

EUROLAB NEWSBRIEFING

October - December 2013

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Foreword

Dear EUROLAB Members,

Please find below the fourth EUROLAB Newsbriefing for this year informing you about some developments relevant to the Laboratory Sector in the fourth quarter of 2013.



The end of the year has been, as usual, rich in events and new developments. The ILAC and IAF General Assembly launched a new strategy for the coming years. It will be EUROLAB's role to promote stakeholders' involvement and recognition. There is quite a difference between ILAC and IAF in this regard. The ILAC Laboratory (stakeholders) Committee (LC) has apparently a weaker position within ILAC than the User Advisory Committee which is well established in IAF. EUROLAB has already proposed some improvements to the new ILAC Strategy in this matter. Nevertheless EUROLAB's position in ILAC has improved tremendously. EUROLAB has been traditionally active in the LC where revision of ISO 17025 is a key issue. It is expected that EUROLAB as a representative organisation for laboratories worldwide will provide well substantiated inputs. The Board of Administrators (BoA) has already agreed on the process and you will be sent a detailed questionnaire seeking your views and comments. Please be ready and gather your experiences with implementation of ISO 17025 and problems you may have encountered during the accreditation process (unclear statements, different understandings, etc. related to individual articles) or at least try to identify problematic ones. Closely related issues which also are of concern to laboratories are Proficiency Testing (PT) and Interlaboratory Comparisons (ILC) which are handled by the ILAC Proficiency Testing (PT) Committee in which EUROLAB also participates.

New memberships were established on the ILAC Accreditation Issues Committee (AIC), Arrangements Committee (ARC) and Inspection Committee (IC). The IC launched a horizontal WG composed of representatives of all the committees mentioned above. The intention is for this WG to resolve issues of overlap between ISO 17025 and ISO 17020. In other words the use of accreditation against ISO 17025 in inspections. Even here ILAC expressed great expectations from EUROLAB to provide information based on experience from real life from those who are performing inspections and tests in specific situations like non-destructive testing, pressure vessels, lifts, etc. where both standards are used but hardly in a harmonised way. Experts are welcome to co-operate with us.

The recent General Assembly of the European Accreditation Cooperation (EA) reported tremendous progress in this organisation regarding its internal quality system, the functioning of the secretariat, document control and issuing guides and EA documents. The EC grant to EA brings some positive results, for example costs of those active in committees are at least partially reimbursed, peer evaluation and the secretariat are more professional, etc. Hiring a new Executive Manager in the near future is just one of those steps. EUROLAB's involvement on a high level in the EA LC has been traditionally very important but for reasons mentioned above we will have to increase our activity in the EA Inspection Committee (EA IC) as well. In light of rapid developments of horizontal documents including some in regulatory areas we will also need to be more active in the EA Horizontal Harmonisation Committee (HHC).

It is for these reasons that we have to look again to our Galaxy, update our representation in external organisations and find dedicated experts from various technical fields who may form ad hoc expert groups to resolve specific technical issues, assist EUROLAB in promoting its objectives and prepare high quality documents.

Last but not least it is my honour and great pleasure to express my sincere thanks to all who were involved in the preparation of the EUROLAB – CEOC – IFIA Safety Seminar in Brussels at the end of November, namely to the President of CEOC Mr. Simo Hassi and to the President of IFIA Mr. Richard Nelson for their excellent cooperation. A special vote of thanks goes to the Secretariat for perfect preparation and follow up actions such as briefings, articles, etc.

As we are approaching the end of the year I would like to use this opportunity to thank all members for their active contributions to the success of EUROLAB and to wish you a splendid Christmas, enjoyable holidays and a Happy New Year.

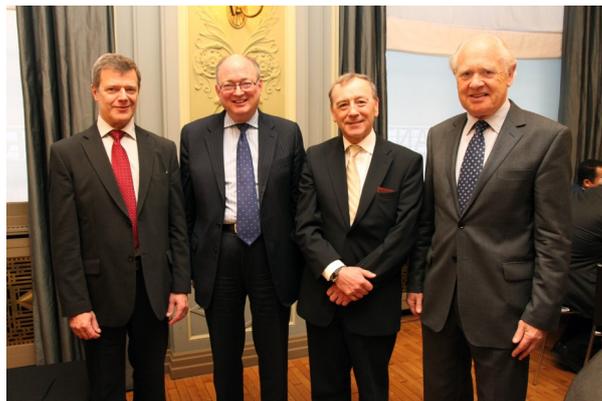
Yours faithfully


Jiří Soboja
President EUROLAB





Jiří Sobola (EUROLAB President), Neven Mimica (EC Commissioner for Consumer Policy), Richard Nelson (IFIA President), Simo Hassi (CEOC President),



Simo Hassi (CEOC President), Malcolm Harbour (IMCO Chairman), Jiří Sobola (EUROLAB President), Richard Nelson (IFIA President)

CEOC-EUROLAB-IFIA International Safety Seminar 2013 **“Safer Products and Industrial Installations in a Globalising World”**

The well attended 4th International Safety Seminar 2013 was organised by the European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories (EUROLAB) in association with the International Confederation of Inspection and Certification Organisations (CEOC International) and the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA), on 27th November, at the Residence Palace in Brussels. The motto of the seminar, which was divided into two main sessions (Industrial and Consumer Safety), was “Safer Products and Industrial Installations in a Globalising World”.

