EUROPEAN ACCREDITATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Harmonization

Confidence

Responsibility

Competence

Accreditation to facilitate trade

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Accreditation to facilitate trade

Foreword

Dr Andreas Steinhorst, EA Executive Secretary

2017 was an intensive year for EA and I'm very proud to conclude it with the publication of this new EA annual report. In this report we will give you facts and numbers and highlight the numerous projects in which the EA Members and the secretariat have been actively involved.

Summarizing all the actions managed in 2017 proved to be a complex exercise as EA Secretariat and EA Members were so dedicated and effective to ensure their fundamental mission: provide confidence in accredited conformity assessments results in support of European and global economies.

To facilitate your reading, we did our best to give structure to information: each chapter will start with keys words meant to quickly understand the items developed. These key words will also be listed at the end of the document in a glossary. In terms of content, you will see first an introduction on EA activities, then a presentation of 2017 major results and highlights, and the last pages of EA report will be dedicated to EA financial results and practical information about EA in particular, overview of changes in EA publications, presentation of EA 50 National Accreditation Body Members and EA MLA signatories.

Behind all the projects managed in 2017, there is nothing less than the outstanding commitment and work of highly motivated and valuable professionals

In this foreword I will just refer to some of the projects we took part in over the year, you will see details of the objectives, progress and achievements made in the following pages; my objective with this is to give you a scale of relevance of EA implication: implementation of the new EA Strategy 2025, significant efforts developed by all involved in order to fulfill a full peer evaluation program and improve the peer evaluation system, proactive discussions on revision of standards to enhance harmonization, closer and trustful relations with the European Commission and its main Directorates Generals (DGs) to support and further develop the European accreditation infrastructure, involvement at the international level to prepare common positions on global issues and remarkable development of EA communications for the promotion of accreditation.

All these examples demonstrate how EA has been acting to be a reference in the world for accreditation that enables an open and global market for competitive business to facilitate trade and provide reassurance to consumers in a sustainable environment.

I am very grateful for the support of EA Members, Recognized Stakeholders and EA Secretariat as behind all the projects managed in 2017, there is nothing less than the outstanding commitment and work of highly motivated and valuable professionals. Thank you all!

I.
EA, the body responsible for the European Accreditation Infrastructure

Who are we?

A global reference for accreditation that enables an open and global market for competitive business and provides reassurance to consumers in a sustainable society.

The European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) is an association of the legally appointed National Accreditation Bodies (NAB) of the Member States of the European Union (EU), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and candidate countries. Its mission is to ensure confidence in accredited conformity assessment results through harmonized operation of accreditation activities in support of European and global economies.

Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 establishes the legal basis for accreditation in Europe. Pursuant to Article 14 of this Regulation EA has been appointed as the body responsible for the European Accreditation Infrastructure.

On 1 April 2009, EA signed the General Guidelines for Cooperation between EA, EC, EFTA, and competent National Authorities. These Guidelines establish a common understanding of the importance of accreditation for the European economy and life of European citizens and of its supporting role for several European policies and legislation reflecting public interest, notably in the implementation of Community harmonization legislation.

These guidelines state that the EC, EFTA and the Competent National Authorities expect EA to undertake the following activities.

Peer evaluation system

Through the EA Multilateral Agreement (EA MLA), EA operates a rigorous, transparent and uniform European peer-evaluation system. Assurance must be provided that accreditation bodies have successfully undergone peer evaluation and have the necessary technical expertise and capabilities to assess, attest and regularly monitor the technical competence of Conformity Assessment Bodies.

Hence, EA ensures that the peer-evaluation system between its members is operated in such a way that results may be considered as equivalent across the EU/EFTA and can be justified on the basis of sound and transparent evaluation criteria and procedures, including appropriate appeal procedures. National Accreditation Bodies are admitted to the MLA only after stringent evaluation of their operations by a peer-evaluation team assigned to determine continued compliance with EN ISO/IEC 17011, the internationally recognized standard for accreditation bodies and Regulation (EC) No 765/2008. Peer evaluation should also serve as a benchmarking tool in order to stimulate further improvement of EA accreditation.

Training activities

To ensure reliable and consistent assessments within the peer evaluation process, EA has developed an appropriate training program for evaluators:

- In order to support the necessary development of the EA pool of evaluators to serve an increasingly full peer-evaluation program, EA organizes regular **newcomer training courses** for potential Team Members; such courses are designed to provide participants with the specifics of peer evaluation and a common level of understanding of the procedures, requirements and their application. They also aim to give the participants insight into the management processes supporting the peer-evaluation system.
- **Refresher training courses** are also organized for evaluators to exchange information, enhance harmonization and develop best practices to maintain and develop skills and good performance during evaluations when changes are made in standards.

Newcomer training course organized at RvA in June 2017

Cooperation with stakeholders

Close cooperation with stakeholders is essential to the European Accreditation Infrastructure. Pursuant to Regulation No 765/2008 Annex 1 clause 3, EA shall consult all relevant stakeholders. Due to the increasing use of accreditation, especially in new areas, it is important from a technical and strategic point of view that EA cooperates with the relevant stakeholders on an ongoing basis and in an efficient manner.

Who are we ?

Cooperation with the European Commission, EFTA and the Member States

EA has been appointed by the European Commission to manage the official European accreditation infrastructure, following adoption of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 by the European Parliament and the European Council on 9 July 2008, establishing a legal framework for accreditation in the EU. The formal relationship between EA and the European Commission is further elaborated in a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA).

EA is responsive to the European Commission, EFTA and Member States' national authorities with regard to activities related to Community legislation. We regularly cooperate with the European Commission, EFTA and the competent National Authorities in development and implementation of Community and EFTA regulations and programmes by providing technical assistance to Directorates Generals (DGs).

EA also supports National Accreditation Bodies (NABs) in countries that are part of the EU's Neighborhood Policy and potential candidates for EU membership, with a view to their becoming members of EA and ensuring their full participation in EA's work. The objective is to embrace and support effective development of NABs in these countries in order to enable cooperation with EA, and facilitate proper understanding of EA's practices in relation to accreditation of conformity assessment activities based on EU legislation.

Market needs

EA plays a key role in defining, harmonizing and building consistency in accreditation as a service to European trade, industry and society, with the aim of reducing barriers to trade and contributing to protect consumers' and citizens' health and safety. Access to new markets is made easier for companies through recognition of European accreditation and equivalence and reliability of conformity assessment services conveyed by accreditation.

Once tested or certified by an accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB), products and services may be exported without the need for re-testing or re-certification for each new EU market.

International cooperation

Cooperation in the global accreditation system is through the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF). EA operates as a Recognized Region in both organizations and manages its peer-evaluation system so as to qualify EA members to be automatic signatories of global Mutual Recognition Agreements (ILAC MRA/IAF MLA) - provided they are a member of ILAC/IAF.

EA and its members are working actively with ILAC and IAF to ensure that the European accreditation system is recognized at global level and that development of the international accreditation system is as far as possible in line with the accreditation policy adopted and implemented in Europe.

Promotion of accreditation

The confidence that regulators and the market in general have in EA requires that EA be active in maintaining and developing a reliable European market for conformity assessment services and broadly promote the European model of accreditation.
EA has reinforced its communication strategy over the years, producing regular publications and materials to support development of accreditation and conformity assessment in Europe and at the international level.
EA provides communications material intended for use by its members at national level. This overall approach is the basis of the "One Voice" communication ensuring harmonized and consistent language, and further disseminating the key benefits and values of accreditation.

Along with its network of members, EA reinforces the position of European accreditation at national and international level alike.

EA Membership

A community of members that work together to maintain top level services and promote accreditation in Europe and worldwide.

EA's membership is divided into full and associate accreditation body members. EA members are officially recognized by their national Governments to assess and check Conformity Assessment Bodies.

36 FULL MEMBERS

Full Members of EA are NABs from EU and EFTA countries or countries formally identified by the EU or EFTA as candidates for EU or EFTA membership

ALBANIA - *Directorate of Accreditation (DPA)*
AUSTRIA - Akkreditierung Austria (AA)
BELGIUM - Belgian Accreditation Council (BELAC)
BULGARIA - Executive Agency «Bulgarian Accreditation Service» (BAS)
CROATIA - Croatian Accreditation Agency (HAA)
CYPRUS - Cyprus Organization for the Promotion of Quality (CYS-CYSAB)
CZECH REPUBLIC - Czech Accreditation Institute (CAI)
DENMARK - Den Danske Akkrediteringsfond (DANAK)
ESTONIA - Estonian Accreditation Centre (EAK)
FINLAND - Finnish Accreditation Service (FINAS)
FRANCE - Comité français d'accréditation (COFRAC)
GERMANY - Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle GmbH (DAkkS)
GREECE - Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD)
HUNGARY - National Accreditation Authority (NAH)
ICELAND - *Icelandic Board for Technical Accreditation (ISAC)*
IRELAND - Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB)
ITALY - Ente Italiano di Accreditamento (ACCREDIA)
LATVIA - Latvian National Accreditation Bureau (LATAK)
LITHUANIA - Lithuanian National Accreditation Bureau (LA)
LUXEMBURG - Office Luxembourgeois d'Accréditation et de Surveillance (OLAS)
MALTA - National Accreditation Board (NAB-Malta)
MONTENEGRO - Accreditation Body of Montenegro (ATCG)
NORWAY - Norsk akkreditering (NA)
POLAND - Polskie Centrum Akredytacji (PCA)
PORTUGAL - Instituto Português de Acreditação (IPAC)
ROMANIA - Romanian Accreditation Association (RENAR)
SERBIA - Accreditation Body of Serbia (ATS)
SLOVAKIA - Slovak National Accreditation Service (SNAS)
SLOVENIA - Slovenska Akreditacija (SA)
SPAIN - Entidad Nacional de Acreditación (ENAC)
SWEDEN - Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SWEDAC)
SWITZERLAND - Swiss Accreditation Service (SAS)
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA - The Accreditation Institute of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (IARM)
THE NETHERLANDS - Raad voor Accreditatie (RVA)
TURKEY - Turkish Accreditation Agency (TURKAK)
UNITED KINGDOM - United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)

14 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Associate Members of EA are NABs legally appointed as such by countries or economies identified by the EU or EFTA as potential candidate countries or economies for EU or EFTA membership or identified by the EU in the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) as countries or economies of particular importance.
In 2017, the EA General Assembly decided to accept AZAC, the Azerbaijan Accreditation Centre, as a new Associate Member of EA.

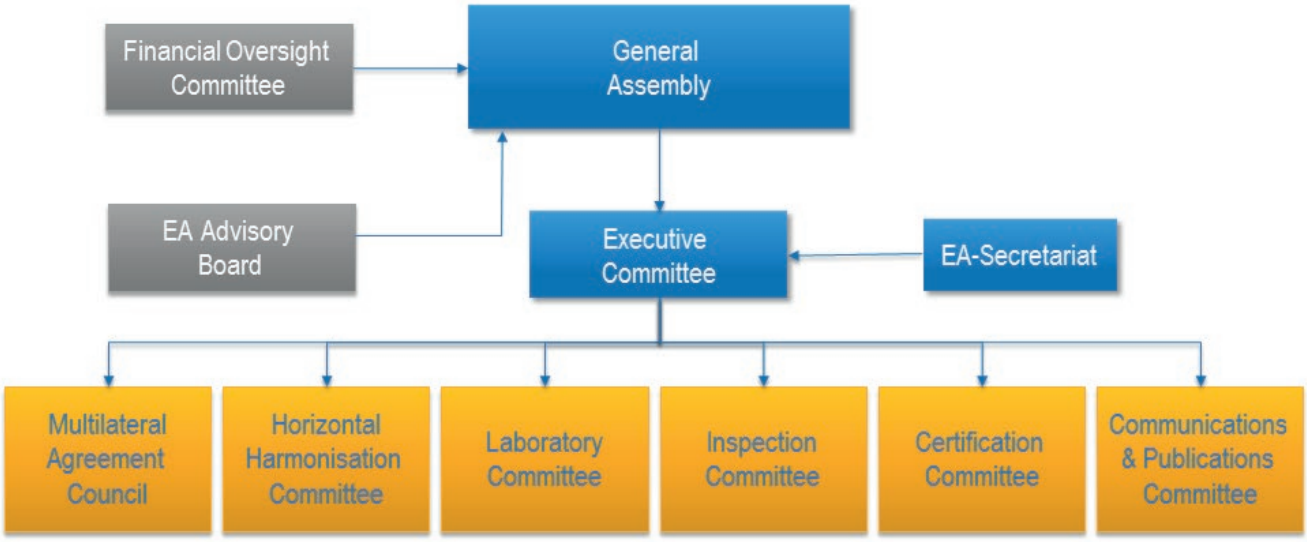
ALGERIA - Organisme algérien d'accréditation (ALGERAC)
ARMENIA - *Armenian National Accrediation Body (ARMNAB)*
AZERBAIJAN - *Azerbaijan Accreditation Centre (AZAC)*
BELARUS - *Belarusian State Centre for Accreditation (BSCA)*
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA - Institute for Accreditation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BATA)
EGYPT - *Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC)*
GEORGIA - Unified National Body on Accreditation - Accreditation Centre (GAC)
ISRAËL - Israel Laboratory Accreditation Authority (ISRAC)
JORDAN - *Jordan Accreditation & Standardization Systems – Accreditation Unit (JAS-AU)*
KOSOVO UNDER THE UNSC RESOLUTION 1244/1999 - *Accreditation Directorate of Kosovo (DAK)*
MOROCCO - *Moroccan Accreditation Service (SEMAC)*
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA - National Center of Accreditation of the Republic of Moldova (MOLDAC, former CAECP)
TUNISIA - Tunisian Accreditation Council (TUNAC)
UKRAINE - National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine (NAAU)

Members in italic are not EA MLA&BLA signatories

EA Structure

An organization designed to ensure sustainable competence and confidence

To ensure the best possible governance, EA structure comprises a General Assembly, an Executive Committee, an Advisory Board, a Secretariat and six committees. The organization is operated and managed in accordance with the principles and decisions taken by the General Assembly.



