

April - June 2015

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Foreword

Dear EUROLAB Members,

The activity and the management of laboratories is currently facing major challenges: globalization; the dynamics of Economy; the worldwide relations; the technological evolution; and the way competitiveness in the global market can be affected by different types of decisions.

The continuous change of variables and circumstances foresees as decisive for the future of laboratories the competence to take opportunities and the capability to adapt to new realities. In this context, some changes can have a high impact, e.g., the reviewing of several critical standards namely for accreditation (e.g., the revision of ISO 17025) inspection and certification.


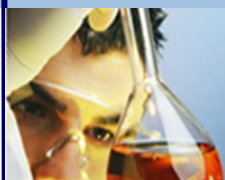
In a broader framework, some concerns are also related to the development of the TTIP agreement (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), which will result in undeniable changes arising from the different views that exist on both sides of the Atlantic regarding some major economical issues, hoping that in the end they converge to a fair agreement for trade.

EUROLAB is being an active partner in the reviewing of these documents and frameworks, monitoring and voicing the opinions of laboratories. This challenge has been managed with determination, mainly because of the high involvement of many National Members on different stages of the processes, contributing with its vast knowledge in many domains and promoting an important collaborative networking through working groups with skilled Experts of different Countries. This continued effort has been an added-value for the Laboratory Community but also for cooperation, allowing more and more decision-makers to consider the positions of EUROLAB, thus giving to EUROLAB a role of a strong voice of the Laboratory Community in Europe.

Finally, being this a time of renewal of EUROLAB leadership, it is fair to mention that the position that EUROLAB has today, after 25 years of existence, is due to the persons that guided it over the years to its present strong and consolidated International position. In this context it should be remembered the fine work of several Presidents and Members of the Board for their commitment and also, in this occasion, to highlight the work of Past President Jiri Sobola, which for almost two decades gave an high contribution to the achievement of EUROLAB mission.

EUROLAB President

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro



EUROLAB 25th Anniversary events
EUROLAB General Assembly 2015, TCQA meeting & Seminar
8th - 10th April 2015, Odense, Denmark

The EUROLAB TCQA meeting, the 25th Anniversary Seminar and the General Assembly 2015 took place in Odense, Denmark, from 8th April till 10th April 2015 at the Radisson Blu H.C. Andersen Hotel, kindly hosted by EUROLAB-Danmark.

New Articles of Associations and Revised Internal Rules

During the GA, Jeff Llewellyn, EUROLAB Vice-President, presented the revised Articles of Association, among which among others included the suggestion to create the position of a second Vice-President. The EUROLAB members approved the new Articles of Association. Additionally, the EUROLAB GA approved the revised internal rules concerning item 3. *Accounts, budget and payment of membership fees.*

Elections to the EUROLAB Board of Administrators

During the General Assembly the EUROLAB members elected a new EUROLAB Board of Administrators:

- Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, RELACRE, EUROLAB President
- Jeff Llewellyn, BMTA, Vice-President
- Ruud Zantman, Fenelab, Vice-President & Treasurer

New Members of the Board of Administrators:

- Paolo Moscatti, Alpi Associazione
- Alexander Šafařík-Pštroš, EUROLAB-CZ
- Kurt Ziegler, EUROLAB-Deutschland



Members of the EUROLAB Board of Administrators

Re-elected members to the Board of Administrators:

- Ewa Bulska, POLLAB
- Jeff Llewellyn, BMTA
- José-Luis Sanchez, EUROLAB-España
- Ömer Güzel, TURKLAB, Representative of associated members

TCQA Chair:

- Irache Visiers was elected as the new chair of the TCQA, following Manfred Golze.



Irache Visiers, TCQA Chair and former EUROLAB President Jiří Sobola

The representative from ROLAB, Mirela Adelaida Anghel gave an introductory presentation about ROLAB, including the structure, activities and ROLAB co-operation with other organisations. Following this presentation it was officially announced that ROLAB will continue as EUROLAB active member, while EUROLAB Romania will apply to become an Observer Member.

During the General Assembly the MoU between EUROLAB and NCSL International was renewed and signed for a period of 3 years. The EUROLAB General Assembly 2015 finished with thank you remarks addressed by the new President Álvaro Silva Ribeiro to the former President Jiří Sobola for his valuable contribution and hard work done for EUROLAB.



Former EUROLAB President Jiří Sobola & NCSL International President Roger



Current EUROLAB President Álvaro Silva Ribeiro & former EUROLAB President Jiří Sobola

The EUROLAB 25th Anniversary Seminar preceded the EUROLAB General Assembly, on 9th April and was organised by EUROLAB-Danmark, the host of EUROLAB General Assembly 2015 and 25th Anniversary events. The Seminar was entitled: "Traceable testings in the international context. The Role of EUROLAB in the past 25 years – and in the next!" and gathered delegates from 19 countries to discuss the role of metrology in Europe, pointing out some of the EUROLAB highlights and involvement in the sector. This Seminar was a good platform for sharing experiences and expectations of speakers as well as participants from the laboratory sector. At the same time, it was the occasion to exchange memories with the EUROLAB past-Presidents, present the EUROLAB evolution during these 25 years and look towards the future developments and opportunities. The successful seminar was followed by the Gala Dinner to celebrate the EUROLAB 25th Anniversary.

EUROLAB Technical Committee on Quality Assurance in Testing and Calibration (TCQA)

The TCQA meeting took place on Wednesday, 8th April, in Odense and was chaired by the TCQA Vice-Chair Irache Visiers Sanz (EUROLAB España).

There were various topics discussed during the TCQA meeting such as:

- Improving relationship with metrology/calibration laboratories;
- TCQA documents: Cook Books, Technical documents, Position Papers later approved by the BoA, namely:
 - ⇒ Revision of ISO/IEC 17043: Against the revision of the Standard - provided by TCQA TFG on PTP's and RMP's;
 - ⇒ "Closed shop" issue: Against the "mandatory" use of accredited providers of calibration and reference materials - provided by TCQA TFG on PTP's and RMP's;
- Standardisation: Revision of ISO/IEC 17025. EUROLAB has been actively involved in the revision process from an early stage, having representatives in the working groups. The EUROLAB representatives will continue to follow up the activities of the working groups and the committees they attend.



Participants in the EUROLAB TCQA meeting

National Members' News

BMTA News



Promoting measurement and testing - speaking with one voice to Government, UKAS and the European Laboratory Community

BMTA 25th Anniversary Dinner, AGM and Seminar, Teddington 14th and 15th July 2015

BMTA was formed in 1990 and therefore celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The BMTA Annual Dinner will be held in Teddington, near London, on 14 July. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 15 July will be followed by a Teddington Campus Showcase event featuring the work of the UK National laboratories which are BMTA members: NPL (National Physical Laboratory), NMRO (National Measurement and Regulation Office) and LGC (A life sciences research and testing company, formerly the Laboratory of the Government Chemist). BMTA will also organise tours to these laboratories.

During the Meeting on the 15th July several topics will be discussed such as:

- The Future and the Services of NPL;
- Changes at the National Measurement and Regulation Office (NMRO);
- LGC's growth and support for UK science both nationally and internationally

Further information regarding the registration, programme and other practical details can be found on BMTA website at: <http://www.bmta.co.uk/news.htm>



EUROLAB-Deutschland News

eurolab-Deutschland
Chemische Analytik; Mess- und Prüftechnik e.V.

As is the case each year, EUROLAB-Deutschland has organised a colloquium in connection with its annual meeting which took place at BAM Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing on 17 April 2015.

