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EA has played a major role in the progress of the accreditation culture and practice in Europe, by concurring to the establishment of a credible and effective European accreditation infrastructure.

The new EA Chairs and Executives are indeed, very grateful to those who have managed the Association in the past and led EA to acquire its present prestige and will follow the directions already traced by them to further expand the role of European accreditation.

Accreditation has now reached, in Europe, the stage of being institutionally recognized as a service of general interest, representing the last authoritative level of control of the conformity assessment (CA) services in both voluntary and mandatory spheres, to be rendered, at national level, on suitable mandate of the Government, as a non-profit distributing service and without competition, according to what, in EA, we call the "European accreditation model".

In particular, within the new horizontal legislative approach to technical harmonization in Europe, EA MLA accreditation is being considered as a reliable and robust criterion for the assessment and surveillance of CABs operating in the field of the European Directives and Regulations.

This entails new challenges for EA.

EA MLA accreditation must be able to provide distinct confidence in the capability of the accredited CABs to fulfil the associated

economical and social needs, assuring that the technical knowledge and expertise are in place and consistently applied.

This "output focussed accreditation approach" is of great significance for the CA activities having a major impact on the progress of the economy, and involving the protection of fundamental rights of the society.

Along these lines, EA is striving to improve the value of European accreditation and enhance the confidence of the stakeholders, by setting up a development policy aiming at improving the efficacy of accreditation rules and harmonizing the accreditation procedures, strengthening the effectiveness of the peer evaluation process, enhancing the operation of its organs, reinforcing the cooperation with all the stakeholders, etc.

The above development lines were firstly outlined in the EA Position Paper of January 2006, then discussed with the EA members during the visits conducted by the EA Chair and Vice Chair. They will be soon consolidated in the frame of an updated EA strategic plan.

EA is looking towards a future of growing success and greater achievements, provided it will be capable to properly take up the outstanding challenges.

One major key lays in the commitment to improvement of EA members and their willingness to work together, united in the pursuance of the common objectives. In the end, EA is as good as its members are and on them we should, chiefly, rely.

Lorenzo Thione
Chairman of EA



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! News from the Executive Committee

Looking to the future By Graham Talbot, Vice-Chairman

As announced during the last General Assembly in Rome, the new EA Chairman and Vice-Chairman have commenced a programme of discussions with EA Members to find out their views about EA, to become acquainted with their particular issues and expectations, and to discuss, in general, the strategic directions for EA to better serve their needs.

The programme has also provided an ideal opportunity to discuss the EA Position Paper on "EA and its relations to

the European Accreditation Policy" which outlines the way forward for EA to meet the wider and more authoritative role foreseen for EA by the European Commission in its ongoing project for a new horizontal legislative approach to technical harmonization in Europe.

In establishing what is expected from EA and what EA should do for its Members, we are exploring areas such as what are the best features of EA, what improvements Members seek, what support (technical or otherwise) is needed, how best to improve harmonization and cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences, meeting formats, EA's relationships with other Regions and ILAC and IAF, how EA is going to have to

adapt itself to a new and wider role in promoting and granting accreditation in both voluntary and mandatory spheres, and the secretariat and administrative support within EA.

At the time of writing, we have had discussions with approximately half of the membership, and common themes and ideas are starting to develop which will be invaluable in setting the future direction for EA to build on its successes in recent years. We hope to have completed discussions with all members by the end of May so that we can report back our findings to the General Assembly in Riga in June.

! News from EA members

New members

At the last General Assembly held in November in Rome, we welcomed **HAA**, the Croatian Accreditation Agency as a full member (formerly associate member) and **JAC**, the Jordanian Accreditation Commission as a contract of cooperation signatory.

FINAS, RVA, PCA moved to new premises.

FINAS Finnish Accreditation Service

P.O.Box9

(Tekniikantie1)

FI-02151 ESPOO - Finland

Tel: +358 10 6054 000 Fax: +358 10 6054 399

email: finas@finas.fi or forename.surname@finas.fi

website: www.finas.fi

RvA (Raad voor Accreditatie) can now be visited at

Mariaplaats 21 D

3511 LK UTRECHT - The Netherlands

RVA postal address remains unchanged just as RVA telephone and fax numbers.

PCA (Polish Centre for Accreditation)

ul. Szczytkarska 42

01-382 Warszawa - Poland

Tel: +48 22 355 70 00 Fax: +48 22 355 70 18

email: sekretariat@pca.gov.pl

website : www.pca.gov.pl

SA, the Slovenian Accreditation body, has a new logo.

In March 10th 2005, the General Assembly of **RENAR**, the Romanian accreditation body, elected Prof. Dr. Eng. F. nel IACOBESCU as president and Prof. Dr. Eng. Ion HOHAN as president of honour of the Council.

The members of the **DATECH** association decided last year unanimously to transform the legal status of **DATECH** into a limited company. This was accomplished on December 28th 2005. As a result, the new entity **DATEch GmbH** becomes the legal successor of the DATEch e.V and takes over all rights and duties deriving from the existing contracts.

The new company full name is:

DATEch Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle Technik GmbH.

Details for the accreditation body remain unchanged.

! News from contract of cooperation signatories

The first HKCAS accredited Product Certification Body

On 31 August 2005, Castco Certification Service Ltd was granted accreditation for production and supply of ready mix concrete, standard sands for cement testing and replacement sands for soil testing. This is the first product certification body accredited under the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS). Two other applications are being processed.

NAAU enters into cooperation with EA

The National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine was founded in 2002 in accordance with the law on "Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies". The Accreditation Council, the Technical Accreditation Committee (TAC) and the Commission for Appeals were established at the same time.

By the 1st of March 2006, NAAU had accredited 65 laboratories, 2 certification bodies for EMS certification, 15 certification bodies for products certification, 13 certification bodies for QMS and one certification body for certification of persons.

In 2005, NAAU organised two regional seminars which gathered approximately 300 participants representing conformity assessment bodies. The Technical Accreditation Committee met 4 times and considered several technical topics including test methods validation, coordination of a network for proficiency testing, implementation of ISO/IEC 17024 etc.

NAAU enjoyed valuable cooperation with colleagues from DAP (Germany), SWEDAC (Sweden) and LATAK (Latvia) over the past recent years. NAAU was also visited by experts from the World Bank and European Commission in the framework of a Twinning programme. NAAU had very good contact with the EA secretariat who assisted NAAU in a competent way with questions related to accreditation and notification or the operation of an accreditation council. In 2004, EA and NAAU signed a contract of cooperation and it is a very clear ambition for NAAU to be able to join the EA MLA for quality and environmental management systems and personnel certification in the near future. NAAU is dedicated to develop trustful and high quality relationships with EA and its members.

