

Eurachem Memorandum of Understanding

Effective from June 26, 1990; amended May 24, 2000

Considering the importance of chemical measurements to the work of Government, commerce and industry, the enforcement of law, the maintenance of public health, the protection of the environment and the manufacture of quality products,

Considering that there is a need to improve the reliability of chemical measurements,

Considering that lack of agreement in chemical measurements is a barrier to free trade and technical co-operation,

Considering there is a need to harmonize measurement practices.

The organisations on behalf of which this Memorandum of Understanding is signed agree on the following:

Section 1. Constitution

- 1.1 The organisations on behalf of which this Memorandum of Understanding is signed declare their common intention to take part in EURACHEM, a network of organisations in Europe with the objective of establishing a system for the international traceability of chemical measurements and the promotion of good quality practices.
- 1.2 The affairs of EURACHEM will be directed by the EURACHEM General Assembly.
- 1.3 The EURACHEM General Assembly will be open to experts from the public sector, industry and academe nominated by the national chemical laboratory, the national EURACHEM, or another identified mechanism.
- 1.4 Membership of the EURACHEM General Assembly
 - 1.4.1 Full Membership of EURACHEM is open to countries within the European Union and the European Free Trade Association, the European Commission and European countries recognised by the EU and EFTA as accession states.
 - 1.4.2 EURACHEM Associate Membership is open to other European countries with a good analytical chemical infrastructure, or countries near to Europe who have strong economic relations with Europe and who have a good analytical chemical infrastructure.
 - 1.4.3 Other European and international organisations which impact on quality and quality related aspects of chemical measurement in Europe, may, by invitation, also be represented in an observer capacity.
- 1.5 Countries applying for Full and Associate Membership should have established a national EURACHEM network and should fulfill minimum criteria established in accordance with the procedures laid down in Section 1.7.
- 1.6 Members may nominate up to 2 experts to serve on the EURACHEM General Assembly.
- 1.7 The EURACHEM General Assembly will meet to review and discuss specific tasks and will form its own rules of procedure. Sub-committees and working groups may be established as necessary. EURACHEM General Assembly meetings may be called by agreement of 50% or more of the Full Members of the General Assembly.

- 1.8 The EURACHEM General Assembly will elect a chairman and a secretary from its Full Members and for a two year term of office. The secretary will normally provide the necessary administrative support.
- 1.9 The EURACHEM General Assembly will establish an executive committee, in accordance with the rules of procedure established under Section 1.7, in order to manage the affairs of EURACHEM between meetings and to prepare issues for consideration by members.
- 1.10 Matters will normally be decided by consensus but if necessary by a simple majority vote of a minimum of 50% of the Full Members of the EURACHEM General Assembly.
- 1.11 Each Full Member delegation to the General Assembly is entitled to one vote. Delegations representing the other categories of membership do not have a vote.
- 1.12 Members of EURACHEM retain their national autonomy.

Section 2. Strategies, Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The aim of EURACHEM is to provide a forum for European laboratories and other organisations to promote the adoption of common principles of valid analytical measurement and collaboration on the various tasks required to achieve mutual acceptability of test data.
- 2.2 The aims and objectives of EURACHEM are contained in its strategy statement which is renewed at five yearly intervals and which is subjected to a mid-term review.
- 2.3 EURACHEM will work with other national, European and international organisations dedicated to quality and traceability in analytical measurement and will build on the strong links that exist between analytical chemists and others involved in analytical measurement. When formal mechanisms are required they will be established in accordance with Section 1.7.
- 2.4 In particular EURACHEM will actively participate in the affairs of and collaborate with sister European organisations such as, EA, EUROLAB and EUROMET. Where appropriate EURACHEM will establish Memorandum of Understandings with other European organisations.

Section 3. Members Rights and Responsibilities

- 3.1 Members commit themselves to the pursuance of the objectives, aims and tasks of EURACHEM.
- 3.2 All members have the right to propose to EURACHEM that specific tasks be carried out. Members will carry out tasks on terms agreed by them.
- 3.3 All members may seek information and assistance from EURACHEM and its individual members on measurement problems on terms to be decided between the parties concerned.
- 3.4 The attainment of the aims and objectives of EURACHEM requires participation by members to the extent commensurate with resources and expertise at their disposal.
- 3.5 Members will make every effort to ensure that necessary resources are made available under their internal procedures.
- 3.6 Members will normally make available to EURACHEM information on current and planned work in areas of interest to EURACHEM.

Section 4. Validity of Memorandum of Understanding

- 4.1 This Memorandum of Understanding shall immediately come into operation on signature on behalf of at least six member countries, and shall remain open for further participation from within the defined membership.
- 4.2 This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended subject to 3 months' notice of amendments being given to all full members and by agreement of a simple majority of a minimum of 50% of the members present at a subsequent meeting of the EURACHEM General Assembly.
- 4.3 Termination of participation in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be notified to the EURACHEM General Assembly no less than three months beforehand.
- 4.4 This Memorandum of Understanding is concluded for an initial term of 3 years. It will automatically continue for additional 3 year periods in as much as at least 50% of the full member countries support its continuation.
- 4.5 This Memorandum of Understanding is of an exclusively recommendatory nature. It does not create a binding legal effect on signatories.