

Eurachem Newsletter 12 Summer 1997

Please note: This is an old HTML file. Links may be outdated.

Contents of this Issue		articles
Headlines	New Members welcomed to EURACHEM	2
News	News from all over Europe	8
Workshop	Dublin plays host to EURACHEM	2
Reports	Working Party on Analytical Chemistry converts into a Division	2
Contacts	Eurochem Committee and Contact Points - Summer 1997	

Published By:

The EURACHEM Secretariat, PO Box 46, TEDDINGTON, Middlesex, TW11 0NH, UNITED KINGDOM

Tel + 44 181 943 7614 Fax + 44 181 943 2767 Email: eurachem@lgc.co.uk

Internet <http://www.vtt.fi/ket/eurachem.html>

Editor: Keith Marshall. *Additional copies available from Mr David Binney*

Eurachem Headline News

New members welcomed to EURACHEM

The EURACHEM Committee granted Associate Membership status to four more nations. Cyprus, Lithuania and Turkey will join the original 6 Associate Members from Central and Eastern Europe, who signed the EURACHEM Memorandum of Understanding back in 1994. Cyprus, Malta and Turkey signed the EURACHEM MoU during the EURACHEM Committee meeting in Dublin. Arrangements for Lithuania to sign are under

EURACHEM's Website Continues to Attract Attention

Figures recently issued by VTT, administrators of EURACHEM's Worldwide Web Homepage show that EURACHEM's website is proving to be popular throughout the world.

In February and March this year, 859 users from 28 nations accessed the website. Users from most European countries as well as Canada, Japan, Costa Rica, Argentina, South Africa, South Korea, Australia and Brazil accessed the website. However, most interest came from the USA, Germany, Finland and the UK.

The most accessed website pages were those containing information about EURACHEM and its history, as well as EURACHEM Newsletter 11.

Back to: | [Headline](#) | [News](#) | [Workshop & Conference](#) | [Reports](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [Eurachem Home](#) |

Last updated on 25.07.1997 By [Eurachem WebMaster](#)

News from all over Europe (8 items)

Eurachem News

1. [EURACHEM-Luxembourg: Participants Required for Freon Study](#)
2. [Cyprus: Food Scientists talk Quality](#)
3. [EURACHEM-Malta holds its first meeting](#)
4. [Accreditation In Hungary](#)
5. [EURACHEM-Slovakia: Analyses for Geology & Environment '97](#)
6. [EURACHEM-PL: Co-operation Continues](#)
7. [EURACHEM-CZ EURACHEM Guides now available in Czech](#)
8. [EURACHEM-Hellas \(Greece\) EURACHEM-Hellas is born](#)
9. [OOPS!](#)

EURACHEM-Luxembourg

Participants Required for Freon Study

Development of a new Standardised "Hydrocarbon Index" Method for Oil-in-Water.

Freon, also known as CFC 113, has been the solvent used for extracting water for oil-in-water analyses. Because of its ozone-depleting properties, this solvent is to be phased out, according to the Montreal Protocol. Therefore, a new method is required urgently.

A two-year project was launched in November 1996 with the involvement of 3 partners; SINTEF Applied Chemistry (lead partner) in Norway, Universite de Liege in Belgium and Luxcontrol S.A. In addition to funding from the European Commission, the project is supported by the Norwegian State Pollution Control Authorities (SFT) and the Swedish Environmental Protection Board (SNV).

A new method will replace the current national standards in use today. It should be applicable to samples of water offshore and on, as well as drinking, ground and surface water. The new methods will then be chosen for further development and refinement. Afterwards, these methods will be compared using a pre-defined validation protocol, set up for the normal use of the old national Standard freon/IR method.

Luxcontrol is presently looking for participants to evaluate recommended methods in round-robin studies. In the results of these studies, final recommendations for a new method will be given.

Laboratories interested in participating in these round-robin studies should contact

Dr M Chtaib

Luxcontrol S.A., Box 349

L-4004 ESCH-SUR ALZETTE

LUXEMBOURG

Tel + 352 54 77111 Fax + 352 54 79 30

E-mai chaibmo@pt.lu

Project WWW home page:- <http://www.oslo.sintef.no/chem/6640/stoiw.htm> Dr Marc Lemmer EURACHEM Luxembourg

Cyprus

Food Scientists talk Quality

Quality Assurance in the Food Industry

A training course on “Quality Assurance in the Food Industry” was organised by PUC in March this year. Food scientists from various food industries attended. Emphasis was given to the operation of analytical and microbiological laboratories, quality assurance in testing and the accreditation of laboratories.