! News from the EA Advisory Board

EAAB Work Programme 2006/07

By Malcolm Hynd, Chairman

It is now almost eight years since the EAAB was established as the main stakeholder forum for EA. From tentative beginnings, the Board now enjoys a mature relationship with the EA executive and is looking forward to another year during which it can assist EA to develop its position as the recognised voice of accreditation in Europe.

During this coming year, the Board expects to give further advice to EA as it responds to the European Commission's proposals for providing a legal basis for accreditation in Europe. The Board has strongly supported these developments.

Other issues likely to feature in the Board's discussions are the arrangements being introduced for managing cross-border accreditation, EA's procedures for handling appeals and complaints, EA's role in the use of accreditation to support conformity assessment in the regulatory sector (e.g. the appointment of notified bodies) and EA's relationship with its international counterparts.

At the same time, the Board wants to look again at its own working methods in advance of the renewal of membership later this year. It will also want to cement relationships with the newly elected EA executive and the permanent EA secretariat which I am sure will provide the same excellent support as before.

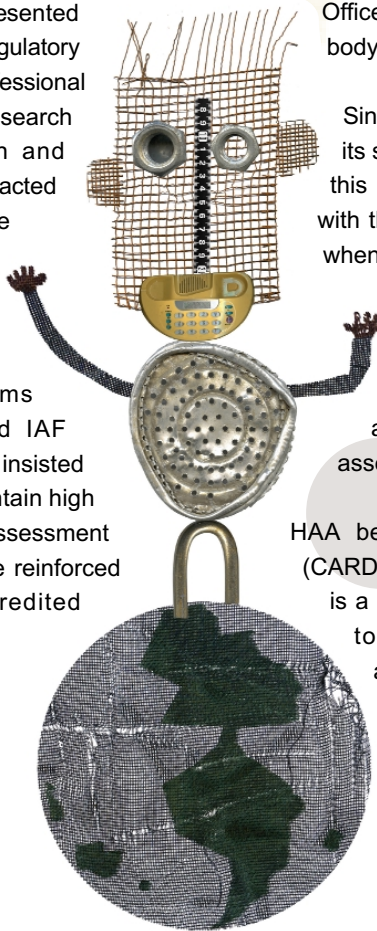
All told, another busy year for the EAAB.

! News from members

Sincert Hundred thousands quality certifications

Rome, November 10th 2005: Sincert organised a major event to celebrate Sincert breaking the symbolic record of 100 000 quality management systems certifications issued under Sincert accreditation.

Over 250 participants attended the event in the prestigious venue of the Sheraton hotel in Rome. They represented political institutions, public administrations, regulatory authorities, industry, trade and agriculture, professional societies, consulting firms, consumers, research institutes and universities, accreditation and certification bodies. Mass media positively reacted in understanding and communicating the "quality primacy" achieved by the Italian economic and social system. As pointed out by Lorenzo Thione, the President of Sincert, Italy is the second largest country in the world in terms of quality management systems certifications issued under the EA and IAF multilateral agreements. Lorenzo Thione insisted that Sincert was definitely committed to maintain high standards in accreditation of certification. Assessment and surveillance activities will continue to be reinforced to ever better ensure the value of accredited certifications.



The Croatian Accreditation Agency (HAA) starts operation.

HAA started to operate as an independent, public and not-for-profit institution on July 1st 2005 as a result of the reorganisation of the State Office for Standardization and Metrology.

One additional new public institution was given birth: it is the Croatian Standards Institute (HZN) whereas the State Office for Metrology (DZM) remains a governmental body.

Since then, HAA has been working hard to develop its structure and reinforce its resources. In January this year, there were 17 staff members compared with the 8 persons team who formed the HAA team when starting operations in July 2005. HAA adopted the Educational Plan for 2006 which covers technical and human aspects of assessments. The Plan foresees various training seminars to cover communication, IT, management, assessment skills directed to internal and external assessors.

HAA benefits from several EU technical projects (CARDS 2002, CARDS 2003 and CARDS 2004). HAA is a key actor of the Croatian project for accessing to full membership of the EU. The Croatian accreditation body fosters cooperation with a number of EA members such as NAT (Hungary), BATA (Bosnia Herzegovina), IARM (Republic of Macedonia) and UKAS.

HAA was accepted as a full member of EA in November 2005 and participated for the 1st time as a full member in the meeting of the MAC in April 2006. This year will mark a turning point for HAA since HAA also started intensive preparation for application to the EA multilateral agreement for 2007.

Breakdown of accredited certificates (September 20th 2005)

Quality management systems	97.700
Environmental management systems	6.200
Occupational health and safety management systems	300
Information security management systems	125
Total:	about 104.300 certificates.

! News from the Executive Committee

On the working agenda

The new Executive Committee met for the first time since the elections in June 2005 on January 18th and 19th in Brussels. A second meeting took place on March 29th and 30th in Båras (Sweden). The Executive agreed on key priorities for the next 6 months including the development of relations with the European Commission and the establishment of effective relations with ILAC and IAF and other regional organizations.

As reflected in the discussions between the Chairman and Vice Chairman of EA and the members during their European "tour", there is a general opinion that EA should for the time being maintain two annual GA meetings. However members clearly expressed the need to have time during the GA meetings to discuss EA policy and strategic agenda. Specific workshop sessions will therefore be organised in combination with one of the two General assemblies. This proposal will be considered further during the GA in June in Riga.

Survey on assessment of notified bodies

Graham Talbot, the Vice Chairman of EA, conducted a survey in EA about assessment of notified bodies. Results show that a majority of the EA MLA members are involved in assessing the competence of notified bodies with the exception of the EA members of DAR. There is only one AB involved in all 25 directives but there are a number of EA members assessing one to 5 directives only. It could be interesting to compare the situation in those particular countries with the Commission's web site which displays the number of notified bodies. All of the directives however are being covered by one or other AB within Europe, which means that between all the members, EA does have the expertise. Seventeen ABs say they issue an accreditation certificate to confirm competence of notified bodies. Few ABs are involved as the notifying authority with the notable exception of SWEDAC. The results were presented to the EA Advisory Board at its meeting in April. The EAAB members very much welcomed the initiative which provides valuable background information for future work in this area. Also it appeared that the results raised additional questions which need to be further investigated. Everybody agreed that the data collected forms a useful databank of information.

EA and its relations to the European accreditation policy

Discussions are continuing with the European Commission (DG Enterprise and Industry) in the framework of the Revision of the New Approach. The Commission's view of the future status of accreditation is becoming much clearer. According to the Commission's proposal, accreditation will be defined as a service of general interest representing the last authoritative level of control of the conformity assessment services delivered in both voluntary and mandatory spheres. Accreditation should be provided at national level on the basis of appropriate recognition and empowerment by the competent Public Authorities, in a competent, transparent, independent and impartial way, with full accountability towards all the interested parties, as a non-profit activity and without competition ("European way of accreditation"). It is also proposed that EA should be given a formal authority, backed by the European institutions. It is expected that EA will sign specific agreements with the Commission and EFTA to reflect its new role and mission in the future revised European framework for conformity assessment.
(see also interview of Jacques McMillan in this issue).

