

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

TIC Council is an international association representing independent testing, inspection and certification companies.

Foreword



Dr Michael Fübi
President of TIC Council

To our esteemed members and valued stakeholders,

It is my pleasure to present you with the TIC Council Annual Report for 2023.

I am glad to see that our collective efforts worldwide have fortified the Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) sector's positioning in crucial areas such as digitalisation and sustainability. Through strategic collaborations and proactive engagement within the global regulatory landscapes, we have continued to elevate the standards of quality and safety that have always defined our industry.

The achievements highlighted in this report reflect our shared vision and continued pursuit of excellence by our members. Together we are ensuring that the TIC sector remains a key building block of the global quality infrastructure ecosystem.

With my colleagues in the Global Board, we are actively driving the strategic mission of TIC Council by ensuring an aligned approach in all the geographic areas in which we are present. We are also ensuring that the global strategy is regularly revised to be certain it is still fit for purpose. We, as the Global Board, act in the interest of TIC Council members to make sure our sector is properly represented. As such, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for the dedication, expertise and vision that our colleagues bring to our collective journey, driving us forward in our mission to make the world a safer and more sustainable place for all.

As TIC Council enters its fifth year as an organisation, key regions are preparing for a change in leadership with elections in 2024. We, at TIC Council, will make sure we are ready to address the challenges and seize the new opportunities that change always brings.

Sincerely,
Dr Michael Fübi

Foreword



Hanane Taidi
Director General
TIC Council

Dear Members and Stakeholders,

2023 has been a year of strategic advancements, focusing on key topics across all TIC Council regions.

This year, we have witnessed the global implementation of several Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) policies. Our TIC Summit on carbon removals, which saw contributions from various stakeholders worldwide, proved that sustainability remains at the forefront of everyone's agenda. For this reason, in September, we published the TIC Index of Trust—a survey assessing the extent of confidence citizens have in the efforts undertaken by national governments, international institutions and companies towards sustainability.

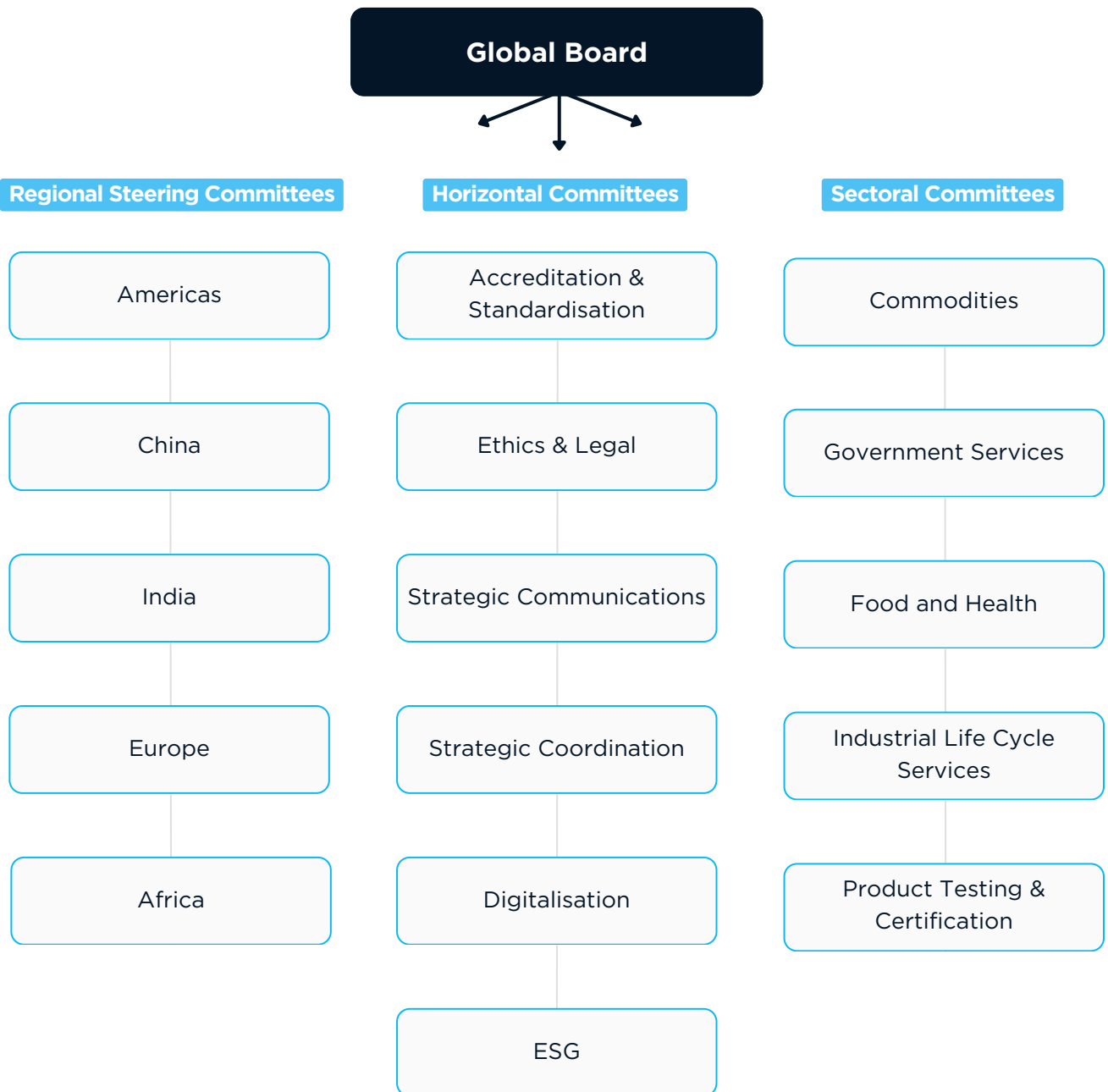
2023 was also a pivotal year for Artificial Intelligence (AI). The introduction of the global Digitalisation Working Group, among other initiatives, will not only facilitate our strategic alignment with global AI and digitalisation trends but also enable us to advocate effectively for our industry's role in ensuring digital trust and security.

Finally, 2023 marked a year of expansion for TIC Council. In October, we announced the establishment of the Africa Committee, dedicated to advancing sustainable development initiatives across the African continent. This Committee will focus on key areas such as sustainability, cybersecurity, cross-border trade and infrastructure, aiming to promote economic growth, environmental sustainability and digital resilience throughout the region.

Once again, none of this would have been possible without the unwavering commitment and support from all of our members. I am grateful to each of you for your contribution, dedication and trust in TIC Council.