The following topics were addressed:

CEOC / IFIA Safety Study 2014

Stephanie Vehring, representing VdTÜV, the association of the German TÜV, reported on the results of the CEOC / IFIA Safety Study, which had been presented for the first time last year during the joint CEOC/EUROLAB/IFIA Seminar in Brussels. In this study the European self-declaration system on the one hand and third party testing and certification on the other were compared concerning the safety of consumer products such as battery chargers and adapters, luminaires, hair driers, electric fans, toasters and irons. These products have been purchased in regular stores in 7 countries of the EU and in the US. The test results revealed that the percentage of non-compliant or even unsafe products was considerably less, if the products had been certified by independent bodies (see <http://www.ceoc.com/documents/Safety%20Seminar%202014%20-%20Briefing.pdf>).



Revision of the GUM

The ongoing revision of the *Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement* (GUM) was the topic of Stephan Mieke from PTB, the German National Metrology Institute (NMI). Acknowledging some improvements, e.g. a better readability of the revised GUM compared with the existing one, he nevertheless emphasised that the former would lead to different (often larger) uncertainties in many cases. This would cause huge efforts for NMIs, laboratories and industry since quality / instruction manuals as well as employed software would need to be modified, and claimed uncertainty statements such as CMCs (calibration and measurement capabilities) would have to be reviewed and possibly revised. Standards and documents relying on the GUM would need to be changed. Furthermore the harmonised approach of evaluating measurement uncertainty which was established by the existing GUM would be at risk at least for a transitional period and ambiguities about stated uncertainties could arise. If the existing draft of the revised GUM would not be changed fundamentally, he requested a transitional period of at least 5 years with clear handling instructions during this period.

“Blue Guide”

In a third lecture Richard Schmidt, BAM, talked about *The “Blue Guide” on the implementation of EU product rules 2014* and its impact on notified bodies. Concerning the question, which of the standards of the ISO/IEC 17000 series was most suitable for the accreditation of a notified body for a specific conformity assessment module used within the frame of a European Directive, he compared the list in the “Blue Guide” with a corresponding list in the EA document 2/17 on *Accreditation for Notification Purposes*. He strongly advocated the so-called “I+”-approach of EA since it causes less effort and provides more flexibility for notified bodies while ensuring the same level of competence. Furthermore he addressed the different approaches used by German notifying authorities.

Notification and market surveillance

Hans-Georg Niedermeyer, head of ZLS (the Central Office of the Federal States for Safety Engineering), described the role of his institution. ZLS is the pertinent authority for the German Equipment and Safety Product Act. He reported on the procedures for the assessment, the surveillance and the notification of conformity assessment bodies and the co-operation with the German National Accreditation Body DAkkS, if accreditation is applied. ZLS is also responsible for recognizing inspection bodies for the German GS mark and it has a coordinating function for market surveillance.

An annual report and a brochure on the 25 years anniversary of EUROLAB-Deutschland are available in German language.

EUROLAB France News



The French Eurolab Association held its General Assembly April 24, 2015.

The Managing Director of COFRAC (the French Accreditation Body) agreed to participate as well as a representative of the Ministry for Industry.

The debate with COFRAC has included the revision of the ISO 17025 standard and the notification requirements in particular for EMC testing laboratories.

EUROLAB attends the next laboratory forum organized by COFRAC, this year.

This General Assembly was also an opportunity for the annual report of the 12 technical groups. (according to the French authorities, these working groups combine exchange groups between the notified bodies in the field and technical exchange between laboratories performing the same job).

Fenelab News



Fenelab organizes the Dutch edition of World Accreditation Day

Accreditation is indispensable for societal trust, and is of growing importance as the foundation for the state for its own supervision. However, it can never guarantee that zero incidents occur. Therefore, all participants have a responsibility to be transparent and offer explanation, as an ongoing effort, concerning the pillars on which the system rests. However complex that may be.

This was the talk of the day during the Dutch edition of World Accreditation Day, on the 9th of June 2015. Various speakers, as it turned out, agreed on this subject, although their emphasis differed.

The program was part of the most recent "Laboratory Day", which Fenelab organizes on a regular basis. Fenelab is the Federation of Accredited Laboratories in the Netherlands. The organization of an event celebrating World Accreditation Day has been a goal of Fenelab for several years. In 2013 and 2014 the date fell on a Sunday or holiday, but this year such hindrances were absent. The Dutch Accreditation Council (Raad voor Accreditatie, RvA) has expressed their intention to carry on the tradition in the future.

Recent incidents

The most provocative speech was delivered by Richard van Buuren, team leader of the Consumer and Safety Division of de Dutch Food and Goods Authority (NVWA). The work of this authority, which includes forensic research, is in many ways intertwined with accreditation. Speaking about recent incidents Van Buuren elaborated on some aspects of daily practice.

Laboratories, he said, fail on a regular basis. For example, by accommodating their clients to such a degree that they forget about legal constraints, such as reporting obligations. Some recent incidents were not attributable to laboratories but to standards. In the words of Van Buuren, some of them are so unrealistic that they are "ridiculous". Another problem is constituted by the rapid development of technology causing standards that to fall behind.

With regard to the laboratories themselves, Van Buuren addressed the question of independence in particular. This is at risk to be influenced by the fact that the laboratory community has become rather small. "The standard for solar panels was developed by the same lab that executes tests for companies. How independent is that?"

His conclusion: the system of accreditation is functional, we can't do without it anymore, but we have to take care that it does not develop into a procedural form of window dressing, and that "test houses do not become lazy". The independence of laboratories deserves attention.

Long standing tradition

Van Buuren's speech got a historical perspective in the contribution of Albert Dalhuijsen, director of the Dutch Metrology Institute, or VSL (for Van Swinden Laboratory, its name for domestic use). Since 1816, when it installed an Act for standardized measures, the Netherlands is a forerunner in this field and it still obtains high scores in international ring research. Few countries are so conscious of the importance of standards for international trade. In this field, normalization, metrology and accreditation form an unbreakable triangle. VSL practices what it preaches, for it voluntarily subjects itself to accreditation, even though this makes no difference for its public status. Dalhuijsen: "The instrument is indispensable for true quality."

Participate!

Piet-Hein Daverveldt, who as director of the Dutch standards institute NEN hosted the meeting (and who will celebrate the first centennial of his institute in the year to come), emphasized that accreditation is the fruit of private initiative and will always remain complementary to state supervision. Government agencies can lean on accreditation and certification, but never act on it blindly. Things will continue to go wrong, even if they are certified. "Richard van Buuren raised the question if all norms and standards are in order... Exactly this underlines how essential it is that all stakeholders participate in their creation." Daverveldt sketched the process by which international ISO- and Dutch NEN-norms come about, and welcomed everyone who wants to contribute.

Fenelab-president René Dijkstra immediately joined him in this: failing norms, he said, do not improve if we all start to make adjustments for ourselves. The blessings of standardization go amiss, that way. Whoever wants norms to improve, should participate in the work of norm committees.

EU: more uniformity

RvA-director Jan van der Poel complemented Daverveldt's speech by sketching how state supervision, that works mostly 'ex post', is a fitting complement to the 'ex ante' effects of norms that are set in the private domain. The linking pin between the two is the RvA itself, with its mission in the private domain having been defined by law.

On a European level we see that, in a growing number of cases, EU-directives and -regulations build on accreditation. At the same time we notice that EU-rules for accreditation are lacking. This is changing as we speak. An issue that still has to be settled is that the various 'notified bodies' must use uniform methods to arrive at their assessments. "There is a need for a solid anchor, without ambiguity."

In Van der Poel's opinion, the expertise of accredited laboratories weighs more heavily than their independence. Having said that, he predicted that norms for independence will be lined out more stringently with the revision of ISO 17025. "We are confronted with that necessity more often now."

To NVWA he suggested to make it more transparent for laboratories which procedures will meet its approval and which will not.