Liaison activities

Developing liaison activities in order to enhance the EA voice in the international arena was identified as a key issue on the EA strategic agenda. This issue is now a permanent item on the Executive Committee agenda. In 2005, a procedure for liaison activities was approved and at the beginning of 2006, the Executive started to develop a list of liaison persons for all major ILAC and IAF committees while taking into account also those liaison activities with which EA wishes to develop with sectoral organisations in particular those organisations with which EA has signed a MoU. In addition, the Executive started to identify a list of key issues for the liaison persons to become actively involved in. EA liaison persons are currently active in the following committees:

ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC), ILAC Executive Committee, IAF Technical Committee, IAF Executive Committee. A informal EA meeting was held during the Tel Aviv meetings in February to review the tabled agendas and achieve a common understanding on the key issues in support of these activities. The meeting was successful although EA representation in the ILAC committees could have been better.

Items currently on the agenda for liaison activities:

- Guidance on ISO/IEC 17011: EA appointed representatives to the renewed ILAC/ IAF joint WG.
- Extension of the ILAC MRA scopes. The Chairman of the EA MAC contributed to the drafting of a discussion paper and the Chairman of the EA Inspection Committee draw up a discussion paper on the scopes of accreditation bodies.
- The Inspection Committee is involved in the work concerning the text of the future international MRA for inspection.
- The ILAC criteria for membership
- Accreditation in the field of Proficiency Testing
- At the IAF level, the EA Certification Committee has long been closely involved in the work and input from EA is already well structured. Having a permanent EA representative at the IAF Executive Committee makes it easy for EA to input to the discussions at the IAF level.

(See News from the Certification Committee)

These various initiatives show a clear intent by EA to intensify its involvement internationally. However, efforts must be maintained even multiplied for EA to be really able to contribute to international developments. There is work for the secretariat to develop the communications tools to support the members and liaison persons on a continuous basis. There is work for the EA Executive Committee to motivate EA members to achieve a common understanding of all the targeted key issues. There is also a responsibility for the EA members to dedicate time and ensure better representation with the clear view to share the EA unique experience in all fields of accreditation.



Focus

EA and the European Commission united in non-competition

Interview with Jacques McMillan of the Directorate General Enterprise and Industry at the European Commission.

EA: We are going to discuss your work on the revision of the New Approach and its consequences for accreditation and for EA among others. A first question, please: what would have happened if nothing had been undertaken?

J.McM: That's simple, the Commission would have allowed the floodgates to open to competition between accreditors, accreditation would have been condemned body and soul, bringing with it the end of trust in the various operators and institutions in various results and services, leading to the creation of a new, probably very cumbersome system, which would definitely have created an additional level. Not a very encouraging prospect...

When I returned to this sector of activity, one of my very first priorities was to re-establish contact with the DG Competition. Allow me a quick look at the previous state of affairs. The Council Resolution of 2003 already contained the idea of a status of service of general economic interest for accreditation. This is precisely what alerted the DG Competition, which refused to approve this option.

Discussions were deadlocked.

But, at the same time, a complaint was lodged in Germany with the Public Authorities, which challenged accreditation in relation to the fundamental principle of free competition. The German texts are particularly complex. It took me six months get to the bottom of it and reach this conclusion: the status of service of general economic interest was leading us into a dead end. It was necessary to come back to the status of activity of public authority. This was out of step with the Resolution but there was no other choice. Subsequent events demonstrated that this was the right solution. In any event, it was necessary to find a means of supporting the German authorities.

EA: Accreditation is therefore going to become a public authority activity officially, a sort of public service. What are the consequences going to be?

J.McM: The control exerted by the Public Authorities on accreditation bodies will be simply reinforced. Having said that, we are starting from a situation in which the authorities do not really have a lot of control over the accreditors, actually. We have to go through this if we want to safeguard the compliance certification system as a whole in Europe. For it to continue to exist and fulfil its mission, accreditation must not find itself in a competitive situation, either with other accreditors, or with other compliance certification operators and I am thinking of the certifiers in particular.

EA: OK, but aren't businesses likely to take a different view? Public service doesn't always get a very good press in the private sector...

J.McM: Accreditation must be imposed, not only by its official status of public authority, but because it has a unique and precise rôle to play in the market and it offers an additional definite guarantee of trust. This is why we fought so hard as, you must remember, the Council Resolution was not going in this direction at the beginning... It was necessary not to leave the slightest room for the idea of competition.

EA: Your project also provides for the reinforcement of EA and its rôle in Europe. Your proposals testify to your considerable trust. What is this based on?

J.McM: We are making a kind of bet because, for the time being, we consider EA still too weak, not visible enough by a long way for the opinion leaders and controlling operators. The lack of support from the public authorities is penalising EA, which itself lacks authority. EA is strong from the technical point of view and, this is a very good thing, but not strong enough from the political point of view. It must become the compulsory contact in terms of compliance certification, or even of safety, fair trading or product and service quality.

EA: Were there other possible routes?

J.McM: Only two options could be considered: either create an EA type system based on multilateral agreement and the mutual evaluations of the signatories or create a European super-accreditor. The latter solution is not viable as no one would be in a position to guarantee its operational quality. The Commission would be consulted, but it has neither the resources nor the legitimacy. Another consequence: the influence of Europe in the world would suffer seriously as a result.

There is room for improvement but the organisation is trustworthy.

Skills: So, to summarise, what are the real innovations in the scheme you are proposing?

J.McM: I see three main ones. Firstly, the text confirms the principle of non-competition applicable and applied to accreditation. This is the first time that we can be officially open about it. Secondly, the notion of public authority finds itself at the very foundation of the system, it reinforces the visibility of EA in the market and calls for concrete support, i.e. recognition from the European authorities and from governments at national level. Thirdly, quite logically, it is necessary to reposition EA in relation to the Commission and the Senior Officials Group for Standardisation ("SOGS"). We still have to answer the question of "how": how can we structure new relations? How should the Commission position itself in relation to EA? Because there's a kind of paradox in the need we have to be capable of demonstrating our trust in the multilateral agreement (MLA) whilst continuing to respect our duty of non-interference. So should we have one foot inside EA or stay outside? I'm not convinced that we should intervene from inside. Mechanisms are already in place which allow us to ensure that the agreement is functioning correctly. A member of my team attends meetings of the MAC (EA Committee in charge of managing the MLA).

We have even been invited to observe the evaluations conducted by EA. We will have to think about this with EA.

! Focus

EA: From the Old Approach to the New Approach and the Global Approach, what has changed at the end of the day?

