

Tested once  
accepted everywhere  
International  
ILAC/IAF Conference  
on Accreditation  
in Global Trade



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From 23 to 25 September 2002 the first Joint Conference of the international accreditation organisations International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF) was held in Berlin under the auspices of the then Federal Minister for Economics Dr. Werner Müller.

More than 400 participants from 73 countries came here to discuss latest developments in the field of conformity assessment and their possible impacts.

Why is conformity assessment of such a great interest?

Testing and certification services make up an increasing part of the costs to be expended for products. These can only be brought to the market if it can be satisfactorily shown that they fulfil specific requirements and if this demonstration is recognised by the market participants.

Today a non-recognition is a considerable technical barrier to trade.

It was therefore a fundamental concern of the Conference to reach progress in improving the mutual recognition of the results of conformity assessment bodies, such as laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.

Well-reputed representatives from the fields of accreditation, laboratories, authorities, European Commission and industry gave in about 80 reports an insight into their experiences and problems with the recognition of conformity assessments, with the accreditation and the technical issues related thereto.

The results were shortly presented in a final panel discussion. These results as well as the presentations are provided on the Conference Homepage ([www.ilac-iaf-2002.de](http://www.ilac-iaf-2002.de)).

The last Conference day provided the opportunity to visit several scientific institutions in Berlin. We wish to thank all of these bodies for their commitment and dedication, such as the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing, the Hahn-Meitner-Institute, the Heinrich-Hertz-Institute, the Deutsches Luft- und Raumfahrtzentrum, the Physical-Technical Institute as well as Schering and Siemens. In the frame of a festal evening event, held in the building of the

Association of the German Industry (BDI) the new members signed the mutual recognition arrangements (MLA) within ILAC and IAF (see p.4).

During a city tour with reception at the Rotes Rathaus by the Senator for Economics, Labour and Women, Mr. Harald Wolf, and a riverboat tour on the lake Wannsee the Conference participants were given the chance to see the beautiful heritage of Berlin.

Most of the participants expressed

themselves very positively about the course of the Conference. Just the often expressed personal cordial thanks show that the host DAR considerably contributed to the Conference success. Our sincere thanks to the numerous institutions and bodies which made the Conference a success through their supports, assistance and aids. On the Homepage [www.ilac-iaf-2002.de](http://www.ilac-iaf-2002.de) you find the names of all these sponsors as well as the main outcome of the Conference.

BAM S.42 - A. Recknagel

## Outcomes of the ILAC and IAF General Assemblies Held in Berlin in September 2002

To work effectively and cost-saving the General Assemblies of ILAC and IAF were held at the same place in combination with the ILAC/IAF Conference.

The following results were reached:

### Second Joint General Assembly:

The positive development of closer relationships between IAF and ILAC will be to the benefit of the users of conformity assessment services during the next years.

Joint Working Groups are operating in the following fields:

- Accreditation of inspection bodies;
- Support of developing countries;
- Harmonisation of the MLA procedures;
- Preparation of common rules for protecting an international accreditation mark.

There were extensive discussions about a common or different marks to make the membership in the MLAs of ILAC and IAF recognisable.

After the General Assembly letter ballots will be distributed to invite for written votes about whether a common international accreditation mark or separate IAF and ILAC marks should be developed.

### Sixth ILAC General Assembly:

- ILAC has now 48 full members from 43 countries, 15 associated members from 15 countries as well as 4 regional groups and 16 stakeholder members.
- ILAC intends to register as a legal entity under Dutch law (at the end of 2002 or in the beginning of 2003).
- A policy and business plan was adopted.

- Declarations on cooperation with UNIDO/ISO/ILAC and CIPM were followed by a new declaration with ICSCA in February 2002.

The resolutions are provided on the ILAC Homepage.

### 16<sup>th</sup> IAF General Assembly:

40 accreditation bodies are now members of IAF. Furthermore, IAF has 13 associated members, 4 regional groups and 2 liaison groups.

Newly elected Chair of IAF is now Dr. Thomas Facklam (DAR/TGA), new Vice-Chair is Elva Nilsen (SCC/Canada).

The 40 resolutions adopted and passed at the 16th IAF General Assembly are published on IAF's Homepage ([www.iaf.nu/plenary](http://www.iaf.nu/plenary)).