The **General Assembly**, the association's highest decision-making body, supervises its management and takes decisions on strategy and general policies. It also elects EA's Chairman and Vice-Chairman as well as the Chairs of EA committees and any additional members of the Executive Committee.

The **Executive Committee** is responsible for implementing EA policies and managing the association between General Assembly meetings.

The **EA Advisory Board (EAAB)** gives continuous support to the association's work and advises EA on a broad range of issues. The Board's composition constitutes a well-balanced representation of the parties which rely on and contribute to the European accreditation system, with representatives from:

- the conformity assessment community;
- industry, services and trade;
- EU Member States' national authorities;
- consumer associations;
- metrological institutions;
- the European Commission, EFTA and European standardization organizations.

In particular, the EAAB seeks assurance from EA that accreditation is applied in such a way that it ensures openness and transparency in conformity assessment activities in general and those carried out under EU legislation in particular.

It also monitors EA developments to promote an accreditation process leading to quality and competence-driven competition between accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies and coherence with international accreditation practice.

The **EA Secretariat** handles EA's daily operations. It is continuing development as an internal services provider, in order to take the lead in managing operational issues, including coordination of EA's technical work and support of committee Chairs in running committees, as well as managing the peer-evaluation system and program.

The EA Secretariat team (from left to right: Sandy Adonel, Martine Blum, Andreas Steinhorst, Lydie Mauger, Yannick Nol, Audrey Malacain - Missing from the picture: Frédérique Laudinet and Samantha Haddar)

EA Structure

EA has 6 **Committees/Council.** Four technical committees discuss technical issues related to the accreditation of certification, inspection bodies and laboratories, with the view to establish best practice and fostering harmonization: **Certification Committee, Inspection Committee, Laboratory Committee and Horizontal Harmonization Committee**. The **Multilateral Agreement Council** manages the peer-evaluation process and decides on MLA signatories. The **Communications and Publications Committee** is involved in the activities related to EA internal and external communications.

EA also has a **Financial Oversight Committee (FOC)**, chaired in 2017 by Paul Stennett (UKAS, United Kingdom); the FOC is responsible for monitoring use of EA's finances during each financial year. It reports to the General Assembly annually.

Certification Committee (CC)

Discussing all technical issues related to management systems, products, services and personnel.

Kevin Belson (UKAS, United Kingdom) as Chairman and Varpu Rantanen (FINAS, Finland) as Vice-Chairman
2 meetings in 2017: 15-16 March (Antalya, Turkey / 44 participants) and 12-13 September (Riga, Latvia / 61 participants)

The CC has established the following groups: CC Management Group, WG Environment, WG Food, Network Group EU ETS (Emissions Trading System).

EA CC meeting in March 2017 in Antalya (Turkey)

Laboratory Committee (LC)

Discussing all technical issues related to laboratory testing, calibration, medical analyses, proficiency testing provision and reference material production.

Laurent Vinson (COFRAC, France) as Chairman and Trevor Thompson (UKAS, United Kingdom) as Vice-Chairman
2 meetings in 2017: 8-9 March (Paris, France – 62 participants) and 25-27 September (Berlin, Germany – 58 participants)

EA LC meeting in September 2017 in Berlin (Germany)

The LC has established the following groups: LC Management Group (LC MG), WG Health Care, WG ILC Testing, WG ILC Calibration, Technical Networks (TNs) for Food and Feed; for Electrical, mechanical (testing) and Construction, Consumer Goods and Toys; Calibration; Environment; Forensics, PTP / RMP.

Inspection Committee (IC)

Discussing all technical issues related to inspection, validation and verification.

Rolf Straub (SAS, Switzerland) as Chairman and Tomas Holm (SWEDAC, Sweden) as Vice-Chairman
2 meetings in 2017: 14 March (Antalya, Turkey / 40 participants) and 14-15 September (Riga, Latvia / 57 participants)

The IC has established the following groups: Technical Network (TN) Car Inspection; Review Group (to prepare consolidated answers of member's questions to IC).

EA IC meeting in September 2017 in Riga (Latvia)

EA Structure

Horizontal Harmonization Committee (HHC)

Dealing with horizontal technical issues regarding application of general accreditation requirements to different types of Conformity Assessment Bodies (ISO/IEC 17011 etc), assessment of Notified Bodies and Conformity Assessment Schemes.

EA HHC meeting in September 2017 in Brussels (Belgium)

Ignacio Pina (ENAC, Spain) as Chairman and Karine Vincent (COFRAC, France) as Vice-Chair
New Chairman for 2018-2019: Gabriel Zrenner (DAkkS, Germany)
2 meetings in 2017: 28-29 March (Brussels, Belgium – 54 participants) and 19-20 September (Brussels, Belgium – 44 participants)

Multilateral Agreement Council (MAC)

Managing the peer-evaluation process and deciding on MLA signatories. The MAC is also responsible for Evaluator training and monitoring.

EA MAC meeting in October 2017 in Bucharest (Romania)

Paulo Tavares (IPAC, Portugal) as Chairman and Daniela Ionescu (RENAR, Romania) as Vice-Chair
2 meetings in 2017: 26-27 April (Sofia, Bulgaria – 69 participants) and 4-5 October (Bucharest, Romania – 57 participants)

Communications and Publications Committee (CPC)

involving itself in the development of any matter related to internal and external communication activities, including publication of EA documents and monitoring of EA IT facilities, in accordance with the Communication Plan resulting from the EA strategy.

EA CPC meeting in September 2017 in Dublin (Ireland)

Peter Kronvall (SWEDAC, Sweden) as Chairman and Thomas Sjølie (NA, Norway) as Vice-Chairman
New Chair and Vice-Chairman for 2018-2019: Lucyna Olborska (PCA, Poland) and Francesca Nizzero (ACCREDIA, Italy)
2 meetings in 2017: 8-9 March (Prague, Czech Republic / 24 participants) and 13-14 September (Dublin, Ireland / 25 participants)

II.
EA 2017 highlights

Farewell

Thomas Facklam, ex-Chairman of EA

The 40th EA General Assembly (GA) meeting held on 22-23 November 2017 in Berlin, Germany, was the last one chaired by Thomas Facklam, whose chairmanship of EA came to a close at the end of 2017. He has been serving various positions in the EA Executive Committee for 17 years: first, he was the Vice-Chairman of EA from 2000 to 2005, then the Chair of the EA Multilateral Agreement Council (MAC) from 2010 to 2013, and finally the Chairman of EA from 2014 to 2017.

What are the major highlights for you and EA during your last mandate as EA Chair?

What a year for EA to publish its first annual activity report! 2017 has certainly been a busy year for our organization, with numerous actions successfully carried out, including implementation of the CETA Conformity Assessment Protocol, strengthening of our peer-evaluation system, discussions on revision of the standard EN ISO/IEC 17011 and launch of Proficiency Testing Providers in the EA MLA with 15 new signatories. We also started the negotiations about the third Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission for the 2018-2021 period, which illustrates European regulators' confidence in the work done by EA, and I'm delighted that the end of my mandate as EA Chair is marked with these successes. I'd like to thank all the members of EA and the EA Secretariat for the work they have done, as it is their collaboration and professionalism that have resulted in the accomplishment of so many actions.

In the short term, EA has to continue the transformation of EA Secretariat to reinforce its position as internal service provider. One of the levers of success will be maintenance of strong and regular relations between EA and its members in order to preserve their motivation and involvement in the technical committees and peer-evaluation system.

The requirements of the future Framework Partnership Agreement signed with the EC and EFTA will enhance the work already done by EA by carrying on the best peer evaluation, making sure that scheme owners and regulators have confidence in EA and its multilateral agreement of mutual acceptance, and demonstrating that the peer-evaluation system covers all the schemes that need to be covered. In addition, developments in modern technologies will certainly have an impact on accreditation.

I'd like to thank all the members of EA and the EA Secretariat for the work they have done

What is your vision for the accreditation activity and EA in the coming years?

Accreditation has seen a change of scale over the past few years. If our activity's initial challenge was to explain our processes at national level, now that we have gained international recognition, we need to ensure an overall harmonized approach in our procedures and maintain relations of trust with all regulators by having a "one-voice message" as explained in our EA Strategy 2025.

Given the current position and need for accreditation, it's essential for EA not to rest on its laurels and to adapt its organization to changing demand to ensure confidence on the part of all stakeholders and accreditation and effective support to its members. We need to keep the need to convince people in mind: discussing, showing and demonstrating will be fundamental actions for accreditation and EA.

A last word to conclude your mandate?

I am very proud to have been involved in the EA organization, first as Vice Chairman, from 2000 to 2005, then as MAC Chairman from 2010 to 2013 and finally as EA Chairman from 2014 to 2017. During all these years, I have had the honor to meet very professional and friendly people from all over the world.

I wish all the best to EA and its members for the coming years!

Main results of EA Committees/Council

Below we outline the main achievements of the EA Committees/Council in 2017. Comprehensive details of their activities throughout the year are given in the following pages.

Certification Committee

- EACC FAQs answered as from the EACC meeting held in September 2016 are now published on a dedicated EA webpage.
- CC members discussed harmonization of management system certification scoping and a Task Force Group was set up to draft a paper to be endorsed by the CC and then put forward to the IAF Technical Committee.
- CC set up 2 training courses on ISO/TS 22003: 2013 - *Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems* and on Requirements for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport.

Inspection Committee

- Javier Barroso (ENAC, Spain) has been appointed as new convener of the EAIC TN Car Inspection, whose main current task is to develop closer cooperation with the International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee (CITA).
- IC contributed to the EC evaluation of the EU Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) pilot program by providing information to the European Commission to help further development of the General Verification protocol (GVP).
- IC discussed the strong need for early and close cooperation both with National Regulators and the European Commission in order to meet their needs.

Laboratory Committee

- LC prepared for the new EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017: it set up breakout sessions which helped identify NABs' concerns, to be further addressed in the training course planned for January 2018 .
- LC elected a new management group for 2018-2019 and decided to split one technical network into two new TNs, one for Mechanical, Electrical and Construction Products and the other for Consumer Goods and Toys, in order to ensure better technical coverage of issues.
- Hans D. Jensen (DANAK, Denmark) has been appointed as the new EA LC representative in EEE-PT working group.

Main results of EA Committees/Council

Multilateral Agreement Council

- Launch of the EA MLA for PTP (EN ISO/IEC 17043 *Conformity assessment - General requirements for proficiency testing*) with 15 signatories in 2017.
- Development of the EA MLA for inclusion of accreditation of Reference Material Producers (RMPs).
- Creation of 9 Task Force Groups to further develop the re-engineering project on the EA peer-evaluation process.
- 18 peer evaluations managed by the MAC Secretariat.

Horizontal Harmonization Committee

- HHC held a workshop on EA's policy and procedure for dealing with Conformity Assessment Schemes. Discussions helped identify an issue concerning responsibilities when a scheme is modified, clarify the respective roles of HHC and the IC, CC and LC in dealing with schemes, improve operations in the management of schemes and documentation for practical use by EA members.
- On recommendation by HHC, ERA Technical Requirements for CABs seeking notification was endorsed as a level-4 document under the EA MLA by decision of the General Assembly in November. It marked the end of fruitful EA/ERA cooperation on designing a scheme supported by accreditation.
- HHC decided to revise two major documents governing use of accreditation symbols and cross border accreditation, and set up 2 TFGs to carry out the work, which should be completed in late 2018.

Communications and Publications Committee

- Reinforcement of EA digital communications: 400 tweets, 10 e-newsletters and 54 news items published on the EA website.
- Publication of new promotional materials: 3 new documents (EA 2025 Strategy, EA MLA report 2016 and CETA Agreement and Conformity Assessment) and 4 booklets updated.
- Contribution to implementation of the EA Strategy 2025 and the "One Voice" concept.

Maintaining good governance in order to deliver consistent and sustainable results

Strengthening EA's strategic leadership and management.

EA's has developed and expanded from an association serving its members to an institution providing mutual recognition, facilitating and supporting development of accreditation at European level. Given this position and the growing need for accreditation, it seemed essential that EA and its members consider how EA should develop and adapt to changing demand, in order to ensure confidence on the part of all stakeholders and users of accreditation, and effective support to its members.

Key words: EA Strategy 2025, Core values, «One Voice concept», vision, mission, objectives

A new Strategy 2025 to support EA by setting its vision and objectives

A project team, led by Peter Strömbäck (ex-CEO of SWEDAC, Sweden), was constituted to build a long-term strategy that can be summarized as follows:

« To be a reference for accreditation across the world, enabling a global open market for competitive business, and providing reassurance to consumers in a sustainable society. »

EA has to ensure confidence in accredited conformity assessment results through harmonized operation of accreditation, in support of European and global economies.

In order to reach the desired position in 2025, EA has defined three objectives that express its strategy:

1. Good governance to deliver consistent and sustainable results.
2. Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at the European and international levels.
3. Continue to develop accreditation to support innovation and growth in existing and new areas.

An implementation plan was endorsed by the EA General Assembly (GA) in May 2017 with a mandate given to the Executive Committee to monitor the project. Seven TFGs were established.

