

## **Elections at the Executive Committee**

A new Executive Committee was elected, whose term of office will start on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006:

Chairman	Lorenzo Thione (Sincert)
Vice Chairman	Graham Talbot (UKAS)
Chairman of the MAC	Gro Rodland (NA)
Chairman of the CPC	Tom Dempsey (INAB)
Chairman of the CC	Norbert Müller (BMWV)
Chairman of the IC	Merih Malmqvist (SWEDAC)
Chairman of the LC	Hanspeter Ischi (SAS)

And Rozsa Ring (NAT) as a member of the EX not chairing a committee.

The General assembly also agreed to set up a **Financial Oversight Committee**. The General assembly approved the proposed TOR and elected its members:

Jan van der Poel (RvA)  
Ioannis Matsas (ESYD)  
Jiri Ruzicka (CAI).

## **The EA network**

**BATA** (Bosnia & Herzegovina), **CAECP** (Moldova) and **IARM** (located in the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia) signed a contract of cooperation with EA.

The EA MLA extended with new signatories being accepted: **BAS**, in Bulgaria, signed for certification of persons and QMS; **ESYD**, in Greece, and **EAK**, in Estonia, signed for certification of products, QMS, EMS and persons; **DATEch**, in Germany, signed for Inspection.

## **Criteria for membership**

The Non competition clause was introduced in the revised EA 2 / 01 S1 Criteria for membership:

*In view of the nature of accreditation as an activity operated by the members of EA under the responsibility of and with the authority derived from their national public authorities, and in order to ensure the proper protection of its mission as a service of general interest, competition between the EA members and unnecessary duplication of accreditation services shall be avoided, since this can lead to undermining the independence and credibility of the members.*

## **Role of accreditation and relationships between EA and the European Commission**

In cooperation with its partners and stakeholders, EA developed its views in response to the Commission's document no EN 492. Additionally and with a view to making active progress, J. McMillan requested that EA elaborates on a proposal for concrete actions to be carried out in support of the EA reflection paper and the discussions between the Commission and the SOGS. In particular, the proposal focuses on how EA could serve the Commission's need for harmonisation of the notification process.

## News from the EA Advisory Board

The EA Advisory Board was renewed in November. **Malcolm Hynd** representing UK for the National Authorities college was elected as the new Chairman with **Guy Jacques** from IQNet representing the CAB college and **Guenther Beer** from Siemens representing the Industry college being elected as Vice Chairmen. **Martin Stadler** from DG Enterprise accepted to be the Board's observer at the EA MAC.

The Chairman of the Board attended the June General Assembly. He confirmed the full support of the EAAB to EA in the discussions with the Commission about the future of accreditation and of EA. He reconfirmed the real interest of the stakeholders in the EA survey for evaluation of customers' satisfaction, noting some disappointment by the Board members that EA members did not seem to have been very active to respond to the findings of the EA survey conducted in 2003. The EA chairman advocated that the issue of surveys should be given consideration at the international level. He supported that ILAC and IAF could jointly elaborate on the preparation of the questionnaires while the regions would be involved in the organisation, distribution and monitoring of the surveys.

## MoU with Euromet

We are pleased to report that Seton Benett, chairman of Euromet and Daniel Pierre, chairman of EA, signed the Memorandum of Understanding meant to support the restructuring of the Laboratory Committee in particular with respect to the management of the calibration specific documents and organisation of ILCs.

It is a separate document which completes those supporting global cooperation between EA, Eurachem, Eurolab, Euromet and CEOC.

## Relationships with Sector schemes

The EA General Assembly gave mandate to the LC chairman to finalise the negotiations with EDQM about a MoU with EA based on the following:

*(f) that EDQM will provide a pull of experts which can be used, under the EA members' system, as team members during the EA members assessments.*

*(g) that EDQM will recognize any assessment performed by EA members provided the Assessment team includes a member chosen among the experts provided by EDQM to EA.*

The General Assembly endorsed the proposed MoU with **IRMM**. It was clarified that the MoU was just meant to provide for a framework for cooperation which has been developing successfully for years. IRMM is providing assistance in the organisation of ILCs and training of assessors.

