

31 May 2011

Letter to EURAMET Delegates

Dear colleague,

It is one of the tasks and responsibilities of EURAMET (the European Association of National Metrology Institutes) to support the establishment of a functioning and recognised national metrology infrastructure in the countries of its full and associated members. Metrology is forming an essential part of the quality infrastructure, vital for ensuring the quality of products, reducing barriers to trade and paving the way for global trade and services.

In 2008 EURAMET established a “Focus Group on Facilitating National Metrology Infrastructure Development” not only to support efficiently the metrology infrastructure development process but also to explore synergies between National Metrology Institutes (NMIs). The Focus Group is open to all EURAMET members and – as with other EURAMET activities – it relies for its functioning on the dedication of its members as well as the support of the EURAMET Secretariat.

Generally the major tasks and activities within this focus group are as follows, to:

- organize joint training and comparisons
- facilitate the joint use of facilities and collaboration between NMIs and between the national authorities responsible for legal metrology
- support alignment of metrological legislation and practises in these countries with those of established EU members, thereby supporting harmonisation with the EU Acquis Communautaire
- support networking and awareness raising
- establish exchange of experience and information between the NMIs and between the national authorities responsible for legal metrology
- assist associates to prepare for full membership in EURAMET and WELMEC

The exchange of state-of-the-art practices has become more and more formalised between the NMIs of South East Europe (SEE) and the Focus Group has engaged many members from different parts of Europe. The experience gained in the Focus Group underlines the importance of knowledge transfer from experienced NMIs to those in the process of development. Since its last meeting in 2010 the Focus Group is now a joint EURAMET-WELMEC initiative, thus also including legal metrology (WELMEC is the European Cooperation in Legal Metrology). It is concerned with facilitating cooperation and acceleration of the integration process of EURAMET members and associates, and WELMEC associates, into existing EURAMET and WELMEC structures. As a tool to achieve this in the SEE region a strategy document VISION 2015 has been unanimously accepted, which is also a joint EURAMET-WELMEC document. It aims at facilitating complementary development and sharing of resources and thus at the coordination of metrology services in the region, which is of particular importance in view of the small markets in some SEE countries.

Advisory and financial support for the Focus Group activities

provided by PTB International Technical Cooperation has demonstrated that such support is vital for the success of the work of the Group. Many trainings and workshops have been organised (with very positive feedback); activities concerning awareness raising and joint networking have been initiated; and interlaboratory comparisons have been performed. One remarkable outcome of these activities is the fact that three of the associate members could fulfil the EURAMET membership criteria and became full EURAMET members at the last General Assembly 2010.

In order to strengthen and foster metrological infrastructure; to implement the strategy document VISION 2015; to assure a sustainable development in the emerging NMIs and to broaden the impacts achieved so far - additional support is needed.

The NMIs could provide support in various ways:

- **Training:** financial support (travel costs for participants of emerging NMIs and for trainers)
provide trainers
offer training material
- **Comparisons:** act as adviser and pilot laboratory to give a link to key comparisons
- **Awareness raising:** make available awareness tools and materials

Hence, on behalf of the emerging NMIs, EURAMET e.V. respectfully requests its member NMIs to consider how they could support the activities of the Focus Group, financially or in kind.

Yours sincerely




Dr. Arnold Leitner
Focus Group Chairperson

Prof. Leslie Pendrill
EURAMET Chairperson