

EA news

www.european-accreditation.org

n°1 November 2002

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European Commission – SOGS

EA enjoys good support from the Commission and the European national authorities and EFTA, formally expressed by two MoUs between the Commission and EA and between EFTA and EA. Discussion on accreditation policy, at the national authority level, takes place in the Senior Officials Group for Standardisation and CA policy (SOGS). The Commission and the national authorities and EFTA are supportive members of the EA Advisory Board, providing valuable input to EA policy from a Government perspective.



C/o Cofrac – 37 rue de Lyon – 75012 Paris.
Contact : EA secretary, martine.simon@cofrac.fr

Editorial

Dear members,
I am very pleased to write this editorial for the first issue of the EA newsletter.

The Executive committee of EA want the newsletter to be the link between the EA members. This is the reason why you will find information about works and achievements in the EA committees, the EA Advisory Board but also about developments in EA members' countries.

The newsletter must also reflect the links we want to maintain with our colleagues in Europe and in the world. News from ILAC, IAF, and our counterparts in the regions will also be addressed. Last but not least, the newsletter should also enable you to keep track of the reflections at the Commission level with information from the SOGS and their representative at the EAAB.

The Executive committee of EA wish you a pleasant and useful reading.

Daniel Pierre, chairman of EA

News from the EA Advisory Board

At the meeting of October 24, the Board was renewed. As a result of approval of the revised terms of reference, a chair and two vice chairs could be elected.

Congratulations to **Guenther Beer** (UNICE), chair and **Herbert Egolf** (CEOC) and **Malcolm Hynd** (National Authorities, UK) who have been elected vice chairs of the EAAB for 2 years.

Bluetooth and AEMCLRP

EA signed a MoU with AEMCLRP and Bluetooth. Interested members have to sign a codicil. Under the agreements, signatories of codicils may provide assessment services to laboratories seeking recognition according to the respective schemes. For the assessment, technical assessors qualified respectively by Bluetooth and AEMCLRP should be used.

Cofrac (France), Datech (Germany), Sinal (Italy), Swedac (Sweden), UKAS (UK) have signed the codicil for AEMCLRP. CAI (Czech Republic), Finas (Finland), UKAS, Sinal, Datech have signed the codicil for Bluetooth.

AEMCLRP: Automotive EMC laboratory recognition program

! News from EA Members

SA

Samo Kopac, former director of the Slovenian Accreditation has been replaced by **Bostjan Godec** who took his post from July 1. We will miss you, Samo ! Welcome Bostjan!

RvA

RvA has changed its mark ! Go and visit their web site: www.rva.nl/uk/rzoekuk.html

S.O.S. and Metrology, Croatia

The State Office for Standardisation and Metrology of the Republic of Croatia celebrated its **10th anniversary** on 22 october 2002. Congratulations!

UKAS Appoints Lord Lindsay As Chairman

Lord Lindsay has been appointed as the new chairman of the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Lord Lindsay replaces UKAS' former chairman, **Dr Bryan Smith**, who has retired after seven years in the post.

ESYD

Congratulations to our Greek colleagues: ESYD granted its **100th** accreditation this year. To know more about ESYD, www.quality.ypan.gr/ESYDsite

EA committees

Multilateral agreement

New signatories have just entered the MLA: **SNAS** (Slovakia) for QMS, Product, Personnel and EMS certification; **LATAK** (Latvia) for testing, calibration and certification of QMS, Product and Personnel; **NAB** (Ireland) for Product certification. Revision of **EA 2/02** should be completed for the June 2003 General assembly. Members will be submitted the final draft for approval.

Inspection

The subcommittee for review of assessment process concluded that EA members are not harmonised in the way they evaluate the independence of type A inspection bodies. Guidance is necessary. The MLA will come into force when a common position has been approved. Candidate signatories, Sincert, Finas, RvA and SNAS, will be entitled to confirm their status provided they comply with the approved position.

Two members have been appointed to come up with a specification on what must be taken into consideration when drafting a guidance on this issue.

Assurance of segregation of roles in small **Type C inspection bodies** also requires that a guidance be drafted.

Application to ISO/IEC 17020: a lot of progress was made in Berlin at the EA/APLAC joint working group. Only a few clauses need further elaboration.

Certification

Reconfirmed! **15 December 2003** is the last date for valid accredited certification to the old ISO 9000 standards.