Accreditation of Laboratories

A series of one-day seminars on the Accreditation of Laboratories was recently organised by the Cyprus Organisation for Standards and Control of Quality (CYS). These seminars studied the provisions of the EN45000 series of standards, in connection with the revision of ISO/IEC Guide 25.

Dr Kyriacos Tsimillis

Pan-Cyprian Union of Chemists

EURACHEM-Malta

EURACHEM-Malta holds its first meeting

About 50 Participants from various Government laboratories, as well as private industry, attended the University of Malta for a short course conducted by Dr Bernard King (LGC, UK), on Laboratory QA and Accreditation, in 1997. This was part of a 4-day programme to mark the launching of EURACHEM-Malta.

EURACHEM-Malta itself was launched on May 8, during a seminar entitled “Current Practice in Laboratories in Malta”. After an opening address from the Maltese Minister for Economic Affairs, Dr John Attard Montalto, representatives from Maltese industries presented papers on their respective laboratory’s QA programmes.

Afterwards, EURACHEM-Malta delegate, Dr George Peplow, outlined EURACHEM’s mission and objectives with EURACHEM-Malta’s immediate programme, including an interlaboratory collaboration exercise on a sample. Initial priorities for EURACHEM Malta will include education and training programmes on laboratory accreditation, especially for small laboratories.

EURACHEM Malta will operate from the University of Malta in Msida.

Dr George Peplow

EURACHEM-Malta

Eurachem News

EURACHEM-Hungary

Accreditation In Hungary

In Hungary, accreditation activities started in 1988, with the recognition of testing laboratories, and the Hungarian Office for Standardisation assigned to develop and operate a national accreditation and certification system. In 1988 and 1990, accreditation was based upon ISO/IEC Guidelines. However, since 1990, accreditation has been based on the EN 45000 series.

April 1995 saw the establishment of a single, independent national accreditation body, the Hungarian Accreditation Board (NAT). NAT is a non-profit public organisation, legally supervised by the Hungarian Ministry of Industry and Trade. It is divided into several Sectional Accreditation Committees which define accreditation criteria within their respective areas. They also advise the Accreditation Office regarding the selection of assessors and make proposals for accreditation. These committees, cover areas including Environment, Food and Agriculture, Mining and Metallurgy, and employee health and safety. There is also a Sectional Accreditation Committee for certification and accreditation of accreditation bodies themselves.

The Accreditation Office operates the Hungarian Accreditation Scheme and provides the secretariat functions for the accreditation bodies in NAT. The Office is also responsible for international co-operation as well as internal and external relations in the field of accreditation.

The Main tasks of NAT are:

- The assessment and surveillance of laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.
- Training and registration of accreditation assessors,
- Representing Hungary in international and European accreditation organisations,
- Reaching bilateral and multilateral co-operation and mutual recognition agreements.

Accreditation is voluntary and open to any laboratory, certification and inspection body that undertakes objective testing and meets the required criteria of competence. Assessment is carried out by external assessors. Accreditation certificates, valid for 3 years, are issued by the Director of NAT, based on the proposals from the relevant sectional accreditation committee.

NAT closely co-operates with ministries and national authorities. By law, it is involved in the preparation of regulations for mandatory testing and certification in Hungary. Employees regularly give lectures on accreditation at universities as well as national and international conferences. NAT participates at ILAC and IAF meetings and has applied for EAL and EAC associate membership. It has also begun to co-operate with other Western European national accreditation bodies such as UKAS/NAMAS, COFRAC, DAR, SAS and SWEDAC, in the field of training and joint accreditation.

Prof József Hlavay
EURACHEM Hungary

Forthcoming Event from EURACHEM-Slovakia

Analyses for Geology & Environment '97

September 30 - October 3, 1997: Spišská Nová Ves, SLOVAKIA

With an emphasis on geological and environmental analysis, this international conference will cover:-

- Recent developments in sampling and sample preparation techniques
- Determination and speciation of inorganic and organic components
- Evaluation and interpretation of analytical data

Quality assurance and control of analytical works will also be included in the programme

For further information, Please contact:

Dr Hana Mjartanová

Geological Survey of the Slovak Republic Markušovská cesta 1 05240 SPIŠSKÁ NOVÁ VES, SLOVAKIA
Fax + 421 965 426096

EURACHEM-PL

Co-operation Continues between AOAC International & EURACHEM Central Europe

The main event for EURACHEM-PL in 1996 was the International Symposium on Development in Chemical Analysis of Environmental Samples at the Edge of the 21st Century; organised jointly with the AOAC International Central Europe Subsection. Held in Warsaw, this Symposium was regarded as a good example of the regional co-operation between AOAC and EURACHEM in Central and Eastern Europe, which has continued since the symposium in Slovakia, in 1995.