TFG 1	Define a new leadership structure
TFG 2	Analyse and propose a new structure for decision making in EA
TFG 3	Analyse the EA decision-making process and propose a system to enforce and monitor EA decisions
TFG 4	Analyse and propose the best location for the EA secretariat to achieve the desired position as defined in the EA Strategy 2025
TFG 5	Develop a structured approach to exchange experience in accreditation on top management level to include general/strategic management, development of policies, development of new areas and schemes as well as training of new assessors and ongoing training of assessors
TFG 6	Analyse and propose new stakeholder policy including relevant procedures for cooperation with stakeholders
TFG 7	Develop processes for EA activities on the international arena and prepare a plan consisted of measures supporting the merger of IAF/ILAC

Maintaining good governance in order to deliver consistent and sustainable results

We are harmonized

- By being transparent in our rules and actions
- By being coordinated in word and deed
- By being accessible both internally and externally
- By having and promoting a common understanding of NABs promise to the market and society

We are responsible

- By involving and listening to regulators, industry and other stakeholders
- By being loyal and dedicated and work for the public interest
- By being proactive
- By maintaining our integrity

We provide confidence

- By establishing consistent deliverables
- By being open, impartial and independent
- By being non-discriminating
- By practicing what we preach
- By being democratic

We are competent

- By being efficient and professional
- By using our resources
- By exercising leadership
- By supporting development and innovation
- By continuously improving

4 cores values and 18 commitments to support EA Strategy 2025

EA core values are developed out of EA's mission and vision, highlighting the expected behavior and skills on which all EA's work is based. Its core values support implementation of the strategy enabling membership organization to speak with a single voice and reach the desired position by 2025.

During the November EA General Assembly, a presentation to EA Members and Recognized Stakeholders was made by Peter Strombäck, followed by a collective workshop designed to stimulate Members' commitment to the Strategy. How best to implement EA core values in daily work will be discussed by EA Committees throughout 2018.

Adapting to political changes

Another major issue in 2017 was the decision made by the General Assembly to revise the EA Articles of Association (AoA). The revision was triggered by the decision of the UK to exit the EU and the clear wish expressed by UKAS to continue as an active member of EA. In that context., EA agreed to consider changes to the membership criteria to ensure that NABs throughout the European region could be a member of EA. The details of the new provisions to be introduced in the Articles will be discussed in 2018.

TO SUMMARIZE

Publication of EA Strategy 2025 to outline EA's mission, vision and objectives.

Endorsement by the EA General Assembly of an implementation plan with the mandate given to the Executive Committee to monitor the project.

Revision of EA Articles of Association.

Maintaining good governance in order to deliver consistent and sustainable results

Improving the peer-evaluation system

The main objective of the peer-evaluation activities is to evaluate the on-going compliance of National Accreditation Bodies' compliance with internationally agreed requirements, as well as to ensure that regulators, stakeholders and the business community can have confidence in the certificates and reports issued by accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies under the EA Multilateral Agreement (EA MLA). This contributes to freedom of trade by eliminating technical barriers.

Key words: EA MLA, Multilateral Agreement Council, peer evaluation, re-engineering project, PTP, RMP, Laboratory Committee, inter-laboratory comparisons results, transitional arrangements

2017 peer evaluation program – Pressure on resources did not prevent fulfilment of expectations

At the end of 2017, the 41 EA Members signatories of the EA MLA, including 7 through a Bilateral Agreement (BLA), had delivered **35 156 accreditations** distributed as follow:

Type of accreditation	2017
Calibration	3 142
Testing	18 804
Medical examinations	3 616
Products certification	1 845
Management Systems certification	1 365
Certification of persons	573
Inspection	5 425
Proficiency Testing Providers (PTP)	193
Reference Materials Producers (RMP)	48
GHG Validation & Verification	145
TOTAL	**35 156**

Despite pressure on peer-evaluation resources, 18 EA NABs were peer-evaluated in 2017, in compliance with the requirements.

For details about activities related to the peer-evaluation system, including the performed peer evaluations, see the MLA report 2017 on EA website.

MLA scopes	Full members	Associate members
Calibration	33	7
Testing	34	7
Medical examinations *(recorded since 2015)*	31	2
Products certification	31	3
Management Systems certification	30	3
Certification of persons	28	2
Inspection	33	7
GHG Validation & Verification	24	0
Proficiency Testing Providers (PTP)	15	0

Numbers of EA Full and Associate Member signatories to the EA MLA

Maintaining good governance in order to deliver consistent and sustainable results

Resourcing the peer-evaluation program and developing the EA MLA

In 2017, the MAC Secretariat assigned around **120 team members** to carry out those peer evaluations, meaning that evaluators spent around **1016 man-days**.

In parallel, EA worked to extend the scope of the EA MLA to ensure an answer, meeting market needs. As a result, EA launched its MLA for Proficiency Testing Providers in April 2017. By decision of the MAC, ACCREDIA (Italy), CAI (Czech Republic), COFRAC (France), DANAK (Denmark), ENAC (Spain), ESYD (Greece), FINAS (Finland), NA (Norway), PCA (Poland), RvA (the Netherlands), TURKAK (Turkey) and UKAS (UK) became the first 12 signatories of the EA MLA for PTP accreditation, followed by BELAC (Belgium), RENAR (Romania) and SWEDAC (Sweden) in October 2017.

Moreover, in May 2017, the EA General Assembly approved expansion of the scope of the EA MLA for Reference Materials Producers and decided to launch the EA MLA for RMP during the MAC meeting in April 2019, provided that at least three members were successfully peer-evaluated by that date.

At the same time, it was agreed that EA should apply to ILAC for extension of the EA MRA signatory status to "Reference Material Producers – EN ISO 17034". In addition, application for IAF management systems sub-scopes was restarted. Full re-evaluation of EA by ILAC/IAF is set to be planned in 2018.

Re-engineering of the peer-evaluation system

A long-term project got underway for re-engineering the peer evaluation system in order to accommodate regulatory fields' specific needs and further reassure sector-based stakeholders and regulators that Accreditation Bodies' technical competence is thoroughly assessed.

The project involves EA members and stakeholders and is based on 3 major objectives:

1. Rethinking the peer-evaluation model and methods, for example by implementing a new sampling approach for relevant coverage of the NAB range of activities;

2. Rethinking the decision-making process in order to improve transparency, smoothness and consistency of decisions;

3. Streamlining the reporting process to ensure harmonization and consistency for better decision-making.

A workgroup session was held during the MAC meeting in October 2017 and 10 Task Force Groups (TFGs) were appointed. TFG conveners will present their proposals for review by the MAC Management Group (MG) in April 2018, based on specific actions. The MAC MG will then prepare an implementation plan to be endorsed by the MAC in October 2018.

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TFGs of the MAC to manage the re-engineering project of the peer-evaluation

A new policy for use of inter-laboratories comparisons results

In 2016, acting upon the MAC's recommendation, the General Assembly endorsed a revised policy stating that results of international highlighted Interlaboratory Comparisons (ILCs) would no longer be used to appraise the MLA's proper functioning. The EA position was also based on similar discussions and positions taken in other regional cooperations and ILAC.

The new policy led the Laboratory Committee to reconsider the future of its two Working Groups (WGs) on ILC in Calibration and Testing. EA discussions showed mixed views and a low level of support by the EA NABs to continue any activity. Finally, in September 2017, the LC decided to disband the 2 WGs. The WG ILC Calibration will need time to formally close its working plan. A final physical meeting of the WG will probably be necessary to be planned in spring 2018. WG ILC Testing activities were terminated with immediate effect.

Resulting from the change in the policy, the EA General Assembly decided in May 2017 to withdraw EA-2/14 *Procedure for Regional Calibration ILCs in support of the EA MLA* and INF/12 *Benefits and Importance of the Participation in EA highlighted PT schemes*.

Maintaining good governance in order to deliver consistent and sustainable results

Transitional arrangements – The MAC established a new process to improve efficiency of monitoring

Further to a finding identified during the IAF/ILAC peer evaluation of EA, a new process was introduced to improve management of transitions at EA level. The process involves the MAC conducting 2 surveys, one 6 months before the deadline for transitions and another one month after the deadline in order to assess how well NABs have managed transitions. In addition, EA Technical Committees will have an anticipation and information role in the process by disseminating the relevant information in their committees at the relevant time.

Transitions are a permanent agenda item at EA Committee/ Council meetings.
At MAC level, measures implemented will enable closing a finding by the IAF/ILAC peer evaluation team in 2016.
More generally, they also help improve provision of continuous information to EA Members and their accredited CABs, supplying them with tools to be more proactive and efficient in management of transitions.
At technical level, actions undertaken led to identification of concerns pinpointed by the NAB at national level. Discussions could then take place to anticipate and boost harmonization in the implementation phase, in order to ensure provision of information, facilitate discussions and set up training sessions as necessary.

In 2017, 7 revised standards were key topics for discussion:

1. EN ISO/IEC 17011:2017 (Accreditation bodies)
2. EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (Testing and calibration laboratories)
3. EN ISO 50001:2011 (Energy management systems)
4. EN ISO 14064-1:2006 and 14064-2:2006 (GHG Emissions)
5. EN ISO 22000:2005 (Food Safety Management Systems)
6. EN ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 (Audit and certification of management systems)
7. ISO 9001:2015 (Quality management systems) and EN ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental management system)

The new EN ISO 9001 promotes increased leadership involvement in the management system, introduces risk-based thinking and aligns quality management system policy and objectives with the organization's strategy.
The changes in EN ISO 14001 focus on such key issues as protecting the environment and improving environmental performance, lifecycle thinking and organizations' environmental leadership.
With regard to EN ISO 9001 and EN ISO 14001, EA's main concern was clients' slow appropriation of the new standards. To respond to the situation, a joint ISO/IAF Communiqué was published on 15 September 2017 for Certification Bodies, to mark one year to the transition deadline, with EA support. IAF noted in the communiqué that failure to achieve certification to the 2015 standard by the deadline means that such certification is no longer valid, which might affect the ability to supply markets.

New schemes approved and covered by the MLA

In 2017, the EA General Assembly endorsed:

- mandatory application of ISO/IEC 20000-6: 2017 Information technology -- Service management -- Part 6: Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of service management systems.
- mandatory application of the ERA Technical Document (MNB – Assessment scheme 000MRA1044 ver.1.1) Requirements for CABs seeking Notification.

For further details, read *EA-1/06 EA Multilateral Agreement Criteria for signing. Policy and procedures for development*.

TO SUMMARIZE

18 EA NABs peer-evaluated.

Launch of EA MLA for accreditation of Proficiency Testing Providers and extension of its scope to Reference Materials Producers.

Re-engineering project continues with 53 representatives from 46 NABs involved with a view to adapt the EA MLA to new market needs.

Maintaining good governance in order to deliver consistent and sustainable results

Being proactive when accreditation standards are revised to ensure harmonized operation of accreditation activities

EA has been appointed by the European Commission to harmonize and make accreditation consistent as a public authority activity in support of European trade and industry. Actions managed by EA Committees at operational and technical levels alike contribute to provision of common answers to global needs. EA also organized workshops for EA Members in order to promote development and transfer of knowledge to improve accreditation and conformity assessment activities in Europe.

Key words: EN ISO/IEC 17011:2017, EN ISO/IEC 17025, EN ISO/IEC 17020, EN ISO/IEC 17024, ISO 45001, Conformity Assessment Scheme, FAQ, Horizontal Harmonization Committee, Laboratory Committee, Certification Committee, Inspection Committee, trainings

Harmonizing implementation of EN ISO/IEC 17011:2017 Conformity assessment - Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies

One of 2017's major events in the accreditation community was the revision of EN ISO/IEC 17011:2017, approved and issued on November 29, 2017. The standard has a significant impact on EA activity as it specifies requirements for the competence, consistent operation and impartiality of accreditation bodies assessing and accrediting conformity assessment bodies.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are:

- Alignment with the CASCO common structure for standards and incorporation of CASCO Common Elements in clauses on impartiality, confidentiality, complaints and appeals and management systems;
- Recognition of proficiency testing as an conformity assessment activity;
- Addition of new definitions for "accreditation scheme", "flexible scope of accreditation", "remote assessment" and "assessment programme";
- Introduction of the concept of risk and risk-based assessments;
- Incorporation of competence criteria in the document, including an informative annex on knowledge and skills for functions in the accreditation process;
- A principles section is no longer included in the new version.

The EA Horizontal Harmonization Committee (HHC) was closely involved with the ISO CASCO working group for revision of the standard. In particular, it was important for EA to maintain the relevant provisions on definition of Accreditation Bodies and its authority being derived from the government.

In September 2017, in order to support harmonized implementation of the revised standard, HHC decided to hold a workshop, planned for March 2018, to investigate new potential and opportunities provided with regard, for example, to new assessment tools, and develop a common harmonized approach to NABs' application of the new version of the standard.

Proactive discussions and major involvement of EA in the revision of significant standards to enhance harmonization

- **Standards with requirements for Conformity Assessment Bodies**

EN ISO/IEC 17025 ***General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories***
ISO/IEC 17025:2017 specifies the general requirements for the competence, impartiality and consistent operation of laboratories. It is applicable to all organizations performing laboratory activities, regardless of the number of personnel.

In March 2017, the Laboratory Committee set up a Task Force Group responsible for carrying out an impact analysis of the implementation of the new EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard. The TFG had to consider transitional measures and the impact of the new requirements on EA publications relating to laboratory accreditation. It resulted in organization of a workshop in September, designed to raise LC members' awareness on the new requirements and provide an opportunity to discuss key topics arising based on examples. The workshop's outcome was crucial to identifying fundamental points (risk-based approach, decision rule, management system, subcontracting etc.) to be addressed in a train-the-trainer course planned for January 2018.

