TIC Council Annual Report

2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO OUR MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS 1

Foreword from Dr. Michael Fübi, President of TIC Council 1

Foreword from Hanane Taidi, Director General of TIC Council 3

TIC COUNCIL ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS 2021 5

Our Webinars 6

The Value of TIC Report 7

Our Anti-Counterfeiting Awareness Campaign 9

TIC COUNCIL STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES 10

Introduction 10

The 2022 Global Board and Sponsors 11

The TIC Council Committee Structure 12

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS 13

Americas 13

China 15

Europe 16

India 18

HORIZONTAL ACHIEVEMENTS 19

Public Affairs & Strategic Priorities 19

Accreditation & Standardisation 21

Ethics & Legal 22

Strategic Communications 23

SECTORAL COMMITTEES 24

Commodities 24

Government Services 26

Food & Health 26

Industrial Life Cycles Services 27

Product Testing & Certification (PTCC) 28

ANNEX 30

To our Members and Stakeholders

Foreword from our President, Dr. Michael Fübi

Dear Readers,

The year 2021 continued to be a very demanding year for all of us, yet equally with strong growth in the TIC sector. Despite the complications that come with a pandemic, I could not be more proud of TIC Council's achievements and how our members have powered through to raise awareness of the sector, following two very challenging years.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and determination of our Committees, Working Groups, Task Forces and, most importantly, our team.

With now 100 member companies and counting, we expect that number to keep increasing. Building on this growth, we continued to raise our visibility among policymakers and stakeholders, hosting a total of eighteen webinars and publishing twelve articles on our blog.

This year also marks five years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement. As world leaders gathered in Glasgow for the COP26 last November to renew their commitments to take action on climate change, we have deployed a particular focus on environmental, social and governance (ESG) topics.

Throughout the year, we have developed and promoted our positions on Energy Efficiency Directive, Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, Farm to Fork Strategy, Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and Taxonomy Regulation. Following a series of fruitful meetings we had with policymakers, we have managed to communicate how the TIC sector may significantly contribute to the implementation of the EU Green Deal and to its success.

"None of TIC Council's achievements would have been possible without the hard work and determination of our Committees, Working Groups, Task Forces and, most importantly, our team. "

Our approach to environmental and social issues is becoming increasingly integrated in the work we do across the sector and the regions where our members are present. Reflecting on this trend, we have taken the decision to integrate this topic into this year's annual summit, which will be focused on the best practices to ensure transparency and sustainability in supply chains.

And finally, if the last two years have taught us anything, it is that even in challenging circumstances we continue to build solid partnerships. This is only possible thanks to the trust our members have placed in us. I sincerely thank you for that.

We look towards the future with optimism, as we prepare for even more sustainable growth within the TIC sector.

Dr. Michael Fübi
TIC Council President

Foreword from our Director General, Hanane Taidi

Dear Readers,

Since our last annual report, our organisation has continued to make a global name for itself. For starters, we have further expanded our offices, both in India and China, and are excited to have two new additions to the team to help us further promote our organisation in these regions.

We have also dedicated ourselves in further promoting our sector with the recent publication highlighting the "Value of the TIC Sector". Developed jointly by international law firm Steptoe and London-based consultancy Europe Economics, the study looks at the various ways that the sector can benefit different kinds of stakeholders and provide a few case studies to demonstrate that the value arising from the sector can be significant.

In addition, with the support of the anti-counterfeiting sub-committee, our first anti-counterfeiting campaign, "Check the Fake and Be Safe", was finally launched at the end of last year. Through the misadventures of the Mishap family, we want to show consumers the dangers that counterfeited products with fake certification marks can pose to their health and their safety.

"I would like to thank everyone for their determination and professionalism in overcoming such challenges during the last two years. None of TIC Council's performance and achievements would have been possible without your hard work and commitment."

As we slowly approach our third anniversary in June, we have been very busy at work organising our annual summit, entitled "Journeying Towards Sustainable Supply Chains: is Greenwashing Avoidable?". This summit will be just the starting point of TIC Council's own journey towards sustainability, and a perfect window to display the amazing results of our advocacy efforts on topics relating to ESG.

Moreover, this will be our first in-person event in two years, and I am looking forward to seeing so many of you face-to-face.

As we look back on another year, I am proud of TIC Council's performance and what we have been able to achieve. I would like to thank everyone for their determination and professionalism in overcoming such challenges during the last two years. We would not have reached these important milestones without your hard work and commitment.

Thank you.

