

EURAMET TC-Quality

Chairman's Annual Report 2012-2013

The eighth TC-Q meeting was held in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on March 13-15, 2013. It was attended by 71 experts from 30 countries or international organisations together with invited observers: from EURAMET – Mr.Wolfgang Schmid, from EA Laboratory Committee – Mr.Trevor Thompson, from NIST – Mrs.Sally Bruce and Mrs.Barbara Goldstein, representatives of GULFMET – Mrs.Majeda Zaidan and Mrs.Masomah Akbar.

The TC-Q plenary was preceded by a meeting of the Steering Committee on March 13, 2013. The Steering Committee, the plenary meeting, and the visit of the laboratories were hosted by the Bosnian national metrology institute IMBiH.

The main outcomes of the meeting were:

- Draft revisions of the remaining un-revised two TC-Q guidelines dealing with Initial presentation and Re-evaluation presentations will be finalized by the mid of April 2013 and will be sent to TC-Q contact persons for their comments – no major changes are expected, it should only be an alignment with the existing state of affairs – responsible: W.Mikovits (BEV Austria). Also some minor changes in the Annual report template and Guide on Annual reports having been identified during the meetings will be implemented by the mid of April 2013 – responsible: TC-Q Chair. A revision of TC-Q Terms of Reference has been identified as urgent - a draft will be prepared by the EURAMET Secretary W.Schmid by the end of April 2013. After that all the TC-Q guidance documents will be newly up-dated and revised.
- Initial QMS presentations by:
 - DMD, Montenegro: full confidence given;
 - Roth+CO AG, Switzerland: confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
- QMS periodical re-evaluations by (in case of France: repeated presentations):
 - SMD, Belgium: NMI, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
 - BEV, Austria: NMI, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
 - E+E, Austria: DI, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
 - EAA, Austria: DI, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
 - IPQ, Portugal: NMI, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
 - ITN-LMRI, Portugal: DI, full confidence given,
 - CEM, Spain: NMI, full confidence given,
 - IO-CSIC, Spain: DI, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
 - INTA, Spain: DI, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
 - LCOE, Spain: DI, full confidence given
 - CIEMAT, Spain: DI, full confidence given
 - ROA, Spain: DI, full confidence given
 - ISCIII, Spain: DI, full confidence given
 - METAS, Switzerland: NMI, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
 - IRA, Switzerland: DