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## Y2K + 1 ... Changes lie ahead

And so we arrive at the end of the year 2000, another full year for the OIML and its Members. As far as the BIML is concerned much has been achieved, as is witnessed by the *Report on BIML Activities* (see page 88). Nearly 1 000 printed pages were produced, and the vast majority of what we set out to publish last year has been printed - despite the various hurdles that had to be overcome along the way.

The year culminated in the highly successful London Meetings, full accounts of which are published in English and in French in this edition. We decided to devote as much space as possible to this key event and go into rather more detail than perhaps in previous years so that Members of the Organization and all those involved with it are fully aware not only of the progress that is being made, but also of the many changes that are taking place.

And changes there are. As Knut Birkeland so wisely said at Seoul, "Don't be afraid of change, be scared to death of *not* changing".

Firstly, the Presidential Council has been reconstituted; the updated membership of the Council, whose role it is to advise the Organization's President on key decisions that have to be made, is printed on the inside front cover.

Secondly, the BIML is pleased to offer a very warm welcome to Jean-François Magana, BIML Appointed Director, who joins the Bureau on January 2. For a number of months Bernard Athané and Jean-François Magana will work side by side establishing strategy, managing the hand-over and ensuring that the elements of the *1999-2002 Action Plan* are successfully transformed into day-to-day actions. Following this period, Bernard Athané will remain with the BIML for a further year or so as Consultant; his work during this period will hinge around this *Action Plan*, a document

which is concise in format but gigantic in its applicational scope. His experience and help in securing its implementation will most surely be appreciated.

The third change has already begun; in fact one could call it more of an evolution or a tendency, and a necessary one at that. Regionalization of legal metrology will be increasingly relevant to the activities of the Organization and its Members. Most OIML Members already belong to one or more regional organizations, which gives them an even broader outlook on legal metrology when considered in conjunction with the OIML's own "international" stance; this option is open to all since membership of the OIML is not a prerequisite for belonging to an RLMO, though one may lead to the other. As if further proof were needed, WELMEC (already ten years old), APLMF (six years old) and SADCMEC (already three years old) are going from strength to strength; SIM and COOMET are developing their legal metrology programs and brand new RLMOs are seeing the day: the IOLMF, and more recently the Euro-Mediterranean Forum (ELMLF), which is already in the (positive) situation of having too many items on its London meeting agenda to discuss in just one half-day session! Proof that this is the right direction to be taking.

Lastly, and this too is an ongoing change, OIML Membership is changing: we regularly welcome new Member States and Corresponding Members, and within these countries the appointed national representatives frequently change too, leading to a wider diversity of ideas and fresh strategic analysis of legal metrology situations.

The BIML and its Staff take this opportunity to wish all OIML Members and Readers of the Bulletin a happy and prosperous New Year, and look forward to another fruitful year of *Change*. ■