

REPORT

15th WELMEC Committee Meeting Warsaw, Poland (23–24 September 1999)



Dr. Bennett opened the 15th WELMEC Committee Meeting by welcoming the Committee as well as Dr. Skubic from the new WELMEC Associate Member country of Slovenia. Speaking on behalf of GUM, Dr. Mordzinski welcomed the Committee to Poland and reiterated the importance of participation in WELMEC. Dr. Bennett added that he was glad to see John Birch represent APLMF at a WELMEC Committee Meeting for the second time and also expressed his thanks to GUM for organizing it.

He continued by informing participants that all the actions resulting from the Resolutions of the 14th Meeting had been achieved, with the exception of one.

Dr. Bennett said that, in fulfillment of Resolution 13, he had written a letter to the European Commission concerning the relationship between conformity assessment activities and market surveillance, but had not received any reply.

WELMEC has made significant progress and achieved much since its last Meeting. The Chairman's report contained 6 main points:

- i) Draft Memorandum of Understanding - all 18 signatories have indicated to the secretariat their consent to the proposed amendments.
- ii) MID - With Ms. Buckley's departure from the European Commission it was not clear when progress would be made with the MID. WELMEC could most usefully contribute to progress with the technical annexes through WG 8.
- iii) Notified Bodies - (a) on the issue of coordination, Dr. Bennett had discussed with Ms. Buckley the possibility of the Commission appointing WELMEC to coordinate Notified Bodies for EC verification. However Dr. Bennett indicated that he would be looking to re-open this discussion with DG III.
(b) With regards to EN 45000 series, EA are preparing guidance notes on the application of EN 45004, EN 45011 and EN 45012. Mr. Koch attended all three EA meetings on this matter this year. Dr. Bennett said that the application of standards was of interest to WG 2 and WG 4. From Mr. Koch's report it was clear that the guidance on EN 45011 was near com-

pletion. Dr. Bennett suggested that WELMEC take a closer look at these guides, concentrating on legal metrology for notified bodies carrying out type approval and whether WELMEC ought to produce guides on the EN 45000 series applicable to legal metrology.

- iv) WELMEC Working Groups - Dr. Bennett showed the Committee that there was potentially some overlap in the work carried out by the working groups by citing the examples of WG 2 and WG 4, and of WG 5 and WG 6 on (market surveillance and pre-packages). One such way to avoid duplication of work was good communication, which could be aided by Working Groups having their own pages on the Internet. Dr. Bennett said that it would be possible for Working Groups to have their own secure pages on the WELMEC web site, otherwise Working Group chairmen could create their own web site provided they observed the following criteria:
 - home page should follow common WELMEC format;
 - links to be established to and from the main WELMEC web site;
 - no links to non-metrology web sites;
 - no advertising on WELMEC pages.
- v) WELMEC and OIML - Dr. Bennett said that much of WELMEC's work recently could be of interest to the OIML. For instance, WG 10's proposal to prepare interpretation documents of OIML Recommendations, and the possible work on uncertainty by WG 4, as well as WG 7's software guide and the guides on automatic weighing instruments being prepared by WG 2. He stressed that it is therefore essential to maintain good communication between WELMEC and the OIML.
- vi) EQUIP - replaces TCU and brings together training and qualifications in legal metrology. Dr. Bennett said that WELMEC was not in a position to make a financial contribution to EQUIP but could perhaps produce a register of experts in WELMEC who could participate in the EQUIP program. Dr. Bennett circu-

lated an invitation he received from PRAQ III for a PEFIM Conference (*See account later in this issue of the Bulletin*) which might be of special interest to Central and Eastern European countries.

There was a general discussion concerning a possible WELMEC submission on the draft guide to EA and it was decided that WG 4 would draft some comments and send them to EA.

Dr. Bennett said that the final version of the Memorandum of Understanding had been circulated to the Committee and that in making changes to it, he had relied on the MoU's own power. Changes within WELMEC had been reflected in the MoU, although Dr. Bennett had not felt it appropriate to include clauses on financial commitments and majority voting. Dr. Bennett reiterated the fact that all 18 WELMEC members had given their consent to the amended version of the MoU and that the amendments were approved unanimously by the signatories.

Dr. Bennett told the Committee that he understood that work on the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID) had stopped and it is likely to be early 2000 before the Draft Directive will be published. In response to discussions from the floor, Dr. Bennett hoped that the Commission regains momentum and includes WELMEC in future discussions on the MID.

There was some discussion over WELMEC guides possibly having an input into OIML documents on the subject of the WELMEC Type Approval Agreement, after which the Committee charged the Secretariat with republishing Annexes 2 and 3 of the Agreement.