Sincerely,
Hanane Taidi

TIC Council Structure



TIC Council Global Board

President's Office

President

Michael Fübi, CEO - TÜV Rheinland

Vice Presidents

Frankie Ng, CEO - SGS

Stefan Haas, CEO - TÜV AUSTRIA

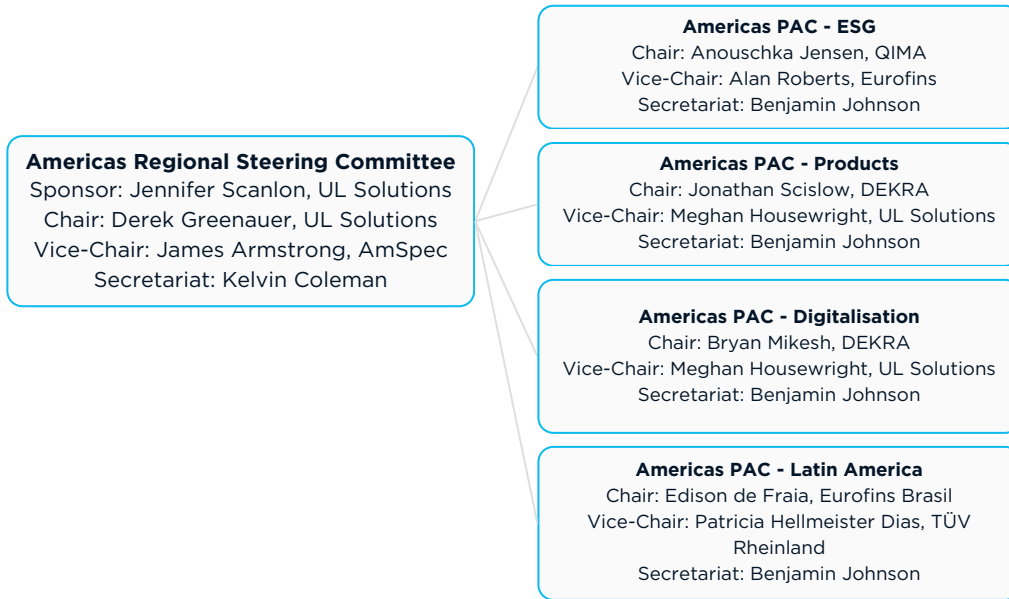
Treasurer

Peter Boks, CEO - Saybolt

Member	Company
Ian Baxter, CEO	AHK
Raj Naran, CEO	ALS
Matthew Corr, CEO	AmSpec
Philippe Maillard, CEO	APAVE
Joan Amigó, CEO	Applus
Hinda Gharbi, CEO	Bureau Veritas
Zengde Xu, Chairman	CCIC
Shahriyar Majleseini, CEO	Citadel Engineering
Evert Jan Tiktak, CEO	Control Union
Sébastien Dannaud, CEO	Cotecna
David Weinstein, CEO	CSA
Stan Zurkiewicz, CEO	DEKRA
Jo Wetz, CEO	Element
Gilles Martin, CEO	Eurofins
André Lacroix, CEO	Intertek
Pedro Matias, CEO	ISQ
Luc Leroy, CEO	Kiwa
Nicolas Cartier, CEO	Mérieux NutriSciences
Eduardo Scerpella, CEO	Pacific Control
Sebastien Breteau, CEO	QIMA
Hervé Montjotin, CEO	SOCOTEC
Raffael Schubiger, CEO	SVTI
Tomáš Hruška, CEO	SZU
Dirk Stenkamp, CEO	TÜV NORD
Johannes Bussmann, CEO	TÜV SÜD
Andrzej Ziółkowski, CEO	UDT
Jennifer Scanlon, CEO	UL Solutions
Andrew Barr-Sim, CEO	Vallis

DISCLAIMER: Please note that the composition of the Global Board and Committees refers to December 2023.

Americas



TIC Council Americas has, over the past year, directly engaged and provided comments to the United States, Mexican and Brazilian governments on a wide range of policy initiatives, in the areas of quality infrastructure, cybersecurity, product safety and compliance. In line with the strategic action plan established in 2022, TIC Council Americas expanded public and private stakeholder engagement as well as built positions on emerging areas, such as artificial intelligence and ESG reporting.

In the United States, we provided comments around several items, including the Environmental Protection Agency’s new Inflation Reduction Act Programs to Lower Embodied Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with Construction Materials and Products. This effort helped to further establish the TIC sector as an important voice when developing policy. We also provided comments and perspective on IoT Cybersecurity Labeling - to ensure a place for the TIC sector in the voluntary programme, and highlighting the sector’s capacity to ensure that the government-sponsored mark is trustworthy.

In addition, TIC Council Americas offered expert perspective into the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s AI Accountability Policy as well as the Transportation Safety Administration’s Enhancing Surface Cyber Risk Management.

TIC Council Americas had the privilege of meeting with the White House, the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department, the Department of Commerce and congressional staff in 2023 to discuss a wide range of topics, including how third-party assessment bodies can enhance the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification and other government efforts. Given that third-party conformity assessment bodies play a critical role in confirming the accuracy of claims, we also engaged with the US Product Safety Commission to influence its priorities, including battery safety, IoT and sustainability. In Congress, we have provided information from our industry and letters of support for bipartisan anti-counterfeiting and product safety legislation. An example is our engagement in the SHOP SAFE Act, which will complement the INFORM Act (put into effect last year) and incentivise greater due diligence practices and anti-counterfeiting measures on internet platforms.



We engaged with lawmakers in building knowledge of our industry on product safety in the Senate and House to establish e-mobility safety standards.

Meanwhile, our engagement with the Brazilian government has been focused on building a strong relationship with the Ministry of Development, Industry, Commerce and Services (MDIC). We have had several meetings with the General Coordinator for Quality Infrastructure and did present directly to his office and within events hosted by MDIC. Through consistent engagement, we have been able to highlight the role of third-party CABs in an array of activities, from remote inspections to a reduced burden on market surveillance bodies.

On 6 December 2023, TIC Council Americas met with key government officials of the White House to discuss cooperation on AI

TIC Council Americas was represented on the board of International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organisation (ICPHSO) and presented at the 2023 ICPHSO conference, demonstrating our depth of knowledge on pertinent topics. We also provided keynote presentations at conferences, including the NTCA - Rural Broadband Association and the Payments Innovation Alliance annual conferences.

China



In 2023, four China Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meetings were held, which allowed for extensive exchanges and discussions on industrial development and challenges among members. Newcomers to the RSC helped diversify the profile of TIC Council China.

Members appreciated efforts from TIC Council in 2023 and agreed to set aside more resources in support of future activities. With reinforced experts in various working groups, more activities are expected to be launched to increase visibility and engagement influence among policymakers and stakeholders. Several local TIC companies are in the process of membership applications.

The key priority for the Advocacy Working Group is to continue increasing the visibility of TIC Council. TIC Council China participated in high-level events organised by the China State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR), including the China Quality Conference and the Conformity Assessment Forum during the China International Fair for Trade in Services. Dr Michael Fübi and Ms Hanane Taidi were invited to deliver keynote speeches at the events.

