

List of Conclusions and Resolutions

agreed at the 34th Meeting of the EA Advisory Board
held on 15 April 2015

Agenda Item 3 - Key topics for discussion

Agenda Item 3.1 - Review of role of EAAB and interaction with EA (outcome of the questionnaire on the update of EAAB document *Role of the EAAB and Interaction with EA*)

The Board, in light of the outcome of the questionnaire:

▪ EAAB membership

- agrees that the representativeness of the EAAB Colleges is still relevant enough;
- agrees that efforts should continue to gather representatives from a broader range of organisations and sectors, such as environmental organisations, which directly rely on accredited conformity assessment;
- agrees that a number of 5 members in the colleges is adequate and that it is up to the colleges to consider a broad range of EA Members' countries to be represented within the colleges and finally within in the EAAB;
- confirms the 3-year term of appointment of EAAB members;
- confirms the current procedure according to which EAAB members who are unable to attend a meeting should send in an apology to the EAAB Secretariat in writing and in advance of the meeting, with indication of a reason for the absence and mention of all received apologies in the minutes of the meeting;
- agrees that, in case of repeated absences of a member, it is up to the concerned college to deal with the situation;
- agrees to postpone discussions on how to deal with possible requests for representation within the EAAB of scheme owners that have acquired the status of "EA recognized stakeholders" until such a request is actually made;

▪ EAAB operations

- shares the view that the Board's advice given to EA has been clear and efficient on most issues that were brought before it by EA;
- agrees, however, that interaction with EA would be improved if EA could come back to the Board with feedback or reactions to the advice provided in a more timely manner;
- is fully satisfied with the relevance of meeting agendas as well as the clear and transparent way in which the Board's discussions take place;
- suggests that the NA College, together with the European Commission, should consider the question on how the College could represent more actively EA views and interests, for instance

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by taking on a more active role within the Internal Market of Products (IMP) expert group (presenting the results of the Board's discussions to that group and providing feedback to the Board on any reactions or accreditation issues discussed within that group);

Action NA College

▪ EAAB management

- confirms the need for biannual physical meetings;
- confirms the efficiency of the meeting agendas' format with the "key topics for discussion" procedure, recognizing that there is no obligation for a "key topic" item in case of absence of suitable issues;
- agrees that the meeting preparation and follow-up are performed in a satisfactory way by the EAAB Secretariat, whose good performance is acknowledged;
- **finally** agrees to consider all the above-mentioned conclusions for an updated version of EAAB document *Role of the EAAB and Interaction with EA* for presentation at the next meeting for discussion and approval.

Action EAAB Secretariat + Chair/Vice-Chairs

Agenda Item 4 - EAAB matters

Agenda Item 4.1 - Call for nominations in view of the renewal of the EAAB membership in 2016

The Board agrees to change the deadline for nominations to 5 September 2015 before sending out the call as drafted by the EAAB Chair by end of the week.

Action EAAB Secretariat (sent on 16 April 2015)

Agenda Item 4.2 - Application of ISO/IEC 17065 for schemes

The Board:

- thanks EUROLAB for clarification on the use of ISO/IEC 17065 as the most suitable standard for evaluating product certification schemes that rely on testing, inspection and management system auditing;
- points out, nevertheless, that the product certification scheme and the complete scope it covers should be considered when evaluating the competence of a certification body to perform a product certification for a defined product group. Notifying authorities should verify that the scope includes the product of the relevant EU legislation for which the CAB wishes to be notified.

Agenda Item 4.3 - Reports from the EAAB HHC and MAC observers

The Board:

- thanks Jörg Hartge for his oral report on the last HHC meeting;
- takes note of the HHC discussions regarding how to cope with activities of CABs which are not included in the accredited scope. Currently those activities are not considered by the NAB during assessments of the CAB. At the request of EA, the constituencies represented on the Board will consider further whether this practice is agreed or should be changed;

- takes note of the HHC decision to consider sampling as a stand-alone activity to be accredited under either ISO/IEC 17025 or ISO/IEC 17020 depending on the purpose of the conformity assessment.

Agenda Item 4.4 - Assessor resourcing in small ABs: further progress made by EA

The Board:

- thanks EA for reporting on how the issue is progressing, and appreciates that EA is seriously continuing to consider and improve the situation;
- welcomes the shift in the focus of the issue first related to smaller NABs and now enlarged to lack of resources and competence of NABs in areas with a limited number of CABs;
- notes that EA *recommends* (but cannot demand) that NABs carefully investigate their own areas of activity and use the possibility of cooperating with other NABs to strive for a harmonized way of implementing new fields/activities and to provide accreditation on a level playing field;
- asks EA to look further into any consequences for the peer evaluation in those areas where competences need to be inside the accreditation body itself (e.g. assessment decision) and their *internal* expertise cannot be outsourced.

Agenda Item 4.5 - Application of ILAC P10:01/2013 *ILAC Policy on Traceability of Measurement Results* by EA Members and EAAB position

The Board:

- notes the feedback given by the EAAB Chair who reported about the Board's "*concerns over the tendency within EA to redefine the concept contained in ILAC P10 in relation to the different routes for obtaining traceability*" (see Conclusions & Resolutions List of 33rd EAAB meeting) at the EA General Assembly in November 2014;
- agrees to wait for what will arise from the current revisions of ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 17025.

Agenda Item 5 - EA matters

Agenda Item 5.1 - Revision of ISO/IEC 17011

The Board notes the progress report provided by EA.

