

EA-Eurachem-Eurolab-Euromet Chairpersons meeting



As the movement flows towards greater cooperation and integrated activities between EEEE organisations, moments of reflection are needed to prepare the future

Eurachem Chair, Maria Filomena Camões, hosted the annual 4E Chairperson's Meeting, in Lisbon, at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, on the 17th January 2003.

The meeting was attended by the 4E Chairpersons and also Hans-Peter Ischi (Convener of the EEE Permanent Liaison Group and EA/Laboratory Committee), Manfred Gölze (Eurolab Secretary) and Ed de Leer (Eurachem Past-Chair).

After the participants were welcomed, each Chair gave a short presentation of his or her own organization:

- Daniel Pierre for EA (European Accreditation);
- Horst Czichos for Eurolab;
- Paul Hetherington for Euromet;
- Maria Filomena Camões for Eurachem.

Among various issues of common interest, cooperation between the 4Es was discussed and a Cooperation Paper which has been undergoing discussion for the past year has come to its final version and will be submitted to approval to all 4E General Assemblies, with a word of approval by the Chairs. This overall MoU allows for eventual additional bilateral agreements between any two of the

4E organizations, whenever the specificity of actions will call for that. It is expected that the 4E Cooperation Paper will enter into force from the 1st July 2003.

EA, Eurolab, Eurachem, and Euromet will mutually participate in committee and working group meetings of the other organisations. They have also jointly set up several common groups to establish and maintain this cooperation efficiently, which are :

- the Chairpersons Group,
- the Permanent Liaison Group,
- the Joint Working Groups.

Cooperation between the 4E has been particularly active and successful at the 4E Reference Material Working Group, where much work has been done, under the chairmanship of Adolf Zschunke. The recent decision by ILAC to establish a group on Reference Materials led the 4E Chairs to write a letter to ILAC Chair, Mike Peet, with an invitation to attend the next 4E-RM Meeting in Dublin, March 2003, where a discussion on how to proceed towards the eventual formation of an international group at the global scale would take place.

*Maria Filomena Camões
Eurachem Chair*

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Announcements

COEPT project

The Comparability of the Operation and Evaluation Protocols of European Proficiency Testing Schemes in the Analytical Chemistry Sector ("COEPT")

The COEPT project was approved by the European Commission in December 2003, and the project commenced in January 2003, with a "kick-off" meeting held at LGC's Teddington laboratory on 8 January.

The COEPT project was conceived by a small group of EPTIS Steering Committee members, and has been designed to compare how European proficiency testing schemes (PTS) operate and evaluate data. In effect, this is a proficiency test of proficiency tests! The project is co-ordinated by Nick Boley of LGC, with a Steering Committee of representatives from IRMM, BAM, NMI, EQUALIS and the UK

Health and Safety Laboratory. There are also national co-ordinators from all other EU countries, as well as Norway.

COEPT will study the operation and evaluation protocols of 30 PTS across four measurement sectors in analytical chemistry. These are:

- Drinking water for trace metals
- Contaminated soil for organic pollutants
- Milk powder for moisture, protein, fat and lactose
- Filters from occupational hygiene monitoring for trace metals

The project includes two intercomparisons. The first will be a paper exercise to look at how each PTS evaluates data. The data sets will be generated by NMI in the Netherlands, and will be distributed to each PTS. The

results of the evaluation will be studied and a report prepared.

The second intercomparison will involve the distribution of samples, and will compare the complete procedure for a PT distribution. This will take place in 2004.

Three workshops, involving the project team and the PTS providers will be held. The first of these will be on 15 April 2003 at BAM in Berlin. The final workshop will be held at NMI in Delft early in 2005, and will discuss the conclusions of the project, and how this will affect the analytical community. Eurachem members will be welcome to attend this workshop and details will be circulated nearer the time.

Nick Boley
COEPT Coordinator

The MetroTrade project

This project was set up to help remove existing and future impediments to international trade caused by:

- Lack of knowledge of the degree of equivalence of national measurement capability
- Absence of a framework for the mutual acceptance of calibration certificates
- De facto requirements to repeat traceable calibrations

One of the key issues in world trade is continuing non-tariff barriers. Despite the fact that measurement results provided by metrological institutions, for all practical purposes, are equivalent world-wide, measurement certificates are still not fully mutually accepted.

Previous studies of these issues revealed no examples of the lack of metrology equivalence between European National Metrology Institutes and the USA National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) that were of practical importance. But since measurement certificates from NMIs are not fully mutually accepted between regulatory bodies in the two regions, EU and USA, this is indicative of other, possibly non-technical, issues.

The MetroTrade project aimed to identify the areas where de facto requirements to repeat traceable calibrations exist and address the problems through the development of a suitable infra-structure aimed at mutual acceptance both of national measurement standards and of calibration certificates issued by national metrology institutes.

An essential part is an information site on the internet (www.metrotrade.dk) with links to relevant organisations, institutes and regulatory bodies, and information about initiatives to ensure mutual recognition of calibration certificates.

Eurachem's involvement in the project was to collaborate with Eurolab in running, what turned out to be a very successful workshop on traceability and uncertainty in testing, in Berlin in January this year.

Representatives from Eurachem & Eurolab gave papers on the basic concepts of uncertainty and traceability and the use of reference materials. There were some very interesting papers on the problems of evaluating uncertainty in such areas as bio analysis, geometrical

measurements, precious metal assays, fire testing, doping in sports and industrial products ranging from petroleum to road construction. Not surprisingly such a wide range of measurements raised a number of problems in evaluating the uncertainty, however, in general, the principles laid down in GUM were applicable but further sector specific guidance was needed.

