

New DAR Chair Elected

At its 46th meeting held on 19th September 2007 the DAR members elected Dr. **Monika Wloka** new **Chairwoman** of the DAR. In order to safeguard a balanced representation in the DAR management the DAR members decided to designate two DAR Vice Chairs, one from the mandatory and the other from the voluntary area. Thus, **Mr. Penning**, Federal Network Agency for Electricity, Gas, Telecommunications, Postal and Railway Markets, and **Mr. Böshagen**, Management Committee TGA GmbH, were elected **Vice Chairs**.

Since the previous DAR Chair, Dr. Mittmann, was going to retire from work on 31st October 2007 it was decided to make the change of the Chair being operative as of 01st November 2007.

At the 46th meeting of the DAR the opportunity was taken to honour the managing activity of the DAR Chair Dr. Mittmann, a position he held over a period of more than 16 years. It was highlighted that thanks to his contribution the DAR could develop as a body of exchanging information, of harmonization between the accreditation bodies and of the comparability of results between conformity assessment bodies. From the very beginning, he was one of far sighted pioneers of the industry, the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology and the authorities by reason to their commitment the DAR was founded on 14th March 1991.

Thanks to his enormous dedication and enthusiasm, both the technical cooperation and the technical exchange within the DAR reached an unchallenged and undisputed level. Within international organizations such as EA, ILAC and IAF the DAR was not only perceived and heard, but also well recognized.

It was valued highly that in difficult situations he always managed to find solutions in the interest of the accreditation bodies, of the industry and of the numerous accredited bodies in Germany.

Pointed out further were the individual contributions he made in international committees with regard to the mutual recognition of accreditation which led to the international recognition of the German accreditation bodies and the bodies accredited under the German system.

Dr. Mittmann never closed his mind to new ideas and actively contributed until his resign to the re-organization of the German accreditation system.



Mrs. Böshagen officially thanked Dr. Mittmann for his work in the DAR management

The DAR members wished Dr. Mittmann for his retirement all the best, strong health and success in all future projects.

The voting for the new DAR Chair and the Vice Chairs was performed at the DAR meeting by secret ballot. The proposal to nominate Dr. Wloka for the DAR Chair was based on her excellent knowledge in the fields of standardization and accreditation as well as with sound knowledge of all routine works in the DAR. As a BAM employee and head of Division she has managerial authority towards the staff members of the DAR Secretariat, and also closeness to the Accreditation Advisory Board (AKB) and to the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) so that an effective operation is safeguarded.

The members of the DAR wished the new Chair and Vice Chairs all the best for their future work and expressed that the essential tasks of the DAR

- Coordination of the accreditation bodies operating under the DAR
- Maintenance of the database with accredited bodies
- Surveillance of the use of the DAR certificate and the DAR logo
- Determination of rules for ensuring the compliance of the DAR requirements for accreditation bodies
- Essential information to the accreditation bodies, to the accredited bodies and further enquiring partners

will be continued to be performed in the interest of the accredited bodies until a legal solution will be in place in Germany.

BAM S.2—M. Wloka

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News from International Organizations

IAF General Assembly and IAF Committee Meetings in Sydney from 19th to 31st October 2007

Organized by IAF, the following meetings took place in Sydney within the frame of the ILAC/IAF Conference:

- IAF Technical Committee and Subgroups
- IAF Communication and Marketing Committee
- IAF MLA MC
- IAF MLA Committee
- IAF General Assembly.

The results were presented and discussed at the General Assembly held on 27th and 29th October 2007 as well as at the Open Forum and are defined in resolutions.

Most significant results:

1. The following accreditation bodies have signed the respective **IAF MLAs** after having successfully passed the evaluations in EA and PAC:
TURKAK (Turkey) for QMS, NABCB (India) and PAO (Philippines) for EMS, SAC (Singapore), ANSI (USA), TAF (Chinese Taipei) and KAS (Korea) for product certification.
2. It was decided to establish an **MLA** as framework MLA for the accreditation of **Certification Bodies for Persons** based on the ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 17024, however with certification programs for persons decided in IAF as sub-scopes of the MLA. The evaluations will commence after the IAF GD24 has been revised as a mandatory document and approved in IAF.
3. In future, the IAF documents will be classified in *Mandatory Documents* – mandatory for the MLA signatories and their accredited bodies – and *Information Documents*.
4. In the **Open Forum** a possible improvement of the credibility and reliability of certificates and the comparability of results of conformity assessment were brought up for discussion. The direct participation of the end users and representatives of accredited bodies in the MLA process were positively discussed and prepared.

Numerous projects are currently under discussion in the **IAF Technical Committee**, such as Audit Duration, Definition on Key Activities in Cross Frontier Policy, and Auditor Competence. The intention is to strongly cooperate with sectors, e.g. with GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative), Food Safety, Aerospace. The main focus was to exchange experience and to provide information on ISO/CASCO standards and the performance of accreditation to the sectors.

