

## Key meetings held in Tunisia

- ▶ *Round Table on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation*
- ▶ *OIML Development Council Meeting*
- ▶ *CIML Meeting*
- ▶ *Presidential Council Meeting*

34

**T**he OIML met at the Abou Nawas Hotel, Tunis, from Tuesday 5 through Friday 8 October 1999 for a series of meetings that followed a Round Table on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation chaired by Mr. Jean-François Magana (CIML Member for France) and Mrs. Ghâïet-El-Mouna Annabi (CIML Member for Tunisia). There was also a brief meeting of representatives of Regional Legal Metrology Organizations.

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October the OIML Development Council held a full day of discussions - with a record number of delegates attending - and from the Wednesday for three days the 34<sup>th</sup> CIML Meeting was held under the Presidency of Mr. Gerard Faber including, at the end of the week, a meeting of the Presidential Council.

Full accounts of these meetings are given on the following pages, accompanied by a selection of photos taken during the events and in surrounding areas. A full program of tours for accompanying persons was laid on by our Tunisian hosts, and two receptions were given: an OIML Welcome Reception on the Wednesday evening and a Dinner laid on by the Tunisian Ministry of Commerce on the Thursday night, including a very enjoyable band of local musicians and dancers.



Abou Nawas Hotel, Tunis

*The speeches and meeting accounts have been translated into French and are published after the corresponding English text.*

## *Welcome Speech by **Mr. Mondher Zenaïdi** Tunisian Minister of Commerce*

Mr. President of CIML,  
Mr. Director of BIML,  
Representatives of OIML Member States,  
Honorable guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first of all to express my pride and happiness in delivering the inaugural speech at this, the 34<sup>th</sup> CIML meeting, that is this year being held in Tunis. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the OIML for having chosen Tunisia to host its meeting.

My thanks equally go to the organizers of this meeting, which undoubtedly constitutes an appropriate opportunity for all those concerned with legal metrology to study issues related to this matter due to their importance for consumers and enterprises alike.

Over the past years the world has witnessed important developments consisting mainly of the emergence of globalization of the economy, regional gatherings and important scientific developments, especially in the technological field and other areas including telecommunication and computer sciences. The phenomena of economic globalization, fierce competition and the opening up of international markets allow only products of a very high quality produced at lower costs to enter markets in the light of a new global economy in which high quality and economic efficiency constitute the cornerstones of exchanges.

In the midst of these changes, Tunisia has, since the Change of the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and under the leadership of President Zine El Abidine BEN ALL, implemented an integrated program to liberalize and reform our economy by implementing a market economy system, liberalizing foreign trade, regulating internal trade and providing incentives for individual initiatives in industry, trade, agriculture and services.

All these reforms have led to the consolidation of economic productivity and to respectable rates of development. Over the latest decade the GDP has increased by approximately 5 % at constant prices and by 6 % in non-farming sectors; exports increased by 7 % at constant prices.

These reforms equally concerned legal metrology, whose importance nobody is oblivious to, as a means to

protect consumers and promote domestic and foreign trade thanks to the use of accurate accredited measuring instruments and the use of scientific methods governed by law. His Excellency the President of the Republic declared during the inauguration of the second congress of the Tunisian Association of Industrialists and Traders (UTICA), on November 29, 1995 the updating of the framework of legal metrology which dates back more than a century and the enacting of a new law.

This new law was indeed enacted last May. It facilitated a better definition of legal measuring units, the organization of their use by adopting the international system of measuring units called SI. This system is characterized by the harmony between its component elements and a better definition of measuring units, and is equally presently adopted by most OIML Member States, including Tunisia. This system will supersede the metric system that has been abandoned by developed countries for some years now.

In addition to clarifying prerequisites of manufacturing, repairing and marketing measuring instruments, this new law has clearly defined the various types of legal metrology verifications such as recognition of pattern approval, initial verification and statistical control of prepacked products in addition to technical verification. The aim is to give the consumer the right to demand the verification of a measuring instrument should he or she doubt its ability to accurately assess the measured quantities.

In addition to all this a consultative body, the National Council of Legal Metrology, has been set up. It comprises representatives of all the ministries concerned with measuring activities. Its tasks consist essentially in encouraging research in and the promotion of legal metrology, the development of training, a better dissemination of information and encouraging cooperation and the exchange of expertise between national and international organizations.

We have equally consolidated the legal metrology departments by providing them with competent staff, and have set up an integrated training program in addition to creating a technical branch at the National Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology to train technicians in metrology. The first group of students has graduated this year and they will undoubtedly contribute to the success of



the upgrade program implemented by the Tunisian State thanks to the strong will of its President BEN ALI to introduce quality systems according to ISO 9000 and to monitor the role of metrology in enterprise as a prerequisite for high quality.

Besides, other measures have been taken to set up laboratories for the calibration of measuring and weighing instruments and containers to ensure that the verification tools used by metrology agents are accurate and in conformity with international standards. This is in addition to the preparatory work underway for the implementation of a national laboratory for the testing of measuring instruments, in conformity with International Recommendation R 76 issued by your Organization.

Tunisia was among the first countries to join the OIML and to consistently take part in its activities. It has made efforts to consolidate the orientations of the OIML as it believes in the need to coordinate actions in this field at international level to facilitate transactions and to eliminate technical obstacles that hinder trade. Tunisia's chairmanship of the OIML Development Council is at the same time an honor bestowed upon our country and bears testimony to the good reputation Tunisia enjoys within international organizations. We will do our utmost to coordinate efforts with all the countries of this Development Council to implement its program so that these countries may keep pace with the development that metrology is witnessing and to make the Council the best forum for those entrusted with metrological verification by giving them the opportunity to take part in training programs.

I would like to take this opportunity to hail the delegations from the shores of the Mediterranean who took part

in the Round Table held on Monday for their efforts, the results they have obtained and the ideas they have put forward. This Round Table constituted a forum to study the appropriate solutions to the problems relating to metrology in general and the methods and ways of verifying measuring instruments from their design to their marketing nationally and internationally. This initiative equally constitutes a framework for setting up a cell of cooperation between both shores of the Mediterranean to promote the activities of metrology and the structures entrusted with legal metrology in this area. It undoubtedly constitutes another model for consolidating cooperation between the countries that took part in this meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute once again to the OIML for the tremendous work it has been doing to promote legal metrology at all levels and to provide experts with information and advice concerning this field in general and the methods of verifying the different measuring instruments in particular.

I would equally like to congratulate the Development Council for all its efforts and actions carried out for the benefit of developing countries, for training their experts, and for the consolidation of the infrastructures of the departments entrusted with implementing the legislation and recommendations concerning legal metrology.

