

REPORT

PEFIM Preparatory Workshop at the PTB, Braunschweig, Germany (14–16 September 1999)

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As a result of an EC assessment of the status of the metrology systems currently in force in Central European Countries (CEC), there is clearly a need to further transform these systems according to the requirements of industry. Bearing in mind the ultimate goal of full EU membership, the recommendations of EUROMET were:

- to reformulate the basic requirements, as seen from the point of view of EUROMET; and
- to help CEC's formulate "Strategic Planning in Metrology" with the aim of adhering to a coherent approach, despite changes in political structures and economic pressures.

To assist the CEC's in providing a national metrology system capable of coping with the needs of national industry, thus assigning to metrology a role comparable to the one it has in the Union, a project called PEFIM, the *Pan European Forum on Industrial Metrology*, has been launched. PEFIM is financed by the PHARE program PRAQIII and hosted by EUROMET. It is centered on a Working Conference which addresses government officials in the ministries responsible for industry, managers of industrial companies and the heads of national metrology institutes; it will be held in Brussels on November 3 and 4 1999.

Before this conference, preparatory workshops will take place under the general heading "Needs for industrial metrology in the Union", and after the con-

ference follow-up workshops dealing with the formulation of strategic planning will be held.

The three preparatory workshops are being hosted by the national metrology institutes of France (BNM-LCIE), Sweden (SP) and Germany (PTB) and address experts and managers from different CEC regions (north, middle and south).

From September 14 to 16, the first of these preparatory workshops took place at the PTB with 15 participants from the PHARE countries Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, FYROM (Macedonia) and Romania.

The subjects (which are identical for all three workshops) dealt with are:

- *essential requirements;*
- *calibration versus verification;*
- *traceability and uncertainty;*
- *quality management and accreditation;*
- *inter-laboratory comparisons;*
- *international collaboration; and*
- *the need for strategy planning.*

The topics which attracted most attention and which were most intensively discussed were *Traceability*, *Measurement uncertainty* and *Quality management*. In the lecture on *Strategy planning* the audience was especially interested in the economic aspects of metrology, both due to its impact on the development of the national economy and as a chance for employers to provide the necessary services to society. ■