5. In 2007 IAF organized and performed two **Industry Days**: in San Francisco in March and in Peking in June. Another Industry Day will be arranged in Madrid in March 2008. Objective: analysis of the needs of the industry and the market in the respective regions (USA, Asia, Europe) and presentation of accreditation as a possible measure for trade promotion.
6. The following **executive positions** were approved or filled: IAF Chair – Dr. Facklam (TGA/DAR) until 2009, Vice Chair – Elva Nilsen (SCC/Canada) until 2008, Board Members – Girdhar Gyani (NABCB/India; accreditation bodies of low and medium income economies) until 2010, Lorenzo Thione (SINCERT/Italy; accreditation bodies of high income economies) until 2009, Günther Beer (BDI/Germany; Industry) until 2008, Pierre Salle (IAAR; Associate Members) until 2008.

IAF/ILAC Joint General Assembly in Sydney on 28th October 2007

Currently 8 Joint Committees or Working Groups exist, i.e. more and more tasks are jointly performed.

The most important results from a few selected groups:

1. **Joint Working Group on A-Series** (joint evaluation procedures and requirements for the evaluation of regions and accreditation bodies): the revised papers A1, A2, and A3 were

approved in 2007. I.e., harmonized evaluation rules exist in ILAC, IAF and all regional MLAs (e. g. EA).

2. **Joint WG on Guidance ISO/IEC 17011** Based on numerous comments received from ILAC and IAF, this guidance is currently being prepared and will be given to the members for comments in the beginning of 2008, i.e. an approved guidance document on ISO/IEC 17011 does not yet exist.
3. **Joint IG (Inspection Group)** The development of a document for forensic processes as a joint guidance on the use of ISO/IEC 17020 and ISO/IEC 17024 is in preparation.
4. **Joint Development Support Committee** Formulation of the specific needs of the developing countries and passing on to the Joint General Assembly. Symposium for the developing countries with the aim to promote the interactions between the national metrological institutes and the accreditation bodies for laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies in particular for developing countries. Assistance of this Symposium by APMP (Asia-Pacific Metrology Programme) as well as the PTB (Physical-Technical Institute). Exchange of experience in performing projects in different developing countries with the purpose of improving the basis of conformity assessments. Preparation of an information paper in order to assist the developing countries in participating in the MLAs.

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5. **Joint WG ILAC/IAF ISO** Joint topics in particular in relation to standardization. Discussion of the issue „What is accreditable?“.
6. **Definition of the MLA/MRA Scope, Delimitation of MLA/MRA Scopes** Discussion on how to formulate the scope of a MLA.
1st Level: ISO/IEC 17011 - compliance by all accreditation bodies
2nd Level: ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17020, ISO/IEC 17024, ISO/IEC 17021 and others – compliance by the accredited bodies
Designation of these two levels as so-called framework MLAs: the results of the conformity assessment bodies covered by this arrangement were established on a competent basis. However, they cannot be regarded as fully identical.
3rd Level: Technical standards – Only if in addition the technical standards applied by the accredited bodies are identical it is referred to identical results.
These three Levels are currently under further discussion. The results reached in these discussions shall be presented at the next Joint Meeting.
7. **Certification against accreditation standards** Adoption of a resolution on how to handle certifications against standards intended to be applied for accreditation. If a certification body accredited by a MLA signatory grants certifications against standards that form the basis for accreditation (e.g. ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 15189) the accreditation body shall initiate the withdrawal of accreditation for this accredited body in order to prevent a confusion of the market.
8. **ILAC/IAF Cooperation** Fundamental paper for a further cooperation between both organizations prepared a voting which shall be taken at the next General Assembly in Stockholm, Sweden, in 2008.
2. A joint document **BIPM/ILAC** was adopted to use in future „Calibration and Measurement Capability (CMC)“ instead of „Best Measurement Capability (BMC)“.
3. An **MoU between ILAC and WADA** (World Anti Doping Agency) to be adopted and signed was introduced and distributed.
4. **Marketing and Communications Committee (MMC)** Proposal to celebrate the 09th June as international day of accreditation.
5. **ILAC Open Forum (29th October 2007)** Topics: “Impact of climate change on ILAC and its members“ as well as “Developing Country Needs“. Australia introduces its concept on promoting energy-saving products. UKAS reported about its activities in relation to emission trading “Verification of greenhouse gas emissions for the purpose of the UK’s various emissions accounting and trading schemes“.

ILAC General Assembly in Sydney on 28th and 30th October 2007

Most significant results:

1. ISO 15189:2007 – The transition period for accreditation against this revised standards will expire on 30th April 2009.

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Information from the DAR

Change in the DAR Rules and Procedures

Specimen of Accreditation Certificate to ISO/IEC 17021: The DAR adopted a specimen of accreditation certificate to ISO/IEC 17021. It was generally agreed that only management systems of certification bodies with a serious background are allowed to be accredited in the DAR. In the context of the revision of rules on the use of the DAR certificate it was discussed to draw up a list of management systems which may be accredited with the aim to issue a DAR certificate.

Adoption of DAR documents: The Guidance on the application of ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 (DAR-6-EM-01) was revised and the German translation of the revised version was adopted and placed on the DAR Homepage.