Societal trust

The contribution of Van der Poel was, in turn, a perfect pass to Eelco Ronteltap, Senior Policy Officer of the Dutch Department of Economic Affairs. He provided an insight into the current update of the Dutch Government's position on accreditation. This update is primarily on the agenda because the EU finds it necessary to act on the threat of dwindling confidence in the effectiveness of safety norms and in the norm conformity of products. The assignment of notified bodies is pivotal in the EU approach.

Each member state must assign one (1) accrediting body. It must have public authority, without commercial activities. Also, they may not compete with their counterparts in other member states. And peer reviews are mandatory to safeguard their own quality.

In the Netherlands, the RvA occupies this role: an independent authority under the wings of the department of Economic Affairs. The minister is responsible, but has no influence on accreditations themselves. He supervises no more than its financial household. Its professional quality is exclusively supervised by peer reviews.

Ronteltap wrapped it all up by saying: "Accreditation finds ever wider use in Europe, also for product regulation. Incidents, which are inevitable, will always raise questions about the robustness of the system. In such cases we must analyze what went wrong and why. It is complex to provide this kind of explanation. But everyone who has a stake in the system must make this effort."

National Members' News

MAKLAB News



**MACEDONIAN ASSOCIATION OF
LABORATORIES AND INSPECTION BODIES**

Second International Conference “QUALITY AND COMPETENCE 2015”, organized by the Macedonian Association of Laboratories and Inspection Bodies MAKLAB and the Institute for Accreditation of Republic of Macedonia IARM.

The topics of this Conference are aimed to develop and upgrade the laboratory quality and competence by presenting themes relevant for the laboratory practice and exchanging experiences between laboratories, inspection bodies and institutions from the region and beyond.

The Conference “QUALITY AND COMPETENCE 2015” will be held in hotel Metropol, Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia from 17th to 19th of September 2015.

More details about the Conference can be found on the MAKLAB website www.maklab.org.com. EU-ROLAB members are also invited to participate by presenting papers related to the topics of the Conference.

PARTICIPATION FEE

Conference participation fee:

- For conference participants
120 EUR (7,500.00 MKD)
- For members of MAKLAB
2,000.00 MKD

The participation fee includes:

- Conference handouts/materials
- Welcome cocktail
- Conference dinner
- Refreshments during intermissions

The following bank account is to be used for payment of the conference fee:

MKD Account No.: 200002386318375

Name of Bank: Stopanska Banka AD Skopje

International payment instructions:

STOPANSKA BANKA AD SKOPJE
"11 Oktomvir" br. 7
1000 Skopje
R. Macedonia
SWIFT: STPBKMKX
IBAN: MK0720000252697910 – EUR
Beneficiary: MAKLAB SKOPJE
Address: Bl. Kuzman Josifovski-Pitu
28-13 1000 Skopje, Macedonia

With programmatic implication of first and last name of participant as well as the purpose of payment, for the "Conference on Quality and Competence 2015".

APPLICATION

The Application form for Participants can be found on the website of MAKLAB
www.maklab.org.mk

Please send the completed Application form along with the payment confirmation receipt to maklab@maklab.org.mk.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation for Conference participants is organized in Hotel Metropol, Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia.

Please, book directly in Hotel Metropol, with reference to CONFERENCE on QUALITY AND COMPETENCE 2015!





MACEDONIAN ASSOCIATION
OF LINGUISTS AND
SOCIO-LINGUISTIC BODIES
MAKLAB

INSTITUTE FOR
LINGUISTICS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
MACEDONIA

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

QUALITY AND COMPETENCE 2015



17-19 September 2015
OHRID
Republic of Macedonia

RELACRE News



RELACRE is now in a new address in Lisbon.

The location is in a technological campus shared with several RD&I laboratories and companies. In this new address RELACRE intends to develop technical facilities to increase some of the services required from its members, namely, training, consulting, personnel certification and proficiency testing support. The new address of RELACRE is:

RELACRE – EUROLAB Portugal
Estrada do Paço do Lumiar
Campus do Lumiar - Edifício D, 1º Andar
1649-038 LISBOA



National Members' News

EUROLAB-España News



The constitution of the new Administration Board of the Spanish Accreditation Body – ENAC – took place on 29th April 2015.

ENAC's Board consists of 36 members, of which, 12 represent the organizations accredited by ENAC. Of these 12 members, 11 are members of EUROLAB-España.

The Executive Administrators Board consists of 8 members, 3 of which represent accredited organizations and are associates of EUROLAB-España. For EUROLAB-España it is very important to achieve the maximum level of representation within all the organizations that interact with the laboratory community represented by EUROLAB-España, EUROLAB-España has successfully managed to do so, projecting an image of strength and cohesion in this sector.

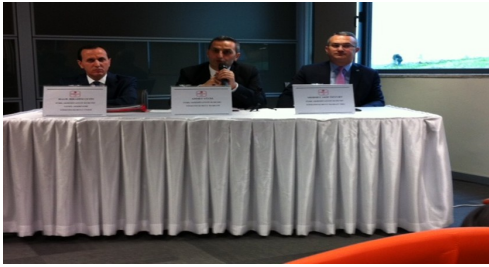
EUROLAB-España's General Assembly took place on May 7th 2015 and the Strategic Plan for the 2015-2020 period was approved unanimously. In this plan, different challenges are detailed, with priority given to increasing the number of associates, and continuing working on the improvement of internal communications. All human resources available must be optimized in order to be successful.

The meeting between representatives of the Portuguese Association of Accredited Laboratories – RELACRE (EUROLAB-Portugal)- and the representatives of EUROLAB-España and FELAB (Federation belonging to EUROLAB-España) was held in Lisbon on May 28th 2015. Different issues affecting the laboratories were addressed, such as increasing everyday relationships between EUROLAB-Portugal and EUROLAB-España. Next year, 2016, will be the 25th anniversary of RELACRE's –EUROLAB-Portugal-, therefore an International Laboratory Congress has been planned; one of the commitments being the collaboration of EUROLAB-España and FELAB.

In June 2015, the Mirror-TCQA (belonging to EUROLAB-España) meeting will take place, the mirror committee of the TCQA of EUROLAB.asibl, in which the coordination of all EUROLAB-España's members participating in EUROLAB-España's Galaxy will be reviewed, stocktaking all the activities carried out during the last year and drawing up lines to follow during the coming year.

National Members' News

TURKLAB News



TÜRKAK, National Accreditation Body Advisory Council Meeting

Board members of TURKLAB, Neşe Güneş and Dr. Ömer Güzel attended the Advisory Council Meeting of NAB, 20 April 2015.

Turklab declaration was delivered to the body of Council. Calibration of Assessors, delayed assessment programs, late process of

accreditation certificates were main topics.

Turklab also gave the names of delegates for PT-ILC comities of Türkak.

Calibration, Food testing and Medical Comities started to operate in the field. This possibility will bring more opportunity to the collaboration of NAB and laboratory community.

“Health and Safety Week” Activities

Ministry of Labor and Social Security organized 29th “Health and Safety Week” 4-5 May, 2015, in Ankara. TURKLAB Board Member and Environmental Laboratories Comity Chairman Ms Yeşim Aştı participated the meeting and had a presentation on behalf of Turklab, “Impact and importance of Environmental Testing in working Environment”.



PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT REPORT

FOR INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON TESTS FOR THE FRAGMENTATION TEST

30 April 2015



www.sbg.com.tr

“Round Robin Test performed by a TURKLAB member operating under CPR-Sector Group 09-Glass in building”

Round Robin test was organized by Standart Yapı Laboratuvarı. Fragmentation test for thermally toughened glasses under EN ISO 12150-1 ‘Glass in building-Thermally toughened soda lime silicate glass-Part 1’ standard. Standart Yapı Laboratuvarı is a member of TURKLAB and notified testing laboratory operating under CPR-Sector Group 09-Glass in building. One of the leading laboratories in Turkey working under System 3 of CPR (Construction Products Regulation) from 2011 on.

