List of Conclusions and Resolutions
agreed at the 32nd Meeting of the EA Advisory Board
held on 3 April 2014

Agenda Item 3 - Key topics for discussion

Agenda Item 3.1 - Final approval of revised EA stakeholders’ expectations towards accreditation and EA

The Board endorses the revised draft of EA stakeholders’ expectations towards accreditation and EA as finalized by the Secretariat and the CAB College according to modifications agreed at the 31st meeting, with two further slight editorial corrections made at this meeting.

Agenda Item 3.2 - Harmonization/coordination of work between ILAC/IAF and the regional co-operations - ILAC/IAF strategy discussion paper and EA position

The Board:
- recommends EA to focus on the international strength of its community, keeping in mind that not all regions are at the same level, i.e. have the same experience and structure;
- encourages EA to work with the other regions towards a unified, reliable international system and mutual confidence that can support international trade.

Agenda Item 4 - EAAB matters

Agenda Item 4.1 - Operational issues: representation of environmental organisations on the EAAB

Although Stephen Russell from ANEC was unable to attend the meeting, he had indicated to the Secretariat that he had raised the matter of the representation of environmental organisations with ECOS, but was unaware of their decision. The Board agreed to keep the item open and to table it for review at the next meeting.

Action Secretariat, ANEC

Agenda Item 4.2 - Report from the EAAB HHC observer

The Board:
- thanks the EAAB HHC observer for his report;
- supports that the EA HHC has established a task force group to consider sampling as a stand-alone activity which can be accredited, and to come up with a proposal for defining the basis for such accreditation; thanks EA for opening the TFG membership to stakeholders as relevant;
- takes notes that the cross-reference table in the draft EA-2/17 2013: EA Guidance on the horizontal requirements for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies for notification purposes reflects EA practices as a starting point. While the objective advocated by the EC is to transfer the EA table into the Blue Guide table, with a transition time set up by the European
Commission (EC) the board cannot advise EA to go in other directions than those taken by scheme owners and the EC in that case, and then recommends EA to discuss with the latter to provide the expertise resulting from the experience gained with EA-2/17 in order to develop the table in the Blue Guide towards more flexibility induced by the standards, especially the new version of ISO/IEC 17065. The board thanks EA and the EC for giving background information.

**Agenda Item 4.3 - Lack of resources in small ABs: EA’s steps and suggestions**

The Board:

- thanks EA for its “very useful” report, acknowledging that the EA MAC is considering the issue to come up with recommendations on how to design the peer-evaluation process for small ABs;

- supports the CAB College in urging EA to organize a more effective pooling of assessment resources in order to meet the real market need for all 35 EA-member ABs to provide access to all accreditation scopes while recognizing that not all the ABs will have the full competence, and therefore need not be subject to peer-evaluation for those areas where they are not active;

- asks EA to report on further progress made according to discussions in the EA MAC at the next meeting. **Action EA**

**Agenda Item 4.4 - Reissuance of the tests reports when the trade name or the trademark of the tested product has changed: outcome of the EUROLAB survey**

The Board:

- thanks EUROLAB for reporting on a first overview of the survey’s outcome, which shows a lack of information on the market and a lack of harmonization of laboratories’ practices even in a same sector of activity;

- supports EUROLAB’s recommendation that the EA LC resolution should be submitted to the EA General Assembly for endorsement, including a flexible application during one year in order to allow the market to adapt the change;

- thanks EUROLAB to complete the analysis and investigation and come up with additional information at the next meeting; **Action EUROLAB**

- agrees that type approval is another issue that will need to be further explained, taking note that re-issuance of type approval certificate could be accepted for products which have not changed, under a stable certification certificate .

**Agenda Item 5 - EA matters**

**Agenda Item 5.1 - Relations with stakeholders: Review of existing agreements (update on process)**

The Board:

- thanks EA for reporting on the ongoing review of current Recognized Stakeholder agreements, taking note that all Recognized Stakeholders are wishing to renew their agreement with EA;

- notes that the time for reviewing agreements is planned to be extended to 5 years.
Agenda Item 5.2 - New EA projects and work items

The Board:

- thanks EA for updating the EAAB on the projects dedicated to Breast Cancer Accreditation Services, the Approximation of EU and Russian Federation accreditation systems, the implementation of Accreditation & Verification Regulation, and an Accreditation toolbox for the purpose of notification (Choice of standards for individual directives/regulations);

- endorses the proposed new work item for the elaboration of EA guidance on the accreditation of Reference Material Producers, noting that the possibility to accredit based on a guide rather than on a harmonized standard should be clarified with the EC.

Agenda Item 5.3 - Revision of ISO/IEC 17011

The Board:

- concludes from the discussions that, although no real technical rationale can justify making changes into ISO/IEC 17011, there are some commercial and business interests in revising the standard;

- does not really support that ISO/IEC 17011 is revised before the 5-year implementation period is ending, while acknowledging the commercial and business pressure.

Agenda Item 5.4 - Feedback on EA Members’ actual use of statements of equivalence

The Board thanks EA for reporting that the equivalence statement is issued by NABs, though with limited frequency.

Agenda Item 5.6 - Report on progress of revised EA policy for conformity assessment schemes (EA-1/22)

The Board:

- welcomes that the point on market relevance raised by the EAAB has been accommodated by EA in the last draft of EA-1/22;

- takes note of EA’s proposal to establish an internal list of “Home ABs” with the schemes they are in charge of.

Agenda Item 5.9 - IAF MLA structure: need for pressure for changing the principles of sub-scores

The Board, which agrees not to duplicate the conclusion already made at the last meeting, reasserts its full support to EA for pushing IAF to change their MLA structure - to be based, for example, on the EA system - at the forthcoming IAF mid-term meetings in Frankfurt.

Agenda Item 6 - Items for information

The Board thanks EA for all the reports given under this item.
Agenda Item 7 - EAAB Work Programme

The Board agrees that no change should be included into the EAAB Work Programme, which remains valid until the next meeting.