



EA REPORT to IAF/ILAC and REGIONS

STATUS
JULY - DECEMBER 2021





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I - Structural status as at December 2021

1 - EA Membership

EA has a total of 49 Members.

The complete list of EA Members together with their details and their EA MLA status is available on the EA website at <https://european-accreditation.org/ea-members/directory-of-ea-members-and-mla-signatories/>

2 - Signatories to the EA MLA

43 Members are signatories to the EA MLA.

The individual EA Multilateral and Bilateral Agreement Signatories are listed by EA MLA scope on [EA-INF/03: Signatories to the EA Multilateral and Bilateral Agreements.](#)

Recapitulative table of signatories by MLA scope

	Calibration (EN ISO/IEC 17025)	Testing (EN ISO/IEC 17025)	Medical Examinations (EN ISO/IEC 15189)	Inspection (EN ISO/IEC 17020)	Management Systems Certification (EN ISO/IEC 17021-1)	Products Certification (EN ISO/IEC 17065)	Persons Certification (EN ISO/IEC 17065)	Validation and Verification (GHG) (EN ISO/IEC 17029 & EN ISO 14065)	Proficiency Testing Providers (EN ISO/IEC 17043)	Reference Material Producers (EN ISO 17034)
Members signatories to the EA MLA	41	42	37	42	36	36	33	25	20	12



3 - EA Recognised Stakeholders

EA cooperates with about 40 Recognised Stakeholders, whose complete list is available on the EA website at <https://european-accreditation.org/about-ea/ea-stakeholders/>

No new organisation was granted the EA Recognised Stakeholder status in 2021.

II - EA MLA and peer-evaluation issues

1 - New and remaining signatories to the EA MLA scopes

At its 45th meeting held remotely on 6-7 October 2021, the MAC decided to lift the suspension (effective since 24 March 2021) and reinstate the BLA signatory status of NAAU, the Ukrainian national accreditation body (NAB), in the fields of inspection (EN ISO/IEC 17020) and certification of products (EN ISO/IEC 17065).

Upon decisions made by the MAC through electronic ballots closed on 7 July, 26 October and 1 December 2021:

- BELAC, the Belgian NAB, became an EA MLA signatory in the field of reference material producers (EN ISO 17034).
- COFRAC, the French NAB, became an EA MLA signatory in the field of reference material producers.
- DANAK, the Danish NAB, became an EA MLA signatory in the field of reference material producers.
- INAB, the Irish NAB, became an EA MLA signatory in the field of certification of persons (EN ISO/IEC 17024).
- PCA, the Polish NAB, became an EA MLA signatory in the field of reference material producers.
- AA, the Austrian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration (EN ISO/IEC 17025), testing (EN ISO/IEC 17025) including medical examinations (EN ISO 15189), inspection, certification of management systems (EN ISO/IEC 17021-1), certification of products, certification of persons, and validation and verification (EN ISO 14065).
- COFRAC remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, proficiency testing providers (EN ISO/IEC 17043), certification of management systems, certification of products, certification of persons, and validation and verification.
- DANAK remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, proficiency testing providers, certification of management systems, certification of products, certification of persons, and validation and verification.
- DPA, the Albanian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of testing, inspection, certification of management systems and certification of persons.



- EAK, the Estonian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, certification of management systems, certification of products, certification of persons, and validation and verification.
- IPAC, the Portuguese NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the field of certification of persons, and validation and verification.

Note: the MAC already made a decision on IPAC's signatory status on 13 November 2020 for the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, certification of management systems and product certification.

- LA, the Latvian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the field of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, certification of management systems, certification of products and certification of persons.
- NA, the Norwegian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, proficiency testing providers, certification of management systems, certification of products, certification of persons, and validation and verification.
- PCA remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, proficiency testing providers, certification of management systems, certification of products, certification of persons, and validation and verification.

2 - Latest developments relating to the EA peer evaluations

2.1 - Peer evaluations in 2021

For 2021, the MAC scheduled 26 peer evaluations, out of which 8 were postponed from 2020. 15 of those were performed by end of June 2021. One peer evaluation, i.e. the initial peer evaluation of ISAC, the Islandic NAB, should be rescheduled in 2022.

The remaining 10 peer evaluations were carried out as follows by end of December 2021:

- 6 re-evaluations: CYS-CYSAB (Cyprus), LATAK (Latvia), NAB-MALTA (Malta), RvA (The Netherlands), IARNM (Republic of North Macedonia), and SWEDAC (Sweden) postponed from 2020;
- 1 re-evaluation with extension for medical examinations (EN ISO 15189) and product certification: BATA (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- 1 re-evaluation with extension for PTP: ATS (Serbia);
- 1 extraordinary evaluation: NAAU (Ukraine);
- 1 pre-evaluation: ATCG (Montenegro).