There was lively discussion in the working groups, which covered on Mechanical measurements, Sampling Physical-chemical measurements and Inter-laboratory measurements. Following from these discussions it is hoped to set up a joint Eurolab / Eurachem working group on sampling uncertainty.

Of particular interest was the result of a customer survey carried out by SP, Sweden, which showed a much wider appreciation of the importance of uncertainty and a greater demand for it to be reported than was expected. The results of this survey will be published in AcQual in the near future.

Alex Williams
Chairman "Measurement Uncertainty and Traceability" WG

Editorial

Cooperation, harmonization and worldwide dimension are the keywords of modern days - cooperation efforts between the laboratory representatives (Eurachem, Eurolab and Euromet) and their interfaces (accreditors, academia, PT organizers, RM producers, etc.) are increasing and expanding to international fora, beyond European level.

With the merging of EN 45001 and ISO Guide 25 into a single standard (ISO 17025), suddenly europeans started to look outside and saw colleagues from other continents walking in the same pathways, with the same problems. So why not do the travel together, and discuss common solutions? There are several positive examples of this widening of the european scope:

- in the field of proficiency testing, the EPTIS database is enlarging for the international arena; the EEE-PT WG has regular representation from other continents;
- in the reference materials area, the EEEE-RM WG is to be replaced by a broader international working group;
- uncertainty and traceability topics are being discussed at the international level - the www.measurementuncertainty.org website is filled with contributions from outside Europe, and the Eurachem Guides are being written in cooperation with CITAC.

We also feel that we live a transition era, where some of our references and pillars are changing. One of those is certainly the BCR (later SM&T and finally the Measurement & Testing Programme), which for some decades served various purposes for europeans:

- a forum for meeting experts from other countries;
- a forum for finding scientific and business partners to achieve otherwise difficult or impossible projects;
- a forum for boosting measurement quality throughout Europe, and showing the way forward;
- finally, the cultural aspect of bringing together different european cultures and strengthening the european identity.

Many of us have, no doubt, found many good friends and new business partners through the BCR/M&T Programme. A word of appreciation to all those who contributed to its success is acknowledged.

The measurement community, and namely the analytical community, received the news of the end of the M&T programme with worry and concern. Alternatives have to be created in order to continue supporting and promoting Metrology in Chemistry, aiming at better analytical results.

Leopoldo Cortez (Editor)

Bernd Neidhart 1941-2003 Obituary

After a long and fierce battle with his severe illness Professor Dr.-Ing. Bernd Neidhart passed away on 14 May 2003 just a week away from this year's Eurachem General Assembly.

Bernd, well known to all of us from the heydays of Eurachem, was a most outspoken person on all matters of quality assurance in chemistry. He, who came straight from the analytical laboratory with a wealth of teaching experience, approached quality assurance just from this angle: he was a firm believer that the quality of results comes straight from analytical excellence and analytical excellence would only come from education and training.

This made him for many years a perfect chairman of the Eurachem Working Group on Education and Training. His initiatives in this capacity were mainly centered around the production of teaching material to be used by as many of our colleagues as possible in order to convey a well-rounded picture of analytical quality assurance to the student all over Europe. This called for the motivation of contributors to this task, but progress was slow. In this situation he came up with the ultimate motivation, he organized a workshop in Geesthacht in 1998, invited those as speaker who were to contribute and held on to them until he had the teaching material in hands. The material was ultimately published by Springer Verlag.

Another successful initiative was the publication of the "Glossary of Analytical Terms" in ACQUAL that greatly helped in the mutual understanding of the different analytical cultures in Europe and elsewhere. For many years he also served on the Executive



Committee of Eurachem and as German Delegate to the General Assembly.

Scientifically he had his basic education in the famous nuclear analytical chemistry group around K.H. Lieser in Darmstadt where he was awarded the degree of Dr.-Ing. in 1970. He was later director of laboratory at the Institute for Work Physiology and deputy director at the Department of Occupational Toxicology in Dortmund, before moving as Professor of Analytical Chemistry to the University of Ulm and later to the University of Marburg. He was appointed Director of the Institute for Physical and Chemical Analytics at the GKSS Research Centre Geesthacht in 1997.

Most of us have not seen Bernd Neidhart during his last year, but we all remember our relief when we met with him and his wife in Cyprus at the last General Assembly. Not only was he an exceptional analytical chemist, but also an outstanding analytical mind with a clear vision that he communicated to everybody so distinctly and clearly. His pointed and serene sense of humor gave us a good many laughs.

Everybody who has known him can hardly imagine the deep mourning of his kind wife and daughter. We, too, are missing him greatly.

Written by Wolfhard Wegscheider on behalf of Eurachem

Workshop on Proficiency Testing in Analytical Chemistry, Microbiology and Laboratory Medicine

The Eurachem PT Mirror Group successfully organised the recent Eurachem/CITAC/EQALM 4th International Workshop on Proficiency Testing in Analytical Chemistry,

Microbiology and Laboratory Medicine.

Delegates from twenty four different countries attended the workshop held in the UK during February 2003.

The Workshop, opened by the UK Government Chemist (John Marriott, LGC), discussed current practice and future directions of Proficiency Testing (PT) and External Quality Assessment (EQA). Through a series of lectures and working group discussions, important issues regarding PT/EQA were discussed, which included:

- PT as a tool for accreditation and regulators
 - Accreditation of PT providers
 - Regulatory aspects of PT
 - Frequency of participation in PT
 - PT and Measurement Uncertainty
 - Selection of PT programmes and development of EPTIS
 - Global harmonisation and rationalisation
 - New developments and challenges
- The lively debates and fruitful discussions coupled with good positive delegate feedback reflected the benefits of the workshop.



A snapshot of the discussion around the 'new' ISO 15189.