With respect to the currently discussed legislation on the Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package, Jiří Sobola, the EUROLAB President together with the CEOC International and IFIA presidents handed over during the event their common position paper “European Parliament seeks to enhance product safety in Europe” to Neven Mimica, the European Commissioner for Consumer Policy, and to Malcolm Harbour, chairman of the European Parliament’s Internal market and consumer protection committee. The common position paper welcomes the enhancement of duties of economic operators, and suggest that, to ensure that product legislation in Europe is uniformly applied by all parties involved, both proposals (on the Product Safety and Market Surveillance Regulations) are aligned as much as possible to the provisions of the goods package. Additionally the three organisations outlined in their position paper the characteristics that a “European safety marking” (in case it will be adopted) should have in order to ensure a robust and functioning system that provides added value to the consumers.

Jiří Sobola, the EUROLAB President, chaired the second session which was dedicated to consumer safety. Magnus Holmgren (Quality Manger, SP-Technical Research Institute of Sweden) explained the importance of product testing seen as a tool for getting safe products. He also touched upon the role of certification which is probably the most used way for customers to find out if a product is safe, of good quality and environmentally friendly. In addition the quality of product testing was also an issue of concern during this session and implies well-performed test methods, assurance activities, accreditation and standardisation techniques.



Magnus Holmgren

The event was concluded by the key note speech of Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for Consumer Policy, in which he noted that **“Your members can play an important role in relation to the overall level of safety of products on the market. You can cooperate with national authorities and promote your services to companies, encouraging them to test products before placing them on the market.”**

All presentations and the CEOC International, EUROLAB, IFIA Position Paper “European Parliament seeks to enhance product safety in Europe” can be found on the [EUROLAB website](#).



National Members' News



fenelab

Fenelab organises the second General Assembly of the year on 12th December, in Woerden, at the DARE!! offices. Among other subjects the Agenda will also include the results and findings of the customers' satisfaction survey on the role and functioning of the Dutch Accreditation Council.

Successful 2013 Fenelab – NEN workshop in Delft. At 30 October Fenelab and the Dutch standardisation organisation NEN had a successful workshop on standardisation developments relevant for laboratories, conformity and inspection bodies. Some 50 participants attended the meeting at the NEN premises in Delft.

NEN senior consultant Management Systems Dick Hortensius explained the new High Level Structure of ISO standards on management systems. The diversion in the growing number of management standards (on quality, environment, health, risks, energy, food safety, information security etcetera) became unmanageable. Therefore a High Level Structure has been introduced. In this the common elements and requirements make up the harmonized kernel. Other items (specific, sectorial etc.) are added to this kernel, thus creating a Plug-in Model.

RvA accreditation manager Ed Wieles pointed to remaining bumps in the international level playing field. Both EU and its member states still maintain requirements which are not covered by accreditation standards and/or not in use worldwide. Moreover many differences still exist in national accreditation practices (coping with non-conformities, frequency and content of assessments, composition of teams), expertise of auditors and formulation of scopes. He raised the question if further standardisation should be realized through ISO/CEN/NEN, IAF/ILAC/EA/RvA and/or EU/ member states. Emile Croin of ALcontrol Labs pointed in his lecture at the cross problem that EN-ISO standards are not identical, because of national prefaces with differing recommendations! Arjan Veldhuizen of Eurofins and Jo Klaessens of StatAlike discussed the bunch of still existing practical problems with the interpretations and applications of measurement uncertainties in chemical analysis: diverging use and terminology in regulations, effects of sampling methods, lacking reference materials, handling outliers, peaks etc. Nevertheless progress is made in guides and standards. Drewin Nieuwenhuis of the CEOC / Eurolab secretariat presented topical developments relevant for testing and inspection bodies. All together the programme offered quite some material for further discussion and improvement with pan-European relevance.



TZÚS Praha organised a seminar on "Evaluation of Building 2013", which was held in the conference room TZÚS Prague on 7th November 2013, from 9.30 to 12.45 pm. The seminar focused on the news and practice in the assessment of buildings in terms of energy intensity, acoustic,

fire, qualitative properties and the legislative background of the entire sector, with an emphasis on the experience in applying the Construction Products Regulation (CPR). <http://www.tzus.cz/>



On 26th November 2013, FELAB (EFTA / EUROLAB-Spain) organised a Symposium on "Internationalization,

Marketing and Tracking Legal and Technical Issues in the scope of the laboratories'. All presentations and introducing papers debated during the event are now available online, at <http://www.eurolab.org.es/noticias.php?id=131>



EUROLAB Sweden organised a fall meeting on 20th November 2013, in Stockholm.

During the event representatives from the industry addressed subjects such as: New Guidelines from EURACHEM - Validation guide: validating or verifying, measurement interval, New EU Standards, Swedac and Swedish accreditation in an international perspective. The EUROLAB Board member, Peter Blinksbjerg (EUROLAB Denmark) gave a presentation on Eurolab's activities and

the development for conformity assessment bodies in an European perspective.



Peter Blinksbjerg



The British Measurement and Testing Association (BMTA) organised on 6th November a seminar on Accredited and Traceable Measurements in Medical Laboratories. BMTA presented two separate event streams covering respectively accredited and traceable measurements in medical/clinical and in food laboratories. The event emphasised the importance of accreditation and traceability for food and medical laboratories. <http://www.bmta.co.uk/news.htm>



Aimé Ostrowsky and Philippe Laurent, received the LNE Research Award for 2013. Jean-Luc Laurent, Director General of

Laboratoire National de Métrologie et d'essais (LNE) handed on Friday, 15th November the 5th Price LNE research to Aimé Ostrowsky, research engineer at the Laboratoire National Henri Becquerel (LIST / CEA) and to Philippe Laurent, Research Engineer Laboratory Systems reference Time-Space (Observatoire de Paris) for their overall work. Established in 2009 to distinguish the researchers applied or fundamental metrology, LNE Research Award honors those who contribute to the success and reputation in their scientific career.