J.McM: With the Global Approach, we had the ambition of dealing with things "as a whole" except that we forgot two things: the status of accreditation and the market surveillance issue. At that time the Member States were reluctant to trust each other and directives were reinforced in an exaggerated manner. Establishing common rules at that time was inconceivable. Today it is precisely those Member States that are asking for it, as reflected in one of the chapters of the Lisbon strategy. This is the profound change which is going to make it possible to re-balance requirements and rôles. It's essential.

EA: And what becomes of the distinction between voluntary and statutory accreditation?

J.McM: This distinction tends to contaminate the debate. In fact, it all boils down to a simple idea: statutory accreditation corresponds to a public authority activity, voluntary to a commercial activity. We really must bear in mind that the bodies involved in regulated sectors have constraints that bodies in the private sector do not have. I really believe that we must do away with this distinction.

EA: So we're talking about a true cultural revolution...

J.McM: I know and I'm conscious of the fact but I am also deeply convinced that this is the price we have to pay. But it's not so revolutionary as it appears because we are already seeing private bodies making moves to make themselves "presentable"...

There is one more question we should ask, that of the dissemination of the principle of non-competition worldwide. It is very clear that we will have to get involved in ILAC and IAF where we will have to have the means to maintain the positions we take. We will have to be capable of announcing that we will not comply with the standard (ISO/IEC 17011) if it conflicts with European policy. Europe is the only region in the world to have a policy and instruments in terms of compliance certification and accreditation. Above all, EA and the Brussels Commission will have to present a united front.

EA: How do you look to the near future?

J.McM: In spite of a more complicated political context and an general climate which is not set fair, I'm confident because we have the support of the Member States. We are going to get our document out before the summer, I hope in the form of a ruling, which should also help in simplifying our statutory system in this field.

Since April 2004, I have been responsible for the dossier. The fact of having been there at the outset has enabled me to play a driving rôle, allowing me to be critical about the past because I was involved in it. As 2006 gets underway, I am there to finalise the definitive proposal; perhaps it will be necessary for someone else to see the negotiation through to its conclusion. But if we have done our work well, this phase shouldn't be a problem. In the meantime, we have to make progress in particular concerning the future role of EA.

! News from Committees

Inspection Committee (IC): report on the meeting held on March 8 in Malta

Revision of EA 5 / 02 EA guidance on the application of EN 45004 (ISO/IEC 17020) in recurrent inspections of motor vehicles

The Committee agreed to set up a WG in charge of revising the document according to EA ILAC IAF A4. The WG will comprise representatives of EA and CITA and will be convened by Sigurlinni Sigurlinnason (ISAC, Iceland). The revised draft should be submitted to the Inspection Committee at the next meeting in October

Guidance to ISO/IEC 17011 7.5.7 and 7.5.8

The Committee discussed the proposals from the JWG on Inspection concerning the interpretation of ISO 17011. It developed and agreed on a statement which was forwarded to the joint Committee concerning key activities and witness inspections.

Joint Working Group on Inspection: proposal for an MLA text for inspection

The Committee was presented the JWGI proposal for the IAF/ILAC MLMRA on Inspection. Members of the committee were invited to send their comment on the draft to the Committee chair by the end of March. Merih Malmqvist, the Chairman of the IC is in charge of liaising with the joint WG.

New tasks for the Inspection Committee

The Committee discussed its role and mission for the future, in light of the expected changes to come at the European level. No doubt that the Committee will have a role to play since the role of accreditation and EA in the notification process will be reinforced. It was recognized that in EA, although inspection accreditation mainly concerns the regulated area (European and national regulations), there are also a lot of activities in the voluntary area.

The members agreed on a list of key topics to be addressed by the Committee at its next meetings: expression of accreditation scopes for the purpose of notification to directives, review of European (SOGS) guidance documents for notification, discussion on technical issues arising from peer reviews in view of harmonization, guidance for multi-site assessments.

It was also agreed that a mechanism should be put in place in order to identify other such related topics.

Definition of scopes of inspection bodies in the mandatory area

The Committee discussed the first proposal for the expression of accreditation scopes for the purpose of notification to directives submitted by the WG. Five items have been identified at this stage. It was agreed that the proposal needed to be further developed. A revised proposal was submitted to the EA Advisory Board in April.

! News from Committees

Certification Committee: report on the meeting held on March 6-7 in Malta

For the first time and in response to a request made by some of its members, the Committee held a half day meeting to which only accreditation bodies representatives were invited. The discussion proved fruitful since it was decided to maintain such meetings in the future with the aim to improving preparation and effectiveness of the Committee open sessions. However it was agreed that the list of items to be discussed should be prepared in a better way in advance of the meetings.

Three key issues which were identified as a result of a voting among the participants were discussed: policy for cross frontier, guidance on the application of standards used for accreditation and policy for sector schemes.

At its meeting on the second day (full session) the Committee considered in details the agenda for the IAF Technical Committee meeting.

Guidance to ISO 19011 was discussed and members agreed that guidance concerning assessors (auditors) and assessment (auditing) should be covered separately in the documents concerning the AB's and the CB's that is to say in the guidance to ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO 17021 Part 2.

The Committee also commented on the proposed guidance to ISO/IEC 17011.

The following documents are being revised and should be published soon by EA:

- EA 7/01 (IAF GD2 to be implemented by 15 December 2006)
- EA 7/02 for multi-sites (IAF GD6)
- EA 6/02 (surveillance and re-certification)

The CC decided to develop the following new work items:

- Guidance to accreditation of certification of Food Safety Management Systems (ISO 22000)
- Generic principles for combined audits
- Guidance to accreditation of certification of Information Security Management Systems (ISO 27001) (in cooperation with IAF)

The Committee recommended that EA should publish the IAF EA White paper on the relation between ISO 14001 certifications and Regulatory Compliance as an information document.

Regarding scoring systems in the food sector, the Committee confirmed that scoring is fully compatible with ISO guide 65.

The Committee agreed that a guidance document was not needed in the field of accreditation of QMS certification in Health Care. It recognized the work achieved by the WG on Health care and decided it was no longer justified to maintain the WG in the future.

News from the Multilateral Agreement Committee (MAC)

The EA MLA

IPAC (Portugal) was accepted into the MLA for calibration, testing, inspection and certification of QMS, Products and Persons.

TURKAK (Turkey) was accepted into the MLA for calibration, testing, inspection and QMS certification.

SA (Slovenia) was accepted for inspection and certification of QMS, EMS and Products. SA is now a signatory for all scopes except certification of persons.

LATAK (Latvia) was accepted for inspection and becomes a signatory for all the EA MLA scopes.

Compliance with ISO/IEC 17011

As the transition period for compliance with ISO/IEC 17011 ended on December 31st 2005, ILAC and IAF agreed to check compliance with the new standard by asking for a self-declaration by the ABs. The same questionnaire was therefore sent out to all signatories to the MLAs in all regions. In EA, the questionnaire was also distributed to the ABs signatories to a bilateral agreement with EA, to the signatories to a contract of cooperation with EA and to the EA members who are not a member of the EA MLA. All EA MLA members are in compliance with the new standard. The exercise raised the need for revising the criteria for membership which will be discussed at the General Assembly in June in Riga.