About ninety participants from 11 countries took part in the Warsaw Symposium. The programme comprised plenary lectures and 3 short presentations.

The following lectures were presented by the EURACHEM Committee members

- Maire C. Walsh (EURACHEM Chair, State Laboratory, Dublin Ireland) "General review on the activities of EURACHEM and its strategy for the future"
- Paul De Bievre (IRMM, Geel, Belgium) "Traceability of reference measurements and reference materials: from ignoring to realising a chemist's view."
- Margaret Lauwaars (AOAC International) "Update on AOAC International."
- Zbigniew Dobkowski (EURACHEM-PL, ICRI, Warsaw, Poland) "Contemporary approach to quantifying uncertainty in analytical measurements."

Other lectures were devoted to certification, accreditation and quality assurance in relation to reference materials, inorganic trace analysis and HPLC, as well as designing and operating collaborative studies.

Prof Dr Zbigniew Dobkowski
EURACHEM-PL

EURACHEM-CZ

EURACHEM Guides now available in Czech

Czech versions of the EURACHEM guides, Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement and Accreditation for Laboratories Performing Microbiological Testing, have now been published. As a result, all basic EURACHEM documents are now available in the Czech language.

The third run of QA/QC courses for analytical laboratory Quality Managers, organised by EURACHEM-CZ and the Czech Society for Quality ended in September last year. This course, covered the standards required for EN ISO 9001 certification.

EURACHEM-CZ has established its homepage on the WWW. The address is <http://www.iic.cas.cz>. It contains information regarding EURACHEM-CZ, as well as a list of documents available.

Dr Zbynek Plzak
EURACHEM-CZ

[EURACHEM-Hellas \(Greece\)](#)

EURACHEM-Hellas is born

EURACHEM-Hellas was established 6 months ago, as a committee of the Greek chemist association. Its main task is the transfer of knowledge, information and decisions from EURACHEM to its members, via Greece's National representative, Prof Miltiades Karayannis, University of Ioannina. EURACHEM-Hellas is open to all scientists working in industry, academia, private laboratories etc, interested in areas such as metrology, validation of methods, measurement uncertainty and participation in interlaboratory test comparisons.

In March this year, EURACHEM-Hellas, in association with the Association of Greek Chemists and the General Laboratory for Greece, was host to a lecture by former EURACHEM Chair, Prof Dr Paul De Bièvre entitled "Traceability of 'Amounts of Substance' Measurements: EURACHEM, A Focus for Analytical Chemistry".

Future activities of EURACHEM-Hellas will be the establishment of a national bank of reference materials, the organisation of seminars on education and training and the influence of the curricula of the Greek state Universities regarding new subjects and ideas discussed among its members.

Prof Miltiades Karayannis
EURACHEM-Hellas

Eurachem News

OOPS!

EURACHEM [Newsletter No 11](#) published a list of "EURACHEM AoS projects on page 10. In fact, the projects listed were EUROMET AoS projects.

The editor would like to apologise for this typographical error and for any inconvenience it caused.

Back to: | [Headline](#) | [News](#) | [Workshop & Conference](#) | [Reports](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [Eurachem Home](#) |

Last updated on 02.02.1997 By [Eurachem WebMaster](#)

Dublin plays host to EURACHEM

Eurachem Workshop

Reports from the May 1997 EURACHEM Meetings

New Members welcomed to EURACHEM

The EURACHEM Committee granted Associate Membership status to four more nations. Cyprus, Lithuania and Turkey will join the original 6 Associate Members from Central and Eastern Europe, who signed the EURACHEM Memorandum of Understanding back in 1994. Cyprus, Malta and Turkey signed the EURACHEM MoU during the EURACHEM Committee meeting in Dublin. Arrangements for Lithuania to sign are under

Also discussed at the Executive and Full Committee meetings were:

- A proposed structure for establishing traceability of chemical measurements in Europe and associated collaborations with EUROMET and CCQM.
- Proposed future workshops on Education and Training, QA in non-routine analyses and traceability.
- Continuing co-operation with EUROLAB, EAL and ILAC.
- Co-operation with AOAC Europe in the organisation of a workshop in Copenhagen entitled "Datapro and QA in Modern Analytical Laboratories".
- The celebration of EURACHEM's 10th anniversary in 1999.

The next EURACHEM Executive meeting will be in October this year in Berlin, while the EURACHEM Full Committee will next meet in Budapest in April 1998.