My warm thanks go to all of you and may your meeting be crowned with success.

I equally wish all the participants a pleasant and agreeable stay in our country. Thank you for your attention. ■



Mrs. Annabi and Mr. Faber welcome Mr. Mondher Zenaïdi, Tunisian Minister of Commerce

## *Opening Address by Mr. Gerard Faber CIML President*

Mr. Minister of Commerce,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Committee of Legal Metrology and I would like to immediately express my sincere thanks to all those who, here in Tunis, have played a role in the preparations for this Meeting. I am sure that their efforts will be fully recognized and that, at the end of the week, it will be my duty and pleasure to express the deep appreciation of the OIML community for such successful arrangements.

This Meeting obviously presents a number of very special characteristics. One of these is the fact that, for the very first time, the CIML meets on the African continent and in an Arabic country.

Up to now we have held Meetings either in Europe, North or South America, Asia and Oceania but, with the exception of OIML participation in meetings or workshops organized for example by UNESCO in Egypt or by ARSO in Togo, we have never held an important OIML meeting on the African continent.

I must say that there are a number of converging signals that show that the African continent in general, and Maghrebian countries in particular, are step by step occupying a significant place in legal metrology cooperation: just a few months ago a number of OIML representatives, including myself, attended a commemorative meeting in South Africa; before that, at the end of last year, a workshop on OIML R 76 had been organized by SADCMEI in Zimbabwe; I note too the development of regional or sub-regional bodies. I do hope that these are all strong signs indicating the rapid development of metrology in this region.

The other specific features of this CIML Meeting are the following:

- for the very first time regional legal metrology organizations as well as regional bodies having activities connected with legal metrology have been officially invited to attend a CIML Meeting; of course, up to now, a number of CIML Members were in fact also representing certain regional bodies at CIML

Meetings; however, this invitation should not be considered as a formalization and an officialization of the situation; in fact, we would be glad that regional bodies consider it as an opportunity to develop their own inter-regional cooperation;

- also for the very first time, OIML Corresponding Members have been formally invited to attend a CIML Meeting; this is the proof of the interest that the OIML has in making sure that as many countries and economies as possible will benefit from its activities and participate in them according to their resources.

Apart from these new characteristics, this CIML Meeting will - once again - have to examine matters and to make decisions of significant importance for the life of our Organization.

Following the Birkeland Report that was finalized one year ago, the Presidential Council and the BIML have identified a number of actions which should be carried out rapidly or in any case over the next two or three years. Proposals were sent to you some months ago and I am confident that you have been able to carefully examine them with a view to accepting the proposed work plan, improved and

supplemented in line with any comments you may have.

Matters of development must also be duly considered: yesterday, a meeting of the OIML Development Council was held under Mrs. Annabi's chairmanship, and we eagerly await the Council's report and proposals for future work.

Also on the agenda are the traditional items dealing with conformity assessment, mutual recognition of test results, certification, technical activities, and so on.

Concerning cooperation between the OIML and other international and regional bodies, as already mentioned, we will be having discussions concerning legal metrology activities at regional level. We will also have discussions concerning liaisons between the OIML and the WTO, with the participation of a representative of this Organization, Mrs. Liu, from the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee, who will join us this afternoon or tomorrow morning at the latest.

A new item on our agenda deals with the activities of the Presidential Council. For the sake of transparency it has been considered appropriate that the CIML President gives a report about the Presidential Council at each CIML



Meeting. It will then be evident that the Council is an advisory body and that all decisions still remain the responsibility of the CIML, except in urgent cases where the CIML President has to make immediate decisions according to the OIML Convention.

Since this CIML Meeting is the last one before the Eleventh International Conference of Legal Metrology, we will have to start preparing this important event and to consider financial and other matters which will result in decisions being made by the Conference.

Another very specific matter will have to be carefully examined during these three days: the preparation for the selection and appointment of a new Director to succeed Mr. Athané. Several months ago I sent you a proposal endorsed by the Presidential Council. During this Meeting I will inform you of the reactions I have received (of which there are very few), but do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to express your views.

Since I have raised the question of key human resources, I think that it is perhaps appropriate to introduce Item 4 of the agenda straight away, which deals with the CIML Presidency. You will thus have the possibility to reflect about the situation, to exchange your views during the coffee breaks, lunches and dinners, and to be ready for a discussion which will prepare you for the decision that you will have to make next year.

I myself retired at the end of last year as Director General of the Dutch Metrology Institute, but I maintain close links with metrology in general and legal metrology in particular through my new position of Advisor to the Dutch Government for these matters. My Government has also confirmed my role as CIML Member for the Netherlands, and I maintain close links with the NMI experts responsible for OIML affairs, which enables me to keep in touch with the various aspects of OIML activities.

As a consequence of this new situation, I can now devote far more time to the OIML than was possible up to last year, and I must say that I am very pleased with this situation considering the personal interest that I have in OIML affairs.

As you know, my present term will come to an end in December 2000 and the CIML must start reflecting about what action to take. I have discussed this situation with

some of you, including the two Vice-Presidents, and I would like to inform you very simply that, if you so wish, I am ready and willing to continue as CIML President.

Re-conducting my position would also maintain the necessary continuity over a period during which there will be a significant change in the BIML's management.

However, the Committee may also consider the possibility of appointing a new President who will take over from me at the end of next year. If so, it would be my responsibility to start identifying possible candidates and to make it possible for you to make the right choice at the next Meeting. Anyway, you now have three days to consider the various aspects of this topic.

A similar situation exists concerning Vice-President Chappell, whose term will also come to an end next year. Under Item 4 of the agenda I will give the floor to Sam so that he may express his views concerning his position.

Before concluding, since I have introduced a matter connected with the composition of the Committee, I will now welcome the new CIML Members who have been appointed since the Seoul Meeting. These are:

- for Ireland, Mr. Farragher,
- for Japan, Mr. Sakurai,
- for Kazakhstan, Mr. Turspikov,
- for the Republic of Korea, Mr. Park,
- for Romania, Mr. Ocneanu,
- for Slovakia, Mr. Orlovský, and
- for Spain, Mr. Garcia.

Concerning Finland, we have been informed that Mrs. Juntilla has left her legal metrology functions but we have not yet received any information concerning a new CIML Member.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to reiterate my thanks to our Tunisian hosts and to congratulate them for the excellent preparations for our meetings. I also would like to express my wish to all participants that, thanks to their active contribution, this CIML Meeting will be as fruitful as possible for the future of the OIML.