Cross frontier accreditation

A draft policy for cross frontier accreditation is being developed at the MAC level. A specific task force was appointed to perform the work. A final draft has just been finalized, it has been distributed to the MAC Chair and EA Executive for a decision on how to proceed. It is expected

that the draft policy will be sent out in EA for a 60-days comments period before it is open for ballot.

The task force considered also the need for creating a database for managing information about cross frontier accreditations and Conformity Assessment Bodies with key activities outside their own country. The project will start when the policy is approved.

Training

The WG for training, chaired by Hans-Ulrich Mittmann, has discussed extensively possible ways for strengthening the EA peer evaluations. How to improve professionalism at the team members' and team leaders' level is one of the major issues. Limiting the number of the evaluators, increasing their training and using them more frequently are the routes under consideration. Such a system envisages that AB members would be compensated for providing their most experienced staff members for EA evaluations. The MAC in majority supported that the WG continues to elaborate on this basis.

Task force on the evaluation process

At the last MAC meeting in April, members of the MAC were invited to share their views on the EA evaluation process: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. All the information gathered will be used by the TF in charge of making proposals to improve the process.

The TF is expected to present a report at the next meeting of the MAC in October. In October as well, progress should have been made in the discussion about scopes in the EA MLA. A proposal that EA should establish one MLA with several technical scopes received strong support by the Committee.

! News from Committees

News from the Communications and Publications Committee (CPC)

The last meeting of the CPC held in Salzburg on March 23rd and 24th witnessed an increased attendance with 17 participants representing 11 EA members attending the meeting in Austria.

Although the meeting agenda was full, very good progress was made on a number of projects.

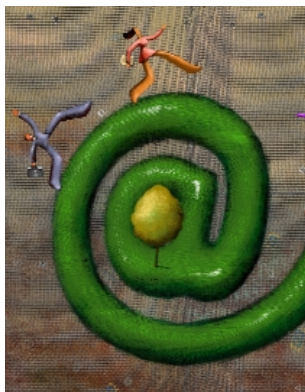
First, the task force responsible for Press kits prepared very good proposals for four press kits targeted at Governments, European Commission, Society (End users) and conformity assessment bodies as direct customers of accreditation. The press kits will be available for use by EA and its members before the end of the year.

Revision of EA 3/01 Conditions for use of accreditation symbols

The Committee reviewed in detail the draft prepared by the ad hoc task force.

A new draft has just been finalized which is now aligned with the ILAC P8 document and incorporates rules for reference to MLA signatory status and rules concerning the use of the ILAC and IAF marks. The final draft will be considered by the Committee at its next meeting in September and sent out for a 60-days comment period by the end of the year.

EA web site



Feedback and suggestions for improvement of the web site were given due consideration during the meeting.

The analysis resulted in a number of improvements concerning the navigation system, in particular on the Publications pages. Less visible to the public, are the significant improvements made in the EA intranet. New functions have been developed that enable the EA central secretariat and committees to conduct electronic ballots and surveys.

Information material for the members

Apart from the press kits which will soon be available, the EA members can now use the electronic template of the brochure for publishing a national version of the EA brochure with a translated version of the contents. The EA set of slides has been updated and is available on the web site. The set is continuously being improved, new slides being incorporated as needed.

The newsletter will have a permanent column to cover progress on the discussions with the European Commission about the future of accreditation and EA and their consequences for EA and its members. Special issues of the newsletter will be published as needed to report on significant progress on this subject which is of interest to the members and the accreditation community.

The Committee continues to be fully committed to its liaison activities with the ILAC Marketing and Communication Committee (MCC) and

contributed to the reflections on the organisation and contents of a workshop on Marketing issues planned to take place in Cancun. The EA CPC is equally committed to cooperating with the IAF Communications and Marketing Committee (IAF CMC) as it becomes operational. The EA CPC has operated for several years and is willing to share its experience and expertise as much as possible with its ILAC and IAF counterparts in order to avoid duplication of work and to maximise the use of resources between the organisations. The Committee considered a proposal to develop a certificate for MLA signatories which would give greater visibility to the signatory status of the members and promote the MLAs. Finally the CPC started to elaborate on a proposal to hold an EA workshop in combination with EA General Assembly meetings to develop EA policies and strategic issues. Proposals will be available soon for consideration by the EA Executive Committee and General Assembly members.

The EA database for accredited bodies

The project management group responsible for developing the EA database of accredited bodies met in Salzburg on 22nd March. This project started with the successful implementation of an EA scope for calibration. Initially three ABs published their data for accredited calibration laboratories and this grew to five ABs very soon afterwards comprising Denmark, Finland, France, Germany and UK. In the meantime the project management group through good liaison activities with the Laboratory Committee reviewed and simplified the EA scope for calibration which is now fully operational. Today, we are pleased to report that three more ABs (CAI, SNAS and INAB) are inputting the data for their accredited calibration laboratories onto the EA database.

In 2005 reflections conducted again in close cooperation with the LC gave birth to a proposal for an EA scope for testing based on two lists for products / objects and tests. This proposal has developed over time while taking into account recommendations made by the LC and has now been agreed by the project management group. When this work started few would have believed we could achieve a common scope for testing in such a relatively short period of time. The scope is currently being evaluated by the management group members and if agreed could be implemented before the end of the year.

In addition the project management group also finalized two proposals for common scopes for management systems certification and certification of persons. These proposals have been transmitted to the Certification Committee for consideration.

Finally, a full text search facility has been developed which can be easily implemented by all ABs since it does not require any change in the databases of the ABs. The language issue for the search function is being further examined by the group.

! News from Committees

The Laboratory Committee (LC)



Nominations

Martine Bednarova (CAI) has been elected new member of the PLG, **Graham Talbot** and **Wolfgang Bosch** having left the group.

The ad hoc WG on Health Care will have two co-convenors: **Andreas Steinhorst** (DACH), the Chairman of the WG and **Rolf Straub** (Switzerland AB), the Vice Chairman.

A new ad hoc task force on BMCs (Best Measurement Capabilities) has been established with **Erik Oehlenschlaeger** (DANAK), **Trevor Thompson** (UKAS) and one or two other members to be appointed by Euromet. Another task force chaired by Erik will be in charge of revising the EA traceability document in collaboration with Euromet and ILAC.

The Committee nominated two new liaison persons: Cor de Ruyter for MEASNET and **Cecilie Laake** for WADA.

Working groups of the Laboratory Committee

WG on ILCs in the field of calibration

The WG finalised a procedural document on the use of ILCs in support of the MLA in calibration. The issue was discussed at length in the LC and one of the main difficulties is that the market remains very limited for PT providers in calibration.