The Commodities WG has been closely following the Decree Nr. 259 by the GAC. The Decree opens up commercial inspection to 3rd parties for garments, cement and crude oil. The WG called for the further inclusion of metal and minerals; and maintained active interaction with GAC by requesting meetings and submitting members' feedback on a regular base. In addition, a campaign focusing on safety awareness has been launched on social media.

The Digitalisation and Intelligent Manufacturing Working Group aimed at promoting members' best practices in digitalisation. A White Paper on Consumer IoT devices in China was published, which addressed the TIC sector's work in ensuring the safety and security of consumer IoT devices. The Paper was disseminated both online and at offline events involving SAMR officials, associations and TIC players. Furthermore, the Group held several discussions with SAMR and the China National Accreditation Services for Conformity Assessment (CNAS), which helped in understanding policies and seeking opportunities for promoting members' expertise in the field of digitalisation.



On 1 September 2023, TIC Council was invited to give a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the 5th China Quality Conference

The Product Testing and Certification Working Group focused on the impact of government policies on TIC businesses. Discussions on analysing and studying SAMR regulations were convened and members' collective comments on the policies were forwarded to SAMR for their reference. TIC Council advocated for its members' interests to be adopted in government policies. The Group also updated the European Commission's DG GROW on the market access challenges that members encountered in China. The Green Product Scheme is a key topic of interest to members.

The ESG Working Group aimed at raising public awareness of TIC companies which provide ESG solutions. In cooperation with local partners, an ESG webinar was launched, covering TIC services in various industries (textile, supply chain, construction, etc.) An educational campaign was launched on social media to provide concrete examples. The Group has established contacts with associations in China, such as the Petroleum and Chemical Federation (CPCIF), ESG research institutions and universities for future collaboration.

Europe

Europe Regional Steering Committee

Sponsor: Dirk Stenkamp, TÜV NORD
Chair: Vacant
Vice-Chair: Vacant
Secretariat: Martin Michelot

EU Public Affairs Committee

Sponsor: Guillaume Poullaouec, UL Solutions
Vice-Chair: Oliver Deiters, DEKRA
Secretariat: Martin Michelot

In the European Union, 2023 was the final year of the legislative frenzy before the 2024 election year, and the co-legislators made significant progress on key texts of relevance to the TIC sector, in the fields of ESG and digitalisation.

The EU Public Affairs Committee drove advocacy efforts on three main pieces of legislation in 2023: the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the Green Claims Directive, and the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA), while also paying close attention to new initiatives on the safety of toys and looking ahead to the upcoming election year.

For the CSRD, 2023 was the year in which EU Member States were slated supposed to transpose the Directive into national legislation, with each capital deciding separately whether to open the market to assurance services and the TIC sector. TIC Council reached out, directly or through national associations and/or members, to the Ministries of Finance, and participated in the organisation of events which advocated for opening the market in member states.

Thanks to these efforts, the market for the TIC sector will be open in key countries such as France, Spain, Hungary and Romania, in what has been a challenge to promote the quality infrastructure ecosystem among officials who were previously unaware of the TIC sector. The campaign on CSRD represents an important moment for TIC Council's advocacy work outside of Brussels, straight in European capitals. It highlights the importance of national associations in supporting the interests of the TIC industry.

Regarding the proposed Green Claims Directive, TIC Council has been active in ensuring that consumer-facing claims made by producers remain verified by independent verifiers, in the face of strong pressure from industry and manufacturer associations.

TIC Council's position was highlighted at a public event that was organised in the presence of the European Parliament's ENVI committee rapporteur on the file, MEP Cyrus Engerer, and the team leader on the file at the European Commission, Małgorzata Gołębiewska.

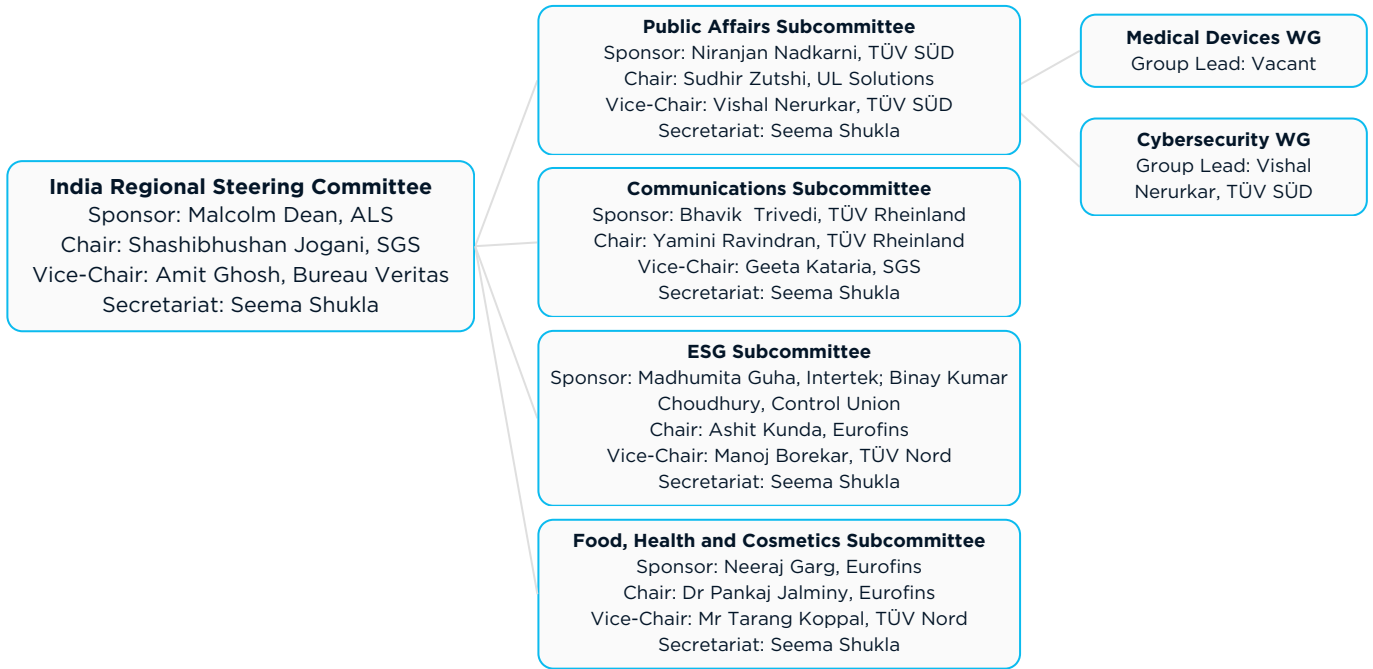
Finally, 2023 was a watershed year defining year for cybersecurity in Europe, with the adoption of the CRA on top of continued discussions on the AI Act. As elsewhere, the competence of the TIC industry was questioned by powerful stakeholders, notably the manufacturers of digital products.



