

## THE 11TH SEPTEMBER 2001 - A BLACK DAY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

First we all were deeply shocked at the news flickered across our TV screens. It seemed to be like a worst case scenario taken from a Hollywood action thriller. But then it became a sad certainty - about 6.000 casualties. The international World Trade Centre has ceased to exist. A war has begun, which is concentrating against the entire international community. A war against all of us, a war like a frightened scream.

Our first reactions were directed towards our friends and acquaintances in New York, Washington and the United States of America. We all breathed a sigh of relief when they got in touch again and showed that they are in good condition.

An atmosphere of good cooperation and mutual respect as well as of secure peace is a precondition for international organisations such as ILAC and IAF, in which accreditation bodies cooperate and all those who are interested in a sound competence of conformity assessment bodies, in the establishment of confidence, in its results and in a mutual recognition of tests and certificates.

We need peace to cooperate and to do business. Our work is also to make peace and to keep the peace among all of us. We are endeavouring to go common ways. This is our reply to these acts of terrorism.

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### ILAC and IAF General Assemblies

held in Kyoto/Japan from the end of October till the beginning of November 2001

The aim of these General Assemblies was to ascertain in which way all members - whether rich industrial states or developing countries - can jointly cooperate to build up an internationally comparable system of conformity assessment which allows to recognise tests and certificates performed and issued by accredited bodies in one country and being recognised by all members of the organisations.

This year ILAC and IAF held their first joint General Assembly, however furthermore separate General Assemblies of both organisations on specific issues.

Main topic of the joint General Assembly of ILAC and IAF was the report given by Dr. Facklam on the Joint Committee for Closer Cooperation (JCCC). The General Assembly confirmed that common interests exist in the following fields:

- Discussion on the question: certification versus accreditation;
- Publication on promotion of accreditations;
- A worldwide Logo for IAF and ILAC;
- Development of a common harmonised procedure for conducting Peer Evaluations;
- A closer cooperation with other organisations, such as WTO, TBT, UNIDO and the like;
- A joint Working Group for Inspection was founded which already submitted first results for establishing a common understanding of accreditation of inspection bodies.
- A joint Working Group Development Support was established which shall provide support to the developing countries in building up accreditation systems and coordinate help to be provided by external bodies.

While in the ILAC General Assembly the foundation of a company was being prepared, in the IAF General Assembly the improvement of management systems was being discussed (IAF is already a company to American Law) as well as the conduct of internal audits.

As a result reached in ILAC a document *Cross-frontier accreditation* was endorsed, which shall help to improve the cooperation between accreditation bodies performing accreditations abroad. Another document *Regulatory Recognition of Accreditation and the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement* was endorsed which serves to provide help to the accreditation bodies in recognising accreditation by the Authorities.

Moreover, it was decided to collect examples demonstrating that the Authorities recognise or refuse accreditations granted by ILAC signatories.

Furthermore the following papers were under discussion: *Policy on Traceability, Guidance for Forensic Laboratories, Scope of Accreditation, Uncertainty in Testing*. Subject to a positive voting, these docu-



*New signatories to the MLAs of ILAC and IAF (see Homepages - [www.ilac.org](http://www.ilac.org) and [www.iaf.nu](http://www.iaf.nu))*

*Furthermore a MoU was signed for closer cooperation between ILAC and CIPM (Comité International des Poids et Mesures).*

At the IAF General Assembly report was given about future efforts to extend the Multilateral Agreement for mutual recognition to the fields of environmental management systems and certification systems for products. It was furthermore discussed on how to improve the information of the public on the results of mutual recognition agreements.

Some technical Guidelines have been revised:

- IAF Guidance on ISO Guide 62 and 66;
- IAF Guidance on ISO Guide 61.

The revised documents will be provided on IAF's Homepage as well as discussed at the next DAR-ATF Meeting, so that an introduction within the DAR will be possible from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002.

Parallel to the IAF General Assembly some Seminars were organised: a Seminar for conformity assessment which was dedicated to the expectations of the Stakeholders to conformity assessment and in particular to accredited conformity assessment systems. Another Workshop was devoted to the ISO 9000:2000 and provided the opportunity to exchange experience in the introduction of the ISO 9000:2000.