Recognising the need for ILCs, the Committee gave the WG the task to elaborate a priority list of technical fields to be covered and to look for providers in the targeted fields.

ILCs in the field of testing: the EA/Eurolab/Eurachem PT Working Group

The two documents produced by the PT WG received broad support from the LC: one develops educational aspects of ILCs in testing and the other outlines indications of MU by ILCs participants. The LC has recommended that the documents should be accepted as advisory documents.

The Committee paid tribute to Nick Boley's tremendous contribution to the work of the WG. Nick is due to step down after the ILAC meetings in May in Madrid.

Accreditation of PT providers

ISO started a new work item to revise ISO Guide 43 and upgrade the guide into an ISO/IEC 17043 standard. The ISO WG in charge of the work is WG 28 and it is convened by Dan Tholen (A2LA).

Ad hoc WG on accreditation of medical laboratories

After discussion, the LC decided to include a work item about implementation of ISO/IEC 15195 in the WG revised terms of reference and work program. At present, the WG is developing a discussion paper on the description of accreditation scopes for medical labs and elaborating on the frequency of assessments. The LC agreed that ISO 15195 should be used in combination with ISO/IEC 17025, a view which is shared by the Laboratory community and the ILAC Accreditation Issues Committee (AIC).

Procedures to establish and maintain traceability

The Committee identified a need to come up with improved guidance on how to realize and maintain traceability to standards recognized under the BIPM MRA. EA offered to share its vast experience to carry out the work. The proposal was accepted by ILAC. A new LC task force was set up which will be convened by Erik Oehlenschlaeger. The TF will also consider traceability in chemistry and invite representatives from all interested regions and JCTLM to contribute.

The LC continues to work on flexible scopes, deviating samples and the use of computerized systems in laboratories (for which Eurolab came up with a draft document which was much welcomed).

Cooperation with EFI (the European Federation for Immunogenetics) continues to develop with Andreas Steinhorst in charge of the liaison activities. As a result of recent discussions, it was recommended that bilateral agreements between accreditation bodies and EFI should be avoided now that there is a MoU at a higher level between EA and EFI.

Report on ILAC AIC meeting in Madrid

Because both BIPM and ILAC share some responsibility towards the world measurement system it is very important that BIPM and ILAC build up close relationships. At a joint ILAC/BIPM meeting, several issues were raised: accreditation of NMIs, CMC and BMC (is there a real need for both concepts or should only one be used based on the VIM?), the ILAC mark and the need for a BIPM mark and the promotion of the BIPM MRA. Another BIPM/ILAC meeting is planned for March 2007. Detailed information can be found in the ILAC document "The relationship between ILAC and the BIPM by ILAC" which is available on the ILAC web site.

Reference materials

An ILAC WG has been established which issued a first draft document about implementation of the ILAC resolution on Reference Materials. An open workshop will be organised in Cancun during the ILAC and IAF General assemblies in November to discuss the proposals from the WG further.

! News from the secretariat



**Please pay attention !
The fax number of the EA Secretariat has changed.
Please dial 33 1 44 68 96 06**



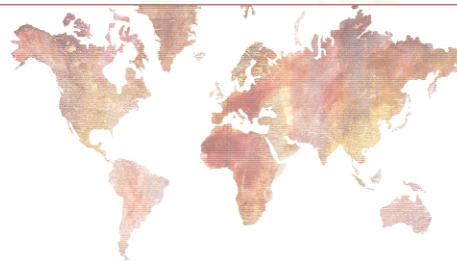
EA membership

EA now brings together 34 full member AB's and 2 associate members representing 34 European countries. HAA, the Croatian Accreditation Body, was accepted as a full member in November 2005 following the decision by the European Council to accept Croatia as a candidate country. Out of the 32 full member countries, 19 have signed for all scopes, 7 have signed for only part of the scopes and 6 have not yet signed the EA MLA.

With JAC, the Jordanian Accreditation Commission, signing a contract of cooperation in November, EA has developed 16 such contracts out of which 9 have turned into a bilateral agreement.

On the day-to-day agenda

The secretariat has now full control on the EA web site for information that can be managed through a database, which is most of the information on the web site actually. This means that we can now improve significantly the quality of the information published on the web site for the following pages: Events, EA members, EA MLA members and contracts of cooperation signatories as well as Publications. Better use of financial resources allocated to the development of the web site can be achieved by not having to rely on external resources for the day-to-day management of the web site.



Improving the intranet is also a high priority and a day-to-day concern for the secretariat. Bénédicte is in charge of servicing no less than 417 users and 17 different user groups. We are currently testing two new tools. The first one will make it possible to manage ballots fully electronically. Not only will the EA members be able to vote electronically through the intranet but the EA secretariat will have the possibility to follow up and manage on line the voting process and results of the ballots. The second tool will enable EA to carry out electronic surveys. EA members will be invited to fill in questionnaires on line. Likewise, reminders and results will be processed electronically but of course analyses of the surveys will continue to use "brains" resources...

EA has achieved registration of its name and logo as a European individual mark. Rules for use of the logo are being drafted. It is not intended to use the EA mark to demonstrate MLA signatory status at the moment. The web site domain name has been successfully registered as "european-accreditation.eu". Finally, we can report that the secretariat has developed a management system document based on the MAC management system model and that very good cooperation has started this year with the newly elected Financial Oversight Committee.

! News from the Regions

Challenges for APLAC in 2006

2006 should see continuing APLAC initiatives for technical development and support of its work, including the development of the programme **to expand the APLAC MRA to cover accreditation of reference material producers**. The inaugural signing will take place once 4 MRA signatories have been successfully evaluated for RMP accreditation.

A Reference Material Producers Workshop on 10-12 April 2006 in Beijing.

The course presenters were Dr E W B de Leer of the Netherlands Meetinstituut, Mr W W Wong of HKAS and Ms R Robinson of A2LA. The course was designed for experienced accreditation body staff who will be responsible for RMP accreditations, and for technical assessors who will be involved in the assessment of RMPs.

Accredited Laboratories put doping on ice at the 2006 Winter Games

When Torino, Italy hosted the 2006 Winter Games last February, laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 helped to ensure that only the real winners went home with the medals. This is thanks to the World Anti-Doping Code, which requires all laboratories performing drug testing of Olympic athletes to meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, the international standard for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

APLAC MRA

The APLAC MRA now has 23 signatories out of which 10 are recognised for inspection. At the last APLAC General Assembly held in November 2005, the MRA was extended with new signatories being accepted: **CAEAL** in Canada signed for testing, **BPSLAS** in Philippines signed for testing and calibration, **EMA** in Mexico for calibration, testing and inspection and **TAF** in Chinese Taipei signed for an extension to inspection.