On 21 September 2023, TIC Council took part in the Financial Times Cyber Resilience Summit

TIC Council aimed at better explaining how TIC services can help with regulatory compliance, through participation in various fora: the FT Cybersecurity Summit in the US and Switzerland, the CEPS Cybersecurity Summit in Brussels and other various specialised industry fora wherein TIC Council highlighted the importance of cybersecurity by design and the danger of unsecured IoT for consumers, industries and supply chains.

India



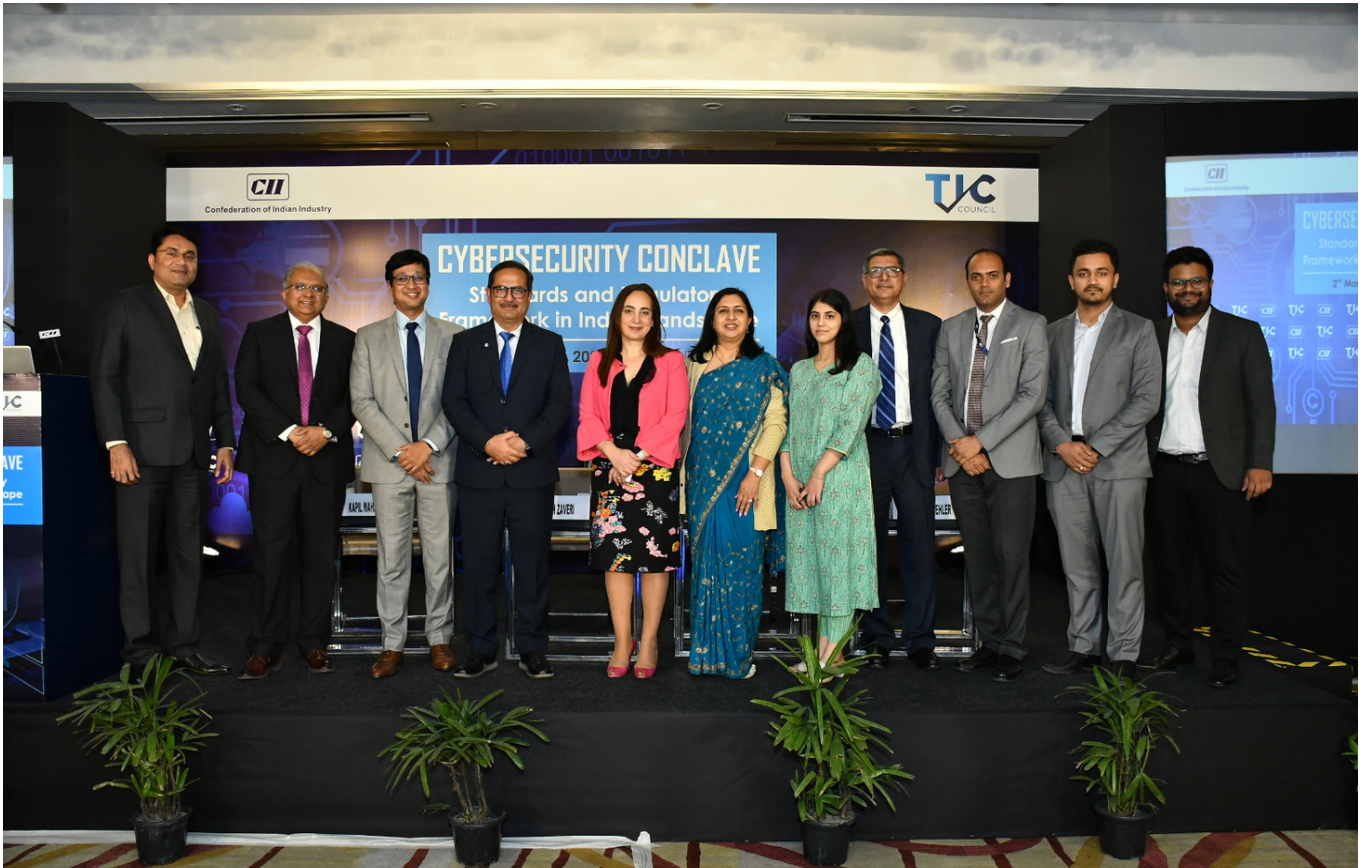
In 2023, India witnessed a strong shift in policies towards ESG and securing the digital space. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Indian Financial Markets Authority, mandated reporting in accordance with the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) for the top 1000 listed companies. SEBI published the BRSR core document in July 2023, based on nine ESG principles. The activities of the Regional Steering Committee for India focused on positioning our sector with SEBI and establishing a reputation as ESG experts, particularly as assurance service providers.

Our ESG subcommittee continued to provide its technical expertise on various policy interventions in India, including participation in stakeholder consultations on draft accreditation procedures and eligibility criteria for accredited carbon verification agencies. This also included drafting detailed procedures for compliance mechanisms under carbon credit trading schemes by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and Green Credit Scheme at the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

The committee produced a paper covering TIC Council’s Recommendation for a Promising Circular Economy Ecosystem in India. A webinar on Sustainability Reporting Standards was held together with the Confederation of Indian Industries, with approximately 100 participants.

The India Public Affairs subcommittee, responsible for implementing strategic priorities and developing advocacy plans, continued its efforts in positioning the TIC Council in quality infrastructure and digitalisation efforts.

TIC Council India strengthened its relationships with policymakers and accreditation boards. For example, in August 2023, it collaborated with the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) for a Dialogue on Building a Testing Ecosystem in India. TIC Council and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) launched a series of technical workshops to decode the quality control orders.



TIC Council India and the CII Institute of Quality jointly organised the "Cybersecurity Conclave: Standards and Regulatory Framework in the Indian Landscape" in New Delhi. The event delved into the current standards and regulatory cybersecurity framework, both in India and globally

TIC Council India made remarkable progress in highlighting the sector's value in the cybersecurity arena.

In March 2023, together with the Confederation of Indian Industry - Institute of Quality (CIIQ), TIC Council India organised an international seminar on cybersecurity.

Additionally, two webinars were completed on niche topics such as "Securing the Future: Certification and Testing in Operational Technology Cybersecurity" and "Cybersecurity: Healthcare Data Security and Controls," in collaboration with the International Society of Automation (ISA) and the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals (NABH) respectively. TIC Council has actively participated in providing feedback on a newly formulated strategy for Robotics and AI in India.

Accreditation & Standardisation

Accreditation and Standardisation Committee

Sponsor: Philippe Maillard, APAVE

Chair: Christian Priller, TÜV SÜD

Vice-Chair: Paul Moliski, Intertek

Secretariat: Ileana Martinez

TIC Council's Accreditation and Standardisation Committee provides a forum where members exchange views related to accreditation and standards relevant to conformity assessment, as well as develop input on relevant accreditation and standardisation matters.