EN ISO/IEC 17024: *Conformity assessment -- General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*

EN ISO/IEC 17024 contains principles and requirements for a body certifying persons against specific requirements and includes development and maintenance of a certification scheme for persons.

There was some discussion in the Certification Committee (CC) during the meeting held in Antalya in March 2017, on the need for guidance for certain aspects of EN ISO/IEC 17024. The Committee decided to monitor the application of this standard until gaining more experience with the latest version. The discussion was furthered at the Certification Committee September 2017 meeting specifically with regard to the validity of certificates. There was also harmonization work taking place at IAF which will be addressed in the CC in March 2018.

EN ISO/IEC 17020: *Conformity assessment -- Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection*

EN ISO/IEC 17020 specifies requirements for the competence of bodies performing inspection and for the impartiality and consistency of their inspection activities.

In September 2016, the Inspection Committee held a workshop on the standard and ILAC-P15:07/2016 *Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the accreditation of inspection bodies*; its outcome was analyzed and discussed at the March 2017 Committee meeting. Six workshop groups were constituted. Priority themes addressed related to subcontracting and franchising, multisite inspection bodies and collaboration with regulators in order to organize work to meet regulators' needs. The answers provided by the six working groups were added to IC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as a compilation of all points discussed in 2017 regarding the revision.

- **Sector specific standards**

ISO 45001 Occupational health and safety management systems

ISO 45001 is an international standard (published in January 2018) that specifies requirements for an occupational health and safety (OH&S) management system, with guidance for its use, to enable an organization to proactively improve its OH&S performance as regards prevention of injury and ill-health.

The Certification Committee played a key role in the accreditation aspects of the standard, both at EA and IAF levels, including by contributing to development of key guidance documents and to setup of a train-the-trainer workshop in March 2018.

Harmonization of evaluation of Conformity Assessment Scheme (EA-1/22) - Four new schemes

EA-1/22 sets out the procedure and criteria to be used for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members.

The objective is to have a common approach to schemes operating in different EA member countries.

In 2017, 4 sector schemes were successfully evaluated by the so-called Home (National) Accreditation Body (hAB):

FSSC 22000 Food Safety System Certification (version 4.1), owned by Foundation FSSC 22000

Accreditation standards concerned: ISO/IEC 17021-1 & ISO/TS 22003

Evaluated by RvA (the Netherlands) - Positive evaluation confirmed within EA in July 2017

FEMB Conformity Assessment Scheme, owned by bso Verband Büro-, Sitz- und Objektmöbel e.V. as representative of FEMB, European Office Furniture Federation, Buckinghamshire, UK

Accreditation standards concerned: ISO/IEC 17065

Evaluated by DAkkS - Positive evaluation confirmed within EA in August 2017

Certification program for expanded polystyrene (EPS) insulation material for thermal insulation composite systems, owned by Forschungsinstitut für Wärmeschutz

Accreditation standards concerned: ISO/IEC 17065

Evaluated by DAkkS - Positive evaluation confirmed within EA in November 2017

Conformity Assessment PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Point) owned by NavCert

Accreditation standards concerned: ISO/IEC 17065 & ISO/IEC 17025

Evaluated by DAkkS - Positive evaluation confirmed within EA in December 2017

Maintaining good governance in order to deliver consistent and sustainable results

Evaluation process under scrutiny in EA and outside

With a view to share experience and coming up with harmonized positions on application of EA-1/22 P*rocedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members*, a workshop was organized by the HHC in March 2017 to discuss several of the document's and process' major concepts:

- Assessment of a conformity assessment scheme at national level by the so-called Home Accreditation Body (hAB) and market acceptance requirements. One conclusion reached was that "market acceptability" should be addressed in the future revision of the document.

- How to deal with changes in a scheme was also discussed, and several principles were agreed on by HHC. They will be introduced in the next revision of EA-1/22. Another of the workshop's conclusions was that the scheme owner should contract the hAB if it wants to modify requirements. This is valid for requirements regarding the NAB, which should preferably be introduced into the scheme itself (to be reflected in the next revision of EA-1/22).

- Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes at EA level.

Validation of a scheme was also an issue of the process under review in the HHC. RvA (the Netherlands) led the discussions and a discussion paper was circulated for comments.

At its September meeting, based on feedback received from scheme owners, the HHC decided to clarify the allocation of responsibilities between the HHC and the EA technical committees with regards to the relations with and management of Conformity Assessment Schemes. Basically, it was reconfirmed that HHC retains responsibility for issues concerning implementation of EA-1/22 by EA Accreditation Body Members and the technical committees should be involved in technical issues concerning for example application of standards in a specific scheme. HHC also confirmed that scheme owners should have only one contact to EA through the so-called hAB. This was supported by a Resolution of the General Assembly in November 2017.

Evaluation vs Validation for Conformity Assessment Schemes

At the EA level, evaluation of a scheme is the general process aiming to confirm suitability of the standard to be used by EA NABs to accredit CABs for the purpose of the scheme and fulfillment of EA applicable requirements. The EA-1/22 process aims to ensure a harmonized approach by the EA members when accrediting CABs for the purpose of the scheme.

According to the EA procedure for evaluation of schemes, a scheme must be validated. As part of the evaluation process, the scheme owner must be required to demonstrate that the scheme is validated. The validation will be based on the description of the purpose and requirements of the scheme, an analysis of the appropriateness of the scheme requirements, a description of the methods used to determine fulfilment of the requirements and analysis of their appropriateness, a description of the decision on the conformity assessment activity to be used and an analysis of the appropriateness of the selected conformity assessment activity.

For more information, please refer to EA-1/22 *EA Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members*.

Knowledge management: EA sets FAQ to foster sharing of best practice

Updating Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQs) is an important task on the part of EA Committees and their Secretariats, as a wide range of questions are raised and discussed during meetings. They provide opportunities for open discussions between members on their daily practices.

Due to increasing numbers of questions submitted, managing FAQs required development of specific processes. In the CC, an Review Panel, with half a dozen members including a convener, was appointed to give each question a preliminary answer to be approved by all EACC Members at the next meeting. Only the most difficult or still open questions are discussed by the panel before a consensus is reached. FAQs are then reviewed and their wording fine-tuned before publication. In 2017, CC FAQs started to be published on a dedicated EA webpage, (www.european-accreditation.org/faq) and are now regularly complemented with the FAQs discussed at the latest meetings.

LC and HHC started to develop FAQs based on the model implemented by CC.

Maintaining good governance in order to deliver consistent and sustainable results

Developing training activities to support reliable assessments and reinforce peer-evaluation resources

In order to support the necessary development of EA activities, including reinforcement of the EA pool of evaluators, and evolution of standards and regulations, EA continued to develop its training activities with a view to enhancing harmonization and developing common understanding of requirements. In 2017, 6 training courses and workshops were organized by EA and its members, with a total of 136 participants.

Training seminar on Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV)

Date & place: 2-3 February 2017 – Hamburg (Germany)
Hosted by DAkkS and organized by the Certification Committee
Number of participants: 31 participants from 21 NABs
Objectives:

- Covering the background for EC Regulations on EU MRV shipping
- Presenting issues specific to verification activities and accreditation of verifiers pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2015/757
- Sharing experience on accreditation issues, based on Delegated Regulation 2016/2072
- Discussing issues arising from work by the European Sustainable Shipping Forum (ESSF) subgroup on verification and accreditation

Trainers: Peter Hissnauer (DAkkS), Niels-Christian Dalstrup (DANAK)
Experts: Marco Loprieno (EU Unit B.3 DG Climate Action), Torsten Mundt (DNV-GL) and Dr. Jochen Gross (DAkkS)

Harmonization training on Accreditation of RMPs against EN ISO 17034

Date & place: 30-31 May 2017 – Milan (Italy)
Hosted by ACCREDIA and organized by the Laboratory Committee
Number of participants: 23 participants from 21 NABs
Objectives:

- Supporting expansion of the EA MLA to include EN ISO 17034 and considering differences with ISO Guide 34
- Discussing the experience of NABs active in this area and sharing experiences in order to develop a common understanding of the key elements associated with assessing a RM Producer

Trainers: Jeff Ruddle (UKAS) and Henk Deckers (RvA)

Verbatim from the workshop on Accreditation of RMP against ISO 17034:2016

«The 2-days workshop was very successful involving participants from 18 different EA Accreditation Bodies. The level of engagement from the participants was very high and it was encouraging to see a high level of agreement on the approach that should be taken for the accreditation of Reference Material Producers to EN ISO 17034:2016. The workshop should also enable EA to progress with implementing peer evaluations to support an MLA for EN ISO 17034:2016 accreditation which will provide international recognition for Reference Material Producers accredited by EA Member Bodies » commented trainers Jeff Ruddle and Henk Deckers.

« Key activities such as subcontracting, production planning, metrological traceability, homogeneity and stability have been covered and some related issues will be raised at the next meeting of the EA Laboratory Committee », Giulia Suriani, participant and EA LC member for ACCREDIA (Italy).

Maintaining good governance in order to deliver consistent and sustainable results

Peer-evaluator newcomers training

Date & place: 13-15 June 2017 – Utrecht (The Netherlands)
Hosted by RvA and organized by the Multilateral Agreement Council
Number of participants: 23 participants from 21 NABs
Objectives:

- Supporting further development of the EA pool of evaluators through:
- Discussion on how an EA evaluator should evaluate effective implementation of requirements
- Looking for evidence and identifying specific risks and causes of non-compliance

Trainers: Christina Waddington (FINAS), Paulo Tavares (IPAC) and Ed Wieles (RvA)

Harmonization training on ISO/TS 22003

Date & place: 15 June 2017 – Milan (Italy)
Hosted by ACCREDIA and organized by the Certification Committee (WG Food)
Number of participants: 21 participants from 17 NABs
Objectives:

- Discussing case studies and related non-conformity texts
- Highlighting the need for a common point of view to feed into the work of the future ISO Working Group on upcoming revision of ISO/TS 22003

Trainers: Wolfram Hartmann, Chair of EA CC WG Food (DAkkS) and Harry Wellen (RvA)

Peer-evaluator refresher trainings on EN ISO/IEC 17011 (2 sessions)

Date & place: 6-7 / 14-15 December 2017 – Utrecht (the Netherlands)
Hosted by RvA and organized by the Multilateral Agreement Council
Number of participants: 39 participants from 24 NABs
Objective:

- Updating EA Evaluators on the specifics of the new EN ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and the impact on peer evaluations

Trainers: Rob Bettinson (UKAS), Paulo Tavares (IPAC) and Ed Wieles (RvA)

TO SUMMARIZE

Enhancement of the position of European accreditation by a harmonized implementation of the new version of EN ISO/IEC 17011 and involvement of EA members in 4 major standards revisions.

Continuous efforts to guarantee harmonized evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes.

Transparency reinforced with publication of CC FAQ.

Harmonization and training workshops organized to improve sharing of experience and best practice between EA Members, support them in the transition to new standards and reinforce EA peer-evaluation resources.

Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at European and international level

Cooperation with the European Authorities: successful achievements to be used as models for future projects

EA's appointment to manage the European accreditation infrastructure follows the adoption of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 by the European Parliament and the European Council on 9 July 2008 which established a legal framework for accreditation in the EU member states. This Regulation makes EA's relations with the European Commission even closer with specific cooperation projects that are developed with an increasing number of Directorates Generals (DG).

Key words: : Framework Partnership Agreement, European Commission, Directorates Generals, Goods Package, CETA, A2LA , EGNOS, ERA, EU Regulation on Data Protection, Cybersecurity Act, CITA

Negotiations on the Framework Partnership Agreement 2018-2021

The formal relationship between EA and the European Commission / EFTA is set out in a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for a 4-year period. The FPA aims to define the respective roles and responsibilities of the European Commission/EFTA and EA in implementing their partnership. It also establishes the modalities of specific grant agreements signed under the framework agreement for action and operating grants.

With conclusion of the FPA 2014-2017 set for July 2018, it will be necessary to negotiate the next FPA for the new period 2018-2021. An EA Action Plan 2018-2021 has been developed, based on the experience gained by EA under previous FPAs and outlining the key objectives EA will be focusing on during the next four-year period, for the development of the European Accreditation System as well as to support the European market and competitiveness. Conclusions reached in the Commission's report on implementation of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 and the EA Strategy 2025 were taken into consideration in preparation of the action plan

The new FPA 2018 – 2021 will be signed in 2018.

A report that highlights EA's role in implementation of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008

On 19 December 2017, the European Commission tabled two legislative proposals, part of the "'Goods package" to make easier for companies, especially SMEs, to sell their products across Europe, and strengthen controls by national authorities and customs officers to prevent unsafe products from being sold to European consumers. The two initiatives were designed to improve two aspects of free flow of goods in the EU mutual recognition and control on products.

Mutual recognition ensures market access for products that are not subject to EU harmonization. It guarantees that any product lawfully sold in one EU country can be sold in another. This is possible even if the product does not fully comply with the technical rules of the other country.
The principle of mutual recognition stems from Regulation (EC) No 764/2008. It defines the rights and obligations for public authorities and enterprises that wish to market their products in another EU country. The Regulation also defines how a country can deny mutual recognition of a product.
The revision of Regulation (EC) 764/2008 is intended to make mutual recognition faster, simpler and clearer in practice.

