

Key meetings held at the BIML

In the January 2001 issue of the OIML Bulletin, Chris Pulham concluded his Editorial with a prediction that 2001 will be “another fruitful year of *Change*”.

The very beginning of this year has already proved that, in parallel with a necessary degree of continuity, changes are in fact occurring rapidly as shown by two important meetings that took place at the BIML on 19–21 February.

The recently reconstituted Presidential Council met under the chairmanship of Gerard Faber, CIML President. *Continuity* results from the participation of five Council Members who have been active CIML Members for a number of years; *changes* result from the arrival of four new Council Members and from the representation of all those regions that have an active legal metrology cooperation in place.

A report on this meeting may be found in this Bulletin. Amongst the most important decisions, one may note:

- the development of an OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement on the recognition of test results associated with OIML type evaluations; this work is under the responsibility of TC 3/SC 5 and certain diverging views had been expressed in connection with the way in which confidence in test results is built up; the thorough study carried out by the Presidential Council should give this work a new impetus;
- the development of an OIML mark (IQ-mark) for packages which meet the requirements of R 87 concerning the quantity contained therein;
- the priority to be allocated to the development of a number of “horizontal” documents of interest for all fields of legal metrology; and

- the preparations for a seminar on the long-term evolutions of legal metrology and market surveillance, to be held if possible at the beginning of 2002.

The second event was a joint Meter Convention/ILAC/OIML meeting. This was not the very first meeting of this kind but the preceding ones were mainly aimed at mutual information. This year for the first time, common actions were identified and ad-hoc groups established, in particular with a view to:

- developing a model *Law on metrology* covering the main aspects of interest for any country, such as metrological infrastructures, maintenance of measurement standards, traceability matters, etc. Another purpose of the text will be to demonstrate the “unicity” of metrology and to give policy makers good reason to pay attention to its development;
- enhancing the role that the OIML and ILAC initially, and later on the BIPM, may play in assisting developing countries in establishing sound metrology, calibration, testing and accreditation infrastructures and in cooperating with donor agencies for the funding of such actions.

Cooperation with other international or regional bodies was also the topic of important discussions, especially with regard to activities within ISO, IMEKO, UNIDO, etc.

It was also decided that the three organizations should use all the communication means at their disposal, especially their web sites, to publicize the progress in their cooperation. In this connection a joint press release was drawn up, which our readers will find on pages 64–65 of this Bulletin. ■