The Accreditation and Standardisation Committee engages with international and regional accreditation and standardisation stakeholders in order to maintain and enhance the recognition of the competence of the members. The main organisations we interact with are the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the regional accreditation groups, as well as the Conformity Assessment Committee (CASCO) of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).

The Committee expertly manages TIC Council's collective dialogue and input on accreditation and standardisation matters. In 2023, the Committee met 4 times and provided input for 60+ documents and consultations from international and regional organisations. The Committee successfully increased TIC Council experts' participation in a variety of relevant international groups. This participation aims to influence the international and regional rules that members have to abide by.

Early in 2023, a TIC Council representative was elected as co-convenor of the IAF Product Certification Working Group. Additionally, TIC Council continued its successful participation in the ISO CASCO Chairman's Policy and Coordination group.

Additionally, discussions have commenced to explore potential avenues for cooperation involving other TIC Council Committees and ILAC, aiming to harness the technical expertise and market knowledge of the Vertical Committees. Conversations involving the Industrial Life Cycle Services Committee of TIC Council and Lorraine Turner, Chair of ILAC's Inspection Committee, are slated to be further developed and explored throughout 2024.

At the behest of the Global Board, and working with the Regional Steering Committee for Europe, the Accreditation and Standardisation Committee started discussing and working on solutions to address the challenges presented by certain accreditation practices which negatively impact the members.

Digitalisation Committee

Chair: Martin Schaffer, SGS

Vice-Chair: Jordi Frances Serrano, Applus +

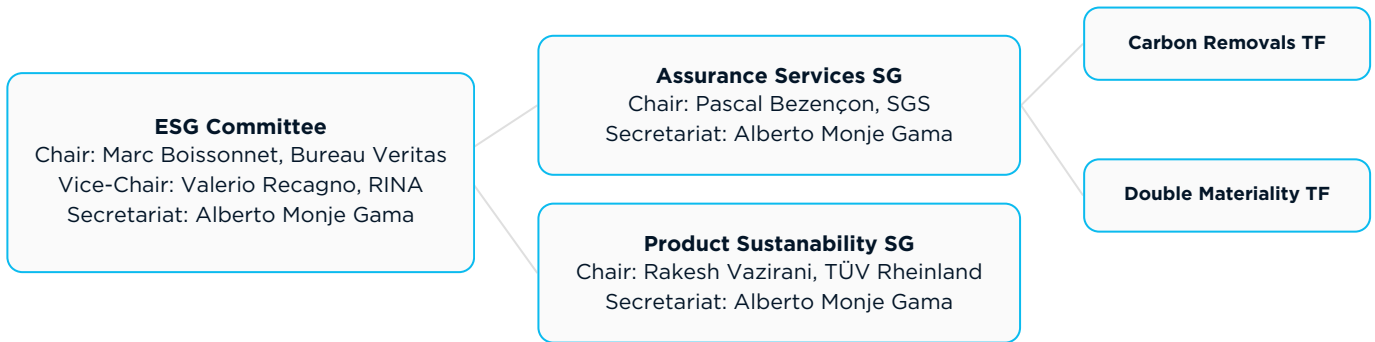
Secretariat: Mann Nguyen

November 2023 saw the launch of the global Digitalisation committee, which operates under the direct supervision of the Global Board. Sponsored by Hinda Gharbi, CEO of Bureau Veritas, the committee aims to develop and lead the positioning of TIC Council and the visibility of the sector in the increasingly important area of digitalisation.

The creation of this committee is in response to the rapid progression of digitalisation and the changing regulatory environment around the world, which have created an opportunity for alignment on the issues of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things and digital trust topics.

The committee will look at digitalisation in terms of the opportunities and challenges associated with the services provided by TIC Council members to assess the reliability and compliance of digital technologies developed or used by their customers. The topic of TIC Council members' adoption of digital technologies to improve their operations will not be part of the committee's scope.

Concrete deliverables and their outcomes will be decided on in the first quarter of 2024. The committee should develop a strategy that leverages the current regulatory environment, maximises the impact of technologies on the industry from a trusted perspective and clarifies the capabilities of the TIC sector. The strategy will then be rolled out at regional and sectoral levels, and it should enable the TIC sector to position itself as a crucial global player at the service of policymakers, industry and consumers in the ongoing enhancement of digital security and trust.



The ESG committee continued its work in 2023 by tracking the main developments around the world in terms of sustainability policy. Actions in 2023 ranged from Sustainable Finance and Non-Financial Reporting (Taxonomy Regulation, CSRD, CS3D) to Carbon Removals (Carbon Removals Certification Framework) and Product Sustainability (Green Claims Directive).

Given the importance of these legislative developments for our sector in Europe and beyond, and in the context of serving our members globally, the committee drafted leaflets on EU Green Deal measures and held educational webinars.

We also published, together with our French associated member Filiance, the Taxonomy Guidelines on the impact of the Taxonomy Regulation on TIC services - to help our members understand the list of activities that are considered Taxonomy-aligned. We engaged as well with the European Commission to explain the list of TIC activities not included in the Regulation but which could add an added value to the objectives of the text, should it be included in future revisions.

We also focused on carbon removals, a topic of global importance. The TIC Summit 2023 was dedicated to this topic, featuring speakers from the UN and the European Commission.

The committee continues its advocacy on this topic through participation in the European Commission’s relevant expert group and engagement with European co-legislators in the development of the Carbon Removals Certification Framework, the EU’s proposed Regulation on the topic.

On sustainability reporting, the committee dedicated most of its resources to the EU’s Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) as mentioned above, TIC Council where we tried to ensure that as many EU Member States as possible would open their market to Independent Assurance Services Providers to perform the sustainability reporting of companies. TIC Council continued collaboration on this file and engaged with various Member States authorities to convince them to use this option, as well as the European Parliament’s rapporteur, Pascal Durand to develop a guidance document to support companies understand the requirements of CSRD and to help them become compliant. In 2024, TIC Council will work with MEP Durand to disseminate these guidance documents in key member states to ensure the TIC sector remains relevant even if the markets are currently not opened to our sector.



