

WELMEC

WELMEC celebrates ten years at its 16th Committee Meeting Moss (Norway) 8–9 June 2000

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The 16th WELMEC Committee meeting was held on 8–9 June 2000 in Moss near Oslo, Norway. In welcoming delegates to the meeting, the Chairman, Dr. Seton Bennett (NWML, UK) announced that this was the 10th anniversary of the signing of the WELMEC Memorandum of Understanding. Over the ten years WELMEC has produced 15 Guides, established EMeTAS*, created a web site (www.welmec.org) and realized mutual cooperation through the WELMEC Type Approval Agreement.

Committee Members were pleased to see the meeting attended by Bernard Athané (BIML) and Daniel Hanekuyk (CEC). A new feature of the Committee meetings was to include presentations from two countries on their legal metrology infrastructure: Knut Lindløv (Justervesenet, Norway) and Jean-François Magana (Sous-direction de la Métrologie, France) gave interesting and informative presentations.

Dr. Bennett informed the Committee that Corinne Lagauterie (France) would represent WELMEC on the EA Working Group which is preparing a guidance document on the calibration of non-automatic weighing instruments.

Participants were informed that WELMEC's workload was increasing, therefore costs were rising accordingly. Having considered several options to avoid increasing Members' and Associate Members' contributions to a much higher rate, it was decided to contain costs by having only one Committee meeting per annum, but with the flexibility to hold ad hoc meetings as the need arose.

On the subject of the Measuring Instruments Directive, Daniel Hanekuyk told the Committee that the adopted text of the MID may appear in the Official Journal of the European Communities in August. Mr. Athané spoke about the draft Normative Document that

he had previously circulated to WELMEC Members: he said that the draft MID included provision for compliance with OIML Normative Documents (based on OIML Recommendations), which was one way in which manufacturers could satisfy the essential requirements of the MID. In this way the OIML could offer the European metrological community useful internationally agreed Normative Documents. Following discussions with the Commission, Mr. Athané had produced a format for them; the choice of which numbering system to adopt required a final decision, but Mr. Athané envisaged three options:

- to use successive numbering;
- to link numbering to OIML Recommendations; or
- to use the MID Annex numbers.

Mr. Athané sought comments from the Commission and from WELMEC on the format of the documents.

Reports from WELMEC Working Groups were given. A revised WELMEC 2 Guide (Common Application of Directive 90/384/EEC) now only requires minor amendments by WG 2 before being made available on the WELMEC web site. WG 4 hoped to meet later in the year to look at EN standards for the assessment of Notified Bodies. There was some discussion over the terms of reference for the recently re-organized WG 5 so that in reference to metrological supervision it is understood that the WG will look at

WELMEC Working Groups

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| WG 2 | Weighing instruments
(Secretariat: United Kingdom) |
| WG 4 | Application of EN45000 standards
in legal metrology
(Secretariat: Norway) |
| WG 5 | Metrological supervision
(Joint secretariat: Sweden and
United Kingdom) |
| WG 6 | Prepackages
(Secretariat: Netherlands) |
| WG 7 | Software
(Secretariat: Germany) |
| WG 8 | The Measuring Instruments Directive
(Secretariat: France) |
| WG 10 | Measuring systems for liquids
other than water
(Secretariat: Netherlands) |

* European Metrological Type Approvals Service

enforcement and market surveillance especially. The new WELMEC 8.3 Guide on the implementation of Directive 76/211/EEC produced by WG 6, was approved by the Committee and has been published on the WELMEC web site. Further work for WG 7 would include software guidelines on electricity meters and gas meters. Once the proposal for the MID has been published, WG 8 would suggest meeting to discuss the technical annexes. This would include involvement of the federations of European manufacturers. The new WG 10 had met to discuss various topics including data transfer of measured quantities, type approval of families of meters, provisions for fuel dispensers,

testing procedures for air separators, and performance tests on digital working and electronic sealing.

Mr. Athané praised the cooperation between WELMEC and the OIML, which had continued to expand, and which was now operating very satisfactorily. This relationship was a good example of successful cooperation between a regional legal metrology organization and the OIML.

Seton Bennett and Wilfried Schulz (PTB, Germany) were re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for a further three years.

The 17th WELMEC Committee meeting will be held in the Republic of Ireland in April or May 2001. ■

The WELMEC Committee, meeting in Moss on 8–9 June 2000:

- 1 **INSTRUCTS** the Secretariat to circulate a questionnaire on legal metrology experts;
- 2 **INSTRUCTS** the Secretariat to circulate a budget on WELMEC costs for 2001;
- 3 **AGREES** to meet on an annual basis;
- 4 **APPROVES** a 3 % increase in subscriptions for 2001;
- 5 **INSTRUCTS** the WG 2 Secretariat to make changes to the revised WELMEC 2 Guide;
- 6 **APPROVES** the Terms of Reference for WG 4;
- 7 **ACCEPTS** the Terms of Reference for WG 5 in general but **INSTRUCTS** the WG 5 Secretariat to remove the reference to pre-packages;
- 8 **INSTRUCTS** WG 6 to extend its Terms of Reference to cover market surveillance of pre-packaged goods;
- 9 **APPROVES** the publication of WELMEC Guide 8.3 on the implementation of Directive 76/211/EEC;
- 10 **REQUESTS** Members and Associate Members to provide BIML with comments on the format of the OIML Normative Documents by 31 July 2000;
- 11 **REQUESTS** Members and Associate Members to provide BIML with comments on the draft CEN/OIML agreement by 31 July 2000;
- 12 **INSTRUCTS** the Secretariat to take over complete maintenance of the WELMEC web site;
- 13 **APPROVES** the re-election of Seton Bennett as Chairman and Wilfried Schulz as vice-Chairman;
- 14 **THANKS** Justervesenet for organising the 16th WELMEC Committee meeting;
- 15 **ACCEPTS** the invitation from Ireland to hold the 17th WELMEC Committee meeting in May 2001.