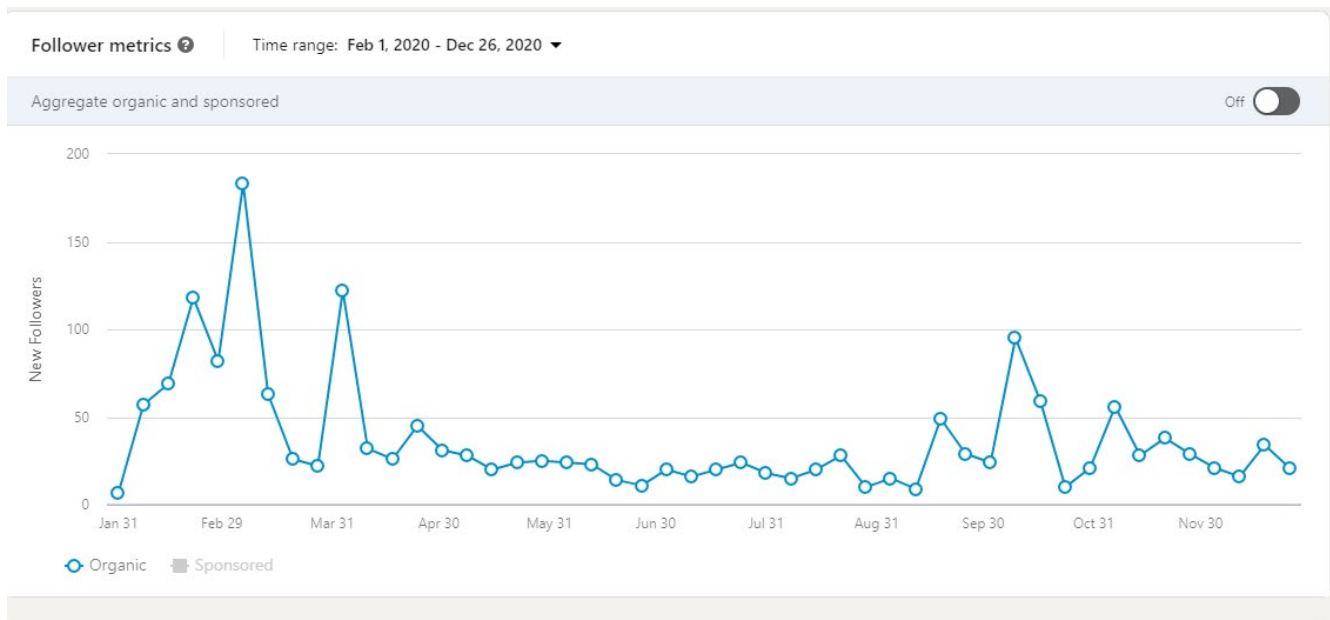
The Ethics and Legal Committee has updated the TIC Council Model General Terms of Business. It has provided members with guidance on limitation of liability and is currently working on an engagement strategy with the insurance sector. It has also continued supporting members in implementing the TIC Council Compliance Code by publishing FAQs and a Training Guide, organising a webinar, and translating the Compliance Principles into multiple languages.

In addition, the Committee has provided the Global Board and the other TIC Council Committees with vital support on legal and ethical matters relevant to the TIC sector throughout the year.



Strategic Communications

The goal of the Strategic Communications committee is to define and oversee an overall communications strategy for the TIC industry, this involves building the reputation of our sector and communicating effectively during the crisis.



LinkedIn followers growth over the year 2020

The committee has established a social media task force with social media experts who advise and guide the Secretariat's communications team in developing the social media strategy and targeting the audience. TIC Council has currently around 450 followers on Twitter and approximately 3000 followers on LinkedIn (+2350 compared to 2019), which represents a significant increase from the beginning of the 2020. Six articles have already been published in our new TIC Council Blog, which was finalised during 2020. These six articles have already received very positive feedback: our most popular blog entry, which analysed the impact of COVID, received 380 views on our website. A strategy has been established with Committee members to work closely in creating new articles with member CEOs over the course of the year.

3000

**LinkedIn
Followers**

6**Published
Blog Articles**

In addition, the Committee has been quick to support the communications of other committees. For example, it helped coordinate the distribution of the Press Release on alerts about the increasing number of non-conform imported PPEs, medical devices and fake certificates, which was picked up and published by EURACTIV. In addition, TIC

Council's Press Release on Remote Inspections was published by Tank News International in November.

The Strategic Communications Committee will continue throughout 2021 to promote TIC Council events and the development of relevant content, such as highlights and press releases.



SECTORAL COMMITTEES



Throughout the course of an extremely turbulent year the sectoral committees remained vigilant, proactively monitoring the changing landscape and responding swiftly to developments. Their aim has been to both defend the interests of the TIC sector and increase visibility to ensure that legislators and key stakeholders are made aware of the added value TIC members can bring to a vast number of sectors.

Commodities

Following the onset of the pandemic, swift action from our Commodities committee produced a Guidance Document on best practices for Petroleum Inspectors during the COVID-19 lockdown outbreak in April and the organisation of a follow-up webinar introduced by Peter Boks from Saybolt, where clarity was provided for our members as to how best to navigate the new status quo.

The committee also acted swiftly in response to the possible removal of the mandatory requirement for third party testing from US fuel regulations by sending comments to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defending the TIC sector's position. Furthermore, ensuring employee safety remains as ever a priority of the TIC sector. While a physical safety conference was not possible in 2020 due to the pandemic, TIC Council still continues working to maintain the safety momentum and will be planning safety-based webinars with its partners in the near future.