Since the pandemic is likely to become mitigated, and NABs in most European countries have started to perform on-site assessments again, the MAC decided to restart on-site peer evaluations from 2022.



2.2 - Peer-evaluator trainings

All three refresher training sessions organised in 2021 were held remotely due to the health and travel conditions still related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further to two refresher training sessions in June 2021 on management systems and persons certification, as well as specificities of on-site evaluations and remote evaluations, a third refresher training session dedicated to testing, medical examinations and reference material producers took place on 8-9 December 2021.

The newcomer training session initially planned in December 2020 and rescheduled on 21-23 June 2021 should have been cancelled again due to the pandemic.

2.3 - Re-engineering of the peer-evaluation process

The MAC project to re-engineer the peer-evaluation system, one of the key actions of the *EA Strategy 2025*, is nearing its goal.

The MAC is finalising the revision of EA-2/02: *EA Procedure for the Evaluation of a National Accreditation Body*, as well as the revision of the MAC Terms of Reference in order to include the role and responsibilities of the Secretariat and to annex the competence criteria for decision-makers.

The MAC is also elaborating five supplements to EA-2/02 in order to set out:

- EA-2/02 S1 *Description of Competence Criteria of the EA Secretariat Personnel Involved in the Management of the Peer-Evaluation Process;*
- EA-2/02 S2 *Circumstances and Process of Involving EA Technical Committees in Peer-Evaluation Issues;*
- EA-2/02 S3 *Risk-Based Approach for the Planning of a Peer Evaluation of a National Accreditation Body;*
- EA-2/02 S4 *Procedure for Remote Peer Evaluations during the COVID-19 Pandemic;*
- EA-2/02 S5 *Procedure for Remote Decision-Making.*

The documents shall be available in the first quarter of 2022.

III - Status of EA's recognition in IAF/ILAC

The next re-evaluation of EA by IAF/ILAC is scheduled to begin no later than July 2022.



IV - Status of EA documents

1 - Documents published since July 2021

EA Articles of Association (AoA)

- EA-0/02 *Procedure for Document Control*
- EA-1/17 *EA Rules of Procedure*
- EA-1/20 *Procedure for the Control of Expenditures and Preparation of Budgets*
Note: published in early January 2022.
- EA-1/20 S1 *Terms and Conditions for Financial Compensation from the Operating Grant to an EA Member Accreditation Body*
Note: published in early January 2022.
- EA-4/02 *Evaluation of the Uncertainty of Measurement in Calibration*
- EA-4/18 *Guidance on the Level and Frequency of Proficiency Testing Participation*
- EA-6/02 *EA Guidelines on the Use of ISO/IEC 17065 and ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Certification to EN ISO 3834*
Note: published in early January 2022.
- EA-INF/17 *Register of EA resolutions for use by National Accreditation Bodies and EA Evaluators*

2 - Documents under revision

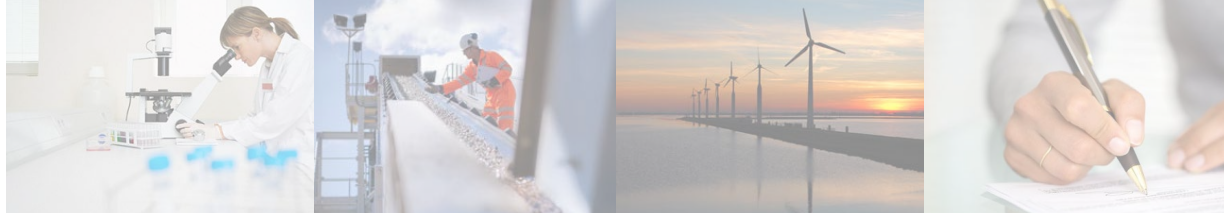
- EA-0/06 *Format & Layout of EA Documents*
- EA-INF/14 *Communication with the European Commission and its DGs*
- EA-1/06 *EA Multilateral Agreement. Criteria for Signing. Policy and Procedures for Development*
- EA-1/13 *EA's Relationship with Accreditation Bodies of Countries not being Members of the EU or EFTA*
- EA-1/14 *Procedure for Development and Approval of EA Documents and Adoption of ILAC/IAF Documents*
- EA-1/17 *Rules of Procedure*
- EA-1/17 S1 *Criteria for Membership*
- EA-1/17 S3 *EA Procedure for the investigation and resolution of Complaints and Appeals*
- EA-1/17 S4 *Proxy Procedure*



