

■ Editorial



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Looking ahead...

I am writing this Editorial at the beginning of November 2001 but by the time you read it, we will already have celebrated the New Year. Between now and then many events might occur (or might have occurred) but let me assume that these few words are still valid!

First of all, let me take this opportunity to present to you my very best wishes for 2002. May it be a fruitful year for metrology and a happy one for your own personal life.

Together with the Presidential Council and the BIML we are now evaluating and implementing the results of the CIML Meeting in Moscow. Looking back to this event and concentrating only on selected items, I have some observations which I would like to share with you.

From time to time, be it inside or outside the meeting room, discussions about priorities arise. More specifically, the question arises as to whether the OIML should concentrate more on our traditional task of creating Recommendations, or whether we should rather allocate more time to undertaking new tasks which require less technically and more politically oriented decisions to be made. My answer would be: we have to do both! Of course the technical work has to go on and hopefully even be accelerated, but the status of legal metrology is changing in many parts of the world and the OIML - as a key global organization - has to have a say in this. I eagerly look forward to the OIML Workshop *Legal Metrology in the Year 2020* in the autumn of this year, as I am sure that many new and innovative ideas will come out of it.

On a more general level, we will increasingly have to pay attention to matters of long term strategy, and continue the studies instigated by our former President Knut Birkeland.

Without such studies, in my view it is impossible to draw up sound action plans. However, we do now have an *Action Plan* - it is well thought out, up-to-date and you can read it in this issue of the Bulletin.

As discussed in Moscow, the role of RLMOs is becoming increasingly important. As a global organization we have to define our position. I believe that ongoing and intense cooperation between the OIML and the regions is profitable for both, but that the structure of this cooperation has to be improved. I hope that, in 2002, the CIML will approve proposals of how to work together in the most effective and fruitful way.

The comment has been made to me that the Development Council meeting closely resembled part of the CIML Meeting with almost the same delegations. There must be alternative ways to organize this important work more efficiently and perhaps in a less formal manner in order to arrive at practical results as soon as possible. I certainly intend to discuss this with the Chairperson of the Development Council and with the Presidential Council and I hope that I can present some firm proposals to you during this year's CIML Meeting.

Last but not least, looking back to the "Farewell" reception organized for our former Director Bernard Athané, I would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of all readers of the Bulletin our deepest thanks to Bernard for his enormous contribution to our organization during more than 25 years. The CIML was indeed proud to appoint him CIML Honorary Member! At the same time we offer to the new BIML Director Jean-Francois Magaña our wholehearted support and wish him all success in his new responsibilities.