BAM S.42 - J. Thiele

## The Coordination Group of the Mandatory Area (KOGB) Introduces Itself

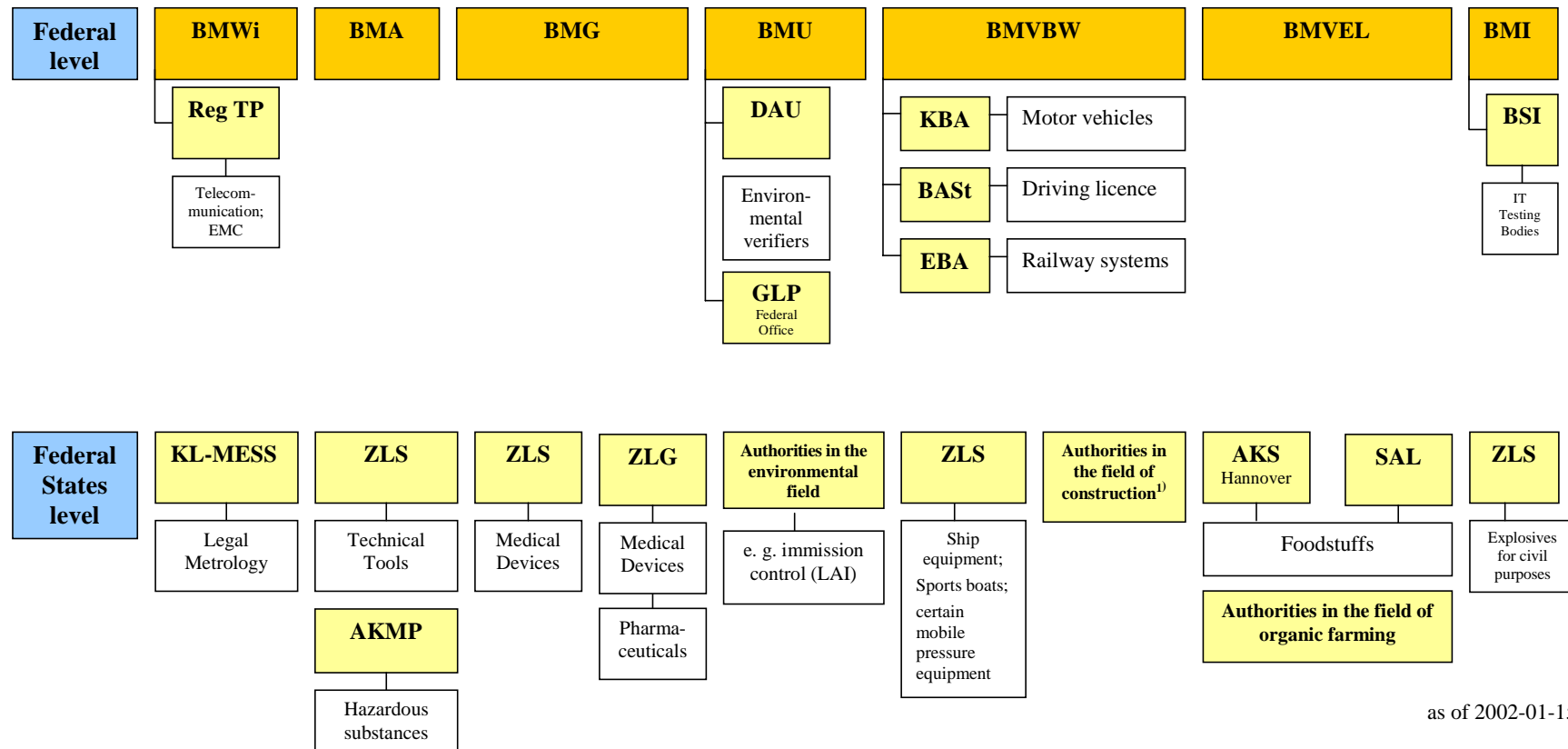
In Germany the *mandatory (legally regulated) area* and the *voluntary (legally non-regulated) area* are united under the roof of the German Accreditation Council (DAR). The DAR itself does not carry out accreditations. It represents the German interests in European and international organisations dealing with issues of accreditation.

The *mandatory area* covers all

activities in those fields which are *regulated by law* by virtue of German, European or international provisions of law. Such provisions of law are directly valid directives issued by the European Commission as well as their implementation in national laws and orders. The *mandatory area* covers e.g. aspects of health, the safety of devices as well as the protection of the consumer

and environment. In 2001 the Federal Ministry for Economics (BMWi) realised the necessity for accreditation and recognition bodies to establish a platform in the *mandatory area* for coordinating the bodies operating in the *mandatory area*. The task to run the Secretariat of the KOGB was transferred to the Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications and Posts (Reg TP).

**Notification, designation, recognition, accreditation in the mandatory area**  
**Responsible Federal Departments as well as responsible recognition and accreditation bodies acting on behalf of the German Federal Government and the German Federal States Ministries**



as of 2002-01-15

Membership in the KOGB is open to all public bodies (Federal Government and Ministries of the Federal States) dealing with issues of accreditation, recognition, designation, approval, assessment or notification. Precondition for a membership is a legal basis (in laws/orders, etc.) of the recognition or accreditation body or of the technically responsible department.