- EA-1/17 S5 *Levying of Membership Fees*
- EA-1/19 *Rules for Use of the EA logo*
- EA-1/21 *EA Internal Procedure for Liaison Activities*
- EA-1/22 *EA Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members*
- EA-2/02 *Procedure for the evaluation of a National Accreditation Body*
- EA-3/01 *EA Conditions for the Use of Accreditation Symbols, Logos and Other Claims of Accreditation and Reference to the EA MLA Signatory Status*
- EA-3/12 *EA Policy for the Accreditation of Organic Production Certification*
- EA-4/09 *Accreditation for Sensory Testing Laboratories*
- EA-4/14 *The Selection and Use of Reference Materials*
- EA-4/17 *EA Position Paper on the Description of Scopes of Accreditation of Medical Laboratories*
- EA-6/03 *EA Document for Recognition of Verifiers under the EU ETS Directive*
- EA-6/04 *EA Guidelines on the Accreditation of Certification of Primary Sector Products by Means of Sampling of Sites*

3 - New documents under development

- EA-2/02 S1 *Description of Competence Criteria of the EA Secretariat Personnel Involved in the Management of the Peer-Evaluation Process*
- EA-2/02 S2 *Circumstances and Process of Involving EA Technical Committees in Peer-Evaluation Issues*
- EA-2/02 S3 *Risk-Based Approach for the Planning of a Peer Evaluation of a National Accreditation Body*
- EA-2/02 S4 *Procedure for Remote Peer Evaluations during the COVID-19 Pandemic*
Note: approved in December 2021; to be published when the whole set of EA-2/02 and supplements is ready for publication.
- EA-2/02 S5 *Procedure for Remote Decision-Making*
- EA-3/01 S1 *Rules for Use of the EA MLA Mark*
Note: approved in October 2020; not to be published before the EA MLA mark is soon formally registered.



EA-3/02 *EA Policy for the Accreditation of Certification Activities under Protected Designations of Origin, Protected Geographical Indications and Traditional Specialities Guaranteed*

HHC guidance members' procedural document on remote assessment.

4 - Documents withdrawn since July 2021

No document was withdrawn since July 2021.



V - Activities to promote the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA

EA published a great number of information on the EA Twitter account about the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA, as well as about IAF and ILAC major activities such as meetings, elections and impact of accreditation during the second half of 2021. EA also contributed to the IAF and ILAC newsletters published in December 2021 with several articles regarding quality infrastructures supporting transition to industry 4.0 technology and accreditation model for crime scene investigation.

VI - Major other activities/developments in EA

New Brexit-boosted EA membership categories

In May 2020, the General Assembly acknowledged that the United Kingdom (UK) left the European Union (EU) and noted accordingly that UKAS, the UK NAB, did not meet anymore the EA membership criteria as set out in the *EA Articles of Association*. EA Members having expressed the importance of having UKAS as a member, the General Assembly accepted to maintain UKAS as an EA Full Member until 31 January 2022.

The General Assembly approved the new membership categories, and accordingly the new *Articles of Association*, at its meeting on 24-25 November 2021. Pursuant to the new *Articles of Association*, all national accreditation bodies coming from a Member State of the Council of Europe shall be entitled to become an EA member, provided that the national accreditation body meets the membership criteria as set out in EA-1/17 S1.

This allows UKAS to remain an EA member, but also other European national accreditation bodies being not yet a members of EA to become an EA member.

Renewal of the EAAB

The EA Advisory Board (EAAB) gives continuous support to EA work and provides advice to EA on a broad range of issues relating to harmonisation and policy on accreditation. The Board's composition constitutes a well-balanced representation of the parties which rely on and contribute to the European accreditation system. It is composed of representatives from: the conformity assessment community; industry, services and trade; the EU Member States' national authorities; European private scheme owners; the consumer associations; the European metrological institutions; the European standardisation organisations; the European Commission and European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

Further to an EA Secretariat's call for nominations closed on 4 October 2021, the whole EAAB membership was formally renewed for the next 3-year term at the 46th EAAB meeting held remotely on 10 November 2021. No representative of those European private scheme owners that are also EA Recognised Stakeholders was nominated for the new term running until November 2024.

The Board unanimously re-elected Miruna Dobre (National Authorities College - Federal Public Service (FPS) Economy of Belgium) as the EAAB Chair, as well as Bruce McGill (CAB College - TIC Council) and Martin Stadler (Industry College - BusinessEurope) as the EAAB Vice-Chairs.



Finalisation of the EA MLA mark registration

According to *EA Strategy 2025*, EA has been establishing a MLA mark for the purpose of identifying EA MLA signatories and their accredited CABs. After EA Members selected their preferred option for the MLA mark at the General Assembly in November 2019, the Executive Committee has been mandated to proceed with the formal registration of the MLA mark as a collective mark of the EU in a first stage, and then to extend registration at the international level based on the Madrid Agreement.

The formal registration started in May 2021 and, after some editorial improvements, is expected to be completed by spring 2022.