Agenda Item 5.2 - New EA projects and work items

The Board:

- endorses the proposed new work item for revision of EA-6/03 M 2013: *EA Document for Recognition of Verifiers under the EU ETS Directive*;
- takes note of EA's intention to present a new work item for EA's new vision and strategic objectives to be elaborated on the 2025 horizon;

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- takes note of EA's intention to present a new work item for revision of EA-1/13: *EA's Relationship with Accreditation Bodies of Countries not being Members of the EU or EFTA* in order for these ABs to be still allowed to be evaluated by EA when they are evaluated by another region cooperation.

Agenda Item 5.3 – Update on the “Accreditation for Notification” project

The Board:

- thanks EA for updating EAAB members on the large-scale project that aims at harmonising the accreditation requirements used as basis for notification by defining and listing the preferred harmonized standards for each EC Directive and module;
- notes that the definition of preferred harmonized standards for a first priority set of 9 Directives is nearing completion and should soon be circulated to NABs once discussed with EC DG Growth.

Agenda Item 5.4 - Voting rights of Associate Members in the EA MAC

The Board:

- thanks EA for informing EAAB members of its current discussions, further to a non-conformity raised during the ILAC/IAF evaluation, on whether and how to give voting rights to EA Associate Members which have to fulfil the same EA rules as Full Members;
- takes note that the EA Executive Committee is discussing how to change the MAC voting rules in order to allow all EA MLA/BLA signatories to vote on results of peer-evaluation activities.

Agenda Item 5.5 - Cooperation with Halal Accreditation Forum

The Board:

- thanks EA for informing EAAB members and takes note that Halal accreditation is developing in the Gulf countries along their own rules outside the ISO system;
- agrees that EA should, for the time being, stay in contact with Halal Accreditation Forum for mere observation and information-sharing purposes.

Agenda Item 5.6 - Accreditation of CABs located in Europe by non-European ABs and Recognition of Accreditations issued outside the framework established by Regulation (EC) 765/2008 - Progress report

The Board:

- thanks EA for addressing the issue in a satisfactory way by updating EA-INF/04: *Statement on acceptance and recognition of activities under the EA MLA*, where Note 2 is added on Page 12 to clarify the following: “*If a conformity assessment body established in the European Union is not accredited by its National Accreditation Body (or by the National Accreditation Body of another Member State as provided by the Regulation), the certificates/reports it issues under any other accreditation have not been issued in line with all the relevant legal requirements in Europe*”.

Agenda Item 5.7 - Survey on the use of non-harmonized standards for accreditation

The Board takes note that the survey outcome, currently discussed by the EA Executive Committee, should be finalized before being presented to the EAAB.

Agenda Item 5.8 - Revision of EA-1/17: EA Rules of Procedure

The Board agrees that Section 12 of EA-1/17 dedicated to “*Cooperation with interested parties*” and the EAAB should be slightly amended in a more flexible manner so as to allow several (and not only one as suggested by “a”) representatives of the EAAB to “*be invited to participate in the EA General Assembly*”.

Action EA

Agenda Item 6 - Items for information

The Board thanks EA for all the written and oral reports given under this item.

Agenda Item 7 - EAAB Work Programme

The Board asks the EAAB Secretariat to reclassify or rename the following 3 topics:

- ✓ *Support of accreditation for application of legislation: relation accreditation/notification*, to be reclassified as “closed”;
- ✓ *Implementation of the new European legislation and related consequences (incl. cross-border issues)*, to be reclassified as “open”.
- ✓ *Change “Lack of resources in small NABs” into “Resources and competences of NABs in areas with a limited number of CABs”*

Action EAAB Secretariat

Agenda Item 8 - Any other business

Agenda Item 8.2 - Request to ILAC for revision of ILAC-P14:01/2013 - ILAC Policy for Uncertainty in Calibration, paragraph 5.4

The Board:

- thanks EURAMET for the presentation of the issue leading to EURAMET’s recommendation that “*DUT uncertainty should always be included in final accredited CMC values in order to give consistent and realistic values to the users*”, and that EA should request that ILAC-P14:01/2013, § 5.4 should be modified accordingly;
- asks EA to put it forward to the EA Laboratory Committee, whose next meeting on 9-10 September 2015 will be attended by a EURAMET representative.

Action EAAB Secretariat / EA Executive Secretary / EURAMET

Agenda Item 8.3 - Transition process for ISO 9001:2015

The Board:

- thanks EFAC for warning EAAB members of the fact that, regarding the transition for ISO 9001:2015, no consensus has been reached within IAF and within EA (some NABs are requiring an on-site assessment for the transition to be performed before certification bodies certify according to new ISO 9001) and the resulting difficulties for all CBs to achieve full implementation of new ISO 9001 in due time;

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- acknowledges the issue and agrees upon EFAC's request for EA to ask NABs to act in accordance with IAF provisions and to give them recommendations on how to adjust an adequate accreditation procedure;

Action EA

- in the meantime, asks EA to put the issue forward to the EA Certification Committee and give feedback to the EAAB.

Action EA Executive Secretary / EAAB Secretariat

Agenda Item 9 - Selection of dates and places of next meetings

The Board confirms and agrees to meet on **21 October 2015** and 20 April 2016*, respectively.

Post-meeting note by EAAB Secretariat: the date of 20 April 2016 was confirmed by the EAAB and EA Chairs and Vice-Chairs after being informed of the date of ILAC/IAF meetings.

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