Witness assessing, sector activity, relations with the FAB and application of EA policy to Pan European Forestry Certification (PEFC) were discussed at the September meeting.

The Committee appointed members to the IAF TC Task Force on Certification of persons, which will develop Guidance on the new standard ISO 17024. The Task Force will be chaired by Peter Kronvall (Swedac).

Assessment of transnational branch offices and franchise arrangements of CBs was taken up in IAF as part of the IAF Cross-Frontier policy.

The work programme of EA CC is to feed into the IAF TC work programme, which is:

Guidance on Guide 65 (Mr Egner), Guidance on Clause 2.1 of Guide 62 (Mr Nash), Certification of Persons (Mr Kronvall), Computer Assisted Audit Techniques (Mr Misczynski), Witness Assessment (Mr Dougherty), Accreditation Scopes (Mr Sallé), Cross-Frontier Accreditation / assessment of branch offices (Mr Brockway), Inspection (with ILAC) (Mr Ettarp), Input to ISO 17021 (Mr Brockway), Input to TC 207 WG5 (Mr Shaw), Input to TC 176 / SC2/WG18/TG 1.15 (Mr Thione), Road Map – IAF Executive.

Laboratory

Cristina Waddington (Finas) is the new LC vice chairwoman.

The Committee discussed the results of the 1st management group meeting and confirmed that harmonisation of assessment procedures should be the priority task for the Committee. As a consequence, technical work should be handed over to Laboratory organisations through close co-operation. Members also recognised that PT's and ILC's are important but that ABs should not work as PT providers. In the field of calibration, organisation of ILCs will be discussed with Euromet.

Document review

The **ILAC traceability policy and Guidance for accreditation of forensic labs** must now be formally endorsed by EA.

CITAC/Eurachem Guide to Quality in Analytical Chemistry has been approved as an advisory document. Should be published soon by CITAC and Eurachem and available for information on the EA web site.

An ad hoc WG has been established to give recommendations on harmonisation in the field of **accreditation of sampling bodies**. ILAC offered close collaboration, given their significant experience in the drafting of relevant guidance over the past 20 years. Thank you, Alan (Squirrel) !

Draft guidance on expression of uncertainty in quantitative testing: the objective is to have the final draft by January 2003. Comments should be sent to marc.priel@lne.fr

Accreditation for non-destructive testing: the Committee approved the document.

The issue of measurement uncertainty will be included later at a future stage. **EA 4/09 Accreditation of sensory testing laboratories** is being revised to align with ISO/IEC 17025.

The Committee agreed that a work item about the use of computerized systems in accredited bodies should start. Eurolab and CEOC could take the lead jointly.

! News from the regions and IAF, ILAC

APLAC and its members

The General Assembly of APLAC took place in Vancouver on 14-15 November. On the agenda :

- revision of the MoU and other MRA documents to take account of the extension of the MRAtO inspection body accreditation
- proposal of a draft Code of Ethics as a " statement of concepts concerning the way in which APLAC members, including signatories to the APLAC MRA, conduct their accreditation activities in an ethical manner. Accreditation bodies should recognise this Code as a set of dynamic principles governing their professional conduct... ".

Peter Unger has been elected chairman of APLAC.

SAC

The Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) has been transferred to the Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board or **SPRING** Singapore from 1 April 2002.

New address :

Singapore Accreditation Council
SPRING Singapore
2 Bukit Merah Central
Singapore 159835
Website: www.sac-accreditation.org.sg

PAC

Communiqué from 9th Annual PAC meetings: **Xiao Jianhua** and **Elva Nielsen** have been re-elected for another 3 year mandate.

There are now 14 members in the MLA group for QMS: BPS Accreditation Scheme (Philippines), CNAB (Chinese Taipei) and NABCB (India) signed in August. The other 11 are: CNACR (China), JAS-ANZ (Australia-New Zealand), SCC (Canada), JAB (Japan), SAC (Singapore), DSM (Malaysia), CNAB (China), KAB (Korea), NAC (Thailand), KAN-BSN (Indonesia), EMA (Mexico).

Latest news!

JAB (Japan Accreditation Board) has just completed their re-evaluation. As a

result, JAB has been re-admitted into the MLA for QMS. JAB will also join the MLA for EMS as soon as it commences operation (3 signatories are needed to start). 2003 Annual Meeting will take place on June 2-5 in India.