On 3 February, TIC Council, on behalf of MEP Pascal Durand, hosted a breakfast at the European Parliament to discuss the implementation of the CSRD. At this event, we facilitated an exchange between key stakeholders and policymakers on the opportunities and risks to the implementation of the Directive

[See Highlights](#)

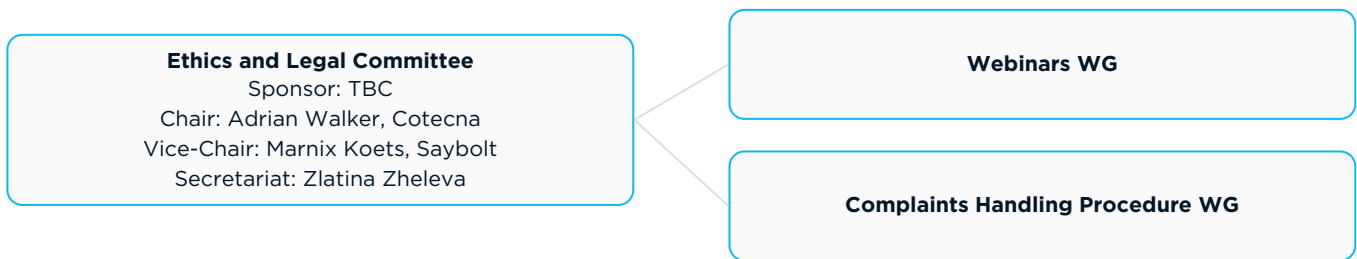
On the proposed Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D), TIC Council co-organised an event with Brussels mainstream political media Euractiv, with the participation of Dan Dionisie (Head of Unit Company Law, DG JUST, European Commission) and MEP Heidi Hautala (JURI Committee Shadow rapporteur on CS3D, European Parliament). The goal was to engage in the policy debate around the file and explain the role of the TIC sector in the application of the proposed Directive.

Finally, on the EU's draft Green Claims Directive, we strived to ensure that the legislative process would lead to a mandatory ex-ante verification system for all voluntary green claims in the market. TIC Council engaged with authorities in the European Commission and Parliament to defend the provisions of the law and ask for more legal certainty. Already mentioned under EU RSC TIC Council organised an online webinar on this topic, with the participation of MEP Cyrus Engerer (S&D, Co-Rapporteur for the ENVI Committee, European Parliament), Malgorzata Golebiewska (Team Leader Environmental Footprint, DG Environment, European Commission) and Blanca Morales (Senior Sustainable Consumption Officer, BEUC). The final legislative work on this Directive will be completed in 2024.



On 8 November 2023, TIC Council and DEKRA organised an event on the Green Claims Directive

Ethics & Legal



The Committee has updated the reporting templates (Annexes B and C to the Compliance Code Implementation Guidelines) to ensure that they are fit for purpose. The updated templates became applicable to all Full Members in 2023. It has also amended the Model Committee Terms of Reference to strengthen members' participation in TIC Council Committees.

Following the redesign of the TIC Council Complaints Handling Procedure and the revision of the TIC Council Compliance Code, Implementation Guidelines and Articles of Association, the dedicated Working Group has continued its work on finalising the Procedure. It is currently in the final stages of approval by the Ethics and Legal Committee.

The Committee has been monitoring and discussing the latest developments regarding for example organising effective compliance training, conducting internal investigations and ensuring compliance with international sanctions. Intending to offer a common approach and to address potential risks associated with sanctions compliance, it has developed a specific disclaimer that TIC Council members are free to use in their own nominations and/or test reports, should they wish to do so. It has also kept members informed of measures adopted against Russia and their impact on the TIC sector.

To guide TIC Council members through complex legal topics, the Committee has created a dedicated Working Group – tasked with organising legal seminars for the membership. In 2023, the Working Group successfully organised four training sessions on topics revolving around risk exposure of TIC companies. Well-attended, three of the sessions were dedicated to General Terms and Conditions of Business, which significantly helped TIC Council in promoting the adoption of the TIC Council model general terms and in sharing best practices amongst members.

As part of its role in supporting TIC Council committees, the Ethics and Legal Committee has reviewed several committees' publications throughout the year. These included the Metals and Minerals Field Inspection Safety Code, the Petroleum and Petrochemicals Laboratories Safety Code, the Agricultural and Vegetable Oils Field Inspection Safety Code, the updated Consignment-Based Conformity Assessment Code of Practice, the updated Petroleum Inspector Certification Programme non-member application requirements, and several technical bulletins produced by sectoral committees.

Strategic Coordination

Strategic Coordination Committee

Sponsor: David Weinstein, CSA Group

Chair: Kilian Aviles, DEKRA

Vice-Chair: Mark Quillinan, AHK; Kong Xiangyue, CCIC

Secretariat: Efthymia Ntivi

The Strategic Coordination Committee gathers the chairs and vice chairs of all Regional Steering Committees, together with public affairs experts from the membership.

The Committee provides a forum for the regional leaders to discuss topics of common interest and identify needs for global positioning.

In 2023, the Committee fulfilled this role by providing recommendations to the Global Board for activities for the next five years. The recommendations included: enriching the secretariat with technical experts, deploying paid webinars and reinforcing regional activities. Moreover, the Committee recommended the establishment of a Digitalisation Working Group and a global strategy on the matter.

The Committee formulated these recommendations in a structured workshop featuring the additional participation of members who were actively involved in the launch of TIC Council.

Strategic Communications

Strategic Communications Committee

Sponsor: Shahriyar Majleseini, CEC Engineering

Chair: Marc Boissonnet, Bureau Veritas

Vice-Chair: George Mentjox, Kiwa

Secretariat: Efthymia Ntivi

The Strategic Communications Committee aims to raise awareness of the TIC sector and support advocacy campaigns through the development and implementation of TIC Council's communications strategy.

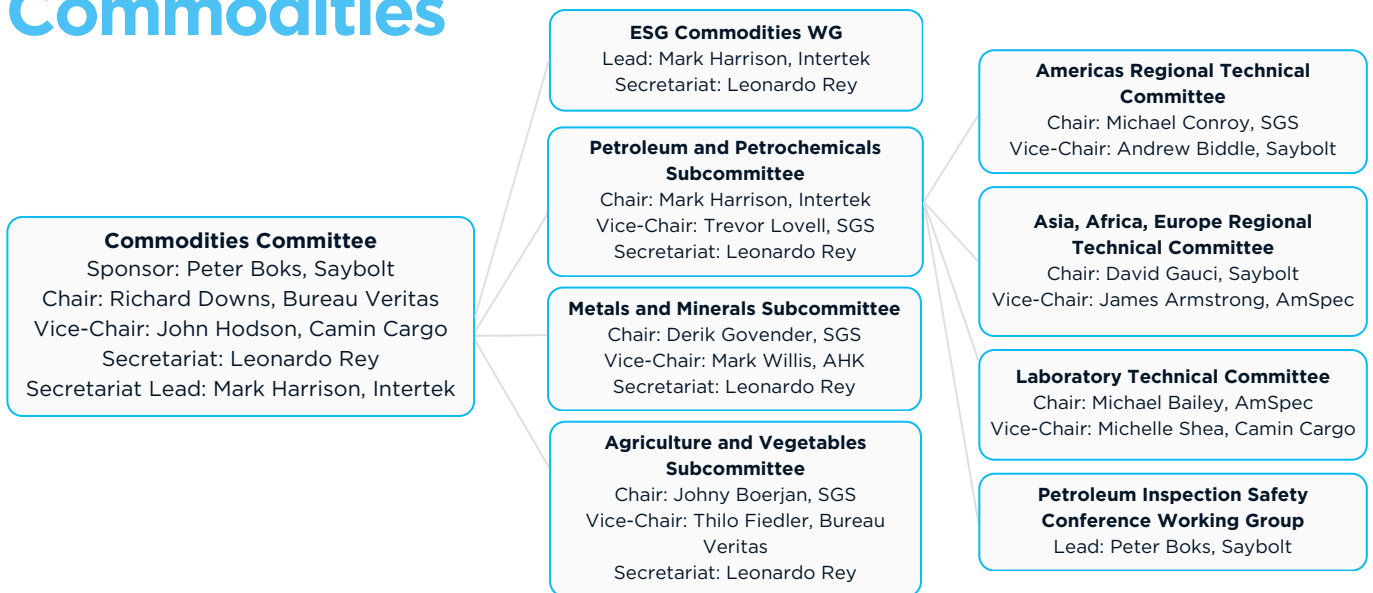
In 2023, the Committee was restructured. Its only task force now focuses on organising and promoting the TIC Summit. The task force carries out this work with the support of experts on the topic of the 2024 TIC Summit, which is artificial intelligence.