Thank you for your attention. ■



► **Round Table** ◀

**Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in Legal Metrology**

**Monday, 4 October 1999**

A Round Table on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in Legal Metrology was held in Tunisia on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 1999 in conjunction with the OIML Development Council and 34<sup>th</sup> CIML Meetings. The Round Table was chaired by Mr. Jean-François Magana (France) and Mrs. Ghaïet-El-Mouna Annabi (Tunisia).

The economic and social development of countries within the Mediterranean Region requires the development of a legal metrology structure and policy in each country: it is clearly important for the countries within this Region to organize cooperation that is specific to the Region and which would extend and deepen OIML work at regional level.

Thirty-three delegates attended the Round Table from fourteen countries, two Regional Legal Metrology Organizations (RLMO's) and the BIML. At the beginning of the meeting delegates were invited to present themselves and give a brief description of legal metrology activities in their respective countries.

Albania commented that there was a need to coordinate legislation on legal metrology and this was confirmed by comments from the Algerian delegation: assistance is definitely required for a number of issues such as the choice of instruments used to equip laboratories, the training of qualified staff in modern communication techniques such as Internet and mutual recognition of type approval with other countries. Legislation in Algeria is, continued the Algerian delegate, very strict as far as type approval is concerned.

The Representative of the Palestinian Authority explained that they had operated weights and measures activities successively under Jordanian, Israeli and other legislation, including Egyptian legislation for Gaza. They were now working on harmonizing and modernizing weights and measures legislation and would favorably consider receiving external assistance, for example from the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation.

Prof. Kochsiek (Germany) envisaged an ideal situation in which a global measurement system would be active within some ten to twenty years. To achieve this, discussions would be needed at Regional level on harmonizing legal metrology, on offering courses and on providing consultancy, etc.

Other countries confirmed these views: Cyprus and Spain already have ties with other countries and look

forward to further cooperation; Spain is additionally willing to provide training assistance.

Mr. Magana noted that legal metrology has been rapidly changing over the last two years both in industrialized and other countries. Metrology is now recognized as being of utmost importance, despite the fact that industry is not that familiar with metrology; this is why the Higher School of Metrology was established in Douai, Northern France. As far as the need for technical assistance was concerned, Mr. Magana underlined the fact that each country only has limited resources at its disposal, hence the need for regional cooperation.

Legal metrology in Israel mainly concerns equipment used in shops and in petrol stations but Israel does require assistance in other fields in which legal metrology is not yet that developed. In fact, much legal metrology legislation dates back to 1947 (though new laws are now being drafted). Assistance in these areas would therefore be appreciated. The Israeli delegation also proposed to the Palestinian delegation to establish bilateral contacts.

Morocco has very few calibration laboratories but does have the intention of creating others.

Tunisia confirmed its need for assistance as far as the verification of measuring instruments is concerned, especially in training skilled and qualified personnel. The Tunisian delegation felt that OIML certificates are often not sufficient for legal metrology services and, moreover, due to their limited access to Internet, it is not that easy for Tunisia to gather key information on the origin of OIML certificates.

Mr. Bennett then gave a detailed presentation of WELMEC, the European Cooperation in Legal Metrology.



Participants attending the Round Table

ogy, showing in particular how metrological regulations are evolving, what mutual recognition mechanisms exist, and mentioning technical assistance and training, laboratory equipment and also the subject of verification equipment traceability.

Mr. Birch gave a presentation of legal metrology cooperation within APLMF and IOLMF, pointing out that these regional bodies include both highly industrialized and developing countries - as will be the case within the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation.

It was suggested that working groups be set up after volunteers had drafted work projects for them; it was put forward that each subject area be dealt with by a group of two experts, one from a European country and one from a Mediterranean country.

The main theme raised was that of training. Mr. Wallerus presented his institute, the German Academy of Metrology (DAM), which develops both basic and advanced training of legal metrology staff. Based in Munich, DAM is a non profit-making organism which is

independent from industry and manufacturers. It offers training courses on instrument verification, on the application of ISO 9000 and EN 45000 standards, etc. It also offers training and technical assistance programs in English, German, Russian and Chinese.

The Douai Higher School of Metrology used to train engineers specializing in legal metrology. It has just re-opened with a specialized course for metrological engineers in industry: the course lasts one year and is open to students who are already engineers or who already have an equivalent diploma. The course consists of eight months of theory and practical application followed by a further four months spent on a specific project in industry. A specialized engineer diploma is awarded at the end of the course. In the coming years it is envisaged to offer legal metrology courses both for engineers and for technicians.

In concluding the day's Round Table discussions, Mr. Magana drew up a series of resolutions (see below).

#### ***The participants in the Euro-Mediterranean Legal Metrology Cooperation:***

- 1 Draw the CIML's attention to the necessity to rapidly revise International Document D 1 *Law on Metrology*, taking into account both the nature of each country's administrative set-up and also the use of quality tools such as accreditation and certification of quality systems.
- 2 Draw the CIML's attention to the need to update documents related to the means that legal metrology services should have at their disposal.
- 3 Thank Mr. Wallerus (Germany) and Mr. Boudissa (Algeria) for volunteering to study together the terms of reference and the work program of a working group on training, which would be set up at the next Cooperation meeting.
- 4 Thank Mr. Laamoumri (Morocco) and Mr. Birdseye (UK) for volunteering to study together questions raised by recognition of pattern approval, especially for countries that do not have an extensive range of approval means, and to present their conclusions, in time for the next Cooperation meeting.
- 5 Thank Mrs. Dori (Israel) and Mr. Ben Hassine (Tunisia) for volunteering to study, put forward ideas for an action plan and suggest a work program for evaluating needs in technical assistance, in time for the next Cooperation meeting.
- 6 Thank Mr. Magana (France) for volunteering to study, together with Mrs. Annabi (Tunisia), actions that could be tabled at the next Cooperation meeting on the subject of mutual information.
- 7 Ask Mrs. Annabi and Mr. Magana to express the wish to those countries that had been unable to attend this meeting that they become involved in Cooperation activities, and send them information relating to the results of this meeting.
- 8 Ask Mrs. Annabi to ensure that liaisons are created between this Cooperation and other regional cooperations, notably with MENAMET, with a view to jointly resolving problems of traceability.
- 9 Ask Mrs. Annabi and Mr. Magana to continue to make contacts with development aid organizations (European Commission, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, etc.) with a view to their participation in the next meeting.
- 10 Agree to organize the next meeting of this Cooperation in conjunction with the OIML 2000 Conference. ■

#### **Meeting of Representatives of Regional Legal Metrology Organizations: Tunis, 5 October 1999**

Dr. Bennett, Chair of WELMEC, took the opportunity of the Tunis meetings to organize a meeting of representatives of eight RLMO's: the Conveners of the **Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation, SADCMEC, WELMEC, APLMF, IOLMF, SIM, COOMET and COLAMEL** attended.

