

RLMO MEETING

18th WELMEC Committee Meeting

Vienna, 13–14 June 2002

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The 18th meeting of the WELMEC Committee was held in Vienna, Austria on 13–14 June 2002, hosted by the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV).

The Committee was given a warm welcome to Austria by Mr. August Hochwartner (President of the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying) and Mr. Koprivnikar (Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labor). Mr. Koprivnikar pointed out the important work done by WELMEC to achieve a harmonized European approach to legal metrology and mentioned the tasks to be carried out in the future to make this possible.

Mr. Freistetter welcomed delegates and thanked the Committee for electing him as Chairman. The Committee and the new Chairman both expressed their appreciation to Dr. Bennett for his Chairmanship over eleven years.

The first item on the agenda involved a presentation on the legal metrology structure in Austria. Dr. Arnold Leitner, Director of the Metrology Service at BEV, gave an informative presentation describing the way in which the organization had dealt with the new approach concerning the amendment of the Legal Metrology Act in Austria.

Developments since the founding of WELMEC had made it necessary to update some of the internal procedures and also the membership policy.

Another important point of discussion was the amendment of the WELMEC Type Approval Agreement to include OIML R 129 in Annex 1 of the Type Approval Agreement (and adoption of the amendments to Annex 2 of the Agreement concerning OIML R 129 for Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom).

The Committee also noted the information from Germany to be included in Annex 2 concerning OIML R 117 and R 118 and instructed Members to send their views on additional groups of measuring instruments to be included in the agreement by 30 September 2002.

The WELMEC working groups had been very busy since the last Committee meeting and had been – on the

basis of the discussions in the meeting – charged with new or additional tasks for the near future.

Working Group reports

- ▶ The Committee approved the publication of the **WG 2** Guide *WELMEC 2.3 Guide for Examining Software (Weighing Instruments)* and included automatic weighing instruments in the terms of reference, as specified in the Measuring Instruments Directive.
- ▶ The tasks of **WG 4** have been included in WG 8's work program, but WG 4 has been allocated new activities in relation to general aspects of legal metrology.
- ▶ **WG 5** is preparing a Guide for market surveillance and has also proposed to take the necessary steps to ensure that WELMEC will be accepted as an Administrative Cooperation (ADCO) in the field of nonautomatic weighing instruments.
- ▶ The main task of **WG 6** has been the preparation of additional guides in the field of pre-packaged products and draft guides were presented at the Committee Meeting. Some points were still not finalized in time for the Committee Meeting and so the adoption process will be launched in the near future.
- ▶ **WG 7** has been successful in obtaining an EU-funded work project under the EU Growth Program and will now commence the project concerning "MID Software". A very important task awaiting WG 7 is also its responsibility for horizontal questions concerning software, transfer of data and other related questions.
- ▶ The main task of **WG 8** was to contribute to the discussions on the MID in the European Council procedure as a technical forum. This WG had met four times since the last Committee Meeting and has been looking at all the instrument-specific annexes of the MID as well as Annexes I to IV. Now WG 8 has also been given the task of looking at the horizontal issues of the Directive, identifying the need for a harmonized approach, and presenting the results with new terms of reference at the next Committee Meeting.
- ▶ **WG 10** had a guide ready for presentation (*Guide for the use of an alibi recording device (printer or storage) in measuring systems in liquids other than water*) and it was agreed that reaching a consensus will be done by e-mail to shorten the time needed to make this Guide available.

Some very important information concerning the MID was given. The Committee discussions centered on progress in the Council Working Group, the contributions of WG 8 and the future plans under the Danish Presidency.

Mr. Christensen, Danish Chairman of the MID Council Working Group during the Danish Presidency, said he planned to continue the hard work carried out by Spain during their Presidency and four meetings of the Council Working Group were currently planned. His goal is to reach political agreement by November and he

plans to take a new approach to dealing with outstanding matters by regrouping the programs.

The Committee was updated on the situation concerning the application of OIML Recommendations for European purposes. The European Commission has suggested different wording in the text of the MID so that in the amended version the use of OIML documents is facilitated.