Accreditation

- The ILAC Inspection Committee (IC) is submitting the document titled **ILAC PXX:XX/201X “Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies”** to all ILAC members for a 60 day comment period. After the 60 day comment period the ILAC IC WG 1 will review the comments and revise the document. A decision will then be made as to whether a further comment period will be necessary, or if the document can be submitted for the 30 day ballot.
- **IAF, ILAC and ISO have agreed among each other on a communiqué clarifying the relationship between ISO 9001 and the management systems requirements of ISO/IEC 17025.** You can find this communiqué on the ILAC (<https://www.ilac.org/partnerships.html>) and IAF (<http://www.iaf.nu/articles/Communiques/26>) websites.
- The document **EA-1/06 EA Multilateral Agreement Criteria for signing Policy and procedures for development** has been adopted by the EA members.
- **EA-1/17 Supplement I – Criteria for Membership and EA-1/20 Supplement I Terms and Conditions for Financial Compensation from the Operating/Action Grant to an EA Member Accreditation Body** have been published on the EA website.
- The following **new or revised IAF publications have been posted on the IAF website:**
 1. [Brochure: Accreditation: Facilitating World Trade](#)
 2. [IAF Public Document Responsibility](#)
 3. [IAF Representatives, Liaisons and Contacts](#)
- The amendments to **ILAC P4 - ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Policy Statement and ILAC P5 - ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement** have been accepted and the documents have now been published on the ILAC website.
- The **resolutions from the 17th ILAC General Assembly** held in Seoul, Korea have been distributed to the EUROLAB members.
- The ILAC Accreditation Committee (AIC) is submitting the document, titled **ILAC P9:2013 Draft “ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities”** to all ILAC members for a 60 day comment period. This revision of ILAC P9 was prepared primarily to clarify that proficiency testing may be used in some types of inspection as per the information provided by the ILAC Inspection Committee. In addition some updates to the reference to the Proficiency Testing Working Group of the AIC and the standards have also been made.

Standardisation

- **ISO CASCO Plenary Resolutions have been distributed.**
- The results of the DTS ballot regarding **ISO/ IEC DTS 17027 Terminology related to competence of persons used for certification of persons** have been published.
- On 17 September, **an agreement was signed in St. Petersburg between the European CEN, CENELEC and the Russian ROSSTANDART about collaboration on standardization.** The agreement shall facilitate trade in goods and services between Europe and Russia, and thereby, contribute to sustainable growth.
- **CEN and CENELEC approved their Ambitions to 2020.** In line with the Communication from the European Commission 'EUROPE 2020 - A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth', the CEN and CENELEC communities have outlined where they want to be in 2020. CEN and CENELEC have set six objectives to be reached by 2020, namely global influence, regional relevance, wider recognition, network of excellence, innovation and growth and a sustainable standardization system. <http://www.cencenelec.eu/aboutus/Mission/Pages/default.aspx>

Business News

- **Weaker demand from mining companies has caused a 28 per cent fall in first half profit for analytical testing services group ALS.** ALS carries out tests and quality control for the minerals, energy, industrial and food industries. It made a profit of \$97.7 million in the six months to September 30, down from \$135.5 million in the same period in 2012. <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/latest/profit-drop-for-testing-group-als/story-e6frg90f-1226767841201#sthash.a196fHo3.dpuf>
- **An innovative, high speed automated reagent dispenser . The perfect combination of traceability, precision and safety, for the most demanding analytical laboratory environments.** Manufactured by Nucomat, this system has been designed for quick reagent or acid dispensing in an accurate and safe manner; perfect for any laboratory that requires quick reagent additions to standard test tubes. Maintenance free pneumatic driven pumps, in combination with PVDF- tubing, making the system extremely reliable. http://www.labmate-online.com/news/laboratory-products/3/datech_scientific_ltd/an_innovative_high_speed_automated_reagent_dispenser/27764/#sthash.LzCj9Ncl.dpuf
- **Emerson Process Management, a business of Emerson, has opened its new \$25 million global headquarters for the design, testing and manufacture of regulator technologies,** including pressure regulator and relief valve

solutions to help oil and gas, chemical, refining, power and other industries run their processes and operations with optimal, safe and reliable performance.

- **DEKRA has opened its first test laboratory for process safety services in Shanghai.** Chilworth Technology, a DEKRA Company, now provides testing of powders/dusts, liquids and gases for their flammability and combustibility, thermal stability and electrostatic properties. These tests provide the necessary data for the assessment of flash fire and explosion hazards associated with the handling and processing of flammable substances. <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/1613322#ixzz2mKmqQPiy>
- **Intertek, provider of quality and safety solutions for a wide range of industries around the world, announces the expansion of its hardlines laboratory in Fuerth.** To mark the expansion, an opening day was held and attended by retailers, manufacturers and suppliers from the furniture, household goods, toys, sporting goods and textile industries. <http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20131112-911956.html?dsk=y>
- **TÜV SÜD, has launched its new testing center in Xiamen.** Dr. -Ing. Axel Stepken, Chairman of the Board of Management of TÜV SÜD AG, and Mr. Dirk von Wahl, President & CEO of TÜV SÜD Greater China, attended the ceremony.
- **A new test facility for breakthrough research into thin-film solar cells at Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) was opened on Wednesday 27th November 2013.** The new lab is part of the Solliance alliance, and includes a high-resolution transmission electron microscope that allow atom-by-atom study of the components of solar cells. <http://www.tue.nl/en/university/news-and-press/news/new-lab-for-top-research-into-solar-cells/>
- **Hoist UK has been assessed and registered against the provisions of BS EN ISO 9001: 2008** in relation to the highest quality manufacturing systems and procedures for the design, manufacture, supply, installation, servicing and testing of industrial, entertainment and educational lifting equipment. <http://www.lsonline.co.uk/news/story/Hoist-UK-achieves-ISO-9001-certification/VDIw7X>
- **Portable GC-MS for onsite "lab analysis".** Quantitech has launched a unique portable gas chromatograph toroidal ion trap mass spectrometer (GC-TMS). <http://processengineering.theengineer.co.uk/pharma-and-bio/portable-gc-ms-for-onsite-lab-analysis/1017218.article>
- **Thermo establishes Pesticide Analysis Center of Excellence (COE).** The UK Government and industry laboratories worldwide have a new resource for improving methods for monitoring and measuring pesticides in food and the environment. The new Thermo Fisher Scientific Pesticide Analysis Center of Excellence (COE) recently opened its doors in Runcorn, UK to help users apply the latest technology and expertise to challenging pesticide analysis in food and environmental laboratories. http://www.ifsqn.com/newsdesk_info.php?newsdesk_id=1247&osC
- **Enva announced the offering of an independent nationwide Aquatic Toxicity Testing Service,** from the accredited laboratory facilities based in Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork. Enva has entered into an exclusive partnership for Ireland with [MicroBioTests Inc](#), a well-established and reputable company, which carries out extensive work in the area of aquatic toxicity testing. The company has developed and produced many internationally recognised and ISO accredited test kits for Aquatic Toxicity Testing. Enva can provide all of the products on their range, as well as an extensive toxicity testing service from our own laboratory.
- **SGS Life Science Services announced that its bioanalytical laboratory in Poitiers, France has received GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) certification, following approval from the Agence Nationale de Sécurité du Médicaments et des Produits de Santé (ANSM), the French agency charged with ensuring the quality of drug products.** With this GMP certification, the Poitiers laboratory can now provide tests required for final batch release.
- **SGS' Toowoomba laboratory has moved to Pinkenba, Brisbane, Queensland.** This new facility is strategically located to service the growing needs of both our Australian and international customers.
- **TÜV Rheinland became the 10th test lab worldwide to achieve KNX accreditation for performing KNX conformity tests.** KNX is a standard for home and building control.
- **Suzuki has approved SGS laboratories in Germany, India and Thailand to conduct volatile organic compound (VOC) testing on its vehicle interior components and materials.**
- **Intertek announces the launch of comprehensive services for orally inhaled and intra-nasal drug products (OINDPs) small molecule drug products.** Following the acquisition of Melbourn Scientific, Intertek offers a formulation and characterisation service to its clients who are looking to deliver both bio-molecules as well as traditional
- **Intertek will be showcasing practical solutions for navigating the complex EU market approval process for novel food ingredients, nutritional supplements, natural health products, and other foods derived from biotechnology, at Food Ingredients Europe in Messe Frankfurt, Germany.**
- **Intertek announced newly expanded services in Asia Pacific through its partnership with the Korean testing and certification body Korea Testing Laboratory (KTL).**
- **Intertek has agreed to acquire Architectural Testing, Inc (ATI), one of the largest building products testing and certification companies in North America.** Intertek will purchase the company from private equity firm Wafra Partners and the management shareholders for a total cash consideration of US\$ 95 million (GBP 59 million). Closing of the acquisition is expected to occur in the fourth quarter of 2013.
- **SGS inspectors will perform independent inspections at the Sinarsky, Volzhsky and Orsky manufacturing sites, Russia, as well as witnessing of laboratory testing.**
- **SGS has issued its first certification under the Danube Soya Initiative. This is a development in the delivery of certified non-GM soya product to domestic and European markets.**

- **SGS has launched aflatoxin testing using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) in Constanta, Romania.** Strategically located and operating since 1995, SGS's Constanta laboratory has been offering aflatoxin analysis using the ELISA method since 2011.
- **SGS announces the acquisition of Industrial Valve Engineering Limited (IVE), a testing & certification company headquartered in Tokoroa, New Zealand.**
- **UL's annual study, The Product Mindset, found a number of gaps in priorities between manufacturers and consumers in what is expected or desired and what is being delivered when it comes to products in the marketplace.**
- **UL has received an accreditation from the IECEE for eight critical safety and performance IEC battery standards expanding UL both as a National Certification Body (NCB) & Certification Body Test Laboratory (CBTL) in the IEC BATT Category.**
- **Are lab tests overused: Large-scale analysis finds inappropriate lab testing throughout medicine.** Laboratory testing is health care's single highest volume activity, with over 5 billion tests performed each year in the U.S. Now a new study examining 15 years' worth of published research reveals some surprising findings about the humble blood test. Led by investigators at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) and reported on-line today in the journal PLOS ONE, the large-scale analysis of 1.6 million results from 46 of medicine's 50 most commonly ordered lab tests finds that, on average, 30 percent of all tests are probably unnecessary. Even more surprising, the results suggest that equally as many necessary tests may be going unreported.