The second proposal to revise Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 is aimed to strengthen compliance and enforcement of EU product rules by national authorities based on closer cooperation amongst market surveillance authorities in particular. The objective was to give authorities additional tools to ensure safety of products entering the EU market. Accreditation will not be affected by the revision of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008.

The European Commission published in 2017 a report on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008, that highlights the role played by EA in harmonizing and reinforcing accreditation in Europe. The report confirmed that the European accreditation infrastructure created by the Regulation provided added value, not only for the Single Market but also for international trade. Accreditation, through actions managed by EA, had wide support from European industry and the Conformity Assessment community insofar as they ensured that products met the applicable requirements, removing barriers for Conformity Assessment Bodies and helping entrepreneurial activities to flourish in Europe.

Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at European and international level

Collaboration with several Directorates Generals (DGs) and European Agencies

Increased responsibility and trust placed in accreditation gives EA and its members a special responsibility to maintain a productive dialogue with the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association to ensure that their expectations are met.

DGs EA has been working with in 2017	Issues and areas where EA contributed to EC activities
Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)	• Attendance of the IMP (Expert Group on the Internal Market for Products) meeting November 2017 to present inter alia the « *Accreditation for Notification project results* » and implementation of the CETA Protocol on Conformity Assessment and the related cooperation with SCC (Standard Council of Canada) • Participation in a proposal for a Regulation on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles • Regulatory framework for operation of drones • Involvement in EGNOS Enable certification scheme
Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA)	• Regulation (EU) 2015/757 on the monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport (MRV) and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/2072 on the verification activities and accreditation of verifiers pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2015/757 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport. • Commission Regulation (EU) No 600/2012 on the verification of greenhouse gas emission reports and tonne-kilometer reports and the accreditation of verifiers pursuant to Directive 2003/87/EC
Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)	• Drafting of guidelines for accreditation in the field of pesticides residues analyses in food and feed

DGs EA has been working with in 2017	Issues and areas where EA contributed to EC activities
Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)	• ESCO (European Skills/Competence, qualifications and Occupations) project, carried out by PwC on behalf of DG Employment. Being involved in the project gave EA the opportunity to highlight the benefits of accreditation to guarantee competence and confidence in accredited bodies performing conformity assessment services such as certifications of persons (welders, IT expert, auditors, data protection officers etc) benefits: * Being visible to all European Member States (and end-users), as happens today for public national qualifications. This could generate new job opportunities for certified people * Being included in European analyses and guidance on professional and educational cursus * Being easily recognized across Europe, mostly in relation to the occupations the certifications are associated with * Having an official classification of the skills and competences that are referring to a given certification scheme * Having an official directory of all certification schemes of persons accredited in Europe
Directorate-General for the Environment (DG Environment)	• EU Environmental Technology Verification (EU ETV) and the related General Verification Protocol (GVP). EA attended the ETV Steering Group meeting on 10 May 2017. Furthermore, close cooperation regarding the GVP and the new standard ISO 14034 Environmental management-- Environmental technology verification (ETV)

Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at European and international level

CETA Agreement and Conformity Assessment: Accreditation, a tool to enhance trade between the European Union and Canada

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is designed to strengthen economic relations and develop business between the European Union and Canada. It includes a chapter on technical barriers to trade that encourages cooperation in technical regulations and standards in order to avoid unnecessary obstacles to international trade, by positioning conformity assessment as a prerequisite to business on European and Canadian markets.

CETA includes a Protocol on the Mutual Acceptance of the Results of Conformity Assessment (the CA Protocol). This Protocol establishes mutual recognition of European and Canadian Accreditation Bodies and Conformity Assessment Bodies with the aim of accepting the results of each other's conformity assessment certificates in such areas as electrical goods, electronic and radio equipments, toys, machinery and measuring equipments. This means that a Conformity Assessment Body in the EU can test EU products for export to Canada in accordance with Canadian rules and vice versa.

To fulfill this mission, a Bilateral Cooperation Agreement (BCA) between the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) and the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) was signed to establish the terms, conditions and procedures of cooperation between EA and SCC for technical support of activities aimed at mutual recognition of National Accreditation Bodies and accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies operating in the EU and Canada.

In 2017, EA and SCC carried out two pilot assessments in Canada and Europe, both of which were observed by EA and SCC experts. The main aim was to look at the processes and procedures for the assessment of CABs. The results were positive and demonstrated that SCC and EA NABs assessments are equally reliable.

Furthermore, as part of the pilot programme, a Technical Expert Group (TEG) was set up to analyze requirements for assessment in the field of ATEX[1] / HAZLOC[2]. Its analysis demonstrated that the requirements as regard CABs are comparable, especially the process and procedures for assessment of CABs, even though some differences were noted concerning the expression of accreditation scopes. Requirements for assessment of CABs were compiled and provided to NABs to be used in the training of assessors and in the assessments.

Assessments for recognition of NABs and CABs under CETA will start in 2018.

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/ceta

1- ATEX: Directive 2014/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres

2- HAZLOC: in Canada, the installation of equipment intended for use in hazardous locations (haz loc) is covered in Part I of the Canadian Electrical Code (CEC).

Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at European and international level

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between EA and A2LA

On 15 August 2017, EA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with A2LA, the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation, regarding the final rule 40 CFR Part 770 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products and the related EPA TSCA Title VI Third-Party Certification Program to ensure that composite wood panel producers comply with the statutory formaldehyde emission limits.

Participating in the Program requires Third-party certifiers (TPCs) to apply to EPA for approval and receive its recognition before certifying products under the final rule. Requirements for TPCs to receive EPA recognition include being accredited by EPA-recognized accreditation bodies to specific voluntary consensus standards and to the regulatory requirements in the final rule.

Accreditation Bodies interested in participating in the Program and not located in the United States must designate an Agent for service in the United States in their application to US EPA in order to conclude a recognition agreement with the Agency to become an "EPA TSCA Title VI AB".

With this Memorandum of Understanding, A2LA has agreed to be the "Agent" for EA National Accreditation Bodies.

For more information: www.a2la.org

Successful collaboration between EA and European Union Agency For Railways

Three different activities were managed in 2017 bearing on the railway sector within the framework of the EA/ERA cooperation (European Union Agency for Railways):

- **Directive (EU) 2016/797 on the interoperability of the rail system (IOD) and Regulation (EU) 2016/796 on the European Union Agency for Railways**: EA collaborated with ERA in the drafting on the Technical Document on Requirements for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) seeking notification. The main objective was to develop a detailed set of requirements, technical requirements in particular, that Notified Bodies need to improve and harmonize the general level of performance of EU Notified Bodies under Directive 2008/57/EC and increase trust in the work performed by notified bodies. The assessment scheme developed was divided into two parts: the first containing general references and information on legal requirements for Notified Bodies, the NAB assessment teams, accreditation information etc., and the second providing sectorial requirements to apply when accrediting CABs for the purpose of notification under the IOD. The task was successfully completed in 2017 and the Technical Document was published by ERA in autumn 2017.
- **Implementing Regulation (EU) No 402/2013 on the common safety method for risk evaluation and assessment**: Accreditation is the preferred route for demonstrating assessment bodies' competence. But pursuant to Regulation 402/2013 Article 7 the assessment of bodies can be performed either by National Accreditation Bodies or by National Recognition Bodies. The vast majority of member states decided to take the route of accreditation. But for the member States that decided on the second route, ERA, in compliance with Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 402/2013, will organize peer evaluations between recognition bodies based on the same principles as those set out in Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008. EA supported ERA in this regard and also provided documents and input for the ERA procedure to be applied in peer evaluation of recognition bodies. But EA's aim is to have assessment bodies assessed by National Accreditation Bodies only.
- **Regulation (EU) 445/2011 on a system of certification of entities in charge of maintenance for freight wagons**: EA supported ERA regarding the implementation of Regulation (EU) 445/2011 Article 10 and related provisions for providing information on accredited bodies.

For more information: http://www.era.europa.eu

EGNOS Enable certification scheme in compliance with EN ISO/IEC 17065

The European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) is the first pan-European satellite navigation system. It augments the US GPS satellite navigation system and makes it suitable for safety critical applications such as flying aircraft or navigating ships through narrow channels. It allows users in Europe and beyond to determine their positions to within 1.5 meters.

The initiative for the EGNOS Enable certification scheme came from the European Commission whose intention was to disseminate and encourage the use of EGNOS. EA set up a Task Force Group, composed of experts from ENAC (Spain) and COFRAC (France), with the aim of evaluating the EGNOS Enable certification scheme, on request by DG GROW.

The final result was delivered in December 2017 confirming that the scheme is in compliance with EN ISO/IEC 17065 and EA-1/22 *EA Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes*.

For more information about EGNOS:
http://egnos-portal.gsa.europa.eu/

Involvement in implementation of the EU Regulation on Data Protection and the Cybersecurity Act

To ensure responsive reactions to new market developments and responses to public policy demands, EA contributed to the implementation of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by promoting the use of accreditation by National Accreditation Bodies. The GDPR, which comes into force in May 2018, introduces certification as a means for a data controller or a data processor to demonstrate compliance with data protection requirements.
Discussions took place in 2017 in EA and with the European Commission regarding the GDPR. According this Regulation, National Data Protection Agencies may act as Accreditation Bodies, which is in contradiction with Regulation (EC) No 765/2008.
EA prepared information materials on the GDPR for its members, for use in their discussions with their national authorities. This included preparation of a joint meeting between the Internal Market for Products (IMP) and Article 29 Working Party focusing on GDPR provisions for accreditation and certification, to be held in January 2018.

EA supported the European Commission regarding the proposed new regulation concerning ENISA, the EU Agency for Network and Information Security, the «EU Cybersecurity Agency», on Information and Communication Technology cybersecurity certification (''Cybersecurity Act''). This regulation covers the (voluntary) certification of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) products and services and the related accreditation of the Conformity Assessment Bodies.

In December 2017, EA attended the « Cloud stakeholder » meeting, hosted by DG CONNECT. One issue was the certification scheme for cloud computing service providers, which shall comply with the GDPR and the Cybersecurity Act. From EA's perspective certification bodies in the field of cloud computing should be accredited.

EA and its members will continue in 2018 to provide information about accreditation and the European Accreditation Infrastructure to support the preparation of the EU Cybersecurity Certification Framework.

Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at European and international level

Focus on the change in the regulation on type approval for motor vehicles

After a policy agreement at EU level was reached in December 2017 bearing on a major overhaul of the EU type-approval framework for motor vehicles, EA NABs were strongly recommended to promote the concept of accreditation and convince national regulators of the benefits of accreditation. Accreditation of Technical Services in accordance with Regulation (EC) 765/2008 was eventually recognized as an alternative to the assessments performed by Type Approval Authorities.

For more information: www.ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/automotive

Focus on the enhanced collaboration with the CITA to strengthen car inspection

The International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee (CITA) intensified its cooperation with EA in the field of car inspection with a view to developing specific guidelines based on branch-specific interpretations of requirements in EN ISO/IEC 17020 *Conformity assessment - Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection*.

A first meeting between the EA Inspection Committee and CITA representatives took place on 27 September 2017 in Stockholm. CITA presented the problems encountered when members were not fully in compliance with the requirements of the EN ISO/IEC 17020 international standard, which generates some local differences in how NABs set about assessing requirements. The EA representative provided clarification on the documents used by EA members, especially on EA-5/02 *EA Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020 in Periodic Inspection of the Roadworthiness of Motor Vehicles and their Trailers*, a guide for inspection bodies performing Periodic Technical Inspections (PTIs) on how to meet EN ISO/IEC 17020 requirement in the most appropriate way.

For more information about CITA: www.citainsp.org

Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at European and international level

TO SUMMARIZE

Successful outcome of joint projects between EA and the European Commission generated confidence in future projects and paved the way for continued cooperation.

The CETA Protocol on Conformity Assessment is a crucial milestone in the development of trade agreements and free movement of goods and services and illustrates how accreditation facilitates regulatory compliance and international trade. Implementation of the CETA Protocol is facilitated through the bilateral agreement between EA and SCC.

In a number of fields, including data protection, cybersecurity or vehicles, EA was involved to present accreditation as a harmonized, transparent and sustainable approach to demonstrate competence of Conformity Assessment Bodies.

Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at European and international level

Strengthened relationships with stakeholders to maintain confidence in accredited results

EC Regulation 765/2008 emphasizes the important role played by stakeholders in accreditation and provides a legal basis for their involvement in national accreditation bodies and the European accreditation infrastructure alike.

Key words: Recognized Stakeholders, EA-1/15 EA Policy for Relations with Stakeholders

Ongoing improvement of communication and cooperation with Recognized Stakeholders

In addition to its key role in facilitating trade and business in Europe, EA has a special role to play in support of Regulations on assessment of CABs with regard to safeguard of public protection, such as product safety and environmental integrity.

In 2017, EA cooperated actively with around 40 Recognized Stakeholders, (*list available in the chapter "Practical information")* representing Regulators, Industry, Consumers, Conformity Assessment Bodies, Standardization Bodies and Metrology in particular.

Four new organizations signed the EA Recognized Stakeholder Agreement in accordance with EA-1/15: *EA Policy for Relations with Stakeholders:*

- E3S - European Sensory Science Society
- FSSC 22000 Food Safety System Certification
- GLOBALG.A.P.
- UILI - Union Internationale des Laboratories Independants

Recognized Stakeholders are invited to participate as observers in the meetings of the EA General Assembly. Recognized Stakeholders are also invited to take part in and actively contribute to the work of EA Technical Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces.