In terms of activities, the Committee:

- Developed its first annual rolling plan for communication activities, enabling members to better participate in TIC Council's communication activities.
- Working on launching a project called the “#Community of Trust” aimed at showcasing the varied faces of the TIC industry through short videos targeted at policymakers and prospective talent. The campaign is intended to be launched in Q3 of 2024.
- Launched a series of live interviews on LinkedIn called “TIC Talks” with the participation of TIC industry captains, policymakers and key regulators. TIC Talks provide a platform for insightful discussions that resonate with professionals across various industries.

[Watch Recordings](#)

Commodities



The Commodities Committee defines and oversees the overall strategy for the TIC industry in the field of commodities inspections. In 2023, it focused on advancing the position of the TIC industry as a safety and best practice leader in the commodities space, with several new entries published in its already extensive library of technical guidance documents.

The Petroleum and Petrochemicals Safety Code Part 2: Laboratory Safety has been published. This release includes the industry’s collective best practice guidelines and principles to ensure the proper management and mitigation of inherent risks associated with laboratory work in the petroleum and petrochemicals sector.

In addition to this, the Commodities Committee introduced new individual Field Inspections Safety Codes entries for the Metals and Minerals, as well as for the Agricultural and Vegetable Oils markets. Furthermore, an updated Version Two Petroleum and Petrochemicals Field Inspections Safety Code has been released.

All Codes of Practice from Sectorial Committees under Commodities have undergone thorough reviews and updates, looking to ensure that the general standards for service delivery by TIC Council members in the execution of their duties are consistently maintained at the highest quality level.

The Petroleum and Petrochemicals subcommittee released a new Technical Bulletin, focusing on the regulation of the relationship between independent inspection companies and third-party loss control companies. This latest addition contributes to the expansive library of commodities technical guidance, of which further 10 Technical Bulletins have been reviewed and updated this year.

In its efforts to set and maintain a benchmark of knowledge and skill for industry inspectors, the Commodities Committee has further reviewed and brought up-to-date the over 500 questions of the Petroleum Inspector Certification Programme, and further improved it by developing 80 scenario-based test questions. These are meant to replicate real-life scenarios which are likely to be encountered by inspectors working in the field, and to assess whether the candidate can determine the most appropriate course of action as part of their certification.

Lastly, the Committee has established an ESG Commodities Working Group, tasked with promoting the importance and value of independent ESG verification and certification services for production and supply chains in the commodities sector. The group is currently working to create written materials on key topics that will help position the industry as a leader in technical competency and quality services.



The International Energy Safety Conference brought together key stakeholders in the oil and gas industry to address critical safety concerns and promote ethical practices

On 19 September 2023, we held the fourth edition of the TIC Council Safety Conference, at the SS Rotterdam Hotel in the Netherlands. The conference was organised by TIC Council in partnership with BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil and Shell. Over 70 delegates from the O&G industry were in attendance.

The agenda encompassed various subjects, including an introduction to TIC Council's Safety Code part 2, focusing on laboratories, discussions on the safe handling and awareness of alternative fuels under the theme "Fueling the Future," an exploration of spectroscopic examination of tanker wash waters, revisiting "Back to Basics" protocols, and shedding light on the behavioral aspects of safety.

During the day, participants engaged in key discussions to elaborate on the topics of the programme. Safety concerns associated with new and alternative fuels, as well as the promotion of emerging and safer technologies, were at the forefront of the exchanges. Additionally, there was an emphasis on ensuring that the TIC industry maintains and strengthens its role in upholding safety responsibilities and implementing best practices.

Food and Health

Food and Health Committee

Sponsor: Gilles Martin, Eurofins
Chair: Olivier Coppey, SGS
Vice-Chair: Ulrich Kühle, Eurofins
Secretariat: Alberto Monje Gama

Health Subcommittee

Chair: Mark Rogers, SGS
Vice-Chair: Vacant
Secretariat: Alberto Monje Gama

The Food and Health Committee continued its job to represent the TIC sector in the food and health industries. In order to gain visibility and better engagement with authorities, TIC Council became an official stakeholder of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), which will potentially bring good collaboration in the future.

The Food and Health Committee launched a new campaign in 2023, which will run throughout 2024, after contacting several authorities in various EU member states to allow for the market surveillance of food testing to be outsourced to the TIC industry.

The Committee also reached out to authorities to alert them of the problems that have appeared with the import of samples from various countries after the approval of Regulation 2019/2122.

Industrial Life Cycle Services



The Industrial Life Cycle Services Committee defines and oversees the overall strategy for the TIC industry in the field of industrial inspections, looking to demonstrate the added value of TIC services toward key stakeholders.

