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# What will Legal Metrology be in the Year 2020 ?

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Legal metrology must not only react to profound changes in the needs of society, technology, administrative organization, political structures and priorities, but also it must adapt to international globalization.

In the first part of 2002, the OIML intends to organize a Workshop related to the long term fundamental evolution of

legal metrology. This Workshop will be open to OIML Member States and Corresponding Members, to other interested organizations and to industry and will allow participants to exchange views on the major trends in legal metrology and to consider these views in the context of their own national policy. Some of the issues which could be addressed are listed below.

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## ► Scope of legal metrology

New fields of measurement are developing in trade, safety, the environment and law enforcement. In parallel, many countries are endeavoring to reduce both State intervention and the number of regulations in force. What will be the implications on regulations resulting from these two contradictory considerations?

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## ► New technologies and information technologies

New technologies make it possible to record and process measurement results in remote databases, and so measuring instruments may become just one of the functions of complex systems. What will remain of the current notions related to such instruments and how should legal metrology adapt to this? Will manufacturers of measuring instruments still exist as such?

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## ► Role of the State

A general trend in many countries is to contract most technical activities out to specialized independent bodies while the authorities play a role of orientation, monitoring and surveillance. What will a legal metrology department look like in twenty years?

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## ► Future of legal metrology technical bodies

Legal metrology bodies in charge of technical evaluations are increasingly private or semi-private. At the same time, mutual recognitions result in a reduction in their volume of activity and in their specialization. Will these bodies become trans-national? Will they be replaced by an international network of technical bodies? What will be the consequences of this evolution? How will States monitor these bodies?

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## ► Conformity assessment and market surveillance

Due to the technical evolution of instruments and to the development of quality assurance procedures, conformity assessment of instruments is achieved partially by means of third party evaluation and partially from the liability of the manufacturer. A third party ensures more impartiality, whereas the manufacturer may assure a better control over the conformity. How will this balance evolve?

What should State market surveillance activities be, and what should be placed under surveillance?

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Legal metrologists, experts from organizations linked with legal metrology and experts from industry may send proposals of presentations for this Workshop, in the form of a short abstract, before September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001. These proposals should be sent to:

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Fax: +33 1 42 82 17 27 - E-mail: [magana@oiml.org](mailto:magana@oiml.org)

OIML Member States and Corresponding Members are invited to circulate this call for papers within their country to all interested parties and to industry.

The proposals of presentations will be examined in September 2001 and the date and program of this Workshop will be finalized in October.



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