

W

# What will Legal Metrology be in the Year 2020 ?

France  
26-27 September,  
2002

O

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

In September 2002 the OIML will be organizing a Workshop related to the long term fundamental evolution of legal metrology. This

Workshop will be open to OIML Member States and Corresponding Members, other interested organizations and representatives from industry; it 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 will be addressed are listed below. ■

r

## ► 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?

k

## ► 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?

s

## ► 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?

h

## ► 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?

o

## ► 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?

p

The BIML has received a number of papers which would be well-suited for presentation in this Workshop; the final selection will be carried out by the Presidential Council in February 2002 and updated information will be included on the OIML web site as and when available. The dates and venue have been arranged in line with the 37<sup>th</sup> CIML Meeting:

26-27 September 2002 — Saint-Jean-de-Luz (South-West France)

For specific inquiries please contact Jean-François Magaña (magana@oiml.org)



[www.oiml.org](http://www.oiml.org)