Eight notified testing laboratories participated to the Round Robin test.

These laboratories are from Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Italia, Spain

and Turkey. The Organizing Laboratory, Standart Yapı Laboratuvarı, carried out the fragmentation tests for five thicknesses and took the photographs of five test specimens for each thickness, total of twenty-five photographs and distributed them to the participating notified testing laboratories for evaluation of particle counts for glass thickness.

The results were received from the participating testing laboratories and assessed by Standart Yapı Laboratuvarı. The participants were letter-coded to keep the confidentiality. Calculations were done according to EN ISO 13528 and EN ISO 5725-2. Assessment reports were prepared and distributed to the participating laboratories.

The outcome of the Round Robin test was found successful and presented in the SG-09 meeting in Rome on June 5, 2015.

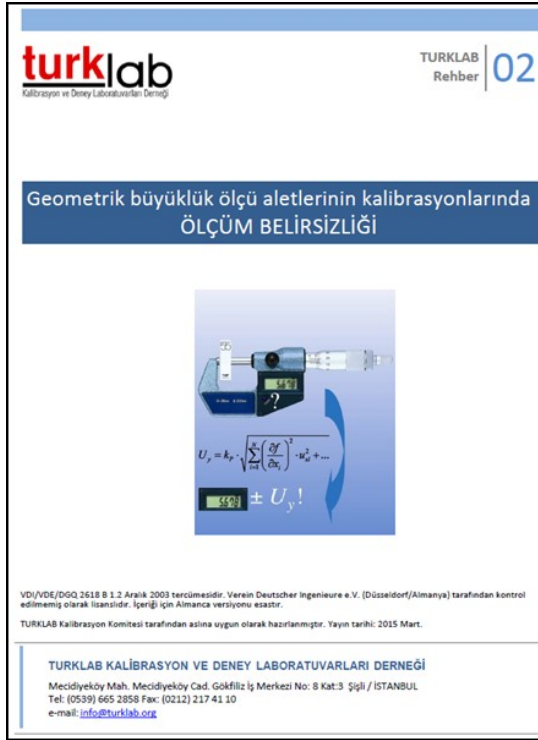
National Members' News

TURKLAB News



Calibration Guide Books

TURKLAB Calibration Laboratory Comity translated VDI Calibration Guidebooks into Turkish. Chamber of German Engineers gave the necessary permission for translation to Turkish language. Preliminary work has been done for VDI/VDE/DGQ2618, Chapter 1.2 Measurement Uncertainty and VDI/VDE/DGQ 2618 Chapter 11.1 revision of Measurement Clock Calibration. This is the beginning of a long project to accumulate Turkish versions of international Guide Books. Both documents were published as TURKLAB Technical Document and provided for the use of laboratory community.



Educational Video Presentation for Quality Assessors

Quality Assessors need harmonization of terminology and concepts. Assessors, working for Certification or Accreditation Organizations, using ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and other standards as guidance documents may interpret same items with different definitions. Especially basic concepts, calibration, verification, measurement uncertainty, traceability are the main confusion areas. Interpretations are so vast and different, as a result, laboratories suffer from different assessment results. TURKLAB prepared a basic power point presentation for harmonization and a video presentation could be downloaded from TURKLAB web site.

Accreditation

- Jon Murthy of UKAS has been nominated **IAF Communications and Marketing Committee Chair**. His nomination will be confirmed during the November 2015 IAF General Assembly meeting in Milan, Italy.
- During the recent ILAC/IAF meetings in Frankfurt there were discussions about the importance of **using identical text for the management system requirements in ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 17034 and ISO/IEC 17020**, in the interests of consistent application of these standards for conformity assessment bodies. The ILAC Executive Committee agreed that the issue will be raised at the upcoming CASCO Chairman's Policy Committee (CPC) meeting in Geneva and in the respective CASCO Working Groups. The dates for the TIG, STAR and CPC CASCO meetings are the following: TIG – Sunday 25 October, STAR – Monday 26 October, CPC – Tuesday 27 October. The meetings will take place in Milan, at the Milan Marriott Hotel.
- **ILAC R4:05/2015 Use of the ILAC Logo and Tagline** has been published and is available from <http://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/ilac-documents/rules-series/>.
- The IAF Technical Committee has submitted a draft Mandatory Document titled **"IAF MDX:201X Generic Competence for AB Assessors: Application to ISO/IEC 17011"**, to all IAF members for a 60-day comment period. The document delineates the generic competence of Accreditation Body assessors and its application to ISO/IEC 17011:2004.
- The ballot on the **approval of revised EA-4/15 Accreditation for Non-Destructive Testing** is now closed. The document is approved and will be published soon.
- As a result of the recent ballot, **ILAC R7:05/2015 - Rules for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark** has been approved.
- IAF Executive Committee (EC) has submitted the **revised IAF Policy Document titled: IAF Policy Document - Memorandum of Understanding (Issue 5)** for 30-day ballot to all IAF Voting Members. The IAF Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is the basic membership document of IAF. At the end of the ballot period, the vote passed.
- Following the IAF 28th General Assembly meeting in Vancouver in October 2014, a **communication regarding Principles to be achieved with an IAF Database of Accredited MS Certifications** with specific comments template has been distributed among EUROLAB members.
- The Executive Committee of ILAC has submitted the document titled: **"ILAC-R7:XX/20XX - Rules for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark"** and **"ILAC R7-F1 Agreement for the use of the ILAC MRA Mark"** to the Members and Associates for a 30-day voting period.
- Nominations for the **position of IAF Vice-Chair** had been received for Emanuele Riva of ACCREDIA and Ismat Gul Khattak of PNAC. Mr. Riva was the successful candidate at the elections.
- EA has circulated a **draft of the revised EA - 4/09: Accreditation for sensory testing laboratories** for comments.
- The revision of **EA-5/02: EA guidance on the application of ISO/IEC 17020 in periodic inspection of the road-worthiness of motor vehicles and their trailers** has been finalised. The document has been circulated for comments.

Standardisation

- The dates of the **CASCO meetings: TIG, STAR and CPC**, initially planned for 24-25-26 October 2015 have to be shifted by one day. The meetings will start on Sunday 25 October with the TIG and continue on Monday 26 with the STAR and the CPC on Tuesday 27 October. The meetings will take place in Milan, at the Milan Marriott Hotel.
- The ballot on **ISO/CD 17034, Conformity assessment – General requirements for the competence of reference material producers** has closed. The voting was positive. The ballot to register **ISO 17034** General requirements for the competence of reference material producers as a CEN/CLC/TC 1 work item under the Vienna Agreement, has started.
- The ballot on **ISO/IEC FDIS 17021-1 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 1: Requirements** has closed. The voting was positive.
- **The World Standards Cooperation (WSC) Workshop** on conformity assessment will take place on 1-2 December 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. Registration is open and detailed information on the event is available on the Workshop website: www.wscaworkshop.com
- A New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) ballot has opened. The NWIP has been submitted by ICONTEC with the proposed title of **"Conformity assessment – Example of a certification scheme for services"**. This NWIP would be related to the recently published ISO/IEC TR 17026 Conformity assessment — Example of a certification scheme for tangible products which has been developed by CASCO WG32.
- The ISO Council appointed, at the meeting held in Geneva in March 2015, Mr. Mandla Franck Makamo as CASCO Chair for the 2016-2017 term.
- Systematic Review of the voting result on **Prerequisite programmes on food safety -- Part 3: Farming** has been published.
- The Result of voting on the proposal for cancellation of the project **ISO WD TS 22002-5, Prerequisite programme on food safety – Part 5: Transport and storage** has been published.
- The ISO document **Prerequisite programmes on food safety — - Part 6: Feed and animal food production** has been circulated for comments.