Policy News

Health and Consumer Protection

- **The European Commission set to recommend approval of controversial new GM maize.** For the first time in three-and-a-half years, European Commissioners meeting in Brussels on 6th November have formally endorsed the approval of the controversial genetically modified (GM) maize for cultivation in European fields.
- **'EU Safety Tested' marking.** On Thursday, 17th October the IMCO Committee voted on the amendments on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on consumer product safety and on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on market surveillance of products. Both reports were accepted. The members of the IMCO Committee accepted a new compromise amendment on an 'EU Safety Tested' marking.
- **Commission welcomes European Parliament vote to improve Consumer safety.** On 5th November 2013, a further step towards ensuring the enhanced safety of European consumers was the welcome given by Vice President of the European Commission, responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship, Antonio Tajani and Commissioner for Consumer policy Neven Mimica to the vote of the Internal market committee of the European Parliament on a negotiating mandate for the product safety package proposed by the European Commission. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-957_en.htm
- **On 22nd October 2013, the Commissioner Mimica welcomed the EP Plenary Vote on medical devices and In vitro diagnostics.** The Commissioner added that 'the European Commission's aim in these negotiations will be to ensure the highest level of patient and consumer safety while making sure that innovation continues to flourish.' In order to achieve this objective the European Commission will continue to work closely with the Parliament, and with the Member States in the Council. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-13-921 en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-921_en.htm)
- **Products specifically designed for children are causing injuries that could be avoided.** Each day children are injured when interacting with products in their everyday environment; even with products made especially for children. The European Child Safety Alliance along with its country partners and 3 key sponsors, Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Kid Rapt Ltd. in the United Kingdom and the Consumer Safety Commission (CSC) in France, released on 5th December the Child Product Safety Guide: Potentially dangerous products. The Guide was written to increase knowledge as a step toward reducing child injuries related to products that are in regular use by children and their caregivers. The Guide is meant to raise awareness and educate consumers and professionals to recognise the hidden hazards that a child encounters with products in their daily life and ways to prevent injuries resulting from these products. <http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/archives/news/2013/dec-05-product-safety.html>
- **Preventing toxins in food and beverages.** Ochratoxin A (OTA) is one of the most abundant toxins that contaminates food and is deemed to be a 'health risk' by experts. OTA suppresses the immune system and can even cause various forms of cancer in both humans and animals. The EU-funded project OTASENS stemmed from the need to closely check and analyse food, beverages and feed through efficient, reliable and rapid analytical methods. The project team developed a quick, cheap and environmentally friendly pre-industrial photo-sensor device for the rapid detection of toxins such as OTA in wine, beer and cereals.



Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation in the Union, a Europe 2020 initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Running from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of over €70 billion, the EU's new programme for research and innovation is part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe. The proposed support for research and innovation under Horizon 2020 will:

- i. Strengthen the EU's position in science with a dedicated budget of € 24 341 million.
- i. Strengthen industrial leadership in innovation € 17 015 million (including investment in key technologies, greater access to capital and support for SMEs).
- i. Provide € 30 956 million to help address climate change, developing sustainable transport and mobility, making renewable energy more affordable, ensuring food safety and security, or coping with the challenge of an ageing population.

Chemicals

- **The Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) approved a directive amending directives 92/58/EEC, 92/85/EEC, 94/33/EC, 98/24/EC and 2004/37/EC in order to align them with regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures.**
- **First public consultation on a biocidal active substance launched. The first public consultation under the Biocidal Products Regulation will be on the active substance dinotefuran as a potential candidate for substitution. The consultation is open until 28 January 2014.** http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/first-public-consultation-on-a-biocidal-active-substance-launched

Food

- **France urges greater consumer protection after horsemeat scandal.** France has launched a sharp attack on Brussels with a strong sideswipe at London, for what it says is a lack of action to protect European consumers after this year's horsemeat scandal. Paris is pressing for new EU rules to include the labelling of the geographic origin of meat on processed foods as well as fresh meat, saying surveys show this has the backing of 90% of consumers. France wants existing rules on the labelling of the origin of fresh beef extended to all other fresh meat. It also wants processed products to carry a minimum indication of whether included meat is from non-EU or EU sources, with country of origin shown where possible. The issue blew up early this year when it was revealed that thousands of processed beef dishes sold across Europe, including in the UK, contained horsemeat. *Source: Financial Times December 2013, article written by Hugh Carnegie.*

Events

- **EFTA and Korea hold fourth Joint Committee meeting under Free Trade Agreement.** On 25 and 26 November 2013, delegations from the EFTA States and the Republic of Korea met in Geneva to review the functioning and discuss possible further development of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two sides. <http://www.efta.int/free-trade/news/efta-and-korea-hold-fourth-joint-committee-meeting-under-free-trade-agreement-2598>
- **Eurachem Workshop: Quality in Analytical Measurements.** From Monday 19 May 2014 - To Wednesday 21 May 2014. This workshop will cover the most challenging technical details of the analytical process, including the chemical description of the analytical problem, producing measurements with adequate traceability and uncertainty, interpreting results based on objective evidence and reporting results to the client. The workshop will include invited lectures, short communications, poster sessions and breakout sessions. This event will also celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Eurachem. <http://www.eurachem.org/index.php/events/calendar/eventdetail/6/-/eurachem-workshop-quality-in-analytical-measurements>

Reports

Eurolab President Jiří Sobola attended the EA General Assembly, which took place 20 – 21 November 2013 in Oslo.

