

RLMO MEETING

Seventeenth WELMEC Committee Meeting

Malahide, 24–25 May 2001

LINDSAY CRAWFORD, WELMEC Secretary

The 17th meeting of the WELMEC Committee was held in Malahide, near Dublin, Ireland, on 24–25 May 2001. The meeting was hosted by the Legal Metrology Service, Ireland.

The Committee was given a warm welcome to Ireland by Mr. Noel Treacy, Irish Minister for Science, Technology and Commerce, who praised WELMEC's contribution to maintaining consumer confidence in measurement.

The first item on the agenda involved presentations on the legal metrology structures in different countries. Mr. Farragher (Ireland) and Dr. Bennett (Chairman, UK) gave informative presentations, describing the way in which their respective organizations had dealt with an organizational review.

An important feature on the agenda was the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID). Discussions about the MID centered on progress in the Council Working Group, WELMEC Working Group 8, and normative documents. The Committee heard that under the Swedish Presidency, the Council Working Group had so far discussed the main text of the MID, and Annex I. Two more meetings are scheduled, at which Annexes II and III will be discussed. The Committee was informed that WG 8 had been discussing the technical Annexes to the Directive, and that the proposed amendments to these have brought them in line with OIML Recommendations. Mr. Magaña, BIML Appointed Director, gave a short presentation to the Committee on the issue of normative documents. He said that several Member States had expressed concern about these normative documents, and after discussion with the Committee members, it was agreed that Mr. Magaña and Dr. Bennett should meet with the Commission to explore acceptable solutions.

The WELMEC Working Groups had been very busy since the last Committee meeting.

The Committee approved the publication of the new **WG 2** Guide - WELMEC 2.6 *Guide for the testing of automatic catchweighing instruments*.

It instructed **WG 4** to proceed with further work in view of the importance of the harmonized application of the conformity assessment modules.

WG 5 was asked to facilitate a submission under the new grant theme three which supports specific cross-border market surveillance actions involving at least two member states.

The Committee asked **WG 6** to report on identified differences in requirements and practices for e-marked pre-packages, and asked **WG 8** to examine modules A-H1 (conformity assessment modules) to identify areas for clarification and improvement.

WG 7 has submitted an application for EU funding under the dedicated call 10/00 of the GROWTH program.

WG 10 had two publications approved by the Committee: WELMEC 10.1 *Guide for Pattern Examination of a family of volumetric rotating meters for liquids other than water*, and WELMEC 10.2 *Guide to metrological devices for transferring measured quantities* (DTMQ).

Representatives from several Observer Organizations also attended the meeting, and the WELMEC Committee heard reports from EA, EOTC, Euromet and OIML.

The WELMEC Secretary presented the new WELMEC web site to the Committee. The new site is now under the direction of the WELMEC Secretariat and was designed with three objectives in mind: to make it easier for people to use, to ensure it can be updated more quickly and to make it more attractive to new users.

Key features of the new site include a "tour" of WELMEC, a link-rich style, reduced download time for documents, a choice of formats in which to view the WELMEC Guides, and a search facility. The Committee members generally welcomed the new look site.

Finally, Dr. Bennett informed the Committee that this would be his last meeting as Chairman of WELMEC, and that he was leaving WELMEC after 11 years with some very real regrets. He said that WELMEC had made significant progress since the signing of the original Memorandum of Understanding, to the point where it held the future of legal metrology in Europe in its hands. He congratulated the Committee for all that has been achieved to date, and added that he wished his successor, and all the WELMEC members, every success in the future.

The WELMEC Committee discussed the election of a new Chairman, and agreed to continue the process of identifying potential candidates for the Chair with the objective of holding a postal ballot in September.

The next WELMEC Committee meeting will be held in Madrid, in May 2002, at the kind invitation of Mr. Robles, of the Centro Español de Metrología. ■

WELMEC

European cooperation in legal metrology

The WELMEC Committee, meeting in Malahide on 24 – 25 May 2001:

1. Instructs the Chairman to contact the Commission in order to explore the future recognition of WELMEC's role including the possibilities of a Memorandum of Understanding;
2. Instructs the Chairman to investigate an alternative criterion for admitting candidate countries as Associate Members;
3. Instructs the Chairman to discuss with the Commission and BIML possible alternative arrangements for recognizing "Normative Documents";
4. Instructs WG 8 to examine MID modules A-H1 to identify areas for clarification and improvement;
5. Approves the publication of WELMEC 2.6, 10.1 and 10.2;
6. Instructs the Chairman and Secretariat to rationalize the numbering of published guides;
7. Instructs WG 4 to proceed with further work in view of the importance of the harmonised application of the conformity assessment modules;
8. Instructs WG 6 to report on identified differences in requirements and practices for e-marked pre-packages;
9. Approves a 3 % increase in subscriptions for 2002;
10. Instructs all Members to send views on the relationship between Regional Legal Metrology Organizations and the OIML to the Chairman by 31st July;
11. Instructs the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to supervise the identification and election of a new Chairman for WELMEC;
12. Thanks the Irish Legal Metrology Service for hosting the 17th meeting;
13. Accepts the invitation to hold the next meeting in Madrid in 2002.