*Brian Brookman
Convenor Eurachem PT Mirror Group*

METCHEM meeting 2003 - Bern, Switzerland

The 2003 annual METCHEM meeting was organized by METAS in Bern, Switzerland, on 13 and 14th February. METAS is the national metrology institute and accreditation body of Switzerland, and the traditional swiss hospitality and organization were honoured once again and much appreciated by the participants.

Apart from the plenary meeting, also the METCHEM WG held separate meetings before joining the plenary. The agenda for the plenary included the following items:

Reports on METCHEM WG activities and meetings: Gas WG by P.Woods; Inorganic WG by R.Matschat; Organic WG by M.Walsh; Electrochemistry WG by M.Mariassy;

Reports on projects:

- Revision of the VIM;
- Calcium, glucose and creatinine in human serum;
- Standards and calibration facilities for reactive gases;
- Comparison of standards and calibration facilities for NO measurements;
- Support programme for metrology in chemistry for EU Candidate Countries;
- MiC related EU projects, project proposals;

Report and discussion on the review process of QM CMCs in Euromet and inter-RMO (Regional Metrology Organizations).

Reports on correlated groups:

- Euromet TC Chairs' and Executive Committee meetings;
- CCQM WG meetings;
- BIPM activities;
- Eurachem activities;
- 4E-RM group;

Nomination of candidate(s) for METCHEM Chair - Eva Déak, the Chairperson for the last three years came to the end of her term of office. Her efficient coordination during this challenging period is appreciated and we are pleased that Eva Déak will

continue to contribute to the activities of MetChem, in her capacity as delegate from Hungary.

However, the plenary did not managed to find a solution, so this last item was later discussed between Euromet and Eurachem Chairpersons, and finally Philippe Charlet from LNE (France) was nominated to become the successor of Eva Déak. Eurachem wishes Philippe Charlet a successful mandate.

*Filomena Camões
Eurachem Chair*

*Leopoldo Cortez
Editor*



METCHEM participants in the outdoors of METAS facilities.

Eurachem Executive Meets at Dublin Castle - October 2002

Eurachem Executive Committee held its 26th Meeting in Dublin Castle (Ireland), at the European Room, on 11th October 2002.

Máire Walsh from Eurachem Ireland and a former Eurachem Chairperson hosted the meeting.

The List of Rolling Actions was thoroughly revised. Particular mention was given to a few points:

- greetings and good wishes have been expressed on their retirement to Horst Czichos, Eurolab President and to Adolf Zschunke, Chairperson of the 4E Reference Materials Working Group.
- the Chair was pleased to confirm that Wolfhard Wegscheider accepted nomination for the election as next Eurachem Vice-Chair, with the electoral procedure taking place early in 2003.
- Alex Williams presented the conclusions of the successful Luzern Workshop on Measurement Traceability and Uncertainty in Analytical Chemistry and presented information on the programme of the coming Closure Workshop of the Metrotrade Project, to take place in



A night view of Dublin Castle, where the Executive meeting took place

Berlin in January 2003.

- the 2nd Circular of the Eurachem /CITAC 4th Workshop on Proficiency Testing in Analytical Chemistry, Microbiology and Laboratory Medicine, to take place at Bracknell-UK on 16-18 February 2003, was acknowledged.

The presence of Paul Hetherington, Euromet Chairman, during part of the meeting, was highly appreciated, allowing the opportunity for discussion of future collaboration.

Closing the meeting, thanks were addressed to Maire Walsh and her staff who so efficiently organized the meeting in such a nice atmosphere. As

always, Ireland has its appeal and out of such a small group, a very high percentage of spouses joined in for an enjoyable weekend which certainly speaks up for the place and its charm.

"Bah, the latest news, the latest news is not the last!"

*In The Unnameable
Samuel Beckett*

*Maria Filomena Camões
Eurachem Chair*

Eurachem New Vice-Chair

Eurachem is pleased to announce that Wolfhard Wegscheider has been elected Eurachem Vice-Chair.

Wolfhard Wegscheider is Professor of General and Analytical Chemistry at the University of Leoben Austria.

He received his education from the Graz University of Technology majoring in Technical Chemistry with a specialisation in Biochemistry and Food Chemistry. His diploma thesis and doctoral thesis were in Analytical Chemistry with an emphasis on trace analysis and environmental analysis. As Fulbright Scholar he worked in Denver, CO, mainly on energy-dispersive X-ray fluorescence spectrometry.

Much of his research centers around the development of chemometrics procedures for analytical chemical problems. He is also co-author of the textbook on Analytical Chemistry featuring the DAC FECS-Curriculum

that was published in March 1998 with a new edition being prepared and a member of the editorial board and contributor to the Encyclopedia of Analytical Sciences (Academic Press).



He is member of several learned societies, past chairman of CITAC (Co-operation on International Traceability in Analytical Chemistry), Austrian Delegate to Eurachem where he is member of the Executive Committee, of the Working Group on Education

and Training, of the Working Group on Measurement Uncertainty and Traceability, and of the Working Group Analytical Quality Assurance at Universities.

Currently he serves as Vice-President of the Austrian Society of Analytical Chemistry – ASAC.

He is a consultant to the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, a lead auditor in the Austrian Accreditation of Laboratories System and an Editorial Advisor of Journals such as *Mikrochimica Acta*, *Spectrochimica Acta Electronica*, *Chemometrics* and *Intelligent Laboratory Systems and Accreditation and Quality Assurance*.

*Maria Filomena Camões
Eurachem Chair*

Memorandum of Understanding between Eurachem and Eurolab

Eurachem Chair and Eurolab President signed in November 2002 an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between their organisations, renewing the one signed in January 1995.