Withdrawal of documents: The documents DAR-5-EM-01 *Accreditation of inspection bodies to EN 45004*, DAR-5-EM-02 *EA Guidance on the Application of EN 45004* (translation of EA-5/01) and DAR-4-INF-02 *The expression of uncertainty in quantitative testing* were withdrawn as their content is reflected in other documents.

Results from the ATF

Design of certificates for accreditation of several sites: All sites of an accredited body from which key activities are performed shall be mentioned on the accreditation certificate.

DAR accreditation bodies: As a result of the EA evaluation, the **DKD** re-organized itself and is now under the direct control of the BMWi (German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology), Department VII A3. The DKD now has the status of a special body within the BMWi. The PTB (Physical-Technical Institute) where the DKD is located only carries out services for the DKD on the basis of an arrangement.

The accreditation bodies **TGA GmbH** and **DATech GmbH** merged. The DATech GmbH has been integrated in the TGA GmbH and will operate in future as **DATech in TGA GmbH**.

DAR relevant results from EA, ILAC and IAF

The EA document EA-3/01

Accreditation Symbols: EA Conditions for

Use of Accreditation Marks, currently under discussion in the EA Publication Committee, has been intensively criticized by several EA members. Problems arise if the accreditation symbol is also used on products and by companies certified by accredited certification bodies. This issue will be under further discussion.

IAF Cross Frontier Policy: In IAF a database was built up containing the bodies accredited in foreign countries by all IAF MLA signatories. Their accreditation practice was also recorded with information about the compliance with the Cross Frontier Policy.

What is accreditable?: A consensus on a general definition on what is accreditable could not yet been reached in ILAC and IAF. Both organizations proposed a list of standards against which accreditations can be granted and which have to be harmonized in the organizations. Such a list of standards and documents shall be adopted at the next General Assemblies.

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Imprint: Editor Dr. M. Wloka
BAM-S.2,
DAR German Accreditation
Council
c/o BAM
Unter den Eichen 87
12205 Berlin

Phone: ++49-30-8104 1942
Fax: ++49-30-8104 1947
E-Mail: office@deutscher-
akkreditierungsrat.org
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Package of Measures for Revising the New Approach

On 14th February 2007 the European Commission submitted a proposal for a *Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Setting out the Requirements for Accreditation and Market Surveillance Relating to the Marketing of Products*

and

a Decision of the *European Parliament and of the Council on a Common Framework for the Marketing of Products.* *)

The proposals are parts of a package of measures with the aim to establish a uniform frame for the existing infrastructure for accreditation, the surveillance of conformity assessment bodies and the market surveillance of products and for the economic actors. They are currently being negotiated in the European Council and Parliament (as of 20th November 2007). The package will probably come into effect as of spring 2008.

The primary objective of these proposals is to ensure the free movement of goods. As a result of these actions, the European Commission expects a decrease of national measures deviating from each other for products on the market and a strengthening of the acceptance of and the confidence in test reports, certifications or inspection certificates.

The proposals contain requirements for accreditation and market surveillance as well as a decision providing the establishment of future legislation.

Other than the mentioned regulations on market surveillance, the Regulation contains requirements on the organization of accreditation at national and European level, irrespective of the individual sectors in which it will be applied. The Regulation defines that each member state will have to establish a national accreditation body by 1st January 2010. The proposal emphasizes that accreditation is a governmental task and has the function of a governmental supervisory body; it furthermore contains the requirements frame for recognising the existing institution European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) so that the proper functioning of a strict peer evaluation will be ensured.

The Decision provides for future regulations a general frame and a guidance on how to apply the uniform elements in the individual sectors so that in future legislation as much coherence is ensured as politically and technically feasible. The Decision contains harmonized terms and definitions, uniform obligations for economic actors, criteria for the selection of conformity assessment bodies, criteria for the nationally notifying authorities and requirements for the notification procedure. It moreover provides rules for the selection of conformity assessment procedures and indicates which harmonized procedures are available. In addition, the Decision contains requirements for the CE Marking as well as for information and market surveillance procedures.

The Regulation and the Decision will implicate adoptions of the national law. Of prime importance for Germany is the demand of the Regulation for one accreditation body per member state which poses a great challenge. As soon as the drafts show again political stability, the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) in charge of this task will commence with the preparations for executing the European legislation.

*) The texts can be retrieved from the Website of the European Commission at http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newapproach/review_en.htm

BAM S.2 – I. Ruthemeier

DIARY:

Next EA GA:

- 04th April 2008, Warsaw (Extraordinary EA GA)
- 28th to 29th May 2008, Tallinn
- 18th to 19th November 2008, Portugal
- Spring 2009, Luxembourg
- Autumn 2009, Belgium
- 2010 possibly in Jordan

Next EA MAC meetings:

- 02nd to 03rd April 2008, Warsaw
- 01st to 02nd October 2008, Bucharest

Next ILAC/IAF GAs:

- 10th to 22nd October 2008 Stockholm, Sweden



We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year 2008.