The diagram on the following page shows the accreditation and recognition, designation as well as notification bodies belonging to the mandatory area and thus to be coordinated by the KOGB.

Among others the KOGB has to fulfil the following tasks:

- to define German positions of the mandatory area on the national and international accreditation and conformity assessment policy (e.g. catalogue of criteria for the European notified bodies or German positions in developing or implementing new EC Directives),
- to realise a concerted „representation abroad“ of the mandatory area as part of the German accreditation system,

- to develop and establish uniform rules of procedures in the mandatory area (rules and regulations: quality manuals, operating procedures and operating instructions, guidelines etc.) for the accreditation and designation procedures,
- to cooperate with the voluntary area,
- to coordinate the execution of the agreements between the EU and third countries regarding a concerted approach,
- to unify fees/cost models in the voluntary area (day rates, implementation, contact persons etc.)

The first experiences gained since the existence of the KOGB can be considered as positive without any exception. With the establishment of the KOGB we succeeded in taking first steps towards a uniform, effective recognition and accreditation system in the mandatory area in Germany. Moreover, the KOGB ensures an effective representation of German interests towards the European Commission and the other member states.

*Reg TP, D. Penning*



## Information on a Paper Issued by the EC Commission „Promoting a European Framework for Corporate Social Responsibility“ (Green Paper)

The present paper on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), dated 8 March 2002, is based upon knowledge and evident efforts of larger, partly multinational companies not only to report about environmental, health and safety aspects and results, but more and more to include issues of social responsibility. On request of the European Council e.g. larger companies (more than 1000 employees) participated voluntarily in a „Managing change Report“, i.e. an annual report about employment and working conditions. A number of organisations developed standards for *social accounting, reporting and auditing*.

At the consumers' urging *Social and Eco Labels* were and are still being introduced. Consumers are more and more willing to pay more for products if they can be sure that they were manufactured in compliance with the protection of health and occupational safety as well as considering human rights.

Thereupon a series of self-declared labels or trade marks for imported

goods emerged, in particular in higher industrialised countries.

With the present paper the EU intends, by reference to the terminology developed in this field, to raise important issues related to CSR, to outline the group of addressees for these issues (*companies, actors, stakeholders*) as well as to suggest the search for possi-

bilities of supporting and controlling CSR.

The paper contains a number of Internet addresses of relevant international and European organisations and institutions as well as references to further documents and reports.

(<http://www.csreurope.org>)

BAM S.41 - R. Schmidt

## IAF Press Release - Closer Co-operation with ISO on Protecting the Integrity of Accreditation

The IAF ExeCom which met in Vancouver at the end of May 2002 welcomed the release of a Communiqué of the Joint Working Group on Image and Integrity of Conformity Assessment as well as the decision by the ISO Council (Council Resolution 11/2002) on closer ISO co-operation with IAF. The ISO Council supports the agreement between IAF and ISO to exchange information about complaints received by ISO and/or IAF relating to certification/registration to ISO 9000, 14000 and other ISO related documents, and to share information and closely monitor actions taken in response to the complaints, and noted that IAF and ISO „share the same goal to improve the integrity of accreditation and conformity assessment to eliminate malpractice, unethical and dishonest practices“.

The IAF ExeCom re-affirmed its view that the reputation of the conformity assessment systems relies upon the integrity and competence of accreditation bodies. IAF therefore requires its Accreditation Body Members to apply rules which are designed to identify and stamp out any activity by accreditation organisations which could damage the integrity of accredited activities.

The full wording of the Press Release may be downloaded from DAR's Homepage ([www.dar.bam.de/aktuell/darakt.html](http://www.dar.bam.de/aktuell/darakt.html)).

At the IAF Annual Meeting held in September 2002 a Code of Conduct was discussed.

BAM S.42 - S. Stobbe

## New Signatories of the IAF and ILAC-MLAs

During a Ceremonial Reception held in Berlin on 22 September 2002 the ILAC and IAF Multilateral Arrangements on mutual recognition of accreditations were signed by the following bodies:

For ILAC: IPQ (Portugal), BMwA (Austria)

For IAF: CNAB (Chinese Taipei), NABCB (India), BAS (Philippines).

The ILAC arrangement on mutual recognition of accreditations has now 42 signatories from 33 countries

or economic areas. The IAF MLA has now 31 signatories from 30 countries or economic areas.

All new signatories have successfully passed the evaluations in their regional groups EA or PAC.

Updated information on the valid MLAs can be downloaded from DAR's Homepage [www.dar.bam.de/mla/mla.html](http://www.dar.bam.de/mla/mla.html). Photographs of the signing ceremony can be found at [www.ilac-iaf-2002.de/images/ceremonial\\_reception/01.html](http://www.ilac-iaf-2002.de/images/ceremonial_reception/01.html)

BAM S.42 - M. Wloka