The MoU takes into account that some laboratories and national organisations are members of both Eurachem and Eurolab, and also to avoid duplication of activities, to optimise resources and logistics and to organise regular consultation on policy matters between the two organisations.

The MoU establishes co-operation under the following items:

1. Eurachem and Eurolab will inform each other of their activities. Eurachem and Eurolab will participate in each others affairs as an observer and, where appropriate, undertake collaborative tasks. In particular, Eurachem will take care of issues related to analytical chemistry, while Eurolab will handle primarily horizontal issues.

2. Regular consultation is ensured between the Chairs and Secretariats in order:

- to co-ordinate the contents and programming of workshops and seminars,
- to exchange views and, wherever possible, achieve consensus positions on policy matters of interest to the European laboratory Community, such as the EC R&D programmes, pre-standardisation activities, QA standards for laboratories, etc.,
- to co-ordinate, where appropriate, participation in other European and in international activities (EA, CEN, ILAC, ISO, etc).

3. Eurachem and Eurolab will take part in appropriate technical committees at the European level.

4. Eurachem and Eurolab encourage liaison at the national level between their respective national members, in order to facilitate the achievement of the aim of this MoU as stated above.

eurolab
5. Eurachem and Eurolab will ensure adequate information of their members on their respective activities, through their publications and other means.

6. This MoU will not be terminated unless a partner will give a three-month notice to the other.

*Maria do Céu Ferreira
Eurachem Secretariat*



Eurachem and Eurolab Chairpersons signing the MoU

EEE-PLG meeting - February 2003

The Permanent Liaison Group (PLG) held a meeting in Copenhagen, on 4-5 February 2003, with the presence of:

EA - Hans-Peter Ischi, Christina Waddington, Patrick Reposeur, Bernd Steffen

Eurolab - Jarl Forsten (chair), Manfred Golze, John Day, Bernd Larssen

Eurachem - Ed de Leer

Report from 4-E chairperson meeting, ToR for PLG - The "rolling chair" status for the PLG was discussed, as well as the new composition (EA 5, Eurolab 3, Eurachem 1, Euromet 1) foreseen to start on July 2003. The situation with respect to the 4E-RM WG was discussed, but no further advance was achieved.

Work items for joint groups - The TOR's for the three groups are very general and it was recommended that the three groups prepare an annual working programme.

PT's and ILC's - There is a will from EA to

stop with ILC's organized by EA members and to start with Euromet ILC's for calibration. The important role of PT's was reconfirmed by all organizations, and EA wants to continue with large scale PT's to demonstrate comparability between accredited laboratories in different countries (MLA support).

The PLG workshop in Dublin (June 2003) - The draft programme was discussed. The general theme for the workshop is "Laboratory Accreditation and Testing 2010".

Other discussion items were: Meeting with Mr. Vardakas (DG Enterprise); M&T Newsletter; ILAC PT document on Accreditation Bodies that accredit PT providers and at the same time operate their own PT-schemes.

Next meeting was scheduled for May 2003 in Saint Gallen.

*Ed de Leer
Eurachem Past-Chair*

New Eurolab President

Eurachem would like to congratulate Mr Carlos Ganopa for his recent election (March 2003) as President of the Board of Administration of Eurolab AISBL.

Mr. Carlos Ganopa is the Chairman of the Board of IPQ - Portuguese Institute for Quality, President of the General Assembly of RELACRE (Eurolab Portugal) and President of EOTC - European Organization for Conformity Assessment.

He was formerly Assessor to the Board of RINAVE (Portuguese Naval Classification and Registry company), and member of the Portuguese Parliament.



ILAC activities

The International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC), was incorporated under Dutch law on January 20th, 2003.

It has 5 categories of membership:

- Full members and Associates, encompass the individual accreditation bodies.
- National coordination Bodies and regional cooperation bodies, groups of accreditation bodies fall into these categories.
- The Stakeholders, category comprises organisation who have an interest in the work of ILAC. Eurachem falls into the latter category.

Committees

The bulk of the work of ILAC is carried out through its committees and their respective working groups.

- The Accreditation Policy Committee (APC), as the name indicates is concerned with developing policy for the various facets of accreditation.
- The Technical Accreditation Issues Committees (TAIC) activities revolve around the technical issues which relate to accreditation and it has several topic orientated working groups. The guidance documents produced by the working groups and adopted by ILAC are available in the web site, www.ilac.org
- The Public Affairs Committee is active in the area of publications, promoting the benefits accruing to accreditation and general ILAC publicity.
- The Arrangement Management Committee (AMC) deals with the operation of the ILAC Arrangement and the day to day matters relating to the Arrangement.
- The Laboratory Committee is a forum for international /regional /national associations of laboratories and laboratory practitioners interested in the work of ILAC. It affords laboratories with an opportunity to meet and to input into the work of ILAC.

Eurachem is an active member of the laboratory committee and the Eurachem representative, represents the Laboratory Committee (LC) on the TAIC, the AMC and the Strategic Planning group. Other members of

the LC represent laboratory interests on other ILAC committees. Laboratory input to the working groups is welcomed.

Activities of the recent past

1. ILAC GA

The ILAC General Assembly meets on an annual basis and the 2002 event was held in Berlin in September in association with the bi-annual conference.

Highlights of the 2002 GA included;

- The adoption of the Articles of Association and the Bylaws, which subsequently led to incorporation in the Netherlands.
- The development of a business focus for the various operations of ILAC.

The ILAC Chair has spearheaded this latter initiative and has led a working group which is developing a business plan for ILAC.

This draft plan includes all the components of a strategic and business plan and it states that the organisation envisions itself as:

"The preferred mechanism through which global recognition of competent laboratories and inspection bodies is provided."