Hanane Taidi
TIC Council Director General

TIC Council Activity Highlights 2021

Webinars

- In 2021 we held 18 webinars on a variety of subjects, ranging from remote conformity assessment activities to the dangers of greenwashing, from health at the workplace to industry 4.0.
- These online events included speakers from notable stakeholders, industry and government players, among which: the European Commission, ANEC, the OECD, SIEMENS, GFSI, IAF, UNIDO and APAC.
- Our most successful event in 2021 was held on February 16th, with 334 participants to our panel on Remote Conformity Assessment Activities

Social Media

2021 once again confirms positive trends in terms of the growth of our social media platforms. On Twitter, we now have 609 followers, while on Linkedin currently 4.961 people follow our content (+1800 followers from 2020)

Publications

We have continued to be well established in our strategic activity by publishing informative documents and clear positions, thanks to:

- 48 US and EU weekly updates
- 12 blog articles
- 12 monthly newsletters
- 11 position papers
- 3 sets of recommendations
- 2 full reports on our activities and on our sector

2021 in numbers

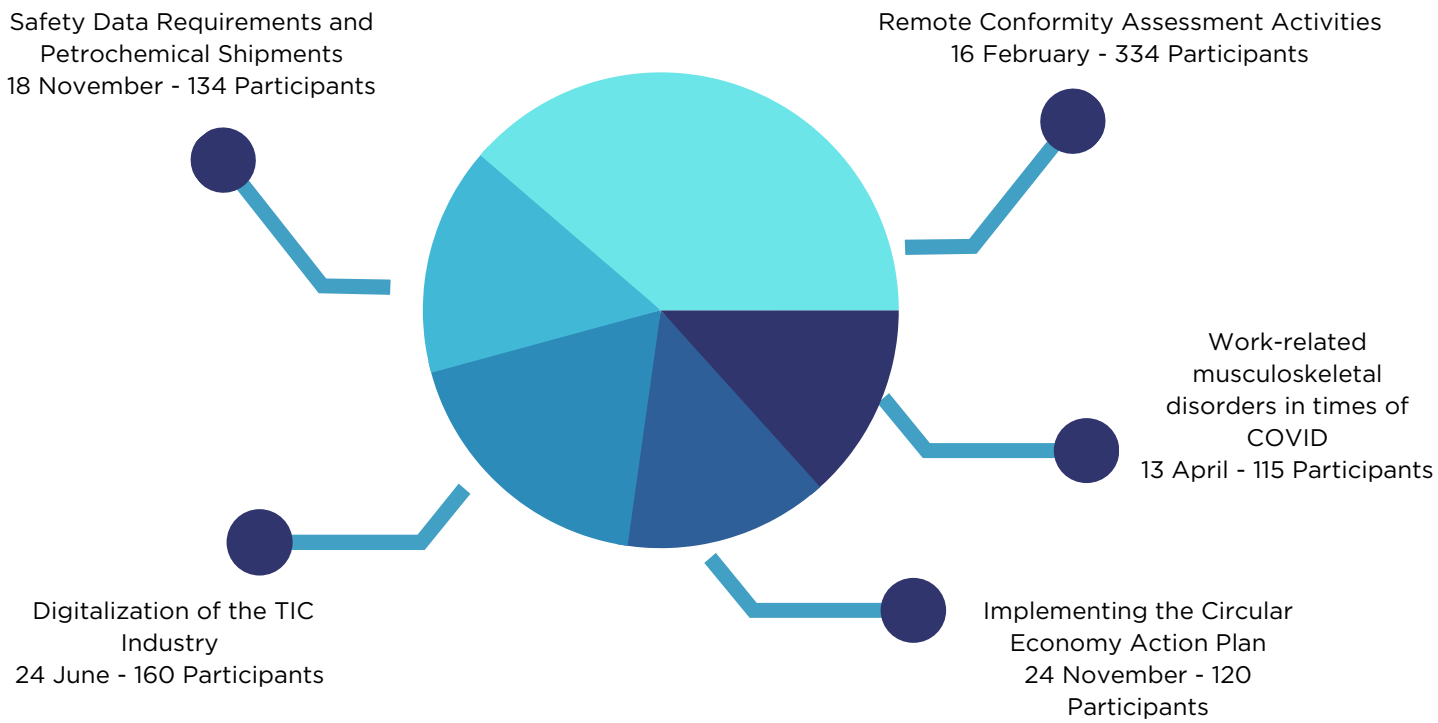
1300+ Participants

3500+ Registrants

68 Speakers

18 Webinars

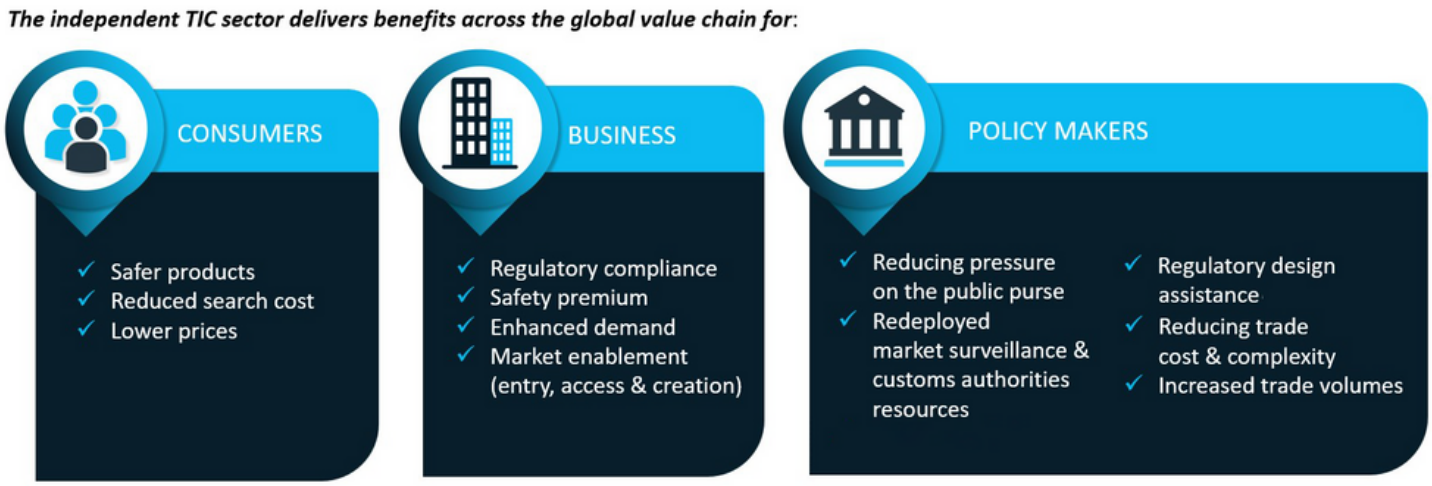
Top 5 Webinars



The Value of TIC Report

Introduction

We are delighted to have published in June 2021 our report exploring the impact that the global Testing, Inspection and Certification sector has had, and continues to have, on society at different levels. Jointly developed by international law firm Steptoe and London-based consultancy Europe Economics, with contributions from the entire TIC Council membership, this document is the most comprehensive study of the TIC sector to date, showcasing via three different case studies the substantial added value arising from it. The study was disseminated to relevant stakeholders and policy makers and was presented by our staff in multiple occasions via our webinars and during external conferences and events.