Business news

- **Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services Vietnam has opened a new office and laboratory in Hanoi.** This is the second lab in Vietnam following the opening of the Ho Chi Minh City laboratory ten years ago.
- **Starting from 1 May, the DEKRA subsidiary Vehicle Testing New Zealand (VTNZ), is also responsible for conducting practical driving tests there.** The public-sector New Zealand Transport Agency has initially commissioned VTNZ for the next five years. This is the first such commission for DEKRA experts outside Germany.
- **DNV GL has launched a new healthcare publication, The State of Healthcare – From Challenges to Opportunities at the 20th annual BMJ IHI International Forum on Patient Safety and Quality in London.** The publication is a collaboration with Monday Morning Sustainia and showcases both the challenges facing healthcare globally and the good news – many examples from around the world of how people, initiatives and organizations are developing the healthcare systems of tomorrow, today.
- **Intertek has announced its plans to open a new European immunochemistry laboratory for bio-analytical support of clients' clinical and pre-clinical immunogenicity and pharmacokinetic (PK) studies for biologic medicines.**
- **Intertek has inaugurated a comprehensive leather and footwear testing facility in Chennai, India, to support the country's leather, footwear and leathersgoods industries.** Intertek's new Chennai laboratory will offer safety and performance testing services to leather manufacturers in Southeast India.
- **TÜV Rheinland has developed a display-specific Low Blue Light testing standard (2PfG) that measures a display's blue light intensity, wavelength, and on-screen flickering during brightness changes.** This can help manufacturers develop products that are better for consumers' health. With these, new 2PfG standards TÜV Rheinland can test the strength, the wavelength of the blue light, and the flickers in front of a screen.
- **TÜV Rheinland's Green Product test mark has been redesigned.** The new look tells consumers that a product has been tested regarding sustainability and environmental impact. The new green test mark design was developed in collaboration with TÜV Rheinland clients in China.
- **TÜV SÜD Product Service and the state-owned Korea Testing Laboratory (KTL) updated their nearly 15 year collaboration over product certification according to the IEC CB scheme for affixing the KC Mark.** Within the scope of this cooperation, the testing organisations agree on the mutual recognition of test reports, offering the manufacturers of electronic devices the possibility of benefiting from easier, faster and more cost-efficient certification in the other country.
- **UL LLC and MasterControl have announced a collaborative agreement which will leverage the strengths of both organizations to support the medical industry** with both quality system implementation and advice and guidance for global regulatory submissions.
- **UL Consumer Products has launched Verification Program and New Mark for Dietary Supplements Industry.** The vitamins and dietary supplements business has grown over the past 15 years to an \$82 billion global industry. However, reports of adverse reactions, supplier failure to follow FDA-mandated good manufacturing practices, and questionable ingredient contents are eroding consumer and government confidence in the dietary supplements industry.
- **SGS has announced the acquisition of Testing Services Group LLC (TSG), based in Lapeer, Michigan, USA.** TSG is a provider of fuel systems testing for global customers in the automotive, small engine, marine, portable fuel container and US government markets. TSG features an installed base of mini- and micro-SHED systems for evaporative emissions measurements in North America and works closely with the US Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board on the development of new test procedures in this area.
- **SGS has announced the acquisition of SVA Ltd, a leading independent provider of an extensive range of advisory, testing and innovative IT services to the food and consumer products industry.** Headquartered in Ashby de la Zouch in the Midlands, where it operates a state of the art laboratory, SVA also has offices in West Sussex and Dublin.
- **SGS has opened a new agricultural laboratory in Bintulu, Sarawak, Malaysia.** The laboratory is approved by MPOB (Malaysia Palm Oil Board) to perform refined palm oil and crude palm oil testing according to the PORAM specification.
- **SZU has announced that the Institute operates as a laboratory accredited within the MCS certification system.** SZU is not only recognized as an accredited laboratory which can perform the necessary tests according to relevant product standards, but it has also been approved as a certification body holding the relevant authority to conclude a sub-licence with its clients (generally with manufacturers) in order to use the MCS. This certification mark applies to the entire territory of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

Business Results

DEKRA

- Revenues grew by 8.6% to EUR 2.5 billion
- Adjusted operating earnings (EBIT) improved significantly by 7.4% to around EUR 175 million
- 11 acquisitions in 2014
- number of employees increased by 2,400 to 35,000

DNV-GL

- Operating revenues of EUR 2.48 billion
- Net profit EUR 116 million
- Net cash flow EUR 6.5 million

Policy news

Chemicals

- ECHA has announced that in situ generated biocidal active substances had been redefined to specify the precursors from which the active substance is generated. Suppliers of active substances generated in situ from other precursors can now notify ECHA to have their precursor-active substance system included in the review programme.
- ECHA has announced the release of a new version of the Registry for Biocidal Products (R4BP 3). The new release allows product authorisation change requests in parallel and enhances synchronisation between related applications.
- ECHA has published advice on using new OECD test guidelines related to skin sensitisation. The new non-animal test guidelines are relevant for many registrants preparing for the 2018 REACH registration deadline and, if used correctly, can replace the need to use animal test methods.
- ECHA has announced that, together with the Member States' competent authorities, it will correct and complete information in the biocides submission tool, Registry for Biocidal Products (R4BP 3), regarding the product authorisations that have expired in error. This is expected to be completed by end of May at the latest.
- The Biocidal Products Committee has adopted five opinions for active substances in biocidal products used as disinfectants, slimicides and metal working or cutting fluid preservatives.
- ECHA has released an update of the Classification and Labelling Inventory to include the categorisation of harmonised substances according to the Seveso III Directive. This is a further step to make the C&L Inventory a central source of information on harmonised and self-classified substances on the EU market. <http://tinyurl.com/opgxuvw>
- Read-across is the most commonly used alternative to testing chemicals on animals under REACH. The Read-Across Assessment Framework (RAAF) is being produced by ECHA to make sure that its experts evaluate read-across cases consistently.
- From 1 September 2015, ECHA will, where relevant, request in one go in its dossier evaluation decisions information on two species to be provided in the dossier, instead of the current stepwise approach by addressing only the first species. <http://tinyurl.com/nv6khef>
- ECHA has published an illustrative example of consumer exposure to substances in articles to help companies comply with their obligations under REACH. The example illustrates the level of knowledge and expertise required to make sure that exposure estimation tools are correctly used. It also demonstrates how the limitations within the models can be addressed and how they can be reflected in the exposure scenarios for the chemical safety report (CSR).
- ECHA has started to publish the list of active substances that may be added to the review programme following a successful declaration of interest to notify made in application of Article 16 of the Review Programme Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1062/2014). A webform is available to declare your interest.

Consumer Protection

- The Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) committee has published a new study '[EU Mapping: Overview of Internal Market and Consumer Protection Related Legislation](#)' prepared by the Policy Department A (Economic and Scientific Policy) and the IMCO Secretariat. The presentation provides a graphic overview on core legislation in the area of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.
- The European Commission has issued a new cost/benefit [study](#) on the impact of the implementation of the proposed provision requiring mandatory indication of origin marking for consumer products, known as the 'made-in' labelling clause. The study has also been discussed at the [Competitiveness Council meeting](#) in May.
- During the last plenary session in Strasbourg, MEPs have adopted a resolution calling for a new EU Alcohol Strategy, which focuses on alcohol consumption by minors and EU-wide labelling to discourage drink driving and drinking while pregnant. According to MEPs, plans for labelling the calorie content of alcoholic beverages should be tabled by the European Commission at the latest in 2016. <http://tinyurl.com/km87yz2>
- The Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) committee has adopted a resolution, which sets out measures to improve patient safety, inter alia by tackling growing resistance to human and veterinary antibiotics by using existing treatments

more responsibly and promoting innovation. MEPs note that between 8 and 12% of patients admitted to hospitals in the EU suffer adverse events such as healthcare-related infections, which place a heavy burden on limited health service budgets. <http://tinyurl.com/k6cnoj6>

The European Commission has announced the results of enforcement actions undertaken to make EU legal and commercial guarantees work better for consumers. The Commission coordinated a screening done by national consumer authorities of how websites selling mobile phones, computers, cameras or TVs are applying the [EU legislation on guarantees](#). 235 out of the 437 websites checked did not sufficiently inform consumers on their free of charge right to get defective goods repaired or replaced within at least 2 years of purchase.