Its' Mission Statement, states that "ILAC is the global forum for:

- The recognition of competent laboratory accreditation bodies which oversee and monitor the competence of testing/calibration laboratories and inspection bodies world-wide;
- The development and implementation of sound accreditation principles and practices; and,
- The promotion of laboratory accreditation to protect the health, safety and the environment, to ensure interoperability and to facilitate global trade".

Strategies and goals have been set and the various committees (including the LC) are currently developing and moulding their work programmes to dovetail with the business model. Two members of the LC (one being the Eurachem representative) are

members of the business planning group.



The question of a joint ILAC&IAF mark (logo) was hotly debated over the two days of the GA and the matter was subsequently put to a 60 day ballot. Stakeholders cannot vote but they can (and do) give an opinion. The outcome of that ballot was that the majority of members voting opted for a single ILAC mark.

Laboratories were very concerned about this issue as ISO/IEC 17025 is a technical competence standard and accreditation to indicate compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 is a demonstration of a laboratories' technical competence. There is already enough confusion in the market place about the difference between accreditation and certification and Laboratories felt that a joint mark would cement that confusion.

2. Laboratory Committee

The LC meets twice a year and two issues which were foremost in the committees mind over the past year were revision of ISO/IEC 17025:1999 and the relation with International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The latter body is concerned with types of accreditation other than that which relates to technical competence standard 17025. At the March 2002 meeting the LC passed two resolutions (A & B) on the above topics and they are printed at the end of the report.

At the March 2003 meeting the following was agreed;

The LC supports the proposal initiated by the 4E committee to form a truly international working group for reference materials. Following approval by the executive committee of the LC proposal to carry out a survey on "the equivalence of application of ISO/IEC 17025:1999 by accreditation bodies" it was agreed to put the wheels in motion to carry out that survey.

Maire Walsh

Eurachem Representative in ILAC

EA Laboratory Committee activities

From the beginning Eurachem has been a member of the EA Laboratory Committee (EA-LC).

The 5th meeting of this committee was held on 24/25 March 2003 in Turin, Italy. The committee meets twice a year and brings together the laboratory community, being customers and stakeholders of the accreditation bodies, technical experts and accreditors.

The aims of the EA-LC are to coordinate, organize and discuss the technical matters of concern in laboratory accreditation, like traceability and measurement uncertainty, proficiency testing and inter-laboratory comparisons, accreditation criteria for CRM producers, NDT and GMO laboratories, the consequences of the introduction of flexible scopes of accreditation, technical criteria for specific calibrations and tests, criteria for software and guidance for specific areas such as calibration-, medical- or pharmaceutical laboratories.

Due to the very wide area covered and the importance of the issues on stake, the meetings of this committee are always well attended while the agenda is overloaded. EA is considering how the process of organizing and discussing the technical matters can become on one hand more substantial and on the other hand more streamlined. The EA-LC should not just act as a rubber-stamping committee. It has to be mentioned here that behind the EA-LC a large number of other working groups are very active, bringing

together the different experts in the sub-fields, for example organizing PT schemes and comparisons for accredited testing and calibration laboratories. The results of the PT-schemes and inter-laboratory comparisons are reported to the EA-LC and, if no further problems exist, approved.

Participation of Eurachem in the EA-LC is of direct importance to the chemical laboratories, while EA needs the input and opinions of the chemical community in formulating criteria and policies with respect to the accreditation of chemical laboratories.



Topics recently on the agenda and of importance to the chemical laboratories are;

- the development of the criteria for flexible scopes and discussions on the desirability, if not an obligation, and frequency of participation in adequate PT schemes, including a discussion on what will be considered as an adequate scheme;
- another important issue is the characterization and value assignment of reference materials and the related criteria for adequate third party recognition, including product certification of CRM's, or accreditation of the laboratories of the CRM producers;
- also of importance to the chemical community are the developments concerning accreditation criteria for medical diagnostic laboratories, official medicines control laboratories

and sensory testing laboratories;
- up-coming are discussions on criteria for GMO laboratories.

In all these cases the question on internationally recognized traceability is not easy to solve and close cooperation with Eurachem and globally in particular also with CITAC and ILAC is planned, also relating these activities with the developments on the global level under the BIPM.

The establishment in 2002 of the Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine JCTLM, in which all stakeholders work together under the aegis of the Inter-Governmental Treaty of the Metre Convention is a good example of this type of cooperation. Discussion has started on the verification and consistency of the approved claimed best measurement and testing capabilities of the accredited laboratories in relation to the internationally recognized and accepted capabilities of the National Metrology Institutes and other designated reference institutes as mentioned in the CIPM Mutual Recognition Arrangement on the recognition of national measurement standards and of certificates issued by the NMI's.

Concluding, the work in the EA-LC committee is highly important as it deals with the judgement of the technical capabilities and competence of the accredited laboratories, which is the real important issue for a laboratory wishing to become accredited.

R. Kaarls
Eurachem representative in EA/LC

EEEE-Reference Materials working group activities

In 2002 the 4E working group "Reference Materials" met two times in Berlin, the first meeting took place in June, the second meeting in connection with the ILAC general assembly in September. In both meetings delegates from ILAC were present.

Since the chairman of the working group, Prof. A. Zschunke, announced his retirement for March 2003 and because of the planned

establishment of an ILAC working group on Reference Materials there was discussion on the future structure of the 4E-RM group, and the group agreed on a resolution.

The paper "The selection and use of RM - a basic guide for laboratories and accreditation bodies" was definitely adopted as an EEE-paper by the working group and also by Eurolab, Eurachem and EA, and it will be published in AQUAL in 2003.

