

# ■ Editorial

## MAA 9CD

The OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA) continues to make good progress thanks to the contributions of OIML TC 3/SC 5 Members, and especially as a result of the considerable amount of work that has been done by the US Secretariat of this SC. A Ninth Committee Draft (9CD) for the MAA has now been sent to the SC Members and is likely to be presented for postal voting by CIML Members before the 37<sup>th</sup> CIML Meeting later this year in Saint Jean de Luz.

It is both the BIMLs and the Subcommittee's expectation that the MAA can be adopted in Saint Jean; indeed, it is now of crucial importance for this to happen in order for the OIML to be able to continue its work. We must now develop our experience of implementing declarations of mutual confidence for different categories of instruments in order to be able to revise and improve this MAA in the future and to start working on the other issues that have been identified in the OIML Action Plan.

Conformity to type is certainly the most important issue that we have to address. It has been strongly recommended that a high level of priority be allocated to this topic by a

number of individuals and groups: representatives of industry, the Eleventh OIML Conference in London (in particular), several RLMOs and most developing countries all agree that this area is a key one for the future.

Fundamental ideas are now emerging on this issue, but to start such work requires that the OIML Certificate System be highly consistent throughout all the Member States, which is the intended outcome of implementing the MAA.

When the technical aspects of conformity to type have been agreed on, we shall be able to develop and extend the OIML Certificate System to include certification of individual measuring instruments. This must be our goal in order to contribute to the free circulation of measuring instruments and to support developing countries in exerting tighter control of the instruments placed on their markets.

We look forward to seeing this first step completed, to seeing the MAA adopted and implemented, and to witnessing first hand the commencing of further work in this field. ■