It was concluded that in addition to the worldwide role of the OIML, coordination between RLMO's based on mutual information and sharing of certain resources is definitely of value; further collaboration should therefore be initiated.

Dr. Bennett agreed to arrange a further meeting in London in October 2000 to discuss these important issues in more depth. ■

► **OIML Development Council Meeting** ◀

**Tuesday, 5 October 1999**

The OIML Development Council meeting was opened by Mrs. Ghaïet-El-Mouna Annabi, who had been elected as its Chairperson in 1998 in Seoul. A record thirty-five countries attended the meeting plus five OIML Corresponding Members who attended as Observers, together with six legal metrology organizations, a delegation from the Palestinian Authority and four BIML staff members. This was also the first time that the Development Council meeting was held over one full day.

Since the 1998 Development Council meeting in Seoul, of which the Minutes were published and distributed and a report included in the January 1999 OIML Bulletin, a number of contacts have been made or maintained with international organizations, regional legal metrology bodies and developing countries; OIML representatives participated in meetings of UN/ECE, ISO DEVCO and the WTO TBT Committee and a number of other contacts have additionally been made.

In Mrs. Annabi's letter of December 1998, it had been proposed that a strategy group be created to guide Development Council activities, but this strategy group will not be implemented as in fact the Presidential Council itself is the global OIML strategy group. However, the Chairperson of the Development Council is now a Member of the Presidential Council which will ensure that the cause of developing countries is taken into account at this level.

Amongst the key issues discussed during this meeting it was generally felt that developing countries' training and financing means were the first issues that should be looked into by the reconstituted Development Council. Also, the application of the OIML Certificate System to developing countries was a priority and it was agreed that as many workshops as possible should be held in developing countries and financial assistance obtained so that delegates from these countries might attend meetings, training sessions and seminars. To this end, cooperation with international funding organizations such as UNIDO, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and development banks was of prime importance to ensure that the proposed financing might be accomplished. Raising the profile of legal metrology in industrialized countries is also important in providing development aid to less developed countries.

It was, therefore, generally felt that the main concern that developing countries have is how to finance their activities (training, equipment, etc.) and this should be reconsidered by the Council. Unfortunately none of the funding organizations that had been invited were able to attend the meeting, though contact would be made with them following the week's meetings.

On the subject of Development Council Working Groups, it was reported that only WG 1 was currently still active; this group is managed by Dr. Wallerus of DAM, Germany. The question was asked whether the other Development Council Working Groups could or should be reactivated.

It was decided that WG 2, which is concerned with OIML cooperation with other organizations and information exchange between international, regional and national organizations on various subjects, would be discontinued. The Russian-managed WG 3 on information and documentation was currently inactive due to Russia's workload on other matters. Prof. Kochsiek therefore proposed to redefine the various working group structures and goals; the conclusions are summarized in Resolutions 2-5 below.

Under Item 3 reports were given by representatives of Regional Legal Metrology Organizations: APLMF, COOMET, SADCMEML, WELMEC, COLAMEL, SIM and IOLMF.

Concerning Item 4, the proposals for the 2000-2001 Work Program, the following subjects were deemed as being priority issues:

- 1 The revision of OIML D 1 *Law on Metrology*, which was also brought up in the Birkeland Report, and has been on the Development Council Work Program for a number of years;
- 2 Activation of relevant TC's and SC's, the association between the Development Council and the BIML or the possible establishment of further working groups; this would ensure that deadlines are met in activating OIML TC's and SC's;
- 3 Seminar on the modernization of legislation for legal metrology: this could be organized by the BIML in conjunction with the revision of Document D 1, possibly by the summer of 2000;



4 Validation of training courses, videos and other training material could be checked, for example by the BIML, to ensure that such tools are in line with current OIML requirements and Recommendations.

A subject brought up at the 1998 Seoul Meeting was also reiterated, i.e. the drawing up of a list of technical experts who would be able to provide technical assistance notably to developing countries.

The final item discussed concerning the forthcoming year's work program was the possibility of opening a Development Council web site: a proposal was made by Mrs. Annabi to incorporate a sub-site specifically relevant to the Development Council within the existing OIML site. The BIML will work on this project in conjunction with Mrs. Annabi.

To conclude the meeting, a number of resolutions were drawn up and adopted; these are listed below:

### *Resolutions of the OIML Development Council Meeting*

#### *The OIML Development Council:*

- 1 took note of a report presented by its Chairperson and by the BIML concerning reactions of Council Members to a letter from Mrs. Annabi and to an inquiry made by the BIML, and requested the BIML to use these reactions in the final drafting of the Council work program for 2000–2001;
- 2 took note of a report from Dr. Wallerus concerning WG 1 activities on training (of which the participation list was updated on this occasion) and expressed its appreciation for both the accomplished and the ongoing work; the Council also took note of proposals from Mr. Birch concerning the possible certification or validation of training courses and facilities and requested Dr. Wallerus and Mr. Birch to reflect on the proposal;
- 3 disbanded WG 2 on external liaisons because of the lack of activity of this WG and decided that this matter should be under the direct responsibility of its Chairperson;
- 4 requested Dr. Issaev to try to accelerate the work of WG 3 on information and equipment, possibly to split this WG into two WG's, one for information, one for equipment, and to report to the Council in order to permit it to decide whether to maintain this/these working group(s) or to adopt alternative solutions to perform the tasks;
- 5 requested the BIML to develop terms of reference and working methods for WG's attached to the Council;
- 6 noted the reports presented by the Conveners of regional organizations and suggested that they systematically take into consideration the aims of the OIML Development Council when developing their own work programs;
- 7 took note of information given by Prof. Kochsiek and Mr. Athané concerning a UNIDO-OIML-PTB program and decided to request the CIML to support OIML participation in this program; the Council recognized the need to ensure that consultants used in the program had appropriate legal metrology expertise (see also 14 below);
- 8 took note of information given by Mr. Magana concerning an emerging cooperation in legal metrology in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- 9 took note of a report from its Chairperson concerning the use of the Internet in assisting developing countries and requested Mrs. Annabi and the BIML to rapidly develop the ideas presented on this occasion, taking into consideration any comments submitted by Council Members during or after the meeting;
- 10 requested the CIML to urgently initiate a revision of D 1 in parallel with an action on the harmonization of national metrology legislation and requested the BIML to work on the organization of a seminar on these topics, including considerations on the administrative organization of legal metrology;
- 11 requested the CIML to accelerate (or reactivate as appropriate) the work of TC's/SC's of specific interest to developing countries and to look at the possibility for the Development Council to be represented in this work;
- 12 took note of a proposal aimed at placing lists of measuring instruments approved in other countries at the disposal of developing countries;
- 13 took note of information delivered by certain members and by its Chairperson concerning special activities connected with the Council's aims and encouraged them to pursue these activities;
- 14 requested its Chairperson and the BIML to reflect on the possibility of establishing lists of experts whose competence will have been assessed in an appropriate manner;
- 15 requested its Chairperson and the BIML to urgently develop a comprehensive work program for the 2000–2001 period and to submit it to Council Members for approval by correspondence before the end of 1999;
- 16 decided to hold its next meeting in October 2000 in connection with the Eleventh OIML Conference;
- 17 requested its Chairperson and the BIML to introduce an item relating to funding on the agenda of future Council meetings. ■