GLOBALG.A.P. is a certification scheme owner whose mission is to promote safe and sustainable agriculture worldwide for farm certification.
It relies upon the use of accreditation and/or accredited conformity assessment services and only works with those CABs that are accredited (currently EN ISO/IEC 17065) by an Accreditation Body that is a signatory of the IAF MLA for product certification. It represents 180 000 certified producers, working with 145 CABs and with 30 ABs.
www.globalgap.org

E3S is a non-profit organization including partners (national sensory societies) from 13 European countries – whose mission is to facilitate the growth of Sensory Science, promote co-operation, shared goals, integration of activities and knowledge, and information exchange amongst national sensory science organizations in Europe, establish, maintain and enhance the professional status of sensory scientists and develop and disseminate research, innovation and education in sensory science.
www.e3sensory.eu

FSSC 22000 is an ISO-based food safety and quality management system certification scheme, whose mission is to provide a trusted, brand assurance platform to the consumer goods industry and meet the requirements of regulators, food business clients and consumers.
http://www.fssc22000.com

UILI (Union Internationale des Laboratoires Indépendants) is the worldwide organisation for independent testing and calibration laboratories and for independent consultancy organizations. Its mission is to represent the interests of laboratories worldwide.

www.uili.org

Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at European and international level

In order to strengthen cooperation with stakeholders in the food sector, a meeting was held in Brussels on 29 September 2017 to review the requirements for so-called Conformity Assessments Schemes and the process for their evaluation in accordance with EA-1/22 *EA Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members*.

Meeting held in Brussels in September 2017 to review the requirements for so-called Conformity Assessment Schemes and the process for their evaluation

The following organisations were represented:

- BRC Global (British Retail Consortium)
- FAMI QS (Feed Additives and Pre-mixtures Quality System)
- FSSC 22000 Food Safety System Certification
- GLOBALG.A.P.
- GMP+ international (Good Manufacturing Practice code for animal feed safety assurance)
- IFS (International Featured Standards)

The outcome of the meeting will be further discussed in EA in 2018.

Close cooperation with stakeholders - Facts and figures

EA maintains continuous relations with its stakeholders and Recognized Stakeholders participate regularly to EA meetings and work. In 2017, specific results could be achieved jointly with the following stakeholders:

CEN-CENELEC / ETSI
Attendance at meetings
March 2017: CEN/CENELEC TC 1 meeting, dealing with criteria for conformity assessment bodies. Focus on the adoption of the new international standards EN ISO/IEC 17011 and EN ISO/IEC 17025 as European standards.

April 2017: CEN/CENELEC StandarDays 2017 to give a presentation on accreditation and conformity assessment as a pillar of the European Quality Infrastructure.

EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization)
Presentations on flexible scopes
June 2017: 3 LC NAB Members and the Convener of the LC TN Food & Feed attended the EPPO workshop held in the Netherlands. Ioannis Sitaras presented the concept of flexible scopes : how it works, the EA policy (EA-2/15 *EA Requirements for the Accreditation of Flexible Scopes*), and NAB examples to illustrate how flexible scopes are accredited

September 2017: presentation by Madeleine McMullen (EPPO) to LC. EPPO is keen to support accreditation in their field and maintain close relations with us and the EA Members at national level.

EDQM (European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare)
Attendance at meetings
Participation of an EDQM representative in LC committees

LC endorsement in March 2017 of the final draft of EA-INF/15 *Joint EA-EDQM Communication regarding Cooperation when carrying out (joint) audits/assessments in Official Medicines Control Laboratories*.

EURAMET (European Association of National Metrology Institutes)
Attendance at meetings
EA/EURAMET meeting on 21 September 2017, attended by LC Chairman and Vice Chairman: successful meeting with progress notably on the possibility for NABs to use NMI assessment resources that pave the way for a long-term confidence-building process.

The LC Vice Chair also attended the meetings of the EURAMET Technical Committee on Quality Assurance (TCQA).

IIOC (Independent International Organisation for Certification)
Attendance at meetings
In addition to continuous and close relations with the CPC through regular participation in EA CPC meetings, the EA Chairman was invited to attend the IIOC annual meeting in Munich in June 2017.

US NEI (Nuclear Energy Institute)
Participation in EA peer evaluation
The evaluation of the NAB ATS (Serbia) was observed by two representatives from US NEI (Nuclear Energy Institute) as observers in September 2017.
Result: the US NEI representatives reasserted their confidence in the EA MLA and ILAC MRA.

Relations in EA-EUROLAB-EURACHEM Proficiency Testing Working Group

The EEE-PT working group was set up some time ago as a joint activity by EA, EUROLAB and EURACHEM (EEE) to provide support on the use of proficiency testing (PT) to laboratory personnel and accreditation assessors. In 2017, the LC appointed Hans. D. Jensen from DANAK as the new EA representative in the Joint Working Group.

The LC mandated the EEE-PT WG to oversee a survey on the implementation of EA-4/18 *Guidance on the level and frequency of proficiency testing participation* in order to evaluate use of the document prior to a decision on whether any revision was needed. Survey results were in favor of revising the document. However, as the issue was also under discussion at ILAC level, through review of ILAC P9 *ILAC Policy for Participation in PT activities*, it was decided not to start any work until ILAC discussions on ILAC P9 were concluded.

Discussions also continued on the new draft Guidelines for assessment of inter-laboratory comparisons with few participants in the accreditation process. EA members were invited to comment on the proposed draft and comments were reviewed by the EEE-PT WG at its November 2017 meeting.

LC agreed that EA-4/14 *Selection and use of reference materials* should be reviewed in cooperation with EURACHEM through a joint EA/EURACHEM working group with a representative of ACCREDIA (Italy) for the LC.

TO SUMMARIZE

40+ EA Recognized Stakeholders, including 4 new stakeholders in 2017.

Various EA collaboration with European and international stakeholders to ensure the transparency and confidence expected on the conformity assessment infrastructure and conformity assessment results.

Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at European and international level

EA and its global engagement

In the global arena, EA is a recognized region of ILAC and IAF and a signatory to their respective mutual arrangements.

Key words: IAF, ILAC, evaluation for PTP and GHG, IAF MLA sub-scopes

IAF/ILAC evaluation for PTP and GHG

EA is a recognized regional cooperation body of ILAC and IAF. This means that the EA MLA is recognized by both organizations and covered by their respective arrangements. EA MLA signatories are automatically accepted as signatories to ILAC and IAF arrangements, provided they are a member of IAF/ILAC. Formal recognition of a regional cooperation body under the IAF/ILAC MLA/MRA is based on an evaluation of the regional cooperation body's competence to operate a MLA/MRA (Multilateral Recognition Agreement). The evaluation is performed by an IAF/ILAC team composed of independent peer evaluators from other IAF/ILAC Regional Cooperation Bodies and Accreditation Bodies.

In 2017 EA was peer-evaluated by ILAC/IAF for extension of its MLA/MRA signatory status to accreditation of GHG Validation and Verification Bodies and Proficiency Testing Providers. In addition to on-site and witnessing activities, IAF/ILAC evaluators were in Paris for evaluation of the EA Secretariat. EA responded to the non-critical findings raised by the evaluation team. The complete evaluation report is under review by ILAC and IAF. A decision on the scope extension for GHG and PTP will be made by IAF and ILAC in spring 2018.

Application for IAF MLA sub-scopes

Further to a change in IAF procedures, EA had to renew its application for extension of its signatory status to the IAF MLA for the following management system sub-scopes:

- Information security management systems (ISMS),
- Food safety management systems (FSMS),
- Medical devices - Quality management systems (MDMS),
- Energy Management Systems (EnMS).

The application is under review by IAF and a decision is expected by spring 2018.

IAF (International Accreditation Forum) is the world association of Conformity Assessment Accreditation Bodies and other bodies involved in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, services, personnel and other similar conformity assessment programs.

Its primary purpose is to ensure that its accreditation body members only accredit bodies that are competent to do the work they undertake and are not subject to conflicts of interest. Its second purpose is to establish mutual recognition arrangements, known as Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLAs), between its accreditation body members which reduces risk to businesses and their customers by ensuring that an accredited certificate may be relied upon anywhere in the world.

ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) is the international organization for accreditation bodies operating in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17011 and involved in the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies including calibration laboratories, testing laboratories, medical testing laboratories and inspection bodies.
The primary purpose of ILAC is to establish an international arrangement between member accreditation bodies based on peer evaluation and mutual acceptance through the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA). The ILAC MRA increases acceptance of products across national borders. By removing the need for additional calibration, testing, medical testing and/or inspection of imports and exports, technical barriers to trade are reduced. In this way the ILAC MRA promotes international trade and the free-trade goal of "accredited once, accepted everywhere" can be achieved.

Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at European and international level

Continued involvement of EA members at the international level to prepare common positions on global issues

The challenge for EA concerns its ability to prepare common positions and views on international issues and, by speaking with one voice, influence work done internationally

Key words: IAF/ILAC documents and resolutions, IAF/ILAC committees

Adoption of IAF and ILAC documents and resolutions

The EA policy is to adopt IAF and ILAC documents and resolutions automatically and transfer them as adopted documents and resolutions in the EA management system and documents as appropriate. Such automatic adoption would only not be possible in the event of a conflict with the European legislation. A specific process would then be activated in EA, provided for in EA-1/14 *Procedure for development and approval of EA documents and Adoption of ILAC/IAF documents*.

EA adopted the following ILAC/IAF mandatory documents as EA mandatory documents:

- IAF MD 2:2017 *IAF Mandatory Document for the Transfer of Accredited Certification of Management Systems*, Issue 2 as mandatory document for all EA members,
- IAF MD 8:2017 *Application of ISO/IEC 17011:2004 in the Field of Medical Device Quality Management Systems (ISO 13485)*, Issue 3 as mandatory document for all EA members,
- IAF MD 9:2017 *Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 in the Field of Medical Device Quality Management Systems (ISO 13485)*, Issue 3 as mandatory document for all EA members,
- IAF/ILAC A1:03/2017 I*AF/ILAC MRAs: Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group* as applicable to EA,
- IAF/ILAC A2:03/2017 IAF/ILAC MRAs: *Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body* as applicable to EA,
- ILAC-P4:06/2017 *ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Policy and Management* as applicable to EA and its members being ILAC MRA signatories,
- ILAC-P5:06/2017 *ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Scope and Obligations* as applicable to EA and its members being ILAC MRA signatories.

Contribution to the ILAC/IAF peer-evaluation system

In 2017, EA contributed to the ILAC/IAF peer evaluation system by providing:

- 1 Regional Team Leader for the evaluation of the Regional Cooperation Body APLAC (Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation),
- 1 Regional Team Leader for the evaluation of the Regional Cooperation Body IAAC (Inter American Accreditation Cooperation),
- 1 Regional Deputy Team Leader for the evaluation of the Regional Cooperation Body ARAC (Arab Accreditation Cooperation),
- 1 Regional Team Member for the evaluation of the Regional Cooperation Body AFRAC (African Accreditation Cooperation),
- 1 Regional Team Leader for the IAF/ILAC evaluations of EGAC (Egyptian NAB).

Active liaison with ILAC/IAF committees

EA Committees reinforced their liaison process with their IAF and ILAC mirror committees. Committees members are specifically appointed to maintain close relations and report regurlarly.

Examples of involvement of the EA Certification Committee

EACC members provided significant input into IAF *Guidance on the application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS)*, with the IAF document being based on the existing guidance EA-3/13 *EA Document on the Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for the Certification of Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems*.

They were also involved in the IAF project on redefinition of the process for transitions of standards.

Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at European and international level

Examples of involvement of the EA Laboratory Committee

EALC followed up on the discussions held in ILAC bearing on revision of ILAC G18 *Guidelines for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Laboratories*. Further to the publication of EN ISO/IEC 17025, ILAC started on an impact analysis of the consequences of the publication of the new standard on related ILAC documents. ILAC G8 *Guidelines on the Reporting of Compliance with Specification* and ILAC P14 *Policy for Uncertainty in Calibration* will be revised.
The Chair of the ILAC Accreditation Issues Committee (AIC) used to be a member of the EA LC where he reported regularly on AIC developments.

In addition, as part of this liaison program with our colleagues in international organizations, EA provided two special regional reports in 2017, containing detailed information on its activities. This is part of a new reporting process established in 2017. Reports were improved to present the information required more concisely; the new format was applied to EA reports issued in June and December 2017.
EA members are well represented in ILAC/IAF management:

- ILAC Chair: Merih Malmqvist Nilsson (SWEDAC, Sweden)
- ILAC Vice Chair: Etty Feller (ISRAC, Israel)
- ILAC AIC Chair: Erik Oehlenschlaeger (DANAK, Denmark)
- ILAC MCC Chair: Jon Murthy (UKAS, UK)
- ILAC IC Chair: Arne Lund (SWEDAC, Sweden)
- ILAC FAC (Financial Audit Committee): Paul Stennett (UKAS, UK)
- IAF Vice Chair: Emanuele Riva (ACCREDIA, Italy)
- IAF MLAC Chair: Norman Brunner (AA, Austria)
- IAF CMC Chair: Jon Murthy (UKAS, UK)
- IAF ABIEG (Accreditation Body Information Exchange Group) Co-Chair: Peter Kronvall (SWEDAC, Sweden)
- ILAC/IAF A-series (Joint ILAC/IAF documents) Co-Chair: Thomas Facklam (DAkkS, Germany)

Marcus Long (IIOC – Recognized Stakeholder in EA) was also elected to the IAF Board as Director Representing CAB Association Members and as Conformity Assessment Body Advisory Committee (CABAC) Chair. Marcus has been a member of the EA CPC for several years.