A very well attended Workshop was dealing with the sector-specific schemes. A particular matter of interest was, how the competence can be identified and confirmed in specific sectors and how the accreditation bodies can cooperate with internationally operating sector schemes (e. g. in the fields of automotive industry, aerospace and food).

Next year the joint General Assemblies will be held in Berlin from 21 to 22 September as well on 26 September 2002. The General Assemblies will be closely connected with an international open Conference, which will strengthen the topics of this year's IAF Seminars.

The results of the General Assemblies reached this year contribute to a worldwide harmonisation of conformity assessment as well as to an enhancement and facilitation of the recognition of tests and certificates.

*BAM S.42 – M. Wloka*

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## NEWS FROM THE DAR

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### Coordinating Committee established for the mandatory area

To improve the coordination of the mandatory area, a "Coordinating Committee Mandatory Area" has been established on initiative of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMW) as well the Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications and Posts (RegTP). This Committee involves both accreditation bodies from the mandatory area and bodies responsible

for recognition, designation or notification. The first action of this Committee was to propose the revision of the DAR Rules of Procedure, the revised text of which was discussed and endorsed on the 33<sup>rd</sup> DAR Meeting. However, the Rules of Procedure will be put into force, unless the regulations on membership, which are still under discussion, will have been endorsed.

*BAM S.42 – M. Wloka*

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## DKD Accreditation Body restructured

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2001 a new structure of the accreditation body German Calibration Service (DKD) was set into force on the basis of a decree issued by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi). The existing Office of the DKD, which was incorporated as Department Q.32 "Accreditation" in the organisational structure of the Physical-Technical Institute (PTB), has become a separate legal entity independent from PTB with the official denomination "Akkreditierungsstelle des Deutschen Kalibrierdienstes bei der Physikalisch-Technischen Bundesanstalt".

The technical supervision is performed by the BMWi, the administrative supervision by the President of the PTB. The DKD will continue to use the premises of the PTB and will be further on provided with personnel and materials and equipment by the PTB as well. The staff of the accreditation body remains the same as that of the previous DKD Office.

### Consensus of all parties involved

This change of organisational structure goes beyond the originally announced internal measures and required not only the consent of the BMWi, but also the willingness of the PTB to support the accreditation on a broad basis. The objective of this measure was to establish a structure which fulfils the emerging requirements of the future standard ISO/IEC 17011 in terms of impartiality and independence. The technical closeness to the PTB shall however be maintained. One fact is perfectly obvious: The success and the good reputation of the DKD decisively base upon the metrological competence of the PTB. A survey made among the calibration laboratories provided clear evidence about this. However, the DKD provides an important tool to the PTB in fulfilling its tasks for establishing a measurement structure in Germany.

### Assured of a good future

The DKD consistently broke a new ground, which - despite of all advantages of the previous structure - was regarded as unavoidable for the long-term as well by the industry associations represented in the DKD Board and which was a part of the DKD Board's decision on solving the impartiality problem. The responses received from leading national and international circles were pleasantly positive. This keeps us confident that the new structure will be sustainable. For our clients - the calibration laboratories - and for our partners in such organisations as the DAR, EA and ILAC, this change will have hardly any effects. A great deal will depend on the good cooperation of all parties involved. It is our aim that the DKD calibration laboratories, in addition to the service provided by the accreditation body, still benefit from the metrological knowledge of the PTB.

DKD - E. Fay

## DAR Homepage - new Button "Service"

The DAR Secretariat is preparing a new Button on its Homepage - called "Service" -, which provides information going beyond the limits of the current offer of DAR's Homepage. Among others you will find there the following services and information:

- Survey of Membership in Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (worldwide);
- MTC-Modules (iCATT) (Training Modules for conformity assessment);
- Slides covering:
  - \* existing MRAs, MLAs, Arrangements;
  - \* Organisations (national, international);
- Power-Point-lectures on up-to-date topics relating to accreditation;
- DAR Anniversary Booklet dedicated to its 10 years' existence;
- Survey of accreditation systems: Europe, Asia, Australia, America, Africa;
- Bilingual online dictionary (English-German) with approx. 1650 entries taken from the broad field of conformity assessment (based upon the currently valid standards) and providing translation facilities.

This offer may be diversified, if required. The DAR Secretariat is open to any suggestions that would touch the interests of our clients.