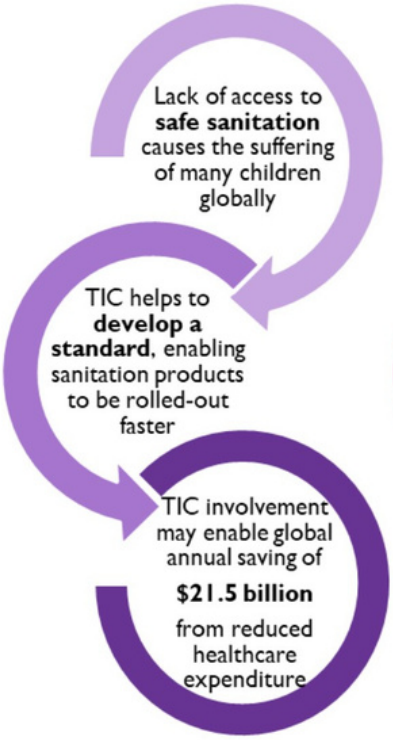


The report illustrates how the TIC sector can empower consumers, drive confidence and support policymakers to address critical public policy challenges. TIC services achieve this through a combination of unrivalled technical expertise and the provision of high quality services. As a result, consumers can be confident that products and services have met the relevant health, safety, environmental and performance requirements. Not only that, business can also achieve higher levels of regulatory compliance, realize cost savings, and can more effectively navigate complex global markets. Last but not least, TIC can drive compliance on a global scale, working with relevant authorities worldwide in the fight against rogue operators.

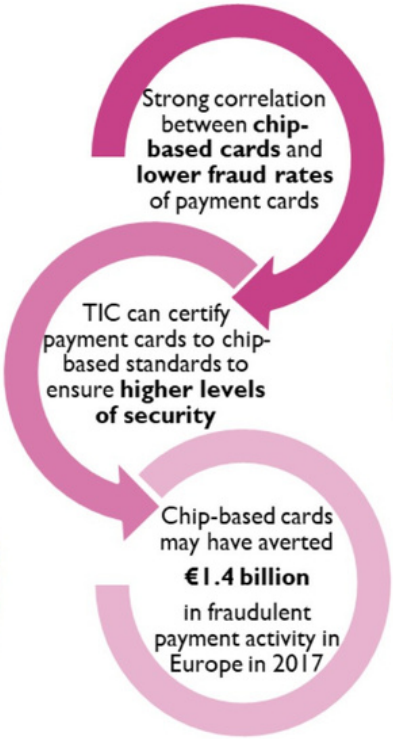
The TIC Market in Numbers*

The Three TIC Case Studies*

Case Study 1: Reinventing the toilet



Case Study 2: Cybersecurity and payment cards



Case Study 3: Consumer safety in the Internet of Things

*Source: Europe Economics & Steptoe, Value of the Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) sector, June 2021

Anti-Counterfeiting Awareness Campaign

TIC Council launched its anti-counterfeiting campaign back in December 2021, with the purpose of making consumers more aware of the dangers that counterfeited products with fake certification marks can pose to their health and their safety.

Following the Misadventures of the Mishaps, an alien family just landed on Earth, and thus not very familiar with the local habits and traditions, especially when it comes to day-to-day appliances. They are not aware to the world of counterfeiting and thus not able to recognise an authentic certification mark. Due to this lack of understanding, the family faces various hazards that can put their lives in danger. The idea is to show, through daily life situations and holidays celebrations, how these counterfeited products can be dangerous for us and our families.