Another paper, "Third Party Quality Assessment of Reference Materials and their Production - A Position Paper" (4E/RM/069rev5) was adopted by the working group and sent to the three E-organisations for approval.

The next meeting of the group was scheduled for March 2003 in Dublin.

Sebastian Recknagel
EEEE-RM secretariat

European Analytical Column No. 31

Biennially the European Conference on Analytical Chemistry, EUROANALYSIS, is organized on behalf of DAC-FECS. In 2002, EUROANALYSIS-12 took place from 8 to 13 September in Dortmund, Germany; almost 400 posters along with 107 lectures and talks were presented to about 450 registered participants from 48 countries of all continents.

As a positive tendency it can be reported that EUROANALYSIS still brings together colleagues from Europe's East and West. The difficulties in meeting did not disappear but changed with the political and economic situation, therefore new efficient strategies to preserve EUROANALYSIS's bridging function must be developed. Spain will host the forthcoming event: EUROANALYSIS-13 from 5 to 10 September 2004 in Salamanca.

The topics of the submitted contributions definitely covered a broad spectrum of analytical tasks and developments. During recent years a particularly strong evolution of life sciences occurred along with opening new fields in the related analysis. A good deal of the oral programme of EUROANALYSIS-12 can be attributed to these developments - from the opening lecture on DNA microarrays to biometrology and biosensors. Strategies and tools to cope up with the new demands such as miniaturization and high throughput screening including automatization were presented and discussed. Another focus was material science with its tremendous analytical requirements e.g. in the production of semiconductor devices.

The opening lecture by Ed Southern, Oxford, UK, was honored by the status of a FECS Lecture 2002. Another distinguished lecture was given by Jürgen Popp, Jena, when he was awarded the 2002 Bunsen-Kirchhoff-Prize. Holding EUROANALYSIS in Dortmund in 2002 had been stimulated by the 50th Anniversary of the Institute of Spectrochemistry and Applied Spectroscopy (ISAS).

Meanwhile the editorial work on the

EUROANALYSIS issue of the journal Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry is progressing. Material presented in the session of the Study Group Education is available as 'e-meeting' at the Royal Society of Chemistry homepage.

Due to tradition and convenience, the DAC Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, 8. September, in Dortmund before EUROANALYSIS commenced. 20 FECS member societies were represented by their appointed Delegates, another six Observers and Guests were present. In the months before, numerous Delegates got involved in the discussions concerning the proposals of the project 'Tuning Educational Structures in Europe' aiming on a degree 'Eurobachelor' for Chemistry in the context of the so-called Bologna declaration. The first draft allocating a minor share of scores to analytical chemistry alerted the



community and as a consequence it became a prevailing topic of the Annual Meeting.

DAC has always been paying particular interest in education, shown by the early compilation of the DAC Eurocurriculum, and the textbook 'Analytical Chemistry'.

The renewed interest in the curriculum prompted the Annual Meeting to create a Task Force under the guidance of Reiner Salzer, Dresden, Germany.

As to the textbook Analytical Chemistry, a thorough revision is on the way. Now Miguel Valcárcel is joining the remaining editors, Matthias Otto and Jean-Michel Mermet, in the challenging work of revising structure and text of the book. The 2nd edition of the book is hoped to appear before the end of 2003.

The Annual Meeting formally decided to strengthen the links to the journal Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry with the generally visible indication of stating the DAC cooperation on the cover of the journal. Similar partnership with Analytical Chemistry has been agreed and DAC is open to extend such cooperation with further allies.

FECS has undergone considerable changes in recent years and in particular has strengthened its political role as member of the Alliance for Chemistry in Europe, AllChemE. Therefore, two so-called Standing Committees were established within FECS: one shall deal with the political role of FECS in AllChemE, while the other shall deal with education, professional affairs and ethics.

The acronym FECS stands now for 'Federation of European Chemical Societies and Professional Institutions'.

All these changes have been supervised by Reto Battaglia as FECS President assisted by the President-elect Gábor Náray-Szabó of the Hungarian Chemical Society, who chaired the FECS Working Party on Computational Chemistry. At the FECS meeting in Poland, Gábor Náray-Szabó took over Presidency.

Meanwhile, the 1st FECS European Chemistry Congress has been confirmed to be held in Budapest 20 to 25 August 2006. This is a pan-European conference encompassing the entire field of chemistry - with some similarity to the ACS meetings in the USA. The DAC wants to be visible at this Congress and wants to carry on with its own conference, EUROANALYSIS, which therefore will be shifted to odd years then.

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Eurachem Guides

Traceability in Chemical Measurement, Voting Draft (2003)

The Selection and use of Reference Materials (2002)

Guide to Quality in Analytical Chemistry: An Aid to Accreditation (2002)

Accreditation for Microbiological Laboratories (2002)

Selection, Use and Interpretation of Proficiency Testing (PT) Schemes by Laboratories (2000)

Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement, 2nd Edition (2000)
(Translations available)

The Fitness for Purpose of Analytical Methods: A Laboratory Guide to Method Validation and Related Topics (1998) (Translations available)

Harmonised Guidelines for the Use of Recovery Information in Analytical Measurements (1998)

Quality Assurance for Research and Development and Non-routine Analysis (1998) (Translations available)

Other Documents

Eurachem Memorandum of Understanding

Eurachem Strategy 2000-2005

Harmonisation of Analytical Practices in Europe - Tasks for Eurachem (1999)

Cooperation between Laboratories and Accreditation Bodies - the PLG (2000)

EEE - Common Position Paper for the Use of Proficiency Testing as a Tool for Accreditation in Testing (2001)

Eurachem overhead transparencies for presentations

Information leaflet for lab customers concerning the quality of chemical analyses (2000) (Translations available)