The main points of discussion were:

- The relationship between EA documents and EU legislation
- The following documents have been approved: Guide for ISO 17011, EA 6/02, EA 1/06, EA 4/02
- Service contract for Russian accreditation: Approximation of rules in Russia for their accreditation to be closer to European ones. First reading of draft Russian Accreditation Law was done, second reading is coming soon. EA will also provide training to Russian assessors
- New framework agreement between EA and the European Commission for the period 2014-2017
- EA will apply to IAF for MLA for certification of persons. After signing MLA the IAF mark can be used on certificates for persons.
- An Executive Secretary will be recruited; job description was approved and relevant budget line established.

EAAB Report:

- IAF MLA – MLA should be defined with use of standards for CABs, EAAB supports peer evaluation to address levels 4 and 5.
- EA recognises lack of resources in small ABs. Paper should be drafted
- Revision of EA 6/02 was endorsed as well as paper on interpretations and opinions. EAAB appreciated EUROLAB initiative in reproduction of reports. EA is asked to defer resolution until EUROLAB survey is completed which should be well before 03/04/2014. EA chair accepts proposals and will defer decision until EUROLAB finishes the job.

MAC Report:

- Extension of MLA for EU ETS (ISO 14065+ AVR) starting on 26/02/2013 for 24 months
- MAC and LC will cooperate on MLA for ISO 17043 and ISO Guide 34. Competence criteria for evaluators should be established. EUROLAB should be involved.

EA HHC report:

- 4 eyes principle is not being used only by 4 ABs (UKAS, SAS, DANAK and SWEDAC).
- HHC asks for collection of topics for benchmarking. EUROLAB can help in benchmarking processes.
- Guidance for surveillance - HHC appointed CEOC, COFRAC, ENAC, SWEDAC, to describe what activities should be assessed and how.
- Accreditation for sampling as stand-alone activity: Decision was to take the matter to MAC and to ExCom. EAAB expressed reservation to the accreditation of sampling as stand-alone activity. HHC must discuss it again.
- Decisions of HHC are the committee decisions. For full validity they must be endorsed by GA. HHC asks for more power towards answering questions posed by MAC.
- EA 2/17 was revised and given for comments to HHC members for 60 days period. There is great improvement in this document.
- HHC agrees with EA 1/22
- EA 1/06 was approved

CPC Report:

- CPC suggested changing EA logo; it was approved, new logo will be ready for next GA.
- EA Intranet – intranet for documents for “members only” will be reworked and prepared on the same platform like web with strong search engine.
- EA MLA Annual Report will be published in June.
- Database of accredited CABs will be closed, only 12 ABs are providing data.

LC Report

- Reissuing test reports: ABs did not recognize any problem with this activity because it appears that reissuing reports is simply not mentioned in CABs' quality manuals so it is out of assessment and accreditation.
- Sampling as stand-alone activity is not conformity assessment activity.

- Accreditation of opinions and interpretations: it is necessary to define boundary between interpretations and product certification.
- Accreditation of PTP and RMP: task is to identify differences to ISO 17025. Rules for scoping should be defined and training of assessors provided.
- ILCs for testing and calibrations: there are new invitations for ILCs.
- Document on opinions is mandatory for that AB which has chosen to accredit this activity but it is not forcing ABs to accredit it in all cases.

CC Report:

- EA 3/12 Accreditation of organic farming
- ISO 3834 is ready for immediate implementation
- Under preparation: EA6/03 ETS directive, implementation of ISO 14065; EA3/yy deals with harmonisation of OHSAS accredited certifications, it is 1st draft; EA 3/xx deals with harmonization of witnessing of QMS & EMS - this work will be merged with IAF work.
- EA 6/xx deals with harmonization of accreditation against ISO 17065
- Sector schemes: ETSI scheme for telecommunications is using TS 119403. It is applicable for both regulatory and non-regulatory use.
- WG Food – new regulation for organic farming, discussion with DG Agri is ongoing. Standing committee for organic farming is preparing new documents.
- WG Environment – preparing ToR, EMS, EnMS, Regulation on EoW, ETV, FALB, etc.
- WG EU ETS/GHG – resolves this task within action grant. Revision of 6/03 is necessary to ensure transition to new ISO 14065; witnessing policy is to be harmonized with IAF, each country should nominate contact person.
- CC is intensively preparing sectoral schemes in collaboration with EC as they are in majority of regulatory nature. Some requirements of regulators are not in line with requirements of standards, like frequency of surveillance which is usually strictly fixed. EC does not have intention to impose different requirements so it is mainly on discussion between EA and EC and on guidance how to keep horizontal consistency among different regulatory schemes.

IC Report:

- Revision 17020: harmonization period is closed now; training session was successful
- Cooperation with ILAC is very important, scoping and testing in inspection in particular (EA IC was solving this problem some years ago). Chair is willing to provide documents from that time to EUROLAB.
- EA 5/02 and EA 5/03 are documents under revision
- Testing as a part of inspection – short document was prepared.
- Flexible scope – term is replaced by “scoping”. There will be questionnaire on use of D768 for NBs.
- EA strategy and role in the international arena.
- For the full meeting report please contact the EUROLAB General Secretariat.