Reports were then given by the various WELMEC Working Groups. On the subject of WG 4, Mr. Lindløv said that WELMEC 3 (*Guide for the assessing and operation of Notified Bodies performing conformity assessment according to the Directive 90/384/EEC*) was now published. On the issue of uncertainty in legal metrology, Mr. Lindløv suggested that WG 4 ought to establish a sub-group to tackle the matter: Bernard Athané supported such a sub-group, which could represent European views at an international level, thus enabling OIML to progress its work on uncertainties throughout the world.

Dr. Bennett suggested that WG 4 be the main focus for input from WELMEC into EA discussions and on EA guidance documents on standards. The Committee invited WG 4 to develop a work program and revise its Terms of Reference to incorporate this relationship with EA.

Mr. Klenovský informed the Committee that Euro-met met in Prague last May, where it approved a change to its MoU and widened its membership. Euro-met is in the process of preparing guidance on inter-comparisons and might seek to obtain legal status in future to help in European assistance programs. The next meeting in 2000 is due to take place in Turkey. Mr. Birch spoke on behalf of the APLMF and Mr. Athané on behalf of the OIML.

Mr. Magana said that he would like to discuss the issue of programmes of technical assistance at the next WELMEC Committee meeting. He said that the Commission and CEN were looking to set up a legal entity to manage all the technical assistance programmes and that perhaps WELMEC ought to take stock of the program and possibly set up a database of experts. Mr. Magana said he would try to circulate some proposals for possible actions to the Committee.

There was some discussion on the merit of holding a WELMEC conference - possibly on the globalization of trade. Dr. Bennett re-affirmed that he would seek to hold a meeting with the chairmen of all the RLMO's and that this might identify a need for a global conference. Dr. Bennett said that he hoped to discuss this further in the next Chairman's Group meeting.

Mr. Lindløv re-confirmed his offer on behalf of the Norwegian Metrology and Accreditation Service to host the 16th WELMEC Committee meeting in Norway. The meeting would take place on 8-9 June 2000 to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the signing of the WELMEC Memorandum of Understanding.

Dr. Bennett thanked Mr. Lindløv for his offer and the Committee accepted the invitation.

The Committee approved the Resolutions (see insert) and Dr. Bennett thanked Dr. Mordzinski, Mrs Klarner-Sniadowska and the staff from GUM for organizing the meeting and their kind hospitality; he looked forward to meeting in Oslo next year. ■

Resolutions of the 15th WELMEC Committee Meeting overleaf ►

Resolutions of the 15th WELMEC Committee Meeting

The WELMEC Committee, meeting in Warsaw on 23 and 24 September 1999

- Welcomes** Slovenia, the new Associate Member;
- Approves** unanimously the amended Memorandum of Understanding;
- Instructs** the Secretariat to republish the Type Approval Agreement with annexes amended to reflect information provided by Members;
- Instructs** the Chairman to seek ways to improve communication and cooperation with other regional legal metrology groups;
- Recognizes** the importance of working closely with OIML Technical Committees and with the BIML on matters of international interest;
- Approves** the Terms of Reference and Work Programme of WG 2;
- Requests** WG 4 to discuss its Terms of Reference again in the light of discussion at the meeting, prepare a new Work Programme and circulate comments on the EA guidance document(s);
- Approves** the operation of WG 5 under a joint LACOTS/SWEDAC Secretariat and requests WG 5 to amend its Terms of Reference, taking account of comments made by the Committee, and to complete its Work Programme proposals;
- Approves** the Terms of Reference of WG 6 and requests the WG to publish the remaining draft guides as quickly as possible;
- Approves** the Terms of Reference and Work Programme of WG 7 and approves the publication of WELMEC Guide 7.1 on software requirements;
- Approves** the Terms of Reference and Work Programme of WG 8 and agrees that the work should not proceed too quickly until some progress has been made with the MID in the Council;
- Instructs** the Chairman to request a meeting with DG III to discuss WELMEC's role in proposing amendments to the MID's technical annexes as well as the co-ordination of notified bodies;
- Decides** to close WG 9 and thanks Mr. Johansen for his work as Chairman of this WG;
- Approves** the Terms of Reference and Work Programme of WG 10;
- Instructs** the Secretariat to circulate a questionnaire on the coordination of EC verification;
- Thanks** the Polish Central Office of Measures for organizing the 15th WELMEC Committee Meeting;
- Accepts** the invitation from Norway to hold the 16th meeting in Oslo on 8 and 9 June 2000.