



Editorial

Before the year is out...

The publication of this, the fourth and last Bulletin for 1999 (some would say of the century!) does not mean that we can just slacken off and idly await the Year 2000. On the contrary, legal metrology activity has never been so intense, as is proved by the extensive calendar of events we published in the July Bulletin and from the continuing stream of information that emanates from the Bureau (several hundred kg of mail per month!).

The BIML is moving into the fast lane and playing an ever-increasing role in coordinating events, bringing specialists together from around the world and providing information to Members and manufacturers, as well as advice and technical support on a daily basis.

The culmination of another year's activity is, of course, the CIML Meeting. This October our host will be Tunisia, which is especially appropriate since in addition to the regular CIML Meeting an extended Development Council meeting will be held: Tunisia took over the Chair of the Council a year ago. Things are set to move fast and a number of concrete proposals will be tabled.

In addition, a Round Table on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in Legal Metrology will take place in Tunis with the aim of assisting countries in the Mediterranean region to organize a cooperation in legal metrology which would be specific to the region and which would extend and deepen OIML work at regional level. In this era of lightning-fast information transfer via the Internet, computer technology and scientific progress, it may be that certain fundamental issues still have to be addressed before it is possible

to enable specific regional issues to be resolved. Full reports of all three meetings will of course be published in the January 2000 issue of the Bulletin.

As we go to press, a number of key events are taking place at around the time of the CIML Meeting. The *Software in Measuring Instruments* Seminar will take place in Paris: the implications for legal metrology of changing technology are multiple, and we must keep abreast of new developments if we are to adequately adapt our activities to evolving measuring instruments. The APLMF and WELMEC Committee Meetings and the 13th IAF Plenary Meeting are scheduled for September, followed in October by the 21st *Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures*, the ILAC '99 General Assembly and *Métrieologie '99*. Three major events are already scheduled for the year 2000: *Metrology 2000* in Cuba (March 2000), the *International Conference on Metrology* in Jerusalem in May and of course the 11th OIML International Conference of Legal Metrology, to be held in London in October 2000. Reports will be published on all these events in next year's volume.

So the end of 1999 promises to be as active, if not more so, than the first nine months of the year; the BIML is at cruising altitude and will continue to offer coordination, advice and assistance to its new and established Members worldwide, to seek new ways to initiate and respond to progress, develop the Organization's long term strategies and react to our ever-active environment with a commitment to advance. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Pulham'.

Chris Pulham
Editor