TIC Council Structure and Objectives

Introduction

The strategic priorities and objectives of TIC Council were finalized during 2020 and implemented over the course of 2021. Thanks to a now fully defined array of committees tackling horizontal, regional and sectoral priorities, TIC Council made laudable progress in raising key issues and the visibility of our sector among policy makers and stakeholders, as well as in developing its influence across regulatory bodies and other interested parties.

For 2022, we aim to focus on achieving global alignment of our positions whenever possibile, thanks to the opening of brand-new branches in both India and China, something which will allow us to have that fully global reach that we have sought since the days of IFIA and CEOC.

(Left-Right): Meeting with an official of the Shanghai Public Security Bureau with Bruce Wei, Chairman of TIC Council China following the recent opening of our China office

None of this would have been possible without the cooperation and efforts of our membership and regional committees, who have worked hard, together with local authorities and stakeholders, towards these results.

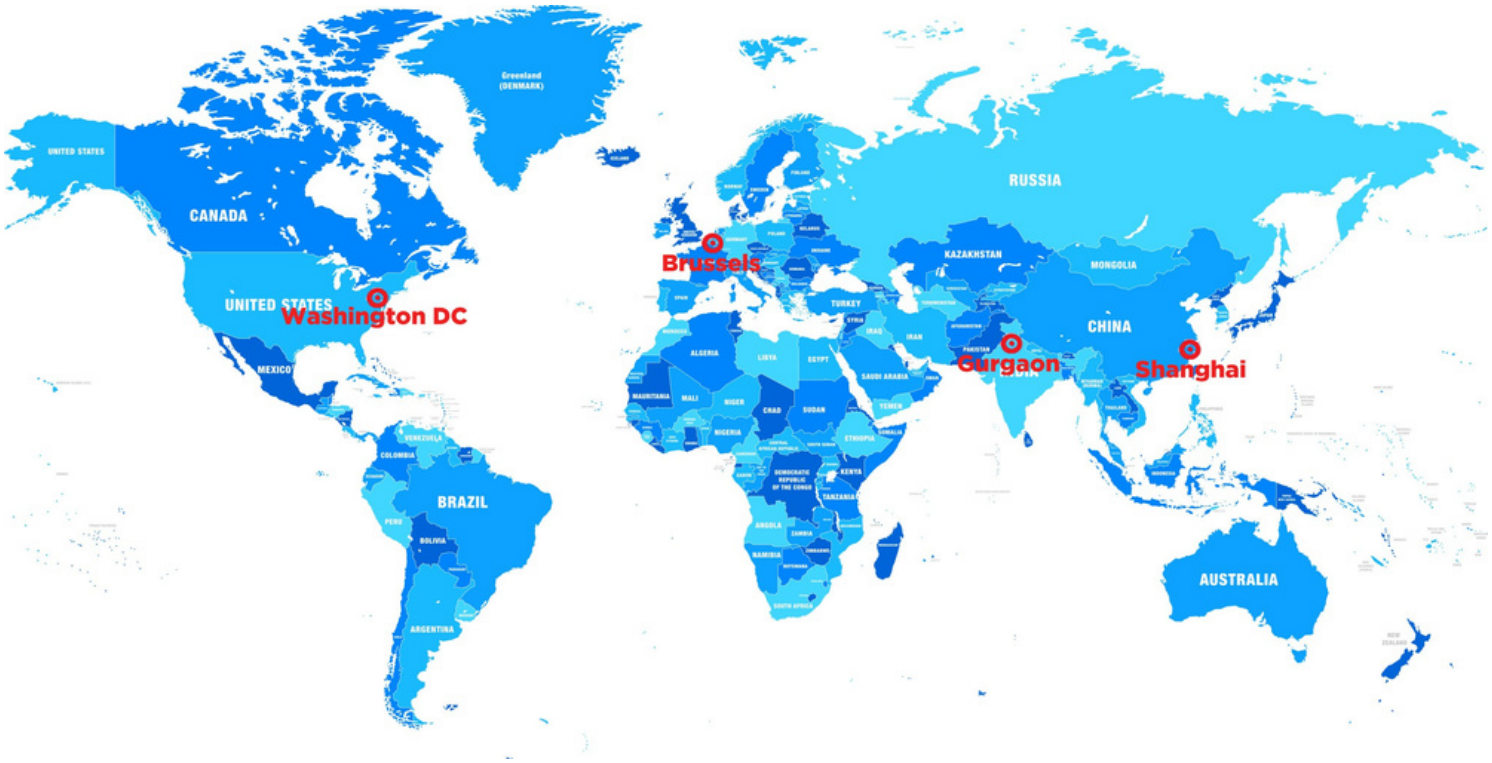
The 2022 Global Board and Sponsors

Member	Company
Philippe Maezelle, CEO	Alfred H Knight
Raj Naran, CEO	ALS
Philippe Maillard, CEO	APAVE
Fernando Basabe Armijo, CEO	Applus
Karina Engström Nielsen, Director General	Baltic Control
Didier Michaud-Daniel, CEO	Bureau Veritas
Zengde Xu, Chairman	CCIC
Evert Jan Tiktak, CEO	Control Union
Sébastien Dannaud, CEO	Cotecna
Stefan Kölbl, CEO	DEKRA
Jo Wetz, CEO	Element
Gilles Martin, CEO	Eurofins
André Lacroix, CEO	Intertek
Pedro Matias, CEO	ISQ
Paul Hesselink, CEO	Kiwa
Sebastien Breteau, CEO	QIMA
Ugo Salerno, CEO	RINA
Hervé Montjotin, CEO	SOCOTEC
Raffael Schubiger, CEO	SVTI
Tomáš Hruška, CEO	SZU
Dirk Stenkamp, CEO	TÜV NORD
Axel Stepken, CEO	TÜV SÜD
Andrzej Ziółkowski, CEO	UDT
Jennifer Scanlon, CEO	UL
Andrew Barr-Sim, CEO	Vallis
Bernard de Cannière, CEO	Vinçotte

Horizontal Committees	
Sponsor	Committee
Ugo Salerno, RINA	Accreditation & Standardisation
TBD	Strategic Coordination
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

The TIC Council Committee Structure

Our Global Reach



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

As we reach out globally to boost the visibility and relevance of our sector, our regional committees have been hard at work in order to promote our actions and liaise with governments and stakeholders across old and new markets.

In 2021, TIC Council activities in the Americas gained extensive traction thanks to several notable successes in our advocacy outreach and influencing strategies. Firstly, our cooperation with relevant stakeholders in the region is stronger than ever, as we presented a panel at the North American International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO) conference in February, at the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) hearing on the oncoming strategic priorities, and at workshops hosted by the CPSC, NIST, and by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and cybersecurity.

We successfully influenced legislation on cybersecurity and anti-counterfeiting thanks to our strong activity on these two topics, and in particular thanks to our webinars on Remote Conformity Assessment and IoT safety in consumer products and on a press release issued last November in support of up-to-date legislation on these issues.