In October 2000 the Commission invited applications for EU funding for two-year projects under its Dedicated Call 10/00 Topic IV.34. Three WELMEC

*Amongst others, the following main **Decisions** were taken during the
WELMEC Committee Meeting in Vienna
on 13-14 June 2002:*

- ◆ Thanks to Seton Bennett for his work as Chairman since 1990
- ◆ Instructs the Members to give their views to the Secretariat about the structure, organization and voting procedures during Committee Meetings of WELMEC by 30 September 2002
- ◆ Approves the Procedures for WELMEC activities 2002 with slight amendments
- ◆ Adopts the Member Policy of admitting countries with a signed Europe Agreement as WELMEC Associate Members. Cyprus, Malta and Turkey will be informed about all activities within WELMEC and the policy will be reconsidered during the next Committee Meeting
- ◆ Instructs the conveners of Working Groups to send their views to the Secretariat about the working methods and access to the WG meetings by 30 September 2002
- ◆ Approves the publication of WELMEC Guide 2.3 *Guide for Examining Software (Weighing Instruments)*
- ◆ Instructs WG 6 to consider the situation of Associate Members concerning pre-packages
- ◆ Instructs Members to send comments on the three draft guides concerning pre-packages by 31 October 2002 and if possible have the drafts agreed by e-mail
- ◆ Instructs the Conveners of WG 2, WG 6 and WG 7 to present a common position concerning the AWI in relation to pre-packages
- ◆ Instructs WG 10 to finalize the e-mail voting for the *Guide for the use of an Alibi Recording Device* and submit the result to the Secretariat, and the Secretariat accepts to try to reach a consensus for this Guide by e-mail from the Committee Members
- ◆ Instructs the convener of WG 4 to look at general aspects of legal metrology and work out terms of reference to be presented at the next Committee Meeting
- ◆ Instructs WG 8 to look at the horizontal issues of the MID, identifying the need for a harmonized approach, starting with module H1 and present this, along with new terms of reference at the next Committee Meeting
- ◆ Instructs the Committee Members to evaluate the draft of the Strategy Document and Action Plan presented, and send their comments and remarks to the Secretariat by 30 September 2002

Concerning the WELMEC Type Approval Agreement:

- ◆ Adopts the amendments to Annex 1 of the Type Approval Agreement to include OIML R 129
- ◆ Adopts the amendments to Annex 2 of the Type Approval Agreement concerning OIML R 129 for Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom
- ◆ Notes the information from Germany to be included in Annex 2 concerning OIML R 117 and R 118
- ◆ Instructs the Members to send their views for additional groups of measuring instruments to be included in the agreement by 30 September 2002

Member States applied and are now carrying out their respective projects in parallel, but many countries are involved in each project.

The first project is entitled *Uniform test procedures and test report formats for aspirant Notified Bodies under the Measuring Instruments Directive* and concerns gas meters, liquid flow meters and taximeters. The second project concerns the MID AWI *Thematic Network*, mainly focusing on the interpretation of the essential requirements of the MID and concerns automatic catchweighing instruments, front end loaders, utilization of OIML R 76 test results and MID Module H1. The third project concerns MID software and covers the definition and elaboration of software requirements, testing and validation, back tracing of software requirements, future aspects, project co-ordination, dissemination of results and the organization of information days.

Another point was the presentation of an updated strategy document to the WELMEC Committee, and the

Chairman explained that it was his intention to publish this document together with the WELMEC Member Document so that there is only one document on WELMEC strategy and policy. Some Committee Members wanted to make slight amendments to the document, so the Committee was asked by the Chairman to send comments on it to the Secretariat by 30 September 2002 (see Resolution 23). These comments will be considered and a new document presented at the next Committee Meeting to discuss an amended strategy and policy approach in WELMEC.

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

The next Committee Meeting will be held in Madrid on 8–9 May 2003, at the kind invitation of Mr. Robles, of the Centro Español des Metrología. ■



Delegates attending the 18th WELMEC Committee Meeting