## Agenda - 34<sup>th</sup> CIML Meeting

# 34

*Opening addresses – Roll-call - Quorum – Approval of the agenda*

- 1 Approval of the minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> CIML Meeting**
- 2 Member States and Corresponding Members**
  - 2.1 New Members - Expected accessions
  - 2.2 Situation of certain Members
  - 2.3 Implementation of the decision made by the Committee at its 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting concerning increased participation of Corresponding Members in certain OIML activities
- 3 Financial matters**
  - 3.1 Adoption of the Auditor's report for 1998
  - 3.2 Examination of the financial situation for 1999
  - 3.3 Budget for the year 2000
- 4 CIML Presidency**
- 5 Director of the Bureau**
- 6 OIML Long-term policy: implementation of the decisions made by the Committee at its 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting concerning the output of the Braunschweig International Seminar and of the Birkeland Report**
- 7 Report on the activities of the Presidential Council**
- 8 Development Council**
  - 8.1 Report on the Development Council meeting of October 5, 1999
  - 8.2 Work program of the Development Council
  - 8.3 Liaisons with relevant international and regional organizations
- 9 Liaisons with international and regional organizations**
  - 9.1 World Trade Organization (WTO)
  - 9.2 Standardization organizations (in particular: ISO, IEC, UN/ECE)
  - 9.3 Accreditation organizations (in particular: ILAC and IAF)
  - 9.4 Regional Legal Metrology Organizations (RLMO's)
  - 9.5 Regional organizations having activities connected with legal metrology (in particular: European Commission and CEN/CENELEC)
  - 9.6 Others
- 10 Activities linked with mutual recognition of test results, accreditation, etc.**
- 11 Technical activities**
  - 11.1 Work program of OIML TC's/SC's
  - 11.2 Examination of the situation of certain TC's/SC's
  - 11.3 Approval of draft Recommendations
  - 11.4 Availability of OIML publications on paper, electronic media and via Internet; use of Internet within the OIML
- 12 OIML Certificate System**
  - 12.1 General information
  - 12.2 New Recommendations applicable within the System
- 13 Preparations for the Eleventh Conference**
  - 13.1 Information concerning the organization of the Conference
  - 13.2 Proposed agenda
  - 13.3 Examination of a preliminary proposal for the 2001–2004 budget taking into consideration BIML staff requirements for that period
- 14 Report on BIML activities**
- 15 Future Meetings**
  - 15.1 35<sup>th</sup> CIML Meeting (2000)
  - 15.2 36<sup>th</sup> CIML Meeting (2001)
- 16 Other matters**
- 17 Adoption of decisions**

*Closure*

## ▶ 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Committee of Legal Metrology ◀

Wednesday, 6 – Friday, 8 October 1999

# 34

The CIML held its 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting at the Abou Nawas Hotel, Tunis, from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> through Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 1999. 45 OIML Member States attended (with an additional three who were represented), together with five OIML Corresponding Members, seven institutions in liaison with the OIML, the CIML Immediate Past President and four BIML staff members including its Director.

The minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> CIML Meeting were approved without comment (**Item 1**), and under **Item 2 Member States and Corresponding Members** Mr. Athané informed Delegates that since the last CIML Meeting, no new Member State had joined the Organization; however, three countries were considering changing their status from Corresponding Member to full Member State and one new country (Uzbekistan) was interested in joining the OIML.

Two Corresponding Members had been readmitted during the year. Two or three countries were currently experiencing difficulty in paying their annual contributions, however no action needed to be taken yet; additionally, the situation of countries in a lower contributory class will be examined during the Eleventh Conference in the year 2000.

Concerning Item 2.3 *Implementation of the decision made by the Committee at its 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting concerning increased participation of Corresponding Members in certain OIML activities* the Committee had taken two decisions concerning Corresponding Members: firstly, they would be admitted as observers at CIML Meetings. Five Corresponding Members were indeed present at this 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting; other Corresponding Members were

unfortunately experiencing budgetary problems, and it was clear that the OIML can not finance their trips. It was confirmed that all OIML Corresponding Members will be invited to the Eleventh Conference. Secondly, in 1998, OIML Corresponding Members had been invited to participate in the technical work of OIML TC's and SC's. Indeed, over the last year, a small number of Corresponding Members did participate in two or three such meetings, notably in the TC 3 meeting held in Paris last June. This gradual increase in participation of Corresponding Members renders the management of increased participation easier.

Under **Item 3 Financial matters**, the auditor's report for 1998 was adopted without comment, and Mr. Athané informed participants under Item 3.2, *Examination of the financial situation for 1999*, that there were no changes in the budget estimations although he noted that Member State contributions are on average now being paid later than they were last year. He recognized that some countries and regions have had certain economic problems over the past few months, but had received confirmation from many of these countries that their contributions would be paid by the end of 1999.

The full accounts, together with the 1999 financial table, will be sent out by the beginning of 2000 with relevant explanations. Under Item 3.3, *Budget for the year 2000*, a document was distributed to Delegates, and this subject gave rise to a number of comments. Certain countries felt that the year 2000 contributions should remain fixed in view of certain national budgetary restrictions. Mr. Faber replied that even if the inflation rate in France was currently very low, we do still have a



Delegates attending the 34<sup>th</sup> CIML Meeting at the Abou Nawas Hotel, Tunis

budget to balance. The Organization is facing a future in which it must deal with a number of new work project proposals, an increasing workload and maybe even extra unforeseen costs. The safest way, he felt, to deal with the 2000 budget, was therefore to follow it as it had previously been proposed. He added that if we accept to reduce the 2000 budget and adopt a 0 % increase, the start-off point for budgetary discussions during the Eleventh Conference would be lower, rendering any increase in the budget more difficult to accept.

It was also pointed out that the Bureau and the Organization as a whole does need a strong commitment from governments in order to successfully continue its activities; this includes paying annual contributions. Mr. Magana pointed out that maintaining the budget at a zero growth rate would not necessarily allow for any degree of freedom in taking on additional projects, and the BIML was already hard-pushed to accomplish the actions it had already set out to achieve. Mr. Issaev (Russian Federation) supported the Conference proposal but recommended taking into account the needs of developing countries, who may experience certain difficulties in paying. However, the OIML Convention does not provide for setting two parallel base contributory share calculation procedures, i.e. one for developing countries and one for industrialized countries. The calculation basis for all Member States must be the same. As a conclusion to these discussions, and following a formal vote, the budget was maintained as fixed by the Tenth Conference.

Discussions were held under **Item 4 CIML Presidency** and **Item 5 Director of the Bureau**; the decisions taken by the Committee have been communicated to OIML Member States. A Selection Committee was formed to manage the recruitment of the new Director.

A paper was distributed which had been drawn up by the BIML and endorsed by the CIML Presidium concerning **Item 6, OIML Long-term policy, and the implementation of the decisions made by the Committee at its 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting concerning the output of the Braunschweig International Seminar and of the Birkeland Report.**

Mr. Faber commented that the drawing up of this document was a big step forward for the Organization and it was encouraging to see that its future strategy had been so well identified. He opened the floor to questions and suggestions.

Concerning the first section of this Report, on *improving and accelerating the technical activity of OIML TC's and SC's and increasing the participation of OIML Members*, Mr. Athané pointed out that this should not exclude developing countries; on the contrary, these countries should be encouraged to actively participate in technical activities in the future. Mr. Birch found the document very informative and agreed that the scope of legal metrology should be expanded.

Under point B of the Report, *Developing procedures for mutual recognition or equivalents agreements*, Sam Chappell (USA) informed participants that a document was being developed on manufacturers' declarations of conformity of instruments to initial verification requirements of an instrument if a quality system is in place.

Seton Bennett (UK) added that there should perhaps be a reference to IAF as well as to ILAC when discussing aspects of legal metrology laboratory accreditation.

Mr. Vaucher (Switzerland) agreed that mutual recognition of results and procedures is a very important issue in this chapter of the Report and mentioned the mutual recognition agreement that was due to be signed in Paris at the CGPM in the week following this CIML Meeting.

Under the subject of *developing an OIML system for marking prepacked products that meet OIML requirements*, an area that concerned the Presidential Council and OIML TC 6, Mr. Faber stressed the importance of this field, a comment that was reiterated by Mr. Gögge (Germany), who thanked the BIML for including this Item, which he and Mr. Birch (Australia) had suggested at the Seoul CIML Meeting.

Mr. Kildal (Norway) reminded Delegates of the EU Directive on prepacked products; he felt that maybe OIML work in this area would be superfluous as EU Directives are in fact legally binding. Sam Chappell replied that a working group meeting was being held on this subject and he would report back to the Committee on the outcome.

Under point C dealing with *the importance of legal metrology and identifying the bases of legal metrology amongst other aspects of metrology and related activities*, Mr. Birch drew Delegates' attention to the degree of urgency that should be allocated to reviewing OIML D 1 *Law on Metrology* and related publications. This comment was brought up on a number of occasions during the week's meetings and will be treated as a priority by the BIML.

On the subject of *facilitating and improving the work of CIML Members, of the Presidential Council and of the BIML, not forgetting OIML cooperation with RLMO's*, Mr. Issaev felt that the *CIML Members' Guide* was a priority and asked whether it could be republished before the deadline that had previously been set of July 2000. Mr. Athané replied that a draft revision had already been drawn up and that he was waiting until the deadline for comments from Presidential Council Members before taking further action: up to now he had only received one written response; he therefore requested Presidential Council members to accelerate their consideration of this document.

Mr. Klenovský (Czech Republic) felt that maybe the OIML web site could serve to reduce the BIML's work load by rendering communication more efficient. Mr. Athané replied that this subject would be dealt with in

some detail under Item 11, though he advocated a certain degree of caution since not all OIML Member States and Corresponding Members yet have access to the Internet, though he agreed that this was a major step forward in increasing communication between the various OIML Member States and other bodies.

Seton Bennett also reaffirmed the necessity to improve communication between the various regional organizations and the BIML, and noted that cooperation in this field is positive and is set to continue.

Under Item D.5 of the OIML Long-term policy Document, *Improving cooperation between the OIML and other international and regional bodies*, Mr. Faber agreed that cooperation in this area is of utmost importance and will serve to make our Organization more effective. This was one of the most important conclusions of the Birkeland Study.

Another objective in the Long-term policy Document was to identify consumer associations at international and regional levels that are likely to be able to engage in cooperation with the OIML.

Mr. Nyström (Sweden) said that this type of cooperation is not always easy to achieve.

The BIML, affirmed Mr. Athané, had recently contacted many measuring instrument user groups, manufacturer's associations, etc. and had received favorable responses which the BIML would implement soon. This concluded discussions on Item 6.

Under **Item 7**, *Report on the activities of the Presidential Council*, Mr. Faber summarized the recent Council discussions which had included some ideas about the 2001–2004 budget and the review of OIML technical activities. The implementation of the CIML decision concerning increased participation of Corresponding Members was confirmed and in-depth discussions had been held on the subject of what actions should be taken following the completion of the Birkeland Study. There had been an information exchange concerning the Software Seminar held in Paris in the week prior to the Tunis meetings; information was given on the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID), on the Seminar held recently in South Africa, and on the specific development of metrology in France.

During this week's Presidential Council Meeting, held in conjunction with the 34<sup>th</sup> CIML Meeting, the subjects of the new BIML Director, the budget and the 2000 London Conference would be discussed.

A Report was then given by Mrs. Annabi and Mr. Dunmill concerning **Item 8** *Development Council activities* and the Council's meeting held prior to this CIML Meeting. A detailed account is published in this Bulletin.

Under **Item 9**, *Liaisons with international and regional organizations*, information was given concerning the World Trade Organization: Ms. Vivien Liu, who had been invited as a special guest to the meeting, reminded Delegates that the OIML had been admitted as

an Observer Member of the WTO TBT Committee in November 1997, and the two Organizations were enjoying very good working relationships. The OIML has participated in several important events and has exchanged views and briefed members on its work. Ms. Liu gave a comprehensive presentation of WTO activities and affirmed the WTO TBT's objective of ensuring that activities relating to mandatory technical regulations and voluntary standards do not create barriers to trade. OIML cooperation in this field was developing well and would continue to be expanded.