Government Services

The Government Services Committee is in the beginning stages of developing an outreach strategy to enhance the visibility of TIC Council membership and the added value of Consignment Based Conformity Assessment (CBCA) programmes. In this light, the committee is currently working on enhancing the TIC Council CBCA code of practice with elements of remote inspection to reflect contemporary market realities.

Food & Health

Throughout 2020, the Food and Health Committee has been exceptionally active: for instance, we appointed experts in two stakeholder groups of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI).

Moreover, we developed strategic partnerships with the Association of Analytical Collaboration (AOAC International) and the Global Retailer and Manufacturer Alliance (GRMA).

We also had virtual meetings with GFSI leadership and board members, as well as with European Commission officials to increase visibility of the TIC sector's value and advocate for our positions.

Furthermore, the Committee started developing an advocacy campaign for all relevant measures of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy, focusing mostly on measures relevant to labelling and information to consumers. Finally, the Committee is developing a concept note exploring the potential of a voluntary control initiative.



Industrial Life Cycle Services

The Industrial Life Cycle Services (ILCS) Committee has been highly proactive in enhancing cooperation with the most relevant parties to boost awareness of the added value of 3rd party TIC in industrial and emerging services. To further facilitate these efforts, ILCS formed the following five working groups to focus on various topics related to industrial TIC services: Aging Industrial Installations, Pressure Equipment, Qualification for Inspectors - Harmonisation of Minimum Requirements for Inspectors, Digitalisation - New Technology, Lifts, Machines and Cranes.

These working groups having been active in working towards achieving the following strategic objectives:

- Educate and raise awareness about the added value of the TIC sector towards key stakeholders;
- Liaise with the relevant stakeholders;
- Digitalisation of industrial inspections in all business areas;
- Develop common TIC methods & principles on qualification for inspectors;
- Develop common TIC positions on pressure equipment and aging installations;

The committee developed a position paper together with the EU Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and Product Testing and Certification Committee (PTCC) on the evaluation of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (EMCD) and contributed to the stakeholder consultation by participating in an interview conducted by the European Commission consultants.

Moreover, ILCS has increased visibility of the TIC sector's added value through engagement with key stakeholders, including, amongst others, the European Federation for Non-Destructive Testing (EFNDT) and Quality Council of India, and through representation on the European Commission's expert groups on lifts and machinery, and at ISO/TC 135 - NDT.



Product Testing and Certification (PTCC)

Huge strides have been made by the Product Testing and Certification committee in boosting visibility of the TIC sector and increasing awareness of the added value of TIC to industry, government and society. The initiative of the Value of TIC working group to commission the 'Value of TIC Report' developed by thinktanks Europe Economics and Steptoe offers an exciting and unprecedented opportunity to communicate to legislators and stakeholders the added value of the TIC sector through

concrete case studies. Two of the studies, namely 'Cybersecurity and Payment Cards' and 'Improving Consumer Product Safety in the Internet of Things' are closely aligned with the interests of the Conformity Assessment of Connected Devices working group and will facilitate their work to position TIC to new opportunities driven by policy related to connected devices. The report was successfully completed by the end of Q4 2020 and a dissemination plan involving launches in India, the Americas and Europe is currently in development.

PTCC has been highly active in the field of cybersecurity, presenting TIC's perspective on current and future issues in cybersecurity through various strategic channels. Examples include: a conference call with ENISA to present TIC Council and its objectives, participation in the Stakeholder Cybersecurity Certification Group (SCCG) of the European Commission and ENISA, and the creation of a subgroup within SCCG with



Value of the Testing,
Inspection and Certification
Sector

Final Report, December 2020

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conformity assessment actors. Consultations with the European Commission regarding the AI legislative proposal and the planned horizontal cybersecurity legislation have served as additional opportunities to advance the TIC sectors' interests in these fields.

To showcase the various aspects of our sectors' contribution to cybersecurity of all products, TIC Council organised diverse webinars attracting significant participation amongst members. In June, 100 members attended the webinar 'The contribution of the TIC sector to cybersecurity: implementation opportunities and challenges of the European Cybersecurity Activities' which featured speakers from ENISA, DG Connect and SGS. Similarly, in July, 130 members followed our webinar delivered by representatives of TÜV SÜD, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the EU Directorate-General responsible for European policy on food safety and health (DG SANTE) on 'TIC Sector and the Cybersecurity of Medical Devices in Europe'.



From the TIC Council Webinar "The TIC Sector and the Cybersecurity of Medical Devices in Europe", 23 July 2020

Furthermore, TIC Council released a press release around our position paper on connected devices to increase visibility. Regarding AI, the committee responded to a consultation with the European Commission

on the development of conformity assessment schemes for artificial intelligence.

The pandemic brought the issue of counterfeit goods to the forefront of public attention: as such the Anti-Counterfeiting sub-committee was highly active throughout 2020, releasing for example a white paper centred on the identification and impact of counterfeit test reports and certificates in the global marketplace. Increased engagement with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) resulted in TIC Council issuing a press release on counterfeit products, securing a speaking slot at the EUIPO annual conference and the EUIPO participation on the panel of our top level webinar attended by 280 members, which also featured speakers from the Anti-Counterfeiting Committee, EUROPOL and OLAF to discuss 'Non-conform imported PPEs, medical devices and fake certificates'.

Thank you to all our members and stakeholders for the fruitful cooperation and dialogue during 2020 and we look forward to working together and further continuing the successful dialogue in 2020.



ANNEX

More information on the committee structure, their composition and the milestones reached, as well as aggregated information about the webinars and other activities are available in the Annex, which can be accessed online via [this link](#).