In Latin America, TIC Council received several recognitions and is becoming ever more widely known among both industry and governments, as we signed in June 2021 a Memorandum of Understanding with the Consejo Mexicano de Normalización y Evaluación de la Conformidad (COMENOR), which is a huge step forward in our advocacy capabilities in the continent. Alongside this, we presented the results of our much-anticipated "Value of TIC study" at several stakeholder conferences and to Mexican and Brazilian authorities. We also participated at the Brazilian National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (INMETRO) public hearings on the new Regulatory Model, reinforcing the value of third-party conformity assessment and calling for continued transparency and stakeholder participation.

And last but not least, we were delighted to learn that we were invited to sit on the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) 21st Century Customs Framework (21CCF) Task Force, which provided TIC Council Americas with a unique opportunity to advocate for changes in order to address counterfeiting issues affecting TIC.

2021 was a landmark year for TIC Council China, as in December we celebrated the opening of our representation office in Shanghai. For this incredible achievement, we would like to thank all the parties involved, both at the governmental level and within the TIC Council China Regional Steering Committee, for their strong support and assistance. By expanding our reach and engagement with the national stakeholders in this new region, we will create even more awareness about the valuable role and the expertise that the TIC sector, as a provider of third-party conformity assessment services, can play in ensuring safety and compliance.

In other news, TIC Council was invited in September to speak at the China International Fair for Trade In Services (CIFTIS) Digitalization Forum. Presentations by Hanane Taidi, Martin Michelot & Ivan Huang (head of the Digitalization Working Group of the regional committee) were well received and helped give exposure to the TIC sector and to TIC Council. Our reach out activity continued further, with the China International Import Expo (CIIE), where our Director General was invited to participate as a keynote speaker.

Finally, starting from February 1st, 2022, we have warmly welcomed Ms. Min Xu as the Executive Director of TIC Council China. We are confident that Ms. Xu will play a key part in strengthening TIC Council's activities and strategies in the region.

The heavy legislative agenda driven by the European Commission has served as a guide for TIC Council's activities in Europe. In 2021, the activities focused mostly on developing the sector's position on the series of new initiatives announced by the European Commission on ESG issues, while also being active in the fields of digitalization and traditional product safety.

In the field of Environmental, Social and Governance, TIC Council has taken actions to position and defend the interests of the sector in topics related to new obligations for economic operators in terms of:

- Sustainability reporting, and on the taxonomy of activities contributing to sustainable development.
- Energy efficiency, the energy performance of buildings, and the EU's upcoming tax on carbon imports (the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism)

In digitalization, TIC Council has continued to be active in the European Commission's expert group (the Stakeholder Cybersecurity Certification Group) , which was tasked with implementing the EU's Cybersecurity Act. The group has issued opinions on the final development stages of a certification scheme for cloud services and on the initial stages of a certification scheme for the cybersecurity of 5G networks.

Additionally, TIC Council has been selected to sit on the EU's cybersecurity agency's expert group on the market for cybersecurity certification and on the expert group planning the annual cybersecurity certification conference organized by the agency.