José Luis Sanchez attended the CAB college and EAAB meeting on behalf of EUROLAB.

- The meetings took place on 29th and 30th October 2013. Following the recommendation made by EUROLAB, the CAB College expressed its discontent because no reference to the advice of the EAAB on the implementation of the ILAC P10 policy was mentioned in the minutes of the meeting of the EA GA, held in Paris, even though it was explicitly pointed out in the presentation addressed by the President of EUROLAB to the EA GA.
- **Other major items to follow up in respect to the meeting of the EAAB are:**
 - I. **Stakeholder's expectations:** In general there is a great consensus of all the Colleges about the submitted proposal. Some minor modifications are introduced during the discussion. It is foreseen to approve the document during the next EAAB meeting in April.
 - I. **Reports from the EAAB MAC and EAAB HHC observers. Accreditation of sampling.** Under this item the most controversial issue is related to the accreditation of sampling as a conformity assessment activity. The general opinion of the Board is that sampling should not be considered as a stand-alone conformity assessment activity so the Board requested EA to analyse this issue and to bring to the Board a new report for discussion.

- I. **New EA projects and work items:** Following the discussions within the EA LC and the survey made during summer 2013 about the EA NABs practices regarding to accreditation of opinions and interpretations, it has been decided to prepare an EA guidance document on the subject in order to harmonize the policies applied by the different NABs throughout Europe. The work will be conducted in the EA LC and it is supposed to be completed in 2015.
- I. **Reissuance of the tests reports when the trade name or the trademark of the tested product has changed.** The question of the reissuance of the test reports was discussed and fully supported by the Industry College. EA stresses its position by differentiating between “test report” and “type testing certificate”. In the EA opinion the test reports cannot be reissued as the responsibility for declaring that the product with the new trade mark is identical to the one tested should remain in the client whereas the type testing certificate could be in principle reissued. After some discussions it was accepted the suggestion of EUROLAB and not to endorse the EA-LC resolution waiting for a wider study about the market’s needs and the practices that are being applied in the different sectors. It was decided as well to conduct a market survey to obtain a more comprehensive feedback from all the sectors concerned, being EUROLAB in charge to do it.

Eurolab President Jiří Sobola attended the IAF / ILAC General Assembly, which took place 19 – 25 October 2013 in Seoul.

The main points of discussion were:

- I. **ILAC IC:**
 - **Eurolab** can consider option to give right to an AB to decide which standard shall be used in grey zone between inspection and testing performed within ISO 17020.
 - **Application document to ISO 17020:** “Shall” is used in this document in spite that it is not an intention to add requirements beyond standard ISO 17020. For each “shall” used must be is clear justification. Objective is to have unambiguous document. Since commenting period is still running **Eurolab is welcome to comment**. It is recommended by IC chair to favour comments from stakeholders. DAKKs requires monitoring on site once per 5 years unless inspector is verified other way. It should be clarified what the period is to establish the same level playing field. Effective monitoring is the objective. Use 60 days period to comment (possibility for **Eurolab**).
 - **Overlap of inspection and testing:** Members of WG 4 should be people with experience from both sides: **Eurolab** as key member (representing also ILAC LC), OIML, SITAC, CEOC, UKAS, APLAC , ARAC and IAAC. **Eurolab should establish strong team** to come with well-established arguments.
 - **Scoping:** This proposal will go to ILAC Exec. for approval. Members of the team for scoping (WG3) are: SADCA, OIML, SANAS, CEOC, **EUROLAB**, IAAC, APLAC, EA – COFRAC, SWEDAC. Names should be nominated as soon as possible preferably within 7 days. **Eurolab should nominate its representative**. It will be mainly e-mail group but face meeting can be arranged along with e.g. Frankfurt meetings. Convenor may decide.
2. **ILAC AIC:**
 - **WG2 – calibration:** P10: it was confirmed that document is only for external calibrations. **Eurolab** is expected to report misinterpretations by accreditation bodies as soon as they are revealed. DAKKs: how this relates to P10 which requires use of accredited calibration laboratories. There are two routes to accreditation either two separate assessments or one joint assessment. Version 6 of OIML document will go for ILAC comments, it will **need Eurolab attention**.
 - **WG 12 PT working group:** P9 was reopened to make clarifications for PT activities in inspection. Document was updated. Point 4.1 was brought in line with ISO 17020 and reference moved to introduction. Document will go for 60 days commenting period. **Eurolab should pay attention**.
3. **Reports:**
 - I. EA: extended application of standards is used in fire testing. Opinions and interpretations are addressed in separate document “First draft of accreditation on opinions and interpretations” **initiated by Eurolab**. UKAS intends to introduce separate accreditation on opinions and interpretations paid extra.
 - II. IC: joint committee on testing in inspection was established. Task is also to identify work areas where both standards can be used. AIC will wait till full list of members is available and then decide to balance the participation. **Eurolab is expected to nominate key person(s)**.

ILAC LC:

- P10: collecting experiences is favoured. **Eurolab should take action**
- Revision of ISO 17025 – two or three representatives of ILAC will be members of the ISO CASCO WG. It is necessary to

set some resources from LC itself and ILAC Exec. for participation in ISO 17025 revision process. **When Eurolab is actively contributing it should also get some financial support.**

- **ISO CASCO Secretary:** Each organisation (**EUROLAB**) which is in liaison with CASCO can submit request for clarification. It can be done also by national standardisation body.

