

## RLMO MEETING

# COOMET Working Group on Legal Metrology: Second Meeting

Minsk, 28–30 March 2001

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COOMET is the Regional Organization for the *European-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions* and comprises twelve member countries.

The second international meeting of the COOMET Working Group (WG) on Legal Metrology was held at the Belarus State Institute of Metrology (BelGIM) in Minsk, from March 28 to 30, 2001. The meeting was organized by BelGIM staff under the leadership of its Director, Mr. N. Zhagora. Over 20 delegates attended, representing the following COOMET member countries:

Belarus, Bulgaria, Cuba, Germany, Kazakhstan,  
Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine

The session was chaired by the Rapporteur of the WG, Hartmut Apel (PTB, Germany) who had also invited the Sub-Working Group on *Testing of Software for Measuring Instruments*, headed by Dr. U. Grottker (PTB). The aim of this Subgroup is to coordinate their national policy and testing procedures on software by the exchange of documentation and experience with a view to promoting the development of test procedures. The result of the work will be presented to OIML TC 5/SC 2 for further consideration. The Sub-Working Group, established one year ago in Braunschweig, met for the first time and held its meeting in Minsk on the same occasion as the WG on Legal Metrology, partly in a parallel session.

COOMET, traditionally an organization for scientific metrology and hitherto mainly concerned with intercomparison of measurement standards, is recognizing the increasing importance which legal metrology is gaining world-wide in connection with the facilitation of free trade. Six project proposals for further cooperation in the field of legal metrology were therefore identified and discussed; among these, for example, are projects on:

- the harmonization of the information contained in type approval descriptions;

- agreements on mutual recognition of test results and certificates of initial verification of measuring instruments; and
- development of a Recommendation on the expression of uncertainty in legal metrology.

The project regarded as being by far the most important one is that concerning the *Development of a Recommendation on the Testing of Software for Measuring Instruments*, for which Belarus is the project coordinator.

A questionnaire addressed to all COOMET member countries was handed over by Dr. Grottker, the intention being to get an overview of the current state of software testing and future developments in this field. The active members of the Sub-Working Group from six countries agreed to meet again in Braunschweig in September 2001 to exchange information and know-how and to evaluate the existing software requirements laid down in various national and international documents, among them WELMEC Guide 7.1.

In view of the forthcoming COOMET Committee Meeting in Moldova, the Resolution below was drawn up to be submitted for adoption one month later in Kishinev.

### Resolutions (Excerpt)

1. The mutual exchange of documents and information should continue. A number of documents are already available on the Internet and can be downloaded. This distribution method should be intensified.
2. The growing importance of market surveillance was recognized and the participants were requested to send their comments on the new Committee Draft of the revision of OIML Document D 9 to the actual WG secretariat at PTB Braunschweig in order to be focussed and forwarded to the BIML.
3. The increasing importance of the calculation of measurement uncertainties in metrology has been recognized as one indicator of the quality of measurement and it substantially contributes to creating mutual confidence in measurement capabilities.

This topic should be dealt with at two different levels:

- the general application and interpretation of the GUM for purely calibration purposes within COOMET member countries should be dealt with again on the agenda of the Committee meeting at Moldova;

- the introduction and application of methods on calculating measurement uncertainties should be dealt with within a particular Sub-Working Group of legal metrology of COOMET and should be interrelated with the work progress obtained so far in the OIML TC 5/SC 2.
- 4. After having agreed upon a common interpretation of the procedures as to how to apply calculation of measurement uncertainties in legal metrology, a “virtual intercomparison” of measurement results should be initiated among interested NMIs.
- 5. Training courses on calculating measurement uncertainties for COOMET member countries and the accompanying interpretation guides should be made available in workshops on the basis of practical examples.
- 6. It is the objective of the Sub-Working Group on Software to develop a guide for software evaluation and testing on the basis of the structure of the WELMEC Guide 7.1, however, with the restriction that members’ comments (e.g. Ukraine, Russia) are taken into consideration and with the option that additional levels and requirements are defined, if necessary.  
  
Correctness of measurement algorithms and data should be subject of the work program.
- 7. The Sub-working Group on Software should continue the exchange of information and intensify the submissions of their results to the international context of the OIML. ■