In the realm of product safety, 2021 was focused not only on issues of sustainabilty, but also on the development of a response on the creation of a framework for non-harmonized products that will impact the safety of consumers, and also on the first steps of the revision of the New Legislative Framework, which encompasses all legislation covering harmonized products, especially the aspects of digitalization but also the existing challenges around accreditation.

In addition, Martin Michelot, Executive Director of TIC Council Europe, was invited to speak at the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee of the European Parliament at two different opportunities:

- On 26 May 2021, speaking on the "Implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA): challenges for the integrity of the Single Market and the Customs Union", where he presented the TIC Council's view on the challenges that TIC sector laboratories face when importing samples from the UK under the current regime.
- On 27 September 2021, speaking on "Consumer protection and automated decision-making tools in a modern economy", where he presented the view of the TIC sector on the challenge of certifying artificial intelligence and ensuring a safe and secure AI for EU consumers.

In 2021, TIC Council India's Regional Steering Committee approved the formation of new subcommittees, reviewing the priority areas of action. New subcommittees focused on Communications, Commodities, ESG, Food and Health have been formed between the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022. The priority areas of activity for the next few years include medical devices, telecom products, drones, ESG-related topics and to promote the value of TIC sector.

TIC Council India recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with one of the largest industry associations in the India Institute of Quality, the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). The purpose of this MoU is to improve the quality infrastructure framework in India by undertaking joint activities in the TIC sector, such as exchanging best practices, developing joint research initiatives and organising informative programmes and events.

Moreover, TIC Council members actively contributed to the development of certification schemes (such as the drone certification scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation under rule 7 of the liberalized Drone Rules) and emphasised the need to promote third party conformity assessment bodies in different industrial sectors during the three months-long "Udyog Manthan" webinar series of the Quality Council of India (QCI). Visibility was further improved thanks to a series of webinars in different areas (medical devices, circular economy and conformity assessment standards) and thanks to meetings organized with relevant organisations, with the aim of promoting the TIC Council strategy in the region.

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 and Strategic Priorities, ESG Working Group

In 2021, the Public Affairs and Strategic Priorities Committee (PASP) actively supported the coordination of TIC Council positions across all regions and continued the promotion of the Value of TIC Study, which significantly increased the visibility of TIC Council towards policymakers and stakeholders. At the end of 2021, the Public Affairs and Strategic Priorities Committee concluded its activities, and is no longer active as of 2022.

The Environmental Social Governance Working Group (ESG WG), previously under PASP, is now managed by the Global Board. The ESG WG took over the advocacy on the EU Green Deal holding internal workshops to shape the priorities and goals for 2022. These internal meetings proved to be useful for the development of TIC Council's positions on:

- EU Taxonomy
- Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
- Energy Efficiency Directive
- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

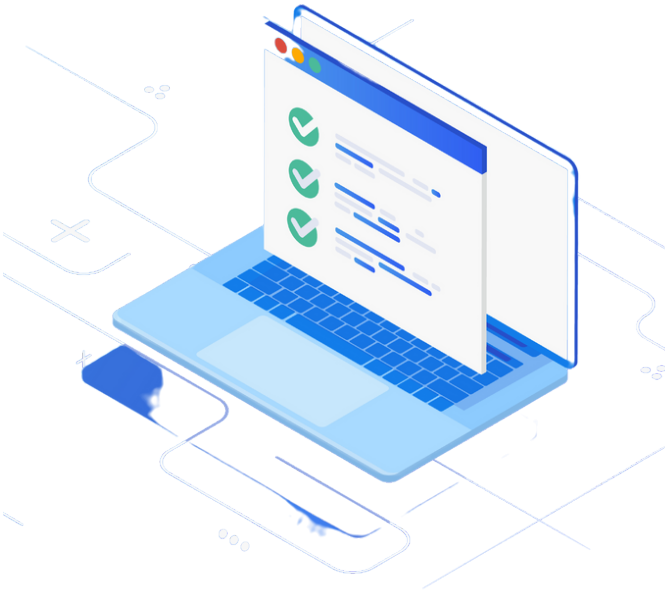
The WG actively promoted these positions throughout the year, by responding to key public consultations and regularly meeting with relevant MEPs and Commission officials. In this regard, MEP Pascal Durand adopted part of our suggestions as his position on Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive and invited us to co-sign an op-ed with him. Finally, in January 2022 TIC Council was invited to speak at the Conference organised by the Commission on Sustainable Carbon Cycles.

The taskforce on reconciling health, safety and economic recovery focused on increasing the visibility of the TIC sector and its contribution against the COVID-19 pandemic. The TIC sector's expertise was clearly explained in the policy recommendations for societies resilient to sanitary risks, which were disseminated to several associations of affected sectors in the European Union and in the United States.

Furthermore, the task force held a very successful webinar with the Director of Public Health at Health and Food Safety (DG SANTÉ of the European Commission) and representatives of European consumers associations.

Accreditation and Standardisation

To succeed in reaching TIC Council's goals for the sector, engagement in accreditation and standardisation activities is of the utmost importance for obtaining recognition and to sit at the table with other accreditation bodies and stakeholders.