Note: All documents available for download at the Eurachem website

Ricardo Bettencourt Silva
Eurachem Webmaster

Events 2003

Classification and Data Mining in Business, Industry and Applied Research Methodological and Computational Issues - Joint International Summer School 2003
Venue & Date: Lisbon, Portugal, 23-30 July 2003
Details: jiss-2003@fpce.ul.pt
Web site: lead.paginas.sapo.pt/JISS-2003.htm

First World Conference on Sampling and Blending – WCSB1
Venue & Date: Esbjerg, Denmark, 19-22 August 2003
Details: kes@aeu.auc.dk
Web site: www.isbf.info

8th International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology
Venue & Date: Lemnos island, Greece, 1-3 September 2003
Details: cest@gnest.org
Web site: www.gnest.org/cest

Quality Assurance in Analytical Chemistry for graduate students and first-time employees
Venue & Date: Siegen, Germany, 29 September - 1 October 2003
Details: pa@chemie.uni-siegen.de,
www.fww.uni-siegen.de/news.htm
>> see highlight on right side >>

11th International Metrology Congress
Venue & Date: Toulon, France, 20-23 October 2003
Details: sandrine.gazal@wanadoo.fr

Second International Conference on Metrology: Trends and Applications in Calibration and Testing Laboratories
Venue & Date: Eilat, Israel, 4-6 November 2003
Details: www.isas.co.il/metrology2003

Quality Assurance in Analytical Chemistry for graduate students and first-time employees

Universität Siegen (DE)

The aim of this workshop is to promote quality assurance (QA) in chemical measurements. Unfortunately this information is not provided extensively at universities. The workshop will provide an introduction to QA for those who are in the final stages of their university studies or those who have recently started their professional career. The participants will gain a basic knowledge of QA, why it is necessary and how it is applied in industry. References will be provided for further study.

Provisional Timetable

28 September 2003
19:00 Get together Party
29 September 2003
09:00 Session 1 Need for QA, Fitness for Purpose
10:45 Coffee Break
11:15 Session 2 Good analytical practice and ISO/IEC 17025
13:00 Lunch
14:00 Session 3 Terminology
15:45 Coffee Break
16:15 Session 4 Basic Statistics
18:00 Dinner
30 September 2003
09:00 Session 5 Method validation
10:45 Coffee Break
11:15 Session 6 Use of Reference Materials
13:00 Lunch
14:00 Session 7 Traceability
15:45 Coffee Break
16:15 Session 8 Internal and External Quality Control (including Control charts and Proficiency Testing)
18:00 Museum tour
1 October 2003
09:00 Session 9 Measurement Uncertainty
10:45 Coffee Break
11:15 Session 10 Implementation of Quality System (including other quality standards)
13:00 Lunch
14:00 Closing Session
15:30 End

www.fww.uni-siegen.de/news.htm

Activities of Eurachem-TR (Turkey) Committee

A brief introduction on preliminary activities of the Eurachem/Tr Committee was published in the Eurachem Newsletter No: 17.

Eurachem/Tr Committee organized its structure like Eurachem, and activities are carried out within following Working Groups:

- Education and Training,
- Proficiency Testing,
- Measurement Uncertainty and Method Validation

Activities of the working groups are:

1. Education and Training WG:

A number of seminars aiming at the raising awareness on the importance of Chemical Metrology issues, such as, method validation, the importance of reporting measurement results with corresponding uncertainties, and traceability of chemical analytical results, were organized for participants coming from both industry and university.

GAT study was initiated but not concluded in end of 1997. This study was restarted with the proposal received from Eurachem and the terms were sent to experts in Analytical Chemistry in Turkey. Turkish terms translated will be published at the end of the study.

2. Proficiency Testing WG:

Proficiency testing schemes are carried out as Laboratory comparisons. First Proficiency Testing scheme was realized in the year 2000 for nitrogen/protein analysis with the food industry as target group.

A detailed seminar on Proficiency Testing was given due to requests from the participants.

Schemes in 2001 were performed with water and corn matrix, analytes being heavy metals in water and fat, protein, ash, and moisture in corn samples. Two rounds were organized with the same matrices.

Schemes planned for 2003 are:

- aflatoxin analysis in peanut matrix
- moisture, ash, fat, protein contents analysis in food matrix,
- metal analysis in drinking water. Two rounds were planned, on May and

October 2002.

3. Measurement Uncertainty and Method Validation WG

This working group was established during the 2001 annual meeting of Eurachem/Tr Committee. As a first activity the committee members were required to validate a method that is routinely used in their laboratories and evaluate the measurement uncertainty using method validation data.

These studies were presented in subsequent two workshops organized by Measurement Uncertainty and Method Validation WG members, first on December 2001 and second on February 2002.

Eurachem/Tr Committee holds an annual meeting at the end of each year. At this meeting Committee evaluates activities, which were planned at the previous annual meeting. We are planning what we will make in next year, considering the activities that were made in the last year.

Eurachem/Tr Committee holds an annual meeting at the end of each year. At this meeting Committee evaluates results of activities planned at the previous annual meeting. Evaluation results are used to prepare the work plan for the following year.

Fehmi Fiçicioglu
Eurachem/TR

Report from Eurachem-PL (Poland)

The Eurachem General Assembly in 2001 and associate meetings, held in Popowo (Poland), 17-21 April 2001, were a significant milestone in the activity of Eurachem-PL - the national section of Polish chemical laboratories.

The next milestones, yet before the Eurachem General Assembly in Cyprus, 15-18 May 2002, were the Symposia of POLLAB (the club of Polish testing laboratories, associate member of

EuroLab), organized in co-operation with Eurachem-PL.