The OIML was also enjoying excellent relations with the ISO Central Secretariat: Mr. Athané summarized the specific case of the development of a joint ISO 3930/OIML 99 on vehicle exhaust emissions which is being adopted by both Organizations. However two countries within ISO had voted "no", therefore the draft Standard had had to be submitted to all ISO Member Countries. The text is due to be published shortly as a joint publication. Final editorial changes are awaited from the ISO secretariat and a test report will be developed by the Netherlands during 2000. ISO will inform the Organization as to whether they are interested in also producing a joint test report; if not, this document will be purely an OIML publication.

The OIML is also producing application documents relevant to ISO 17025 and Guide 65; TC 3/SC 5 is responsible for this area. These application documents will either be published as OIML documents or as ISO/OIML joint texts. Mr. Athané has asked ISO to identify the relevant ISO experts willing to cooperate with the OIML on the development of these application documents.

Concerning cooperation with the IEC, work still has to be carried out on OIML Recommendations 58 and 88 concerning sound meters for which the relevant OIML TC is vacant. The IEC is currently drawing up standards and joint IEC/OIML publications are envisaged in this field.

On the subject of the UN/ECE, a Workshop was held (and attended by the BIML) on the use and implementation of International Standards. The OIML is the only



Organization to have surveyed the implementation of its International Recommendations. Reports were also given on cooperation with ILAC concerning accreditation and a brief summary concerning cooperation with RLMO's, representatives of which gave in-depth presentations.

The BIML will be making further contacts with the World Health Organization and with the European Commission and will report back next year. Concerning the BIPM, no meetings had been scheduled over the last year, however Mr. Faber was due to attend the CGPM Conference in Paris the following week and would be talking to Mr. Kovalevsky and Mr. Quinn with a view to activating cooperation with BIPM.

Sam Chappell then reported on **Item 10**, *Activities linked with mutual recognition of test results, accreditation, etc.*

Last year, Mr. Chappell had delivered a report on the draft OIML document on mutual acceptance of OIML pattern evaluations. This project had been started in April 1998 to explore the means by which multilateral agreements could be established for such acceptance. Some progress had been made, in particular on the occasion of a meeting held in February 1999. It was decided to incorporate this project in the OIML working plan. So, a meeting of OIML TC 3 was held in June 1999, hosted by the BIML, to review all of TC 3's work programs. A new subcommittee SC 5 on *Conformity assessment* was established and a document was distributed giving details of how this decision had come about.

It was decided to disband TAG<sub>cert</sub> and the revision of the document on the OIML Certificate System will be the responsibility of this new subcommittee, of which the joint secretariat will be held by the USA and the BIML.

The objective and scope of the new TC 3/SC 5 would therefore be to establish, according to OIML requirements, the rules and procedures for fostering mutual confidence in the results of testing of measuring instruments and a legal metrology control among OIML Member States.

Three main working projects were identified as being of a high priority for TC 3/SC 5: firstly the document on the OIML Certificate System for Measuring Instruments, secondly the draft document on mutual acceptance agreement of OIML pattern evaluation and thirdly the Working Draft document on the expression of uncertainty in measurement in legal metrology applications.

Sam Chappell then gave a detailed transparency presentation of these work program aspects, including comments on the revision of OIML R 87 *Net content in packages*, concluding discussions on Item 10.

Discussions were then held on **Item 11**, *Technical activities*. The BIML distributed a *Report on Technical*

*Activities* in which it was stated that annual reports had been received by the BIML from all 18 TC's and 42 SC's and sent to CIML Members earlier in 1999. Based on these reports it can be stated that there was an overall increase in the activity of OIML technical bodies during 1998 compared to previous years.

As a result of this activity four Draft Recommendations were to be presented for approval under Item 11.3 and other Drafts will be presented to CIML Members for postal ballot by the BIML later this year.

Concerning the work program of OIML TC's and SC's, two new subcommittees have been established together with their work programs as proposed during the 33<sup>rd</sup> CIML Meeting: TC 15/SC 1 *Measuring instruments for ionizing radiations used in medical applications* (Russian Federation) and TC 15/SC 2 *Measuring instruments for ionizing radiations used in industrial processes* (USA).

At the June 1999 TC 3 meeting, it was decided to establish a new SC, together with its work program of five projects, including that of the TAG<sub>cert</sub> and simultaneously to discontinue the TAG<sub>cert</sub>. TC 3/SC 5 *Conformity assessment* was established, as previously described. The formal establishment of these three subcommittees together with their work programs was approved by the CIML.

Concerning revisions and new work projects proposed by TC's and SC's, a number of new projects were introduced by TC's 8, 9, 11, 17 and 18.

Concerning R 101 and R 109, following repeated consultations between the Russian secretariat and the BIML, it was considered inappropriate to publish their annexes together with the original texts of the Recommendations, but rather to initiate their revision based on comments and proposals received from members of the subcommittee. The CIML approved the proposed work projects.

Under the responsibility of Germany, the activity of TC 3/SC 4 has been restarted and a situation report was presented at the June 1999 TC 3 meeting.

Two OIML TC's/SC's were currently vacant: TC 13 and TC 8/SC 1. The BIML had received a fax from Dr. Leitner (Austria) indicating that Austria is willing to assume responsibility for TC 8/SC 1 *Static volume measurement*. The UK is considering taking on TC 13.

Volunteers are also needed to assume responsibility for certain work projects within TC 16/SC 1 since the Netherlands can only continue work on R 99.

On the subject of transfer of responsibility, the responsibility for the review and revision of OIML R 35 *Material measures of length for general use* is to be transferred from TC 7/SC 1 (Russian Federation) to TC 7 (UK), as proposed by the UK and agreed by Russia. The CIML approved this request.

It was also decided to establish a new subcommittee TC 5/SC 2 *Software*, of which France and Germany will

assume the joint secretariat. Other urgent priorities were identified which have already been dealt with in this account: for example, the revision of D 1, the drawing up of the document *Expression of uncertainty in measurement in legal metrology applications* and the subject of *Prepackages*. These three projects will be taken on by the USA and it was pointed out that the OIML has the responsibility to accelerate work on uncertainty in legal metrology, failing which WELMEC will feel obliged to draw up its own respective document.

On the subject of the approval of Draft OIML Recommendations, the four Drafts submitted for approval were approved by the Committee:

- Revision of R 60 *Load cells*, which will be published as soon as possible by the BIML pending final comments to be received from the secretariat;
- *Multi-dimensional measuring instruments*, for which the secretariat has taken note of comments received and modified the document accordingly. A test report has also been drawn up by Australia, and is ready to be sent out for postal vote. This document was delayed to first ensure that the Recommendation itself was approved by the Committee. The Recommendation, together with its test report, will be published as one document;
- Revision of R 49 *Water meters* and revision of R 65 *Material testing machines* were also approved.