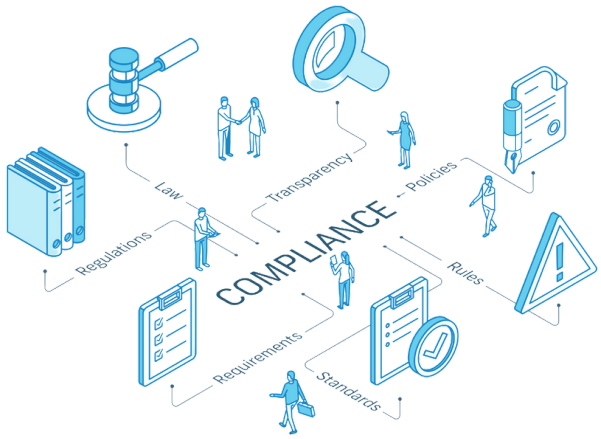


TIC Council's Accreditation Committee provides the forum where members develop their input on accreditation matters and applicable documents as well as relevant standards. The committee expertly manages TIC Council's collective dialogue with accreditation bodies and appropriate standards-developing organizations. In doing so, we continue our close collaboration with organisations such as the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC) and others.

Between the end of 2020 and early 2021, and in the context of the pandemic, it became clear that remote conformity assessment activities would continue to be crucial for TIC Council members in order for them to provide services to their clients. An initiative was approved for a task force to develop a paper with the TIC Council members' views on the benefits, limitations and future of conformity assessment activities carried out remotely; a Horizontal Task Force composed of members across several TIC Council committees finalized at the end of 2021 a draft paper, which will be published over the course of 2022.

Ethics and Legal

The Ethics and Legal Committee has supported the TIC Council committees by reviewing their publications and providing recommendations and advice on legal matters throughout the year.



It has monitored and discussed new and proposed legislation and regulations that would affect the TIC sector. In this light, it has organised a virtual panel on the complex US and EU trade sanctions mechanisms and trade controls regulations and their impact on TIC companies which has attracted good participation from TIC Council membership.

It has continued supporting TIC Council members in implementing the TIC Council Compliance Code by translating the Compliance Principles into further languages for members to use in their compliance trainings. In addition, to ensure the Annexes B and C to the Compliance Code are fit for purpose, the Committee has conducted an evaluation exercise of the annual external verification. Following the positive feedback received through an online survey amongst TIC Council members, a dedicated Working Group has revised the Annexes B and C and the Implementation Guidelines to improve the language used therein. The revised documents will be submitted for approval to the Global Board in Q1 2022.

Furthermore, together with an external law firm, the Committee has devoted significant time and effort in redesigning the TIC Council Complaints Handling Procedure. The revision of the procedure has also required amending the TIC Council Compliance Code, its Implementation Guidelines, and the Articles of Association. The Committee is in the final stages of approving the revised documents, which will then be submitted to the Global Board for approval.

Strategic Communications

The Strategic Communications Committee has continued being active in the promotion and dissemination of key TIC Council activities. 2021 has been marked by a growth in popularity of our social media channels, with 4.961 total followers (meaning +1800 ca. followers from 2020) on LinkedIn, and a marked increase in our website visibility thanks to our content, such as our webinars, our policy publications and 12 blog articles – the latter of these only thanks to all our guest speakers who have accepted to share their thoughts and experiences with us.

In addition, over 2021 we have spent a great deal of effort in properly sharing and communicating some of our proudest achievements yet: the report on the "Value of the Testing, Inspection and Certification sector" is one of the most comprehensive studies on the sector to date, while our "Check the Fake and Be Safe" campaign puts on a new spin on the often-misunderstood subject of anti-counterfeiting.

The committee, furthermore, has worked closely with the advocacy team to position TIC Council with key stakeholders, including NGOs, on topical issues: supply chain accountability, sustainability, and human rights. In this sense, the teams will further discuss the next steps in identifying the NGOs that are active at the moment in the key areas to anticipate some of their actions and positions in those key areas that are of TIC sector interest. In this sense over the course of 2022 the Committee will continue to advise both the secretariat and the wider membership on a strategic level, overseeing the general communications efforts of TIC Council.

SECTORAL COMMITTEES

The sectoral committees continue to remain vigilant and responding to developments by defending the interests of the TIC sector by increasing visibility and ensuring that, both legislators and key stakeholders, become aware of the added value that TIC members bring to a vast number of sectors.

Commodities

To ensure that strategic relationships and alliances are nurtured and maintained with key stakeholders, a meeting was held with representatives of DG Grow to provide feedback and comments on Regulation EU 2019/1009 (FPR) that aims to create a pathway for fertilisers and fertilising products to access the EU Single Market.

The Commodities Committee also worked on expanding and updating its extensive catalogue of technical bulletins and guidance documents. The Committee published a commodities-wide technical bulletin stating the common position of the Industry against TIC Council's Inspector signing waivers of responsibility and indemnities when entering terminals and vessels. Further nine technical bulletins were reviewed and updated, bringing up to date their recommendations and best industry practices on topics such as safe access and lighting in terminals and vessels, aviation fuel release certificates, and stop-work authority.