A workshop on the accreditation of inspection bodies is planned to take place in September in Singapore, to which PAC members and members of other regions will be invited. Comprehensive review and updating of the APLAC web site is underway.

More information at www.aplac.org

SADCAS (1) on its way to be fully operational

SADCAS was registered on December 6th 2005 under the Botswana Law, as a limited not-for-profit organisation. The challenge now is for SADCA to become fully operational. A SADCA Project Management Committee meeting took place in November in Zanzibar to initiate SADCAs Strategic and Business Plan.

The newly appointed SADCAs Board of Directors received corporate governance training from the South African Institute of Directors on route to the inaugural SADCAs BoD meeting in November 2005.

The Project Management Committee met with the National Accreditation Focal Points and the SADCAs Board of Directors in February in Botswana. Issues discussed included updating the National Focal Points and the Board on the latest development in SADCA and SADCAS.

The first annual SADCA(1) meeting was held in April in Namibia.

To date National Accreditation Focal Points from 7 SADCA countries have been launched namely Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, DRC, Mauritius, Zimbabwe and Angola. The National Focal Points from the DRC and Madagascar travelled to Cofrac in France in March 2006 to undergo their training.

More information can be found at www.sadca.co.za

(1)SADCA is the regional management committee for accreditation and SADCAS is the regional accreditation body.

The Board of Directors :

Mr R A Kaakunga	Namibia <i>Chairperson of Board of Directors</i>
Mr C Mokhorro	Lesotho
Mr M Mukelabai	Zambia
Mr S Santos	Mozambique
Mr S Francisco	Angola
Ms M Chilcott	South Africa
Mr M A Peet	South Africa - <i>Secretariat</i>

! News from ILAC

ILAC Meetings

The June meetings of ILAC and IAF (1) will see **the first joint session of the ILAC AMC and IAF MLA MC** as decided in Auckland last year. The purpose of the joint session is to address the organization and planning of peer evaluations (regional and unaffiliated accreditation bodies) for accreditation of conformity assessment bodies where there are common activities, and to jointly consider common elements of evaluation reports from such evaluations.

(1) *Planned to take place in Helsinki hosted by FINAS: the ILAC and IAF Executive Committee, ILAC/IAF JCCC, ILAC AMC, IAF MLA Management Committee and the ILAC/IAF/ISO Joint WG meetings.*

Further information about arrangements for the 2006 Annual Meetings for ILAC and IAF are now available on the conference website at www.ilaciaf2006.com

Joint ILAC/IAF Activities

The joint activities between ILAC and IAF continue to be managed through the JCCC which has its next meeting in June 2006 in Helsinki. Currently operating under the stewardship of this committee are the following:

- Joint working group for inspection
- Joint development support committee.

With the publication of the Joint IAF/ILAC A-Series documents it was decided that the working group on harmonisation of peer evaluations procedures should be disbanded and replaced by three Joint Working Groups, covering the following areas:

- Maintenance of the A-Series documents;
- Training of Peer Evaluators;
- Transition/guidance for ISO/IEC 17011:2004

Each of these Joint Working Groups reports on their work programmes and progress at the JCCC meetings and also at the annual Joint General Assembly.

Publications

The A-Series documents (A1 – A3 joint ILAC and IAF publications), have recently been updated to reference ISO/IEC 17011: 2004 and ISO/IEC 17025: 2005 and they can be found on the ILAC and IAF websites.

In the “pipeline” (either out for voting/comment or in committee) are:

- *Guideline for the Determination of Calibration Intervals of Measuring Instruments (voting period closed on 23 October 05)*
- ILAC-P8:200x ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: *Supplementary Requirements and Guidelines for the Use of Accreditation Body Symbols and for Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Laboratories (voting period closed on 15 May 2006)*

- ILAC-P1: *2006 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Requirements for Evaluation of Accreditation Bodies by ILAC-recognised Regional Cooperations (voting period closed on 11 February 2006)*

- ILAC-P3: *2003 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Procedures for the Evaluation of Unaffiliated Bodies for the Purpose of Recognition (voting period closed on 11 February 2006)*

- ILAC-G11: *200x ILAC Guidelines on Qualifications and Competence of Assessors and Technical Experts (voting period closed on 23 April 2006).*

The results and feedback from the above ballots are currently being considered by the responsible committee, prior to publication.

Following on from the editorial amendments to the A-Series documents (A1 – A3 joint ILAC and IAF publications) mentioned above, some more substantive amendments have been proposed and the documents are currently out for a 60 day comment period amongst the ILAC and IAF memberships. The comment period closes for IAF on 7 June and for ILAC on 12 June 06.

ILAC Liaisons

The review of liaison activities, continues to be a major focus of the ILAC Executive Committee. To assist with the management of the ILAC liaisons, the Liaison Database was established in the last quarter of 2005. It can be accessed via the members area of the ILAC website.

ILAC continues to be actively involved in many liaison activities. ILAC recently participated in the Technical Panel meeting with IEC and the ISO TC 212 (medical) meetings.

March saw a week of annual meetings and workshops scheduled with BIPM and OIML in Paris. The March meetings focussed on progressing the cooperation between the three organisations.

ILAC's continuing close cooperation and liaison activity with EURACHEM and CITAC supports these important Metrological initiatives in chemical measurement.

April also brought the first round of meetings of the various ISO committees in which ILAC plays a very active role. Meetings of the **CASCO CAPS** (Conformity Assessment Promotions and Support Group), **CASCO CPC** (Chairman's Policy Committee) and WG 27 (Drafting requirements for use in conformity assessment applications) were attended by ILAC liaison officers. **ISO REMCO** (reference materials) met in May and ILAC was again represented. ILAC will also be represented at the meetings of various ISO groups and committees.

ILAC and the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) have continued the cooperation begun in 2003, with ILAC now holding a seat on the WADA Laboratory Committee.

! News from ILAC

The ILAC-MRA Mark

The ILAC-MRA Mark registration process continues and as at 25 May 2006, **36 ILAC Full Members had signed Licensing Agreements** with ILAC, for the use of the Combined MRA Mark. The Secretariat continues to receive a variety of enquiries on various aspects relating to the registration, licensing and use of the ILAC-MRA Mark. To assist in this area, a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" was compiled earlier in the year. It can be downloaded from the Member's area of the ILAC website.

ILAC Membership

ILAC membership as at 1 May 2006 is as follows:

- 52 Full Members (Signatories to the ILAC Arrangement) representing 43 economies;
- 16 Associates representing 15 economies;
- 19 Affiliates representing 18 economies;
- 5 Regional Cooperation Bodies
- 1 National Coordination Body
- 20 Stakeholders

The ILAC membership (total **111 bodies**) now covers a total of **77 different economies** worldwide and approximately **28,000 laboratories and inspection bodies** are accredited by the **68 ILAC Full Members and Associates**.