EA and its members are working actively in both organizations in order to ensure that development of the international accreditation system is as closely aligned as possible with the accreditation policy adopted and implemented in Europe. To support EA members and appointed liaison persons, EA Committees are the best places to prepare and discuss IAF/ILAC issues.

EA maintains also close relationships with its sister organizations in the other regions of the world.

On 17 June, 2017 the APLAC's (Asian Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and PAC's (Pacific Accreditation Cooperation) Communications Committees co-hosted a joint workshop on "*Decoding how accreditation can be a global tool to support public policy*". With 31 participants from 20 countries, the workshop aimed to provide opportunities to examine case studies taken from the Public Sector Assurance webpage (www.publicsectorassurance.org) and decode how accreditation could be a global tool to support public policy, by selecting case studies reflecting specific situations in various economies.Two EA Communication and Publications Committee (CPC) members were invited to make presentations, one on how accreditation gives credibility to classification of hotels in France (Sebastien Laborde, Communication and Promotion Director at COFRAC) and another on how accredited food assurance schemes guarantee defined standards of food safety (Jon Murthy, Marketing Manager at UKAS).
3 EA participants also attended the APLAC Workshop on EN ISO/IEC 17043 for Proficiency Testing Providers. A report was presented by Sergio Guzzi (ACCREDIA) to the LC and the training material shared with the LC members.
Similarly, Pavel Nosek (CAI, Czech Republic), attended the APLAC workshop on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in November 2017 and reported to LC in March 2018. Furthermore, delegates from APLAC, ARAC and IAAC attended EA training on EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in Paris in January 2018.

TO SUMMARIZE

Successful IAF/ILAC evaluation of EA for PTP and GHG.

Intensified collaboration between EA, ILAC, IAF and other recognized Regional Cooperation bodies to support a global and harmonized approach to accreditation.

Development of EA Communications

Add value to EA position by preparing communications for the promotion of accreditation

The EA-communication function has developed over the years resulting in creation of a dedicated position of Communications & Marketing Manager in 2017. The objective is to raise EA image yet further in the eyes of all customers and stakeholders and enhance recognition of accreditation and conformity assessment at European and international level.

Key words: EA Strategy 2025, corporate identity, website, Twitter, CPC, CIM 2017

Support the EA Strategy 2025

2017 was a pivotal year for EA with the strengthening of its communication strategy, managed jointly by the new Communications & Marketing Manager and the Communications & Publications Committee to support the implementation of EA Strategy 2025.

A Communication & Marketing plan was deployed, based on three objectives:

- Getting a "One Voice" communication strategy up and running, based on the EA 2025 Strategy (mission, vision, core values), to improve the actions managed by EA and its members,
- Highlighting EA's position in its various collaborations at European and international level,
- Publishing communications promoting EA's and EA NAB members' actions in the field of accreditation.

In addition, four more brochures were updated:

- *Accreditation: a briefing for governments and regulators* (short presentation of accreditation and EA addressed to governments and regulators)
- *Accreditation in Europe, facilitating regulatory compliance and international trade* (detailed presentation of accreditation and its benefits addressed to general public)
- *The MLA, facilitating cross border trade of safe and reliable goods and services* (presentation of EA MLA, addressed to government, regulators and European Commission)
- *Accreditation: a briefing for European Commission Officials* (presentation of EA addressed to European Commission)

Get a "one voice" communication strategy to enhance the actions managed by EA and its members

A first project bore on designing communications to be used at European and national levels for promotion of accreditation and the EA MLA to increase confidence, recognition and acceptance by Regulators and the marketplace of reports and certificates issued by Conformity Assessment Bodies accredited by National Accreditation Bodies.

In this respect, three new reports were published:

- EA 2025 Strategy (presentation of EA long-term strategy for the period 2017-2025)
- EA MLA report 2016 (annual report on peer-evaluation activities)
- CETA Agreement and Conformity Assessment (presentation of EA / Standards Council of Canada (SCC) collaboration on Protocol to the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement on the Mutual Acceptance of the Results of Conformity)

Implementing EA's corporate identity contributed to raising its profile as a European organization responsible for coordination of the European accreditation system. These documents are also available for the EA members to help them promote accreditation at national level.

Development of EA Communications

A second project aimed to intensify EA's online communications. It resulted in 54 news being published on the EA website and 10 e-newsletters distributed highlighting EA and its members' activity.
Twitter also proved to be an effective online tool. Launched in 2016, EA's account saw a considerable increase in activity during 2017 with approximately 400 tweets posted over the year and a community of more than 900 followers.

A third project aimed at taking a more active part in international events. As every year, EA and its members celebrated World Accreditation Day by promoting what EA Members do with regard to accreditation in construction and the built environment in Europe. We used Twitter to disseminate information on the WAD with a total of 32 tweets, 27 retweets and 127 "likes". An e-newsletter was also disseminated presenting the key issues of WAD 2017 and a video made by ENAC (Spain) based on ILAC/IAF materials was published on the EA YouTube channel, website and Twitter account.

EA was also involved in organization of the International Congress of Metrology (CIM), held in Paris on 19-21 September 2017. As a partner of the event, EA co-organized and facilitated a round table on "*Measurement and conformity declaration: ISO/IEC 17025, what's new?*" which attracted more than 130 participants. EA LC Chair Laurent Vinson (COFRAC, France) and Vice-Chair Trevor Thompson (UKAS, UK), were key contributors to the discussions. The round table was co-facilitated by Audrey Malacain, EA Communications and Marketing Manager and Sébastien Laborde, COFRAC Communications Director.

CIM 2017 (September 2017 - Paris)

Finally, in order to represent EA and the CPC members, Audrey Malacain participated in the ILAC/IAF communication committee meeting in October 2017 in Vancouver. With these organizations, Audrey Malacain will be involved in 2 major communication projects in 2018, WAD 2018 and IAF 25th Anniversary.

TO SUMMARIZE

New position of Communications & Marketing Manager in EA since April 2017.

Strengthening of EA Communication strategy with the support of the Communications and Publications Committee to highlight the benefits of accredited conformity assessment activities.

III.
Financial results

Annual accounts

ASSETS (€ x 1 000)	2016	2017
Fixed assets	53	38
Current assets	993	919
Liquid assets	776	680
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	60	46
TOTAL	**1 882**	**1 684**

LIABILITIES (€ x 1 000)	2016	2017
Reserves	369	410
Provisions for liabilities and charges	49	45
Payables	741	498
Accrued expenses and deferred income	723	730
TOTAL	**1 882**	**1 684**

EXPENDITURE (€ x 1 000)	2016	2017
Staff costs	481	591
Office rent and maintenance	121	147
Communications and publications	74	137
Other operating costs	183	159
Compensation of EA members' activities	446	303
Reserves	47	41
TOTAL	**1 353**	**1 378**

INCOME (€ x 1 000)	2016	2017
Membership fees	686	728
Operating Grant EC/EFTA	614	614
Miscellaneous	53	36
TOTAL	**1 353**	**1 378**

IV.
Practical information

EA FULL MEMBERS

ALBANIA - Directorate of Accreditation (DPA)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Testing
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 38
Phone: +355 4 22 69 325
info@dpa.gov.al - www.dpa.gov.al

BELGIUM - Belgian Accreditation Council (BELAC)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 555
Phone: +32 2 27 75 434
belac@economie.fgov.be - www.belac.fgov.be

CROATIA - Croatian Accreditation Agency (HAA)
Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 426
Phone: + 385 1 610 6322
akreditacija@akreditacija.hr - www.akreditacija.hr

CZECH REPUBLIC - Czech Accreditation Institute (CAI)
Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 1100
Phone: +420 272 096 222
mail@cai.cz - www.cai.cz

ESTONIA - Estonian Accreditation Centre (EAK)
Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 234
Phone: + 372 6 021 801
E-mail: info@eak.ee - www.eak.ee

FRANCE - Comité français d'accréditation (COFRAC)
Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA in 2017: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 3626
Phone: +33 1 44 68 82 20
information@cofrac.fr - www.cofrac.fr

AUSTRIA - Akkreditierung Austria (AA)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 461
Phone: +43 1 71 100 805411
akkreditierung@bmwfw.gv.at - www.bmwfw.gv.at/akkreditierung

BULGARIA - Bulgarian Accreditation Service (BAS)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 609
Phone: +359 2 873 53 02
office@nab-bas.bg - www.nab-bas.bg

CYPRUS - Cyprus Organization for the Promotion of Quality (CYS-CYSAB)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 97
Phone: +357 22 409 353 / +357 22 409 310
aioannou@cys.mcit.gov.cy - www.cys.mcit.gov.cy

DENMARK - Den Danske Akkrediteringsfond (DANAK)
Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 462
Phone: +45 77 33 95 00
danak@danak.dk - www.danak.org

FINLAND - Finnish Accreditation Service (FINAS)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 225
Phone: + 358 29 5052 000
akkreditointi@finas.fi - www.finas.fi

GERMANY - Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle GmbH (DAkkS)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 4164
Phone: +49 (0) 30 67 059 10
contact@dakks.de - www.dakks.de

Presentation of EA Members

GREECE - Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD)
Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 750
Phone: + 30 210 7204 502
esyd@esyd.gr - www.esyd.gr

ICELAND - Icelandic Board for Technical Accreditation (ISAC)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: /
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: /
Phone: +354 580 9400
isac@isac.is - www.isac.is

ITALY - ACCREDIA - L'Ente Italiano di Accreditamento
Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 1941
Phone: +39 06 8440991
info@accredia.it - www.accredia.it

LITHUANIA - Lithuanian National Accreditation Bureau (LA)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 218
Phone: +370 706 65173
info@nab.lt - www.nab.lt

MALTA - National Accreditation Board (NAB-Malta)
Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA in 2017: Calibration, Testing, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 21
Phone: + 356 23952510
claudio.boffa@nabmalta.org.mt - www.nabmalta.org.mt

NORWAY - Norsk akkreditering (NA)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 248
Phone: + 47 64 84 86 00
akkreditert@akkreditert.no - www.akkreditert.no

HUNGARY - National Accreditation Authority (NAH)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 614
Phone: +36 (1) 550-1007
titkarsag@nah.gov.hu - www.nah.gov.hu

IRELAND - Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 218
Phone: +353 1 6147152
inab@inab.ie - www.inab.ie

LATVIA - Latvian National Accreditation Bureau (LATAK)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 298
Phone: + 371 67373051
administracija@latak.lv - www.latak.lv

LUXEMBOURG - Office Luxembourgeois d'Accreditation et de Surveillance (OLAS)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 52
Phone: +352 24 77 43 00
dominique.ferrand@ilnas.etat.lu - www.ilnas.public.lu

MONTENEGRO - Accreditation Body of Montenegro (ATCG)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA in 2017: /
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: /
Phone: + 382 20 246 2796
atcg@t-com - www.akreditacija.me

POLAND - Polskie Centrum Akredytacji (PCA)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 1565
Phone: +48 22 355 70 00
sekretariat@pca.gov.pl - www.pca.gov.pl

Presentation of EA Members

PORTUGAL - Instituto Português de Acreditação, I.P. (IPAC)
Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 772
Phone: +351 212 948 201
acredita@ipac.pt - www.ipac.pt

SERBIA - Accreditation Body of Serbia (ATS)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 551
Phone: + 381 11 313 03 73
office@ats.rs - www.ats.rs

SLOVENIA - Slovenska akreditacija (SA)
Status:Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification,
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 237
Phone: +386(0)15473250
info@slo-akreditacija.si - www.slo-akreditacija.si

SWEDEN - Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SWEDAC)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 1587
Phone: + 46 771 99 09 00
registratort@swedac.se - www.swedac.se

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA - The Accreditation Institute of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (IARM)
Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 167
Phone: +389 (0)2 3293 080
vesna.georgievska@iarm.gov.mk - www.iarm.gov.mk

TURKEY - Turkish Accreditation Agency (TURKAK)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 1484
Phone: + 90 312 410 8200
uim@turkak.org.tr - www.turkak.org.tr

ROMANIA - Romanian Accreditation Association (RENAR)
Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 1271
Phone: + 40 21 402 04 71
renar@renar.ro - www.renar.ro

SLOVAKIA - Slovak National Accreditation Service (SNAS)
Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 507
Phone: + 421 948 349 517
snas@snas.sk - www.snas.sk

SPAIN - Entidad Nacional de Acreditación (ENAC)
Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers **Number of**
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 1668
Phone: + 34 91 457 3289
enac@enac.es - www.enac.es

SWITZERLAND - Swiss Accreditation Service (SAS)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA : Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 770
Phone: + 41 58 463 35 11
info@sas.ch - www.sas.admin.ch

THE NETHERLANDS - Raad voor Accreditatie (RvA)
Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 752
Phone: + 31 30 239 4500
contact@rva.nl - www.rva.nl

UNITED KINGDOM - United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)
Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 2602
Phone: + 44 17 84 42 9000
info@ukas.com - www.ukas.com

EA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

ALGERIA - Organisme algérien d'accréditation (ALGERAC)
Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 43
Phone: + 213 21 77 42 65
contact@algerac.dz - www.algerac.dz

AZERBAIJAN - Azerbaijan Accreditation Centre (AZAC)
Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA: /
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: /
Phone: +99412 4499959
azac@accreditation.gov.az - www.azstand.gov.az

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA - Institute for Accreditation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BATA)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing, Product certification, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 105
Phone: +387 33 72 13 10
info@bata.gov.ba - www.bata.gov.ba

GEORGIA - Unified National Body on Accreditation - Accreditation Centre (GAC)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA in 2017: Calibration, Testing, Product certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 84
Phone: + 995 32 219 22 33
gac@gac.gov.ge - www.gac.gov.ge