The Commodities Committee is also working on new documents on the risks presented by chemically inhibited cargoes, and on the precision and uncertainty of different weighing systems in the measurement of dry bulk cargoes.

Furthermore, the Committee started to work on new Safety Codes. These documents will set out the expectations which TIC Council Member Companies should meet regarding safety conduct, as well as the responsibilities which other parties are expected to fulfil to ensure that work is conducted in a safe manner. The new codes will focus on laboratory work, and on field inspection safety in the metals and minerals and in the agricultural and vegetable oils markets.

Lastly, while a physical safety conference continued to prove difficult due the ongoing challenges brought by the pandemic, the Commodities Committee worked to maintain the momentum of the conferences held previously in New York and Rotterdam by way of digital events. In collaboration with BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, and Shell; a webinar on Safety Data Requirements and Petrochemicals Shipments was held to address known areas of concern in safety communication and SDS information in relation to the increased frequency of exposure to chemicals. The Committee continues working on organizing an in-person Petroleum Industry Safety Conference 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.

Throughout 2021, the committee carried out a full review of its industry Code of Practice to ensure its applicability to modern practice. This also included a section on the use of remote inspection. Alongside the review of the Code of Practice, the committee developed a position paper on CBCA stressing its importance as a tool for trade facilitation and consumer protection. This will be a key document in the advocacy strategy of the Committee. Both documents are expected to be published over the course of 2022.

Within the boundaries provided by all relevant anti-trust and competition law and TIC Council's Competition Compliance Policy, the Committee will act in accordance with the following objectives:

- Develop an advocacy strategy for Government services.
- Identify areas where joint positions should be developed for the Government Service Sector (policy position, code of practice, etc.).
- Monitor external trends and political activities to develop an aligned approach.

Food & Health

TIC Council's Food & Health committee remains exceptionally active in stepping up on their monitoring and assessment of policy developments in the EU and U.S.

There was good cooperation with the Independent International Organisation for Certification (IIOC), the International Certification Network (IQNET), and the Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) in relation with the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), developing joint best practices and aligning relevant strategies. Strong cooperation was held throughout the year, in particular with FoodDrink Europe, for which a joint letter was drafted to the European Commission on the imports of samples.

The committee has continued to improve on the visibility of the value of TIC services among all related stakeholders by fostering ongoing partnership with them, including with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) WG on Food, and with the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI)'s CB2B Forum.

In March, a Position Paper on the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy was published to align the advocacy work of the committee, providing input towards common positions on issues of interest. The Committee also participated in the EU's work for a Code of Conduct for a sustainable food chain.

Industrial Life Cycle Services

The ILCS and its different subgroups have continued to work to educate and raise awareness about the added value of the TIC sector towards key stakeholders. In this sense, the expertise of the Working Group on Lifts, Machines and Cranes has proven to be invaluable in the development of TIC Council's position paper on the Revision of the EU Machinery Directive, focusing on the inclusion of cranes and escalators to the list of high risk machinery. Furthermore, the Working Group on Qualification for inspectors produced the Draft document "TIC Council Framework on qualification of Personnel: Minimum Requirements for Inspectors", which is currently being reviewed by different TIC Council bodies to ensure its quality and global applicability. Publication is expected over the course of 2022.

In terms of stakeholder engagement, the Working Group on Pressure Equipment recently appointed a representative to the European Commission Expert Group on Pressure Equipment, Ms. Lotti Jespersen from KIWA. This will ensure that the voice of TIC Council and of its members is heard during future discussions on this topic.

Product Testing and Certification

The Product Testing and Certification Committee has continued to focus on advocating for the sector's interest in a field of consumer products that is increasingly changing under the dual green and digital transition.

In the realm of digital, the committee's experts on cybersecurity have worked on the internal alignment of practices and processes for the certification of the cybersecurity of IoT devices, in order to ensure that the sector provides a consistently high quality of service to its clients; on this topic, a White Paper is expected to be released in 2022 in order to illustrate the added value of the TIC sector in a field that will prove essential in the very near future.

In the same vein, the PTCC has decided to launch an intercomparison project on consumer IoT between volunteer member laboratories, whereby a volunteer manufacturer will share one or more devices for testing in laboratories according to a leading industry standard. Results will be anonymized and compared to see whether all laboratories uncover the same vulnerabilities; this will also serve to improve the standard and the testing methods, and to highlight how essential TIC services are in order to ensure that IoT devices are safe for all.

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The committee has also finalized a positon paper on the Cybersecurity of Medical Devices, which has received attention from a variety of stakeholders

The committee is also working on a market study, testing in an independent laboratory more than 100 widely sold consumer goods that are placed on market according to self-declaration of conformity, such as hair dryers, toasters, or fans, in order to check their compliance against electrical standards. This is the repeat of the 2018 study which showed that 27% of products were non-compliant; the study to be published in the last quarter of 2022 expects to show that the situation has not changed and that current efforts to improve product safety should mandate a stronger role for the TIC sector.

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.

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