IMCO members have adopted the draft report and the mandate to enter into first reading negotiations on Personal Protective Equipment. A total of 238 amendments were voted on and 7 compromise amendments. Products that are made to protect people in non-extreme conditions and are not explicitly described as having a 'protective function' should remain outside the scope of the EU personal protective equipment rules. <http://tinyurl.com/msq5kub>

Energy & Environment

- The European Commission has adopted new rules for cross-border co-operation between gas network operators, bringing the goal of an EU internal market for gas a step closer. The rules are part of a series of technical laws known as 'network codes' that regulate the use of gas networks. <http://tinyurl.com/n3rw6sn>
- The Rapporteur, Marek Józef Gróbarczyk has presented his [draft report](#) concerning the Commission's framework strategy for the creation of an Energy Union.
- 478 amendments tabled to the [draft report](#) on resource efficiency have been debated by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. Among others, in her draft report, the Rapporteur Sirpa Pietikäinen calls for a binding resource efficiency target of 30% and for the development and use of resource efficiency indicators. She urges the Commission to propose a review of the Ecodesign Directive, including a broadening of its scope, and to submit a new proposal on the review of waste legislation by the end of 2015, including ambitious targets.
- The European Commission has announced that gas

The European Commission has announced that gas network operators in Hungary and Ukraine had signed an interconnection agreement covering flows of natural gas both ways across the border. <http://tinyurl.com/nwta7fa>

The European Commission launched a new '[Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy](#)' to help European regions and EU countries to make full use of EU funds for sustainable energy under the EU's [Cohesion Policy](#).

A new 'International Energy Charter' has been adopted and signed by over 65 countries and organisations including the EU and all EU countries at a High-Level Ministerial Conference held in The Hague, The Netherlands. <http://tinyurl.com/py4ksqm>

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has approved a total of €8 billion of financing which includes four investment projects in energy efficiency, renewable energy and stra-

tegic energy infrastructure. <http://tinyurl.com/nthjzso>

- The EU's Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) has signed 15 grant agreements for priority energy infrastructure projects in Europe. These projects are the first of 34 projects to receive a total of €647 million under the EU's [Connecting Europe Facility](http://tinyurl.com/qavey48) 2014 call for proposals.
- European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete, and the Moroccan Minister for Energy, Abdelkader Amara, have unveiled three new Euro-Mediterranean platforms on gas, the regional electricity market, and renewables and energy efficiency. <http://tinyurl.com/qavey48>
- The EU and Algeria have launched a [political](http://tinyurl.com/nuc6xnw)

[dialogue on energy matters](http://tinyurl.com/nuc6xnw). Meeting in Algiers on 5 May 2015, Miguel Arias Cañete, European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, and Yousef Yousfi, Minister for Energy and Mines of Algeria, agreed to cooperate on natural gas, renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy market integration and infrastructure development.

At the first meeting of the High Level Group (HLG) on energy-intensive industries discussions focused on the reform of the Energy Trading System (ETS). Other topics, such as Energy Union, innovation or trade followed. <http://tinyurl.com/nuc6xnw>

Food

- The European Commission has presented the outcome of its review of the decision-making process for the authorisation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) as food and feed. The Commission proposes to amend the legislation to confer upon Member States more freedom to restrict, or prohibit the use of EU-authorised GMOs in food or feed on their territory. <http://tinyurl.com/paheduy>
- The European Commission has published two reports on origin labelling, as requested by the Council and European Parliament in the [Food Information for Consumers Regulation \(1169/2011\)](http://tinyurl.com/nl3txjv). Both conclude that the benefits from new mandatory labelling requirements do not clearly outweigh the costs and that voluntary labelling rules seem to be the most suitable solution. <http://tinyurl.com/nl3txjv>
- The Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) committee has published a study entitled '[Food Safety Policy and Regulation in the United States](http://tinyurl.com/nbbhslv)'. The review considers the basic relevant legislative acts and the organisation of various branches of government, key changes in approach or implementation have also been identified. In addition, a list of the legislative requirements related to food safety in relation to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is presented.
- EFSA has announced that it had completed a major update of its Food Consumption Database, which now includes individual dietary records from nearly 100,000 people in 23 EU Member States. Food consumption data collected by EFSA play a key role in the evaluation of risks related to possible hazards in food. <http://tinyurl.com/nbbhslv>
- EFSA has published its [Scientific Cooperation Annual Report 2014](http://tinyurl.com/nbbhslv), which gives an overview of the activities that EFSA carried out in cooperation with Member States in 2014.
- EFSA has published its [2014 Annual Report](http://tinyurl.com/nbbhslv), which gives an overview of its activities in 2014.
- The Commission has set up a new High level Forum for a better functioning food supply chain, following the success of a previous forum held from 2010 to 2014. The new High Level Forum will gather relevant public and private stakeholders to address major challenges in the food area, both now and in the future.
- A new EFSA scientific statement reviews the different recommended safe levels of dioxins in food and feed. EFSA recommends and recently accepted a request from the European Commission for a comprehensive risk assessment for animal and human health related to the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in food and feed. <http://tinyurl.com/nhpbwsm>
- EFSA has proposed dietary reference values (DRVs) for calcium, as part of its continuing work on DRVs for European citizens. The Scientific Opinion was finalised following a six-week public consultation. <http://tinyurl.com/oubdovp>
- EFSA has re-published its [scientific opinion on the risks to public health from perchlorate in food](http://tinyurl.com/oubdovp), particularly in fruit and vegetables. Adopted in September 2014, the opinion has been revised because of a technical error.
- EFSA has improved its harmonised [food classification and description system \(called 'FoodEx2'\)](http://tinyurl.com/oubdovp) to further help national data collection agencies and other scientific bodies provide comparable scientific data for use in risk assessments.
- EFSA has published its [2015 report on chemicals in food](http://tinyurl.com/oubdovp), which aims to give non-specialists a balanced view of the findings of annual EU-wide monitoring of levels of chemicals in food. The report provides context that is sometimes lacking when examples of chemicals detected in food are reported by the media.

Medical Devices

- On 27 May 2015, the proposals on medical devices and on *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices were examined at Working Party level in the Council. According to POLITICO pro, progress has been made regarding the proposed new systems for approval and product-tracking, one of the issues dividing Member States. There will be no more technical level meetings. Also according to POLITICO pro, the Latvian Presidency has presented a compromise text, which could offer “enough flexibilities” to Member States. Permanent representatives to the EU will discuss this document on 10 June ahead of the formal discussion among health ministers at the next EPSCO Council meeting on 19 June 2015.
- Future Market Insights has announced the release of a report entitled ‘Portable Medical Devices Market: Global Industry Analysis and Opportunity Assessment 2015 – 2025’. <http://tinyurl.com/q9wqztz>