AIC Report

- Guidance document on scope and accreditation subject description. LC (**Eurolab**) should give the input.
- Members (**including Eurolab**) are requested to collect experiences from laboratories on how ABs are assessing internal calibration.
- **Review of ISO 17025**
- ILAC LC would favour earlier revision to get more involvement. **Eurolab was asked to support earlier revision to allow laboratory community to get more representation.**
- LC offered resolution requesting revision ISO 17025 as soon as possible. **Eurolab disagreed.**
- Text of the proposed resolution: "LC recommends that ILAC requests ISO CASCO establish a new work item to comprehensively revise ISO 17025 as soon as possible"
- **Eurolab is requested to renegotiate this issue** although it will not influence ILAC decision.
- **Closed session of LC**
- It is not clear in LC how to vote, how to make proxy, what is the quorum. There are 18 official members. Majority of them have never attended meetings. It was agreed that physical presence of 5 members makes quorum. For voting a proxy can be used. It is possible to give more proxies to one eligible member. Simple majority is decisive.
- Two meetings per year are planned; electronic voting and definition who is eligible member should be established.
- **Inspection Committee**
- Guidance for testing during inspection is necessary. WG started its work. Work will be done together with AIC. IC decided to limit work to testing not to expand which standard should be used. **Eurolab is the key member.**
- WG3 on inspection scopes was established – **Eurolab was included**
- All WGs of IC will have stakeholders' input.
- Guidance for option A and option B in ISO 17020 should be clarified as well as monitoring inspectors. **Eurolab comments to guidance should be sent to ILAC before 12th December.**

IAF General Assembly

- Secretariat report: all members paid, CEOC applied for full membership. More applications are in progress.
 - **User Advisory Committee (UAC), Martin Staadler, IAF UAC Chair:** UAC has 12 members and 2 groups formed by sector scheme owners which are interesting in representation of scheme and by end users of certification. Extension of membership would be necessary.
 - **Strategy of ILAC:** Questionnaire was sent and evaluated. Graham Talbot was appointed to prepare documents. Strategy is still in phase of brain storming. It must be ready for next GA.
 - **Joint IAF / ILAC General Assembly:**
 - **ISO CASCO Chair – Lane Hallenbeck:** Conformity Assessment Committee in CASCO has 120 members and 20 international organisations in liaison. Structure is based on continuous improvement.
 - **UNIDO Report Dr Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento:** UNIDO has strong cooperation with international organisations.
 - **TFG: Relations of IAF and ILAC with regions, Vang Andersen:**
- I. Q: Will additional reporting to peer evaluation improve confidence? Will transfer of responsibilities from ABs to global task force be acceptable? Is existing global structure appropriate?
 - II. Next steps: Key issue is to invite stakeholders to provide feedback. **Eurolab should not miss this opportunity.** TFG is reporting to ExC. World expects confidence in global accreditation infrastructure not in an individual AB. New regions should use established procedures for peer evaluation process. Why ILAC is not using well established IEC peer evaluation process? The vision is IAF/ILAC accreditation provided by local accreditation body. ILAC and IAF are only bodies which can do it and they should go for it.

Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- EUROALB Board meeting in Brussels, 11-12 February 2014.
- EUROLAB General Assembly in Warsaw, 31 March – 02 April 2014.
 - ⇒ 31st March TCQA
 - ⇒ 1st April EUROLAB General Assembly
 - ⇒ 2nd April EUROLAB Seminar



Upcoming Events

- ILAC WG I meeting in Brussels, 22 January 2014.
- EEPKA General Assembly in Brussels, 05 -06 February 2014.
- EFNDT General Assembly in Brussels, 11-12 March 2014.
- EA Laboratory Committee meeting in (II-Belt) Valletta, Malta 12—13 March 2014.
- EA Horizontal Harmonisation Committee meeting in Brussels, 18—19 March 2014.
- EA Certification Committee meeting in Oslo, 25—26 March 2014.
- EA Inspection Committee meeting in Oslo, 27 March 2014.
- CAB College meeting in Brussels, 02 April 2014.
- EA Advisory Board meeting in Brussels, 03 April 2014.
- Joint IAF - ILAC Mid - Term meetings in Frankfurt, 23-29 April 2014.
- CEOC General Assembly 2014 in Helsinki, 24 – 27 May 2014.
- EA General Assembly meeting in Prague, 27—28 May 2014.
- International Product Safety week, 16 – 20 June 2014.
- EA Horizontal Harmonisation Committee meeting in Brussels, 16—17 September 2014.
- Joint IAF - ILAC Annual Meetings in Bangkok, 08—17 October 2014.
- CAB College meeting in Brussels, 21 October 2014.
- EAAB meeting in Brussels, 22 October 2014.
- Safety Seminar 2014 in Brussels, 05 November 2014

Recruitment and Personnel Matters

- **Wanda Comer and Doug Freeman have been respectively appointed VP Operations and Director of Finance and Administration by UL Innovadex**
- **Frédéric Lemoine is appointed Chairman of the Bureau Veritas Board of Directors. During the meeting of November 5, Frank Piedelièvre informed the Board of Directors of Bureau Veritas that he has decided to leave the Board and to devote himself fully to personal projects, while he has now fulfilled his mission to provide support to Didier Michaud-Daniel in his role of Chief Executive Officer since March 1, 2012. The Board of Directors of Bureau Veritas appointed Frédéric Lemoine as Chairman of the Board with effect from that**