A draft MoU with **EUREPGAP** was presented to the General Assembly. It is a response to EUREPGAP concern that accreditation practices within their scheme need harmonisation. The EA EX was given mandate to conclude the MoU provided there are not major remarks raised by the members as a result of the 3 weeks commenting period agreed in Helsinki.

## Cooperation with ILAC and IAF

The General Assembly reconfirmed it is a major strategic objective of EA to be active and increase its contribution in the ILAC and IAF works.

A few concrete measures were agreed:

- the EA liaison persons in the ILAC and IAF committees should be given the relevant information materials to be able to present and promote the EA consolidated views, if any and feed back to the EA members on the ILAC and IAF developments
- an informal EA meeting will be organised in Auckland in order to prepare the discussions at the ILAC, IAF and Joint ILAC / IAF meetings
- the EX is given mandate to elaborate on the policy paper discussed in Helsinki.

As decided in November 2004, the EA General Assembly allocated a significant amount of time during the Helsinki meeting to the preparation of the discussions expected in Auckland. A few resolutions had been drafted by the EA EX and were submitted to the GA. The process, which was proposed to the members for the first time, proved to be useful.

### **Approval of documents**

- **EA 2 / 12** Procedure for development and approval of EA guidance documents and the adoption of ILAC / IAF documents
- **EA 2 / 01 S1** Criteria for membership
- **EA 1 / 06** The EA Multilateral agreement
- EA policy for conformity assessment schemes (sector schemes) ( reference to be given by the secretariat)

### **Promotion of accreditation**

The new EA web site will be launched beginning of July. It presents a number of new services, in particular the facilities for the EA members to enter and update their details in a specific database. The information will be controlled by the members themselves (and the secretariat as a user) for publication in the EA documents and web pages. The database will also be used for maintaining and publishing the members' accreditation marks.

#### **The EA Annual Report for 2004**

The EA 2004 Annual Report is the first to be designed according to the new format and contents proposed by the Communications and Publications Committee (CPC). It is available on the EA web site.

The CPC decided to evaluate the relevance and usefulness of the **brochure**. A questionnaire was distributed to the members just before the General Assembly meeting. The intention is to evaluate how the brochure is being used and how it should be improved.

It was also reported that the CPC had started a new project: the objective is to create a press kit for use by EA members. The **press kit** would contain a number of fact sheets dealing with key issues of public or general interest such as the distinction between accreditation and QMS certification, the MLA process and benefits, the role of accreditation in the European CA infrastructure etc. A guide on how to deal and communicate with press people has also been drawn up.

A **special issue of the EA newsletter** has been tabled: it will focus on the role of accreditation and the relationships between EA and the European Commission. The objective is to support the current development at the Commission's and SOGS levels, making available to the EA members and all interested parties the relevant and updated information.

## EA database on accredited bodies

The database is operational and offer direct searching facilities for data from calibration laboratories accredited by Cofrac, DAR-DKD, Danak, Finas and Ukas (at the moment).

A **project management group** was set up which met for the first time on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

It is composed of IT persons nominated by the EA members and committees liaison persons nominated by the Laboratory, Certification and Inspection committees.

As agreed by the Management group, EA is now developing a full text search engine,. The full text search is being tested by Cofrac for testing data. It was agreed to implement the full text for all EA scopes, and for the EA calibration scope as soon as possible. Also a common scope for testing is being developed. It is based on a combination of products, objects to be tested and types of tests. There are good prospects that we can come to an agreement for an EA common testing scope based on this structure.

Finally, it was agreed to develop an EA common scope for QMS and EMS certification using the NACE codes.

All the work of the management group is developing in cooperation with the ILAC MCC.

The database is available from the EA web site at [www.european-accreditation.org](http://www.european-accreditation.org) or <http://db.european-accreditation.org>

## EA 2005-2006 meetings

**EA Advisory Board**  
19 October in Paris

**General Assembly**  
17-18 November in Roma  
7-8 June in Riga  
18-19 November in Istanbul

**Executive Committee**  
30-31 August in Frankfurt  
16 November in Roma

**Certification committee**  
1 September in Frankfurt

**Inspection committee**  
2 September in Frankfurt

**Communications & Publications Committee**  
3-4 October in Paris

**MAC**  
13-14 October in Greece

### October 20th 2005 in Paris

**EA-Eurachem-Eurolab- Workshop on Regulation and standard requirements for conformity assessment of products, services and processes**

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