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

- The EP has postponed the vote in plenary on its resolution on TTIP, scheduled for 10 June. MEPs tabling more than 200 amendments to the INTA report, the EP’s President, Martin Schulz, has decided to send the text of the resolution back to INTA. MEPs have also voted in plenary session to postpone their debate on the dossier with 183 in favour, 181 against and 37 abstentions. <http://tinyurl.com/q4pgun2>
- The International Trade (INTA) Committee has adopted its [report](#) containing ‘Recommendations for the European Commission regarding the TTIP negotiations’ (2014/2228(INI)). 57 [compromise amendments](#) have been proposed by the rapporteur, Bernd Lange. According to the report, an EU-US trade deal should deepen EU access to the US market, but must not undermine EU standards or the right to regulate in the public interest.
- The European Commission has published a [report](#) of the ninth round of negotiations on TTIP. It has also organised a Civil Society Dialogue meeting to inform stakeholders about progress made during this round and plans for the months ahead. A particular focus of the meeting was regulatory co-operation in TTIP. In addition, the EU TTIP negotiating team for the pharmaceuticals, medical devices and cosmetics chapters has met EU civil society organisations to discuss issues related to TTIP and health.
- EU Trade Commissioner Malmström has discussed with MEPs her new ideas for a [reformed investor dispute resolution mechanism in TTIP and beyond](#). She has also discussed the paper with the [EU Trade ministers](#) in order to invite their views on policy orientations both for the TTIP negotiations and in terms of general EU investment policy, including in relation to further work towards a permanent Investment Court.
- The Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) has published a new Special Report, which examines the main facets of the debate about TTIP and services. <http://tinyurl.com/ndhayyt>



Conformity Assessment Perspective on TTIP

Together ACIL, CEOC, and IFIA represent the vast majority of testing, inspection, and certification service providers worldwide. Our members are located in both Europe and the United States, as well as in other geographies, and our collective memberships consist of both small

ACIL, CEOC International and IFIA published a position paper on the Conformity Assessment Sector’s Perspective on TTIP.

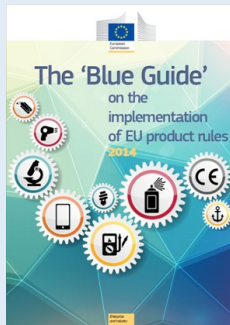
ACIL, CEOC and IFIA and their members support the ambitions of the TTIP and we would like to contribute our proposals. Independent third party conformity assessment is an integral part of a well-functioning trade system and we outline in our position paper how transatlantic conformity assessment can help to achieve the ambitious TTIP goals.

The full ACIL – CEOC – IFIA Position Paper on the Conformity Assessment Sector’s Perspective on TTIP can be downloaded [here](#).

Industrial Policy

- The European Commission's Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015 reveals that the EU's overall level of innovation has remained stable. In the overall ranking, Sweden is once more the innovation leader, followed by Denmark, Finland and Germany. The fastest growing innovators are Malta, Latvia and Bulgaria, Ireland, the UK and Poland. <http://tinyurl.com/n9p8x7m>
- The Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) committee has had a structured dialogue with Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW). They exchanged view on the Internal Market Strategy, a key initiative to be presented by the Commission this year. <http://tinyurl.com/qdwbkj5>
- The Commission has announced a major restructuring of DG GROW taking effect on 1 June. There is a [new organisation chart](#).
- The Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) committee has had a structured dialogue with Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, and Entrepreneurship. It was the first time that the Commissioner meets the ITRE committee after the hearing concerning her confirmation as Commissioner. She has outlined strategic goals and industrial policy plans for 2015. <http://tinyurl.com/mjzs4zy>

EC Call for Comments: 2015 Revision of the Blue Guide



During the last revision of the Blue Guide, the European Commission had announced that the Blue Guide would be regularly updated.

The Commission has now launched a call for comments on issues that stakeholders consider need to be updated or clarified in the current Blue Guide.

The aim of the exercise is not to rewrite the Blue Guide completely, but rather to address any issues that may have come up due to new developments or to develop further any points that would merit additional clarification in the current text.

Public Consultations and Call for Tenders

- The European Commission has launched a [public consultation on the Circular Economy](#). Deadline: 20 August 2015.
- The European Commission has launched a [public online consultation on the Handbook for Sustainability Impact Assessment of EU trade negotiations](#). Deadline: 14 August 2015.
- The European Commission has launched an online consultation on [‘The role of research in global food and nutrition security’](#). Deadline: 1 September 2015.

Jiří Sobola, former EUROLAB President, participated in the ILAC meetings held in Frankfurt from 11 to 13 April 2015.

⇒ **ILAC IC WG 4 on the use of measurements in inspection**

- The new philosophy for establishing this document is to advice on how accreditation bodies (ABs) should assess measurements performed under ISO/IEC 17020. Inspection bodies (IBs) must decide if they want to perform the test according to ISO/IEC 17025 or not. There are cases when ISO/IEC 17025 will apply anyway.
- As inspection is performed under ISO/IEC 17020 IB must provide the level of impartiality according to ISO/IEC 17020 even when measurement is provided according to ISO/IEC 17025.
- Accreditation of IBs will always be directed to ISO/IEC 17020 but with intention behind that ISO/IEC 17025 must be consulted.
- Inspection body must decide how to use ISO/IEC 17025 to boost ISO/IEC 17020 for specific individual cases.
- This document is to be written as the guidance for accreditation bodies but it can be equally used by inspection bodies.
- It is to be considered that document will be read by users via case studies so these must be in line with document.

Analysis of case studies

- Title of this chapter will be "Case studies involving measurement activities."
- The measurements should follow the quality requirements on test results specified in the Clause 5.9 of ISO/IEC 17025.
- Out of the 10 case studies EUROLAB will review the one for inspection of safety valve.
- EUROLAB should further monitor development of this document.
- As soon as new version of this document is prepared it should be distributed to both JTCPTC and TCQA for their information / comments.
- New version of the document will be negotiated during the next ILAC IC meeting and if approved it will be distributed to ILAC members for 60 days commenting / approval.

⇒ **Arrangements Committee (ARC)**

- **Some of the 18 actions to be completed:**

MRA is to be fit for purpose and facilitate the level play field including cost effectiveness of ILAC operations. Implementation is to be completed within 6 years. As soon as priorities of objectives are agreed the Executive will provide resources for implementation.

Discussion is about professionalization of peer evaluation. It is important to have full confidence in peer evaluation. The standard ISO 17040 on peer evaluation must be followed and assessors are to be calibrated. This is an action of medium priority.

Develop services for regulatory area: It is very complicated area, each of the foreseen services should be developed by specialised WG. Maybe the WG should be established in each of the regions.

⇒ **WG 11: revision of ISO/IEC 17011, CASCO WG 42**

Terms of reference were approved, EUROLAB is welcomed as the member of this WG.

ISO/IEC 17011 is apparently going beyond current MLA and MRA but in spite of that there might be some additional requirements for MRA.

The scope of the standard will not be limited by the kind of accreditation (by a subject).

Option A and Option B (the use of ISO 9001) are here understood again as a problem. ABs want to avoid ISO 9001 arguing that these option is for a conformity assessment but accreditation is not the conformity assessment.

Impartiality: – there should be more pragmatic approach to ABs providing PT services.

Conflict of interests: – ABs must have proactive document solving the conflict of interests.

Competence of personnel: – the specific knowledge and skills are to be specified for specific tasks

Assessments: – sampling and witnessing is the problem; assessment plans should be based on risk analysis, they should specify assessment techniques like office assessment activities, witnessing, etc.

Accreditation cycle: – reassessment and surveillance, still need to identify max. length for reaccreditation, accommodate remote and virtual assessment, etc.

EUROLAB is a member of ARC - LC JWG for the revision of ISO/IEC 17011. Mirror WG should be established by EUROLAB. EUROLAB supported exclusion of option B from ISO/IEC 17011.

⇒ **Suspension of membership in ILAC for non-technical reasons**

EUROLAB should pay serious attention to this issue as it can affect certificates and test reports issued by CABs which were accredited by an AB which membership was suspended or terminated.

EUROLAB strongly advocated that suspension and termination of membership of AB in ILAC should not in any way influence the documents issued by accredited entities before suspension or termination was effective and measures should be taken for smooth transfer of accreditations under another accreditation body which is the signatory of ILAC MRA.