JORDAN - Jordan Accreditation & Standardization Systems – Accreditation Unit (JAS-AU)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: /
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: /
Phone: +962-6-5301231
lana.marashdeh@jsmo.gov.jo - www.au.gov.jo

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA - National Accreditation Center from Republic of Moldova (MOLDAC)
Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 122
Phone: +373 22 210 316
acreditare@moldac.gov.md - www.acreditare.md

TUNISIA - Tunisian Accreditation Council (TUNAC)
Status:Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing, Management Systems Certification, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 142
Phone: + 216 71 806 916
tunac@tunac.tn - www.tunac.tn

ARMENIA - Armenian National Accrediation Body (ARMNAB)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: /
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: /
Phone: +37 410 20 33 81
armnab@armnab.am - www.armnab.am

BELARUS - Belarusian State Centre for Accreditation (BSCA)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: /
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: /
Phone: +375 17 246 92 52
bsca@bsca.by - www.bsca.by

EGYPT - Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: /
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: /
Phone: +202 2527 5224
info@egac.gov.eg - www.egac.gov.eg

ISRAËL - Israel Laboratory Accreditation Authority (ISRAC)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 202
Phone: + 972 3 970 2727
www.israc.gov.il

KOSOVO - Kosovo General Accreditation Directorate (DAK)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA in 2017: /
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: /
Phone: +381 38 512 796
ardiana.shala@rks-gov.net - www.dak-ks.org

MOROCCO - Moroccan Accreditation Service (SEMAC)
Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: /
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: /
Phone: +212 537 71 51 42
jabbar@mcinet.gov.ma - www.mcinet.gov.ma

UKRAINE - National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine (NAAU)
Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection
Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2017: 725
Phone: + 38 044 2866284
office@naau.org.ua - www.naau.org.ua

EA MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT SIGNATORIES (31 DECEMBER 2017)

	CALIBRATION LABORATORIES	TESTING and MEDICAL LABORATORIES	CERTIFICATION BODIES - PRODUCTS	CERTIFICATION BODIES - PERSONS	CERTIFICATION BODIES - MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	VALIDATION & VERIFICATION BODIES	INSPECTION BODIES	PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS
ALBANIA - **DPA**		√*						
AUSTRIA - **AA**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
BELGIUM - **BELAC**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
BULGARIA – **BAS**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
CROATIA - **HAA**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
CYPRUS – **CYS**	√	√					√	
CZECH REPUBLIC - **CAI**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
DENMARK - **DANAK**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
ESTONIA - **EAK**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
FINLAND - **FINAS**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
FRANCE – **COFRAC**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
FYROM - **IARM**	√	√	√				√	
GERMANY - **DAkkS**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
GREECE - **ESYD**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
HUNGARY – **NAH**	√	√	√	√	√	√	○	
IRELAND - **INAB**	√	√	√	√	√		√	
ITALY - **ACCREDIA**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
LATVIA - **LATAK**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
LITHUANIA - **LA**	√	○	√	√	√		√	
LUXEMBURG - **OLAS**	√	√	√		√		√	
MALTA – **NAB-MALTA**	√	√*					√	
NETHERLANDS - **RvA**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
NORWAY - **NA**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
POLAND - **PCA**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
PORTUGAL - **IPAC**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
ROMANIA - **RENAR**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
SERBIA - **ATS**	√	√	√	√	√		√	
SLOVAKIA - **SNAS**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SLOVENIA - **SA**	√	√*	√	√	√	√	√	
SPAIN - **ENAC**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
SWEDEN – **SWEDAC**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○
SWITZERLAND - **SAS**	√	√	√	√	√		√	
TURKEY – **TURKAK**	√	√	√	√	√		√	○
UNITED KINGDOM - **UKAS**	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	○

○ *Signatory in 2017*

** Signatory for testing laboratories only; not signatory for medical laboratories.*

EA BILATERAL AGREEMENT SIGNATORIES (31 DECEMBER 2017)

	CALIBRATION LABORATORIES	TESTING and MEDICAL LABORATORIES	CERTIFICATION BODIES - PRODUCTS	CERTIFICATION BODIES - PERSONS	CERTIFICATION BODIES - MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	VALIDATION & VERIFICATION BODIES	INSPECTION BODIES	PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS
ALGERIA - **ALGERAC**	◘	◘*					◘	
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA - **BATA**	√	√*					√	
GEORGIA - **GAC**	◘	◘*	◘	◘			◘	
ISRAEL - **ISRAC**	√	√					√	
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA - **MOLDAC**	◘	◘	◘		◘		◘	
UKRAINE – **NAAU**	√	√*	√	√	√		√	
TUNISIA - **TUNAC**	√	√*			√		√	

◘ *Signatory in 2017*

* *Signatory for testing laboratories only; not signatory for medical laboratories.*

EA Publications

Published in 2017

EA-0/07 *Procedure for application for EA membership and application form (EA Secretariat)*
EA-1/06 *EA Multilateral Agreement* - Criteria for Signing - Policy and procedures for development (*Horizontal Harmonisation Committee)*
EA-1/14 *Development of EA publications and adoption of ILAC/IAF documents (Communication and Publications Committee)*
EA-1/17 *EA Rules of Procedure (Executive Committee)*
EA-1/17 S4 *EA Rules of Procedure - Proxy Procedure (Executive Committee)*
EA-4/09 *Accreditation for Sensory Testing Laboratories (Laboratory Committee)*
EA-7/04 *Legal compliance as part of accredited ISO 14001 certification (Certification Committee)*

Withdrawn in 2017

EA-2/14 *Procedure for regional calibration ILCs in support of the EA MLA (Laboratory Committee)*
EA-INF/12 *Benefits and importance of the participation in highlighted PT schemes (Laboratory Committee)*
EA-3/04 *Use of proficiency testing as a tool for accreditation in testing (Laboratory Committee)*
EA-3/11 *Food Safety Management Systems* – Scope of Accreditation *(Certification Committee)*

EA Publications are available on EA website at
www.european-accreditation.org/publications

EA Executive Committee

Members of the EA Executive Committee

(Mandate starting on the 1st January 2018)

Ignacio Pina
Vice Chair -
Acting Chair

Paulo Tavares
MAC Chair

Lucyna Olborska
CPC Chair

Gabriel Zrenner
HHC Chair

Rolf Straub
IC Chair

Kevin Belson
CC Chair

Laurent Vinson
LC Chair

Emanuele Riva
Additional member

Maria Papatzikou
Additional member

Jiří Růžička
Additional member

Ed Wieles
Additional member

EA Executive Committee is responsible for implementing EA policies and managing the association

EA Secretariat:
a team of 8 persons dedicated to EA members

Dr Andreas Steinhorst
EA Executive Secretary
Tel: +33 (0)1 40 21 24 61
andreas.steinhorst@european-accreditation.org

Sandy Adonel
General Administration
Administration of Peer Evaluators
Tel: +33 (0)1 40 21 24 64
sandy.adonel@european-accreditation.org

Martine Blum
Head of Administration
Tel: + 33 (0)1 40 21 24 62
martine.blum@european-accreditation.org

Frédérique Laudinet
Secretary of Certification Committee, Inspection Committee and EA Advisory Board
Relations with EA Recognised Stakeholders
EA Reporting - Assistant to the Executive Secretary
Tel: +33 (0)1 40 21 24 65
frederique.laudinet@european- accreditation.org

EA Secretariat:
a team of 8 persons dedicated to EA members

Audrey Malacain
Marketing and Communications Manager
Secretary of Communications and Publications Committee
Tel: +33 (0) 1 40 21 24 67
audrey.malacain@european-accreditation.org

Lydie Mauger
Secretary of Multilateral Agreement Council
Tel: +33 (0)1 40 21 24 63
lydie.mauger@european-accreditation.org

Yannick Nol
Finances Manager
Tel: +33 (0)1 40 21 24 66
yannick.nol@european-accreditation.org

Samantha Haddar
Secretary of Horizontal Harmonisation Committee and Laboratory Committee
Tel: +33 (0)1 40 21 24 63
samantha.haddar@european-accreditation.org

EA Recognized Stakeholders

ANEC	Confederation of Inspection and Certification Organisations
BUSINESS EUROPE	Confederation of European Business
CEN-CENELEC	European Committee for Standardization (CEN) - European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC)
CEOC INTERNATIONAL	International Confederation of. Inspection and Certification Organisations
E3S	European Sensory Science Society
EC - DG GROW	European Commisson - Directorate-General (DG) for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
EDQM	European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare of the Council of Europe
EFAC	European Federation of Associations of Certification Bodies
EFLM	European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
EFNDT	European Federation for Non-Destructive Testing
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EGOLF	European Group of Organisations for Fire Testing, Inspection and Certification
ENFSI	European Network of Forensic Science Institutes
EOCC	European Organic Certifiers Council
EOQ	European Organization for Quality
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
ERA	European Union Agency for Railways
EURACHEM	Network of organisations in the international traceability of chemical measurements
EURAMET	European Association of National Metrology Institutes
EUROCER Building	Association of Product certification bodies in Europe active in the construction sector
EUROLAB	European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories
ETICS	European Testing Inspection and Certification System
EUROCER BUILDING	Association of Product Certification Bodies in Europe active in the Construction sector
EWF	European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting
FAMI-QS	The Quality and Safety System for Speciality Feed Ingredients asbl
FSSC 22000	Food Safety System Certification
GLOBALG.A.P.	GLOBAL Good Agricultural Practice
IFIA	International Federation of Inspection Agencies
IIOC	Independent International Organisation for Certification
IQNet	International Certification Network
ORGALIME	European Engineering Industries Association
PEFC	International Certification Network - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes
UILI	Union Internationale des Laboratoires Indépendants
WELMEC	European Cooperation in Legal Metrology
ZVEI	Zentralverband Elektrotechnik Und Elektronikindustrie E.v.

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES *(members of the EA Advisory Board)*

BELGIUM - Federal Public Service Economy, SME's, Self Employed and Energy

CROATIA - Head of Department for Technical Legislation Ministry of Economy - Directorate for Industry, Investments and EU Programs and Projects - Sector for Industry and Investment

GERMANY - BAM Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing

SWEDEN - Ministry for Foreign Affairs Government Offices of Sweden

TURKEY - T.C. Ekonomi Bakanlığı Ürün Güvenliği ve Denetimi Genel Müdürlüğü

List of abbreviations

AFRAC	African Accreditation Cooperation
AoA	Articles of Association
APLAC	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation
ARAC	Arab Accreditation Co-operation
ATEX	Equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheresn (directive)
BCA	Bilateral Co-operation Agreement
BCS	Breast Cancer Services (project)
BLA	Bilateral Agreement
CAB	Conformity Assessment Body
CB	Certification Body
CC	Certification Committee
CEN	European Committee for Standardization
CENELEC	European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
CETA	Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement
CPC	Communications and Publications Committee
DG (EC)	Directorate General
DG AGRI (EC)	Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development
DG CLIMA (EC)	Directorate General Climate Action
DG GROW (EC)	Directorate General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
DG MOVE (EC)	Directorate General Mobility and Transport
DTL	Deputy Team Leader
EA	European Co-operation for Accreditation
EAAB	EA Advisory Board
EC	European Commission
ECIBC	European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EGNOS	European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service
EMAS Eco	Eco Management and Audit Scheme
EN	European Standard
ERA	European Union Agency for Railways
ETSI	European Telecommunications Standards Institute
EU	European Union
EX	Executive Committee
FDA (US)	Food and Drug Administration
FOC	Financial Oversight Committee
FPA	Framework Partnership Agreement
FSMS	Food Safety Management Systems
GA	General Assembly
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
HHC	Horizontal Harmonization Committee
IAAC	InterAmerican Accreditation Co-operation
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
IB	Inspection Body
IC	Inspection Committee
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
IMP	Internal Market for Products
IOD	Interoperability Directive

List of abbreviations

ISMS	Information Security Management Systems
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LC	Laboratory Committee
MAC	Multilateral Agreement Council
MD	Mandatory Document
MLA	Multilateral Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA)
MS	Member State
NAB	National Accreditation Body
NB	Notified Body
NWI	New Work Item (EA-1/14 Procedure for development and approval of EA documents and the adoption of ILAC/IAF documents)
NWIP	New Work Item Proposal (EA-1/14 Procedure for development and approval of EA documents and the adoption of ILAC/IAF documents)
OG	Operating Grant (EA-1/20 S1 Terms and conditions for financial compensation from the operating grant to an EA Member Accreditation Body)
OHSMS	Occupational health and Safety Management Systems
OJ	Official Journal
PAC	Pacific Accreditation Co-operation
PE	Peer Evaluation
PSA	Public Sector Assurance
PTP	Proficiency Testing Providers
QI	Quality Infrastructure
QMS	Quality Management Systems
RfP	Request for payment (EA-1/20 S1 Terms and conditions for financial compensation from the operating grant to an EA Member Accreditation Body)
RMP	Reference Materials Producers
RoP	Rules of Procedure
SADCA	Southern African Development Community in Accreditation
SO	Scheme Owner
ToR	Terms of Reference
TC	Technical Committee
TFG	Task Force Group
TL	Team Leader
TM	Team Member
TN	Technical Network
TS	Technical Specification

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EUROPEAN ACCREDITATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Harmonization

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Accreditation to facilitate trade

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US:
European co-operation for Accreditation
75 avenue Parmentier 75 544 Paris Cedex 11
Tel: +33 1 40 21 24 62 - Fax: +33 1 40 21 24 00
www.european-accreditation.org - secretariat@european-accreditation.com
@EAaccreditation - european-accreditation

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