EURACHEM Secretariat is on the move

The EURACHEM Secretariat is to transfer from the Laboratory of the Government Chemist (LGC) in the UK to the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und Prüfung (BAM) in Germany.

Although the Secretariat is elected for a 2-year period, LGC has been the base for the EURACHEM Secretariat since the birth of the organisation in 1989. During this time, it has been funded by the UK Government and has provided a wide range of support activities including:

- The provision of a full secretarial service to the EURACHEM Executive and Full Committees.
- Assistance in the organisation of EURACHEM Workshops.
- A central contact point for all EURACHEM enquiries.
- The publication of EURACHEM guides, newsletters & leaflets.

The EURACHEM Committee is delighted that BAM has now offered to take over all the Secretariat's activities. Because of the time LGC has been responsible for the Secretariat, transfer of the various functions will be carried out gradually, with the New Secretariat taking full control by the end of the year.

Back to: | [Headline](#) | [News](#) | Workshop & Conference | [Reports](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [Eurachem Home](#) |

Last updated on 25.07.1997 By [Eurachem WebMaster](#)

The EURACHEM Report (2 reports)

Eurachem Reports

1. [Working Party on Analytical Chemistry converts into a Division](#)
2. [The Referee goes Inside Laboratory Management](#)

Federation of European Chemical Societies

Working Party on Analytical Chemistry converts into a Division

In September last year, FECS' Working Party on Analytical Chemistry (WPAC) decided to convert into a Division of Analytical Chemistry, within the framework of the Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS).

The main advantage of this change was seen to be that representation would no longer be limited to national societies or divisions/sections of analytical chemistry. Other important pan-European institutions or societies could also be accepted members. Together with a growing contingent of observers from all continents, the formulation of a total view on analytical chemistry and its importance for Society was now believed to be possible.

Present delegates and observers will maintain their position while WPAC's study groups and ACTIVE will continue the important strategic role under DAC's wings.

A task group has been formed to prepare the goals, guidelines and working practices of DAC as well as to incorporate the present activities into the new Division. The finalisation of this process will take place in Bordeaux during the 25th anniversary celebrations of DAC/WPAC.

Education as well as Quality Assurance and Accreditation, are of strategic importance for DAC/WPAC. Progress reports on these topics were given during the Annual Meeting by the respective study groups.

Prof. Kellner reported the following developments in Education:

- Views on the Eurocurriculum, discussed at a EUROANALYSIS session by lecturers from several continents (US, Japan) and international organisations such as CITAC, EURACHEM and IUPAC.
- The composition by ACTIVE, of a "Who's Who in analytical chemistry in Europe". Bauke te Nijenhuis, chair of study group on Quality Assurance and Accreditation, emphasised that quality assurance is not a subject in itself but has to flourish in an environment with:
 - well-educated analytical chemists, technicians and staff
 - well-developed technology, instrumentation and methods
 - a well-designed system of control and accreditation.

Prof. Kellner and Bauke te Nijenhuis were re-elected as President and Secretary respectively of the new Division of Analytical Chemistry.

Ir Bauke te Nijenhuis
Secretariat, DAC/FECS

Eurachem Reports

AOAC International

The Referee goes Inside Laboratory Management

As a result of a decision taken by the AOAC Board of directors last year, AOAC's monthly Newsletter to member The Referee, was incorporated into a new magazine entitled Inside Laboratory Management. This brand new publication contains information on laboratory processes, regulations, scientific innovations and technologies, required to stay current and knowledgeable about laboratory practices. Areas normally covered by The Referee will still be covered within a section entitled, The Referee.

Issue 1 of *Inside Laboratory Management* was published in February this year.

The AOAC Technical Division on Reference Materials (TDRM) has recently published updates from its various groups. Among these reports were updates on the establishment of a database linking available and suitable reference materials to specific AOAC methods. The database is at present being developed as a spreadsheet and includes information on the method number, matrix, standard reference material required and its source of supply.

It is hoped that two databases, with essentially the same information but different organisational format, will be available for cross-reference purposes; one organised by method number and one by standard reference material. So far, only the initial table outline has been published. However, over the next year, the task group hopes to identify individuals who can contribute to the completion of the database and its incorporation as a chapter in AOAC's Official Methods of Analysis.

Ms Margreet Lauwaars
AOAC International

Eurachem Reports

Back to: | [Headline](#) | [News](#) | [Workshop & Conference](#) | **Reports** | [Newsletter](#) | [Eurachem Home](#) |

Last updated on 25.07.1997 By [Eurachem WebMaster](#)