With a change in the format: all members are being encouraged to attend all meetings, resulting in a half day Plenary, followed by a workshop on morning June 5. Contact **Belinda Mort** (secretary) at belindam@tsn.cc

IAF

Change in the secretariat

John Owens is the new secretary.

To contact John:

secretary@accreditationforum.com

or fax: +612-6222-2761

It happened in Berlin, in September

Thomas Facklam (TGA, Germany) has been elected chairman and **Elva Nielsen** (SCC), vice chairwoman of IAF.

New signatories to the IAF MLA

NABCB (India), BPS Accreditation Scheme (Philippines) and CNAB (Chinese Taipei) have signed the MLA for accreditation of QS certification in Berlin on 22 september.

Xia Jianhua (CNACR) is the new chair of the MLA committee and of the MLA MC. Tony Craven is the new chair of the MLA group.

ILAC

BMWA (Austria) and **IPQ** (Portugal) have signed the MRA for testing and calibration in Berlin on 22 September.

There were elections at the Executive committee. Results:

Chairman, **Mike Peet** (Sanas-South Africa), Vice Chairman, **Daniel Pierre** (Cofrac - France), APC, **Hans-Ulrich Mittmann** (DAR - Germany), PAC, **Jackie Sample** (DoD - USA), AMC, **Peter Unger** (A2LA - USA), LC, **Tony Anderson** (NCSL - USA), TAIC, **Merrih Malmqvist** (Swedac - Sweden), Developing countries, **Maribel Lopez** (EMA - Mexico).

EAnews



European co-operation for Accreditation
Confidence in competence
www.european-accreditation.org

EA: a unified organisation...

- WHC 1946-1997
- WRAC 1987-1994
- IAL 1994-1997
- DAC 1994-1997
- EA 1997
- EA Accredited Organisations (EA-ROs)

EA: an open organisation....

- EA Advisory Board
- General Assembly
- Executive Committee
- Technical Committee
- PLA committee
- Publications/Information Executive
- Certification committee
- Laboratory committee
- Inspection committee

...in the world



...covering all fields of conformity assessment:

- Calibration, testing (ISO/IEC 17025)
- Inspection (ISO/IEC/TS 17020)
- Environmental verifiers (EMAs)
- Certifications:
 - QMS (EN 45012/ISO Guide 62)
 - EMS (ISO Guide 66)
 - Product (EN 45011/ISO Guide 65)
 - Personnel (EN 45013)

Diary

December 2002

- 2 EA Environmental WG
- 5-6 International workshop on Data Analysis of ILCs, Berlin
- 9 EA Health WG (Labs)
- 10 EA Health WG (Certification) in Frankfurt
- 16-18 EA Team member training, Berlin

January 2003

- 17 EA/Eurachem/Eurolab/Euromet chairmen and vice chairmen meeting, Lisbon
- 29 EA Executive Committee

February 2003

- 4-5 PLG, Copenhagen
- 13-14 IAF Executive Committee
- 24-25 ILAC Executive Committee
- 27-28 ILAC APC

Directory

- ILAC : www.ilac.org
- IAF : www.iaf.nu
- PAC : www.apec-pac.org
- IAAC : www.ibpinetsp.com.br/iaac
- APLAC : www.aplac.org
- EOTC : www.conformityassessment.org

Editorial Board

Daniel Pierre (EA chairman), Tom Dempsey (Chief Editor), Marc Cranfield-Adams (UKAS), Cristina Fanchetti (Sincert), Ole Danielsen (DANAK), Martine Simon (EA Secretary)
With special thanks to Malcolm Hynd from the EA Advisory Board and the EA Publication Committee members for their kind support and excellent contributions !

Partners in Europe

Euromet

Paul Hetherington is Director of the Irish National Metrology Institute and since 17 May he has become the new Euromet Chairman in succession to **Wolfgang Schwitz**. **Brian Sheridan** from the National Metrology Laboratory is the new Secretary.

Web site: www.euromet.ie or www.euromet.org

Eurolab

EUROLAB expands beyond Europe !

EUROLAB open membership to organisations outside the EU and EFTA countries and to non-European applicants. Remember EUROLAB has changed into an international non-for-profit organisation under the Belgian law.

Web site: www.eurolab.org

Eurachem

Filomena Camoes is the new chair of Eurachem and **Maria do Céu Ferreira** took over from the secretariat.

Web site address has changed to www.eurachem.ul.pt