EUROLAB should consider preparation of White Paper to that topic and take proactive approach.

**AIC**

Joint WG for support revision ISO/IEC 17025: Discussion was focused on sampling, measurement uncertainty, PT, how traceability should be reported, compliance statement, etc.

Sampling is to be considered as a standalone activity.

G8 document solves reporting on compliance with specification – there is also input for revision on ISO/IEC 17025.

It was agreed that ILAC should not support the revision of ISO 17043. ISO 17034 is new working item for CASCO.

BIPM Global for urban scale carbon measurements: – it is new initiative with potential involvement of laboratories.

JCGM Mirror group was established for revision of GUM and VIM.

There must be possibility for accreditation of sampling as standalone activity under ISO/IEC 17025.

There is general opposition against option A and B. ILAC will inform ISO CASCO that this policy is to be reconsidered. It is on executive agenda. ILAC will push CPC in CASCO to find solution. Other members of CPC from member countries will be instructed to argue against option B.

**Accreditation on sampling**

A new ILAC document on sampling has been prepared. The document offers a number of points to be considered for sampling. There are new requirements and the WG44 has to decide if there will be a new standard for sampling or it will be the part of ISO/IEC 17025.

It is also to be noted that CASCO WG 44 is not authorised to make standard for sampling. Taking samples is part of testing and inspection but sampling as standalone activity should be separate standard.

Regulators are requesting accreditation of sampling as standalone activity.

EA HHC has discussed this issue over the year. Within the EA the majority of ABs are using ISO/IEC 17025 for accreditation of standalone sampling. There are organisations doing sampling only and regulators require their accreditation,

HHC concluded: sampling as standalone is possible preferably against ISO/IEC 17025. If accreditation is to be done against ISO/IEC 17020 relevant clauses of ISO/IEC 17025 should be used.

It is not clear how accreditation certificate for standalone activity should look like.

ABs are using full standard ISO/IEC 17025 when accrediting sampling as standalone but some articles are not considered.

ABs should be able to confirm competence to do sampling and there is room in existing standards but it should be done in a harmonised way. EA established task force for sampling as standalone activity, out of conformity assessment.

If guidance is to be produced for sampling it will be linked to ISO/IEC 17025.

ABs performing accreditation of standalone sampling are requesting sampling organisations that samples selected by them must then be handed over to the accredited inspection body or laboratory. However some samples are never tested just stored and this requirement appears to be redundant.

**EA report – selection of standards for notification, Andreas Steinhorst – EA Secretary**

There is EA/EU project on selection standards for modules.

There are 28 pieces of specific product family legislation (EU Directives and Regulations). Competence of CABs is based on accreditation against hEN ISO/IEC 17000 series. It is not harmonised what standard is to be used for accreditation and what is the best standard for specific directive.

10 directives were evaluated and first preliminary results will be made available in a few weeks. These will be discussed within EA.

Blue Guide is stating standards which should be used and may be that results of the project will be different.

The final decision on the use of specific standard is with notifying authority.

Project will be concluded by the end of the year. There will be transitional period for the use of this document but it is and will be a voluntary document. Final decision will remain with notifying authority.

Gulf countries have similar system using accreditation for notification but only one AB and one Notifying authority are allowed to provide this service.

Personal Developments

- **Xiao Chen, Intertek Vice President of Product Intelligence, has been elected to the board of directors of the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO).** She will serve a 3 year term, advising on health and safety issues related to products for consumers across the globe.
- **Dr Henrik O. Madsen, Group President & Chief Executive Officer of DNV GL has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, as a new board member to the UN Global Compact Board,** the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative.

Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- **EUROLAB Communication Committee meeting**, 22 June 2015, Brussels, Belgium
- **EUROLAB National Members' Meeting**, 6-8 October 2015, Istanbul, Turkey.
- **CEOC International—EUROLAB—IFIA Safety Seminar 2015**, 10 November 2015, Brussels, Belgium
- **EUROLAB Board Meeting**, 7 October, Istanbul
- **EUROLAB Board Meeting**, 11 November, Brussels
- **EUROLAB Board Meeting**, 10 February 2016, Brussels



Istanbul, Turkey

International Events

- **ISO CASCO WG 44 (Revision ISO / IEC 17025)** meeting in Geneva, 18-20 August 2015
- **EA Laboratory Committee meeting in Belgrade**, 8 September 2015
- **2015 S-LAB CONFERENCE** in Leeds, 16-17 September 2015
- **EA Horizontal Harmonization Committee meeting in Brussels**, 24-25 September 2015
- **2015 International Congress of Metrology** in Porte de Versailles in Paris, 21-24 September 2015
- **EA Certification Committee meeting in Lisbon**, 6-7 October 2015
- **EA Inspection Committee meeting in Lisbon**, 8 October 2015
- **CAB College meeting in Brussels**, 20th October 2015
- **EAAB meeting in Brussels**, 21st October 2015
- **ILAC-IAF Joint Annual Meetings in Milan**, 28 October—6 November 2015
- **EA General Assembly in Budapest**, 25-26 November 2015
- **IAF—ILAC mid-term meetings** in Frankfurt, 29 March—7 April 2016
- **EA General Assembly** in London, 25-26 May 2016
- **Joint Annual IAF- ILAC meeting** in New Dehli, 26 October—4 November 2016
- **EA General Assembly** in Boras, 23-24 November 2016

S-Lab Conference and awards. Supporting World Class Science

The 2015 Supporting World Class Science Conference will be held at the University of Leeds on September 16-17.

Highlights include:

A keynote entitled 'Is Science Facilities Management Rocket Science?' By Kim Toufexis of NASA, one of the world's largest employers of scientists and engineers, and covering topics such as the impact of changing science requirements on lab design, and successful project management.

More than 20 case studies of new and refurbished laboratories from all branches of STEM research and teaching (aquaria and marine science, biology, chemistry, engineering, medicine, neuroscience, marine science, and physics).

Many thematic sessions e.g. on BIM and BMS in labs; biosecurity; chemicals; containment and ventilation; effective briefing; energy efficiency in labs; designing for industry collaboration; equipment costing, operation, purchasing and sharing (e.g. air purifiers, autoclaves, drying cabinets, evaporators, microscopes, and ULT freezers); ELNs and informatics; health and safety improving space utilisation; project management; space utilisation; specialised equipment needs e.g. autoclaves; and whole life costing.

Tours of several Universities of Leeds laboratories.

Bookings are now open for the Conference, the Awards Dinner and the Exhibition.

For more information see www.effective-lab.org.uk or contact S-Lab Director Peter James via s-lab@istonline.org.uk or on 07533 891639.



*International Events***Measure, analyse and innovate: an on-going challenge!****The International Congress of Metrology from 21 to 24 September 2015 (CIM 2015) in Paris (France) with the ENOVA Show**

The CIM 2015 will gather, from 21 to 24 September in Paris (France), all the actors of the metrology's world: industrial users of means of measurement, technical experts, laboratories, manufacturers and service providers.

It explores **developments in measurement techniques**, R&D advances and their implication for industry.

It demonstrates **how measurement improves, day-to-day, industrial processes and risk management**.

The major topics of 2015 are: **risk management, energy transition and healthcare**. The Congress also deals with other general issues: analysis and testing, uncertainties, cost optimisation, nanotechnologies, soft metrology...

The topics of the Congress are presented within **6 industrial round-tables**:

- Bestpractice in healthcare: contribution of metrology
- Energy transition: metrology meets challenges
- The world of soft metrology
- Outsourcing metrology: dream or reality?
- Agrifood: metrological advantage
- Risk management and control: new approach for ISO 9001

The CIM 2015 is co-organised with ENOVA Paris, the reference exhibition for technologies in Electronic, Measurement, Vision and Optic.

The full programme and the online registration are accessible on the website:

www.metrologie2015.com