It was noted that concerning R 49, two Drafts had initially been sent to the BIML: one concerning mechanical water meters and the second concerning both mechanical and electronic meters. The latter was approved by the Committee.

Item 11.4 dealt with the availability of OIML publications on paper, electronic media and via the Internet.

Chris Pulham informed the Committee that a survey had been conducted by the BIML at the beginning of 1999 to ascertain the degree to which OIML Members had access to the Internet; the results were published in the April 1999 issue of the OIML Bulletin. The OIML has now had its own web site for almost three years; this site has been created by BIML staff at virtually zero expense. The site now comprises approximately 25 pages including general information on legal metrology, the role of the BIML and its staff, Member listings, Latest news, Calendar of OIML meetings, Technical Committees including composition and state of progress of the work, the OIML Certificate System (with a complete list of registered OIML certificates), Publications and Links to web sites of organizations in liaison with the OIML. Account was taken of ideas and suggestions made by CIML Members during the survey and these have served to further develop the site.

Over the last year some 8000 connections were recorded. This number is currently at the level of about

1000 connections per month - emanating from all over the world - and the site is referenced on four or five search engines. Since the end of September 1999, a new menu system is fully operational; the site is bilingual English-French and will soon be trilingual with the addition of the Spanish language; the Spanish CIML Member has kindly offered to translate the relevant pages into Spanish.

Concerning the availability of OIML publications on various media, no immediate decision has been taken to "abandon" paper printing of OIML publications; this subject will be gone into in more depth during the Eleventh Conference in London next year. However, the BIML is increasing its efforts to make publications available in a universally readable electronic format (Adobe Acrobat PDF) and at the present time 43 Recommendations are available in both French and English, either on disc or directly available from our site for direct download by CIML Members, including notably all the Recommendations applicable within the OIML Certificate System.

A new online order form has recently been incorporated in the site so that other customers (apart from CIML Members) may order directly online.

Discussions then moved on to **Item 12** *The OIML Certificate System* including general information on the System and Recommendations applicable within it. A document distributed by the BIML gave the background to the establishment and details of the evolution of the System which was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1991 with the aim of facilitating, accelerating and harmonizing the work of national or regional bodies that approve patterns of measuring instruments. To date, some 540 certificates have been issued, 28 OIML Recommendations are applicable within the System and 21 Issuing Authorities in 19 Member States have been established. More than 120 applicants and manufacturers of measuring instruments from 25 countries were granted OIML certificates by Issuing Authorities of 13 Member States.

Concerning Item 12.1, the question of further development of the Certificate System was brought up:



certain actions will be carried out within the framework of the new TC 3/SC 5, including defining the principles of juridical protection of OIML certificates, coordinating the development of this system with relevant activities carried out by international and regional organizations concerned with testing, certification, conformity assessment and accreditation, organizing intercomparisons aimed at harmonizing national requirements and pattern evaluation procedures, or making use of intercomparisons carried out within other international or regional bodies and publishing the results, and raising confidence of Issuing Authorities and others and the application of accreditation procedures to OIML certification.

CIML Members and the BIML were actively encouraged to continue promoting the System at national, international and regional levels. And the OIML's status of Observer within the WTO TBT Committee may be used advantageously to promote OIML certification activities based on the high priority allocated by the TBT Agreement to conformity assessment based on internationally harmonized standards.

An inquiry will also be carried out among manufacturers of measuring instruments with a potential interest in the System with a view to better understanding their demands and hence encouraging them to better utilize the System; also international and regional organizations in liaison with the OIML will be kept informed about the advantages of and further development of the System.

It was also added under Item 12.2 that three of the Recommendations approved by the Committee will become applicable within the System following their publication.

Mr. Athané raised the specific case of OIML R 60 *Load cells*. A decision was taken by the Committee on this Item, notably concerning the additional tests required for the 1999 edition of R 60 compared to the 1991 edition, and the period over which certificates may still be issued for the 1991 edition.

Under **Item 13** *Preparations for the Eleventh Conference*, it was reported that arrangements for the London meetings were well underway; the NWML was confident that the event would be a success. It was also suggested that a Round Table on a subject of interest to the Organization could be organized in conjunction with the Eleventh Conference and 35<sup>th</sup> CIML Meeting; ideas for subjects that could be discussed during such a Round Table were invited from CIML Members, who should submit them to the BIML before the end of 1999.

Mr. Athané had drawn up a preliminary proposal for the 2001–2004 budget, taking into consideration BIML staff requirements for that period. In commenting on this document, Mr. Athané mentioned that the Presidential Council would meet early in 2000 to discuss this budget proposal; ideas from CIML Members were still

welcome and the cut-off date to submit them by was 31 December 1999. He added that the economic situation of certain countries led him to conclude that an increase in the number of permanent BIML staff cannot be envisaged. However, it would still be possible to consider hiring experts for specific time periods and to accomplish specific tasks. The funding for this would come from the reserve fund, so that a budget increase would not be necessary. He suggested considering the possibility that there would be no increase in Member State contributions, but that if any new Member States were to join the Organization, their contributions would be simply added to the budget, thus increasing the total amount available.

The BIML distributed a *Report on its activities* under **Item 14**. This document is reproduced in full in the *Update* section of this OIML Bulletin.

On the subject of *Future meetings*, **Item 15**, for the year 2001 (i.e. for the 36<sup>th</sup> CIML Meeting) invitations were received in order of priority from the Russian Federation, Australia and Israel. A decision will be made in due course, but it was noted that Israel's invitation could equally apply to the 2002 Committee Meeting.

Finally, concerning *Other matters* under **Item 16**, Mr. Magana gave information to the Committee concerning a speech made recently by the French Minister for Industry which was distributed to all participants concerning the development of metrology in France.

Mr. Faber concluded the Meeting by warmly thanking our Tunisian hosts for their excellent organization of the Meetings and for the incomparable hospitality that they had extended to Delegates and accompanying persons. He also thanked Mr. Mondher Zenaïdi for honoring Members with his presence at the opening of the Meeting and for his words of support not only for the Organization but for the concept of metrology as a whole. The Meeting had been a complete success, and Mr. Faber was especially happy that it had taken place in a Maghreb country for the very first time. This would, he hoped, pave the way for excellent future cooperation between developing and industrialized countries that are Members of the Organization, and maybe encourage other states that are not yet Members to join. ■

### *Presidential Council Meeting*

Following the 34<sup>th</sup> CIML Meeting, a brief meeting of the Presidential Council was convened by President Faber in order to review the CIML Decisions and to initiate their implementation. It was also decided to hold the next Council Meeting in Paris during the week 21–25 February 2000, if possible in conjunction with a joint Metre Convention/OIML meeting and an OIML TC or SC technical meeting. ■