The application of the EA MLA mark should remain voluntary for NABs signatories of the EA MLA, which will be entitled to use the MLA mark in combination with their logo. Conformity assessment bodies (CABs) accredited by a MLA-signatory NAB will have the right to use the MLA mark in combination with the NAB accreditation symbol. The basic principle is that the mark can only be used in a country where it has been properly registered. It means that the mark will be registered (at least) in all the countries of the EA MLA/BLA signatories.

Continuing provision of EA virtual trainings and events

A seminar was notably organised together with ENISA, the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity, on 24 September 2021.

In May 2021, ENISA published the Common Criteria based European candidate cybersecurity certification scheme (EUCC) under the Cybersecurity Act (CSA). ENISA has been working on the implementing act to the EUCC, which shall be applied after its publication by all parties involved, including EA NABs. The EUCC scheme covers the certification of ICT products by accredited CBs and with involvement of accredited testing laboratories (ITSEFs). It will presumably be underpinned by guidelines on the accreditation of laboratories and product certification bodies.

EA launched its eLearning platform in summer 2021. So far one e-Learning module dedicated to Regulation (EU) 2015/757 on the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Maritime Transport has been made accessible.

Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada

EA and the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) renewed in June 2019 a bilateral cooperation agreement, which enables the implementation of the [Conformity Assessment \(CA\) Protocol](#) provided for in the CETA agreement, allowing for the mutual acceptance by Canada and the EU of conformity assessment results delivered by each other's recognized accredited conformity assessment bodies. This aims to facilitate trade and open doors for EU and Canadian companies.

To get detailed information on the bilateral cooperation agreement signed between EA and SCC, please read the brochure "[CETA Agreement and Conformity Assessment Accreditation: a tool to enhance trade between the European Union and Canada](#)". Further information is also available in the [Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement](#) (CETA).



In February 2021, SCC has been recognised by the European Commission (EC) according to Article 12 of the CETA Protocol on Conformity Assessment for the relevant technical EU regulations within the ATEX equipment product (equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres) sector. The recognition process will be able to continue for additional sectors.

The EC, which is relying on the procedure for mutual recognition already established by EA and SCC, published the *Implementation Guide for the Protocol to the CETA Agreement between Canada, the European Union and its Member States regarding the mutual acceptance of the results of conformity assessment* in the Official Journal of the European Union on 1 September 2021.

EA supporting the creation of the African quality infrastructure

EA is cooperating with CEN-CENELEC to support the quality infrastructure in Africa through the CEN-CENELEC project led by a Task Force “Africa”. This task force has been established with the intense contribution of EA, EURAMET, ARSO (African Organisation for Standardisation), AFSEC (African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission) and the African quality infrastructure actors – Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI), Intra Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS), African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) and industry partners.

The CEN-CENELEC project aims to:

- enhance cooperation on the quality infrastructure and uptake of standards, measurement guidelines and testing practices, including from ISO and IEC;
- contribute to existing initiatives and to shape future EU-Africa partnership projects;
- demonstrate the benefits of standards and the quality infrastructure in trade policy;
- share best practice with partners on an efficient quality infrastructure.



VII - EA meetings

Please visit the EA website <https://european-accreditation.org/information-center/newsroom/events-2/>

VIII - EA representatives in IAF and ILAC meetings

IAF Committee meetings

General Assembly (GA)
Executive Committee (EX)
Technical Committee (TC)
MLA Committee (MLAC)
MLA Management Committee (MLA MC)

Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC)
Development Support Committee (DSC)

Andreas Steinhorst (EA Executive Secretary)
Maureen Logghe (EA President)
Kevin Belson (UKAS, UK)
Maria Papatzikou (ESYD, Greece)
Karine Vincent (COFRAC, France),
Rolf Straub (SAS, Switzerland)
Amandine Combe (EA Communication Manager)
Andreas Steinhorst

ILAC Committee meetings

General Assembly (GA)
Executive Committee (EX)
Accreditation Committee (AIC)
Marketing & Communications Committee (MCC)
Arrangement Committee (ARC)
Arrangement Management Committee (AMC)
Arrangement Council (AC)
Inspection Committee (IC)

Andreas Steinhorst
Andreas Steinhorst
Laurent Vinson (COFRAC, France)
Amandine Combe
Andreas Steinhorst
Maria Papatzikou, Andreas Steinhorst
Andreas Steinhorst
Orbay Evrensevdi (TURKAK, Turkey)

Joint IAF/ILAC Committee meetings

Joint Executive Committee (JEX)
Joint Management Committee (JMC)

JWG Communications and Marketing (JCMC)
JWG Developing Countries
JWG A-series

Maureen Logghe, Andreas Steinhorst
Maria Papatzikou, Andreas Steinhorst,
Rolf Straub, Karine Vincent
Amandine Combe
Andreas Steinhorst
Maria Papatzikou, Andreas Steinhorst