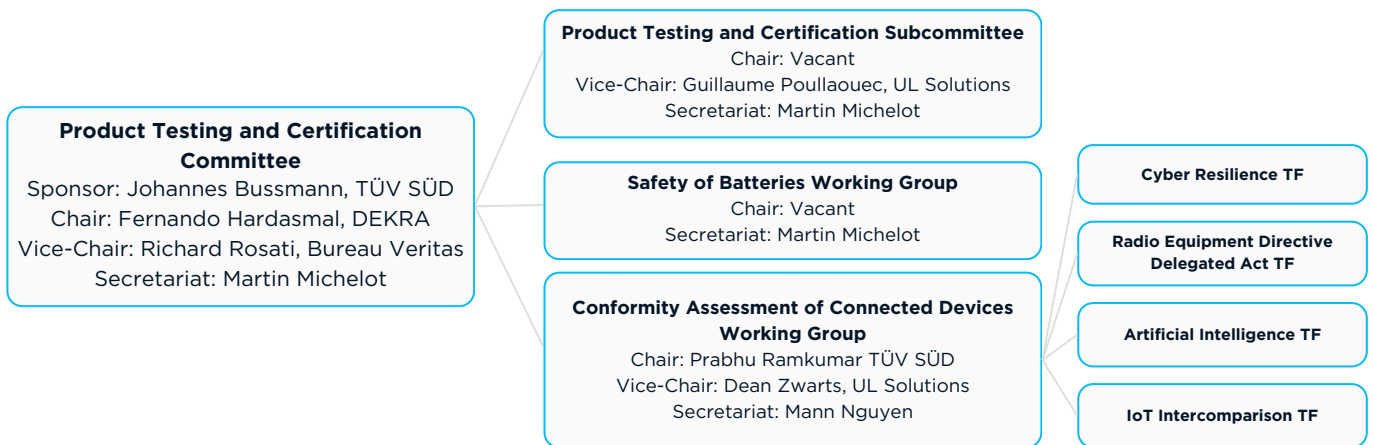
In 2023, the Committee kept its focus on the development of best practice guidance documents. The second ILCS Technical Bulletin, titled "Checklist to Assess the Viability of Remote Activities of Conformity Assessment," was published. This document aims to offer clear and concise guidelines for evaluating whether or not a specific conformity assessment activity meets the necessary requirements for a safe and effective remote execution.

Further progress is being made in the development of upcoming technical guidance documents within the ILCS. The Digitalisation Working Group is actively working on a document outlining the minimum requirements for digital reporting. Simultaneously, the Lifts, Machines and Cranes Working Group is crafting a bulletin to guide stakeholders on what constitutes a Major Alteration of Lifts under the Lifts Directive, aiding in determining when a re-certification of the installation is necessary. Both documents are anticipated to be released in 2024.

The Hydrogen Taskforce, established the previous year, has initiated its work, focusing on assessing the current market situation regarding challenges and opportunities related to the transportation and storage of hydrogen in both new and repurposed pipelines. Ongoing discussions are in progress regarding the potential creation of technical guidance on this matter.

The Committee is additionally intensifying its commitment to industrial safety. The Lifts, Machines and Cranes Working Group is in the process of developing a template for internally sharing industrial accident reports, creating a space for the exchange of experiences and lessons learned. Additionally, the ILCS is establishing a group dedicated to exploring topics related to aging industrial installations, with a mission to identify and address gaps in industrial safety, facilitating discussions with regulators and other relevant stakeholders.

Product Testing and Certification



The Product Testing and Certification Committee (PTCC) continued to focus on best practices in the consumer testing field while looking ahead at future challenges for the industry and identifying communications opportunities to highlight the added value of the TIC sector.

The PTCC oversaw a new iteration of the market study, testing widely sold consumer goods against industry or regulatory safety standards. The 2023 study focused on the US market, where the independent laboratory found that fewer than 1% of the products tested were not in compliance with the standards, as compared to 23% on the EU market, where self-declaration of conformity remains prevalent. The results indicate increased safety in a market where a role is given to independent third-party certification before a product is placed on the market.

To keep the study relevant for new product uses, the PTCC also focused on toys, and the results revealed that toys sold online in the USA exhibited a 14% failure rate for chemical contents—such as lead, cadmium, heavy metals and phthalates, a worryingly high rate for the most vulnerable consumers. Finally, given their increasing usage, the PTCC also tested a small subset of battery packs and e-bike batteries, with 4/10 e-bike batteries tested showing major non-compliances and 3/10 battery packs tested showing major non-compliance.

Such results triggered the PTCC to form a specific working group on the safety of batteries, with the aim of collecting data, both open source and from laboratories, in order to make the case for a stronger role for third-party type testing of batteries, notably aimed at regulators in urban centres and at transportation authorities, who have borne the brunt of the risk regarding this issue.

Finally, the Conformity Assessment of Connected Devices WG was very active on all topics related to the cybersecurity of IoT and AI, finalising the White Paper on the Cybersecurity of Connected Devices and developing a paper on the role that the TIC sector will play in securing the development of artificial intelligence.



On 15 March 2023, World Consumer Rights Day, TIC Council hosted a webinar to present the results of the 2022 Market Study and draw lessons from best practices around the world.

TIC Summit 2023

"How to reach net zero in an uncertain world: Will the EU's ambitious policy framework speed up decarbonisation across the globe?"



On 25 May we held our annual summit in Brussels. This year's edition focused on the chief societal challenge that the world faces, namely the race to decarbonise the global economy and limit global warming to 1,5-2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, per the 2015 Paris Agreement. [See Highlights](#)

The discussion focused on three main questions: How will the EU Green Deal encourage similar action from regulators in other regions, its implications for companies worldwide, and the challenges and risks of implementation.

Distinguished speakers at the summit included **Elisabeth Türk**, Director of Cooperation at the UN's Economic Commission for Europe; **Ray Hammond**, Futurologist; **Jenny Scanlon**, CEO and President of UL Solutions; **Wu Gang**, Deputy Ambassador of China to Belgium; **Christian Holzleitner**, Head of Unit for Land Economy and Carbon Removals at DG CLIMA; **Caroline Ploux**, Senior Manager for Public Affairs at Mars; **Francesca Cerchia**, Global Manager for Audit & Compliance at SGS; and **Anuj Saush**, ESG Center Leader for Europe at The Conference Board. Their insights enriched our discussions and provided valuable perspectives on the challenges and opportunities ahead in the journey towards sustainability and decarbonisation.

Publications

Publication name

TIC Council Proposal for Cyber Resilience Act
Position Paper

[View](#)

Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition
Position Paper

[View](#)

Agricultural and Vegetable Oils Inspection Markets
Safety Code

[View](#)

Field Inspection Safety Codes for the Metals and Minerals
Safety Code

[View](#)

A Promising Circular Economy in India
Position Paper

[View](#)

Market Study 2022
“Consumer Goods in the EU: Persisting Safety Issues”
Report

[View](#)

Safety Code Part 1: Field Inspections
Safety Code

[View](#)

TIC Council & Filiance Guidelines to Align Taxonomy-related Disclosures of TIC Companies
Guidelines

[View](#)

Publications

Publication name

TIC Index of Trust
Report

[View](#)

The Petroleum Committee Code of Practice
Code of Practice

[View](#)

Fullness of Pipelines Between Marine Vessels and Shore Facilities
Bulletin

[View](#)

Access to External Floating Roofs
Bulletin

[View](#)

Vessel Experience Factors
Bulletin

[View](#)

Composite Samples Prepared Outside the Laboratory
Bulletin

[View](#)

Upper limit for Hydrogen Sulphide
Bulletin

[View](#)

Sampling Under Restricted or Closed Conditions (static sampling)
Bulletin

[View](#)



TIC Council is a global association representing over 100 international independent third-party testing, inspection, certification and verification organisations. Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) companies cater to a diverse range of industry sectors and a variety of standards and legislation. The industry represents an estimated one million employees across the world with annual sales of approximately USD 200 billion.