The 7th POLLAB Symposium entitled "Validation of test methods", was held in Zakopane in two parts on 20-22 May and 16-18 September 2001, since above 300 participants were interested in the subject. The section meeting and the seminar entitled "Method validation and ISO/IEC 17025 standard" was held in Warsaw on 2 October 2001.

The 8th POLLAB Symposium on "Practical implementation aspects for the ISO/IEC 17025 Standard" was held in Krynica on 19-21 May 2002.

In 2001, there were 67 laboratories members of the section. The activity of the section was sponsored by POLLAB. Eurachem-PL members cooperate with the Committee of Analytical Chemistry of Polish Academy of Sciences and with Commission on Polymer Analysis, as well as with the Polish Standardisation Committee, and are linked to the AOAC (Association of Official Analytical Chemists) International, Sub-Section for CEE Countries.

Moreover, members of Eurachem-PL actively participate in conferences and workshops organised by European laboratories communities.

Relevant reports, as well as translations of selected lectures and other conference materials are published in information bulletins of POLLAB, and are used as training materials for national seminars and workshops. Eurachem Guides and other international documents are also translated and disseminated amongst laboratories.

The Eurachem-PL section was led by Prof. Dr. Zbigniew Dobkowski (chair) and Dr. Anna Lukszo-Bienkowska (vice-chair) of the Industrial Chemistry Research Institute (ICRI), Warsaw, PL.

Information on the section of Polish chemical laboratories can be found on the POLLAB web site: <http://www.pollab.pl>

Z. Dobkowski and A. Lukszo-Bienkowska
Eurachem-PL, ICRI-Warsaw

Activities of Eurachem-PT (Portugal)

Eurachem Portugal started its activities, as such, in the year 2000, triggered by the National Delegates in cooperation with RELACRE (Eurolab Portugal), which provided the Secretariat. This way the associated laboratories, through their representatives, supplied good input of the laboratories opinions and requirements, in the frame of the objectives and lines of action of Eurachem.

Existing working groups have merged with National Eurachem Mirror Groups on Reference Materials, Traceability and Uncertainty, and Education and Training.

The WG on Reference Materials promoted an inquiry on the use of Reference Materials by the Portuguese laboratories.

The introductory chapters (1-9) of the

Eurachem/CITAC Guide on "Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement" (2nd edition) have been translated; examples pertaining to the particular expertise of the Group Members were systematically added. The information leaflet for customers on "Uncertainty" originally produced by our Swedish colleagues, has been translated and adapted. The worked list of quality terms and definitions published by the Journal for Accreditation and Quality Assurance has also been translated and disseminated for discussion.

Other relevant activities concerned education and training, and comprised, namely, the organization of workshops (e.g. Sampling 2002), lectures at special sessions of national (e.g. ANALYTICA 2001- Portuguese Chemical Society) and international scientific meetings (e.g. EUROANALYSIS



XI) as well as support to post-graduate programs.

A one day Seminar "Traceability" is now planned for Autumn 2003.

Eurachem Portugal has also set up a webpage:

<http://www.eurachem.fc.ul.pt>

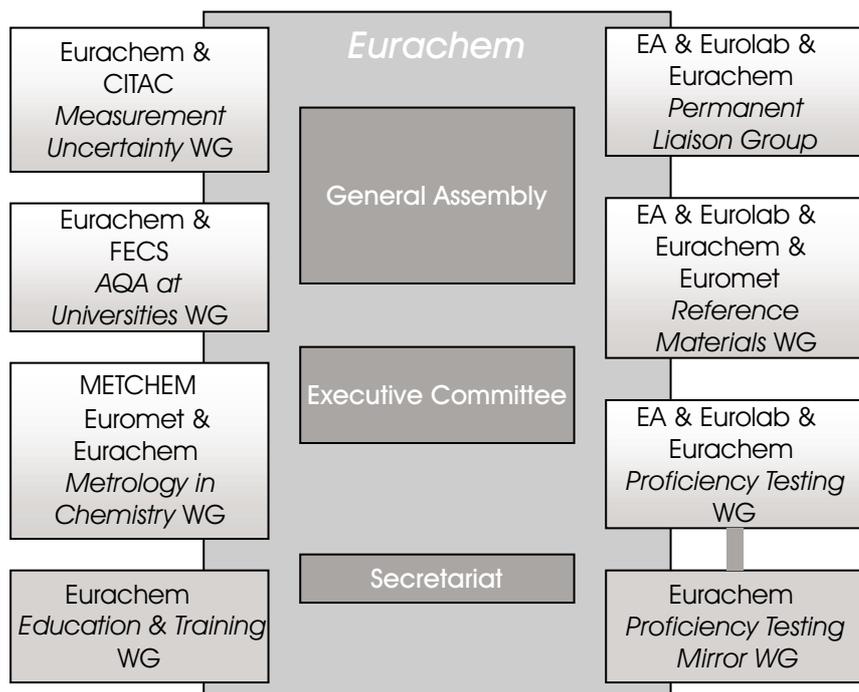
Cooperation and harmonization between Eurolab Portugal, IPQ and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Faculty of Sciences/University of Lisbon is worth noticing.

With the election of M.F.Camões to the Chair of Eurachem, the national structure has gathered in technical and administrative support to the Chair and to Eurachem.

Leopoldo Cortez

National Eurachem Delegate

Eurachem: Organisation, Members and Addresses



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Associate member countries: Albania, Russian Federation and Ukraine

Eurachem has interfaces with AOAC, CCQM, CITAC, EA, Eurolab, EUROM II, Euromet, FECS, ILAC, ISO/REMCO and IUPAC. A complete list of all contact points for both Eurachem activities and partner/liaison organisations can be found on the Eurachem website

<http://www.eurachem.ul.pt>