The ILAC Arrangement

As at the end of May 2006, there were 52 Signatories (Full Members) to the Arrangement, representing 43 economies.

Further information on ILAC can be obtained from the ILAC website at www.ilac.org, or email the Secretariat on ilac@nata.asn.au. ILAC Secretariat: **Alan Squirrell, Annette Dever, Alison Hay, Nilla Merrigan, Mohan Sabaratnam**

! News from IAF

IAF Membership reaches 70

The number of IAF members now totals 70 Members, with **47 Accreditation Body Members**, **14 Association Members** (9 Certification/Registration /Inspection Body Associations & 5 Industry/User Associations), **4 Regional Groups** with Special Recognition, **2 Partner Members** (ISO and the QUEST Forum) **3 Observer Members**: CAC-MAS-Q (Central Asian Cooperation on Metrology, Accreditation, Standardization), the **Euro-Asian Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification** (EASC) and the **World Food Safety Organization** (WFSO). The latest members to join IAF are the Hellenic Accreditation System (**ESYD**) of Greece and the Luxembourg Office of Accreditation and Surveillance (**OLAS**) as Accreditation Body Members plus the International Personnel Certification Association (**IPC - formerly IATCA**) as an Association Member. Applications have recently been received from the Egyptian Accreditation Council (**EGAC**) and the Portuguese Institute for Accreditation (**IPAC**).

IAF-ILAC-ISO Relationship

Since the signing of the IAF-ILAC-ISO MoU in March 2004, four meetings of the IAF-ILAC-ISO Joint Working Group (JWG) have been held.

Amongst issues which have been considered by the JWG has been the need for and formation of a joint IAF-ISO Task Force on Auditor Competence which was charged with developing guidelines on ISO 19011. This work was completed in March of this year and has now been submitted to ISO as a basis for Part 2 of ISO 17021 covering requirements for the establishment and management of auditor competence.

Other matters covered by the JWG have been the future development of conformity assessment requirements for ISO DIS 22000 Food Safety Management Systems, validation and verification of Green House Gases, greater involvement by IAF in the ISO survey on management system certificates and interaction with ISO on the handling of complaints about conformity assessment practices.

AB Code of Conduct

All IAF Accreditation Body Members are obliged to comply with the IAF Code of Conduct for IAF Accreditation Body Members (IAF PL 1:2003) which was published in November 2003. It is very pleasing to note that as a result of an implementation review **all current IAF Accreditation Body Members**, including those who have only recently joined, **have now been able to adopt the Code of Conduct**.

Licensing of the IAF MLA Mark

Following the adoption of the new IAF Logo and MLA Mark designs in 2003, an intensive registration program for both the Logo and Mark has been undertaken on a worldwide basis. Initially the license agreements were limited to the QMS MLA, but following a successful 6 month introduction period the Executive agreed to the extension of the MLA Licensing Agreements to include the EMS and Product MLAs.

After the extension of the programme to cover all the MLAs, a total of **30 Licensing Agreements** have now been issued to IAF MLA members covering the QMS, EMS and Product MLAs, in accordance with the relevant MLA membership of each Licensee.

Strategic Directions

In late 2002 the IAF Executive held a special meeting to review the IAF Scorecard and to develop strategic directions for the next three years. These have identified specific actions and projects to be carried out by the various committees and working groups, with progress being reviewed at each Executive meeting. The Executive decided to meet last November to take an overview on what IAF has achieved and develop a new perspective on where IAF should position itself to meet the challenges likely to be faced over the next three years. It is expected that the draft revision of the IAF Strategic Directions will be available for consideration by the IAF General Assembly which will meet during the Annual Meetings in Cancun, Mexico in November.



! EA Publications

Publication of ILAC, IAF and ILAC-IAF documents endorsed by EA

According to the EA rules (document no EA 2/12), EA automatically endorses all ILAC, IAF and joint ILAC-IAF publications unless they are not compatible with the EA and / or European Commission policies for accreditation. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication with the inherent risks of outdated information being displayed, the Committee decided to stop maintaining an EA list of such documents endorsed by EA. Instead, a disclaimer is now published on the relevant web pages to inform the user of the EA rules with a direct link to the ILAC and IAF web pages.

Likewise, the EA 10 series documents (calibration documents) are no longer available on the EA web site. As part of the EA / Euromet MoU, Euromet accepted to take over the management of these documents which have been all transferred to Euromet and published on the Euromet web site.

! Publications

Revised documents:

EA-1/01: List of EA publications

EA-1/05: Contact Persons of EA Members, Associate Members, Contracts of Co-operation and observers

EA-1/08 rev14: EA Multi and Bilateral Agreement Signatories

EA-2/11 rev01: Policy on Conformity Assessment Schemes (Sector schemes)

EA-2/12 Annex: Proposal for the preparation of EA Guidance documents. This is the annex which is already on the EA-2/12 but in word format so that you can use it more easily.

Under revision:

EA- 3/01: EA Conditions for the Use of Accreditation Symbols

Proposed for withdrawal:

EA-3/03 rev01: EAC-EAL General Requirements for Bodies Providing Accreditation of Inspection Bodies (previously EAC/EAL-G28)

EA-3/10 rev00: EA Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC TR 17010



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Diary

June 2006

6 : EA Executive Committee, Riga
7-8: EA General Assembly, Riga
11-12: ILAC Executive Committee Meeting, Helsinki
14: ILAC Arrangement Management Committee, Helsinki
14: ISO/ILAC/IAF JWG, Helsinki
14: IAF MLA Management Committee, Helsinki
15-16: IAF Executive Meeting, Helsinki

August 2006

6-11: IAAC General Assembly, Argentina
30-31: ILAC MCC, London

September 2006

4-5: EA Executive Committee Meeting, Roma
10-15: APLAC General Assembly in Taipei
10-16: ISO General Assembly, Canada
11: EA Database Project Management Group, Paris
12-13: EA Laboratory Committee, Paris
13-14: EA PLG meeting, Paris
14: EA Advisory Board meeting, Brussels
28-29: EA Communications and Publications Committee, Bucharest

October 2006

5-6: EA MAC meeting, Brussels
9: EA Inspection Committee, Ljubljana
10-11: EA Certification Committee, Ljubljana
17: EA Executive Committee, Istanbul
18-19: EA General Assembly meeting, Istanbul

November 2006

6-14: ILAC and IAF meetings in Cancun
8: ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee
9-10: ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee-workshop

2007

February 2007

19: 4E and CEOC meeting of the chair and Vice Chair persons, Paris

March 2007

28-29: EA MAC, Prague

Web directory

ILAC: www.ilac.org
IAF: www.iaf.nu
PAC: www.apec-pac.org
IAAC: www.iaac.org.mx
APLAC: www.aplac.org

EAnews

Next Issue: Focus

Communiqué on the 17th EA General Assembly and report on the SOGS meeting beginning of July