BAM S.42 - S. Stobbe

## Procedure for Accreditation of Testing Laboratories with Several Locations

The DAR document DAR-EM24 "Procedure for the Accreditation of Testing Laboratories with Several Locations" has been revised and endorsed at the DAR Meeting held in June 2001 and is to be included in the DAR Handbook. You may download this document in its 2.0 version from the DAR Homepage.

BAM S.42 - S. Stobbe

## DAR Intranet

The DAR Homepage provides a new information system (DAR Intranet) the aim of which is to regularly exchange information and documents between the accreditation bodies and the DAR members. It has proven to be fully successfully in practice thanks to its well-appointed simple handling. All DAR members as well as members of the DAR Committees get access to this service. **It was agreed that in future all information will be only provided electronically in the Intranet.**

BAM S.42 N. Nickel

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# NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

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## Information from the 8th EA General Assembly, Nov. 2001, Budapest

On EA's 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly PAC (Poland) became a full member of EA.

EAAB called the EA members to give regular feedback about their customers' satisfaction. At a later date as well the satisfaction of indirect customers (such as Authorities, industry) shall be investigated.

The European Commission plans to define accreditation as a service without the intention to create profit and therefore drafted a *Reflection Document*.

Lithuania is a new signatory to the EA MLA. A bilateral agreement has been signed with ISRAC (Israel).

At the General Assembly of EA the following persons were elected:

- EA Chair: Daniel Pierre (FR)
- EA Vice Chair: Thomas Facklam (DE)
- EA MLA Committee: Jos Leferink (NL)
- EA Certification Committee: Roger Brockway (GB)

- EA Inspection Committee: Lars Ettarp (SE)

- EA Publication Committee: Tom Dempsey (IE)

The free seat in the EA ExeCom will be given to Samo Kopaè (SL).

For the Sector Schemes on special areas of conformity assessment established outside EA the following EA contact persons were designated:

- European Railway Committee: Daniel Pierre (FR)
- QuEST Forum: Roger Brockway (GB)
- Europ-Gap: Ignatio Pina (ES)
- Blue Tooth: Hanspeter Ischi (CH)

The objective of these contacts is to reach a good cooperation between these organisations and EA. In the interest of our customers any overlapping with EA activities as well as duplications of assessments are to be reduced.

The next EA General Assembly will be held in Romania from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2002.

BAM S.42 - J. Thiele

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# NEWS FROM STANDARDISATION

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## ISO 19011 as fourth "Key Standard" of the new ISO 9000:2000 Standards Series nearly finished

After the issue of the three key standards - ISO 9000:2000, ISO 9001:2000, ISO 9004:2000 at the end of 2000 describing Fundamentals and Vocabulary, Requirements and Guidance for Performance Improvement including self-assessment - the revision of the ISO 19011 (Guidelines on quality and environmental management system auditing) has been tackled.

Currently the users put main emphasis on the transition to the new ISO 9001:2000. To verify an adequate implementation and efficiency of the system, the existing ISO 10011 (parts 1 to 3) will surely provide a sound basis for a certain time. With this standard - even though still in the form of a guideline - for the first time an approach is given for a common practice in auditing quality management and environmental management systems.

This approach provides a worthwhile basic position for audits of "integrated" management approaches. Auditors shall have a special qualification and knowledge as well as maturity and communication skills in terms of auditing processes to be able to consider these

approaches during auditing not separated from each other, but linked together in a diverse manner.

Therefore the topic "competence" and "qualification" of auditors as well as processes of planning, conduct and post-audit activities ("audit program"), their reflectance in QM review and the management of analysis of audits as a management tool gain more and more significance.

Companies with integrated management approaches will appreciate this standard. For smaller and medium-sized companies, including laboratories, in addition to the level of internal audit activities and their planning in the overall system an additional level of personnel and responsibilities should be established dealing with the "managing of audit programs". Organisations such as "Eurolab" already indicated their wish to speak and will in particular address those (e. g. accreditors, certifiers) who will have to assess internal audit systems in the context of external evaluations.

The ISO/DIS has been issued (in July 2001). The issue of the FDIS (probably in February 2002) as well as the adoption of the standard (in Summer 2002) are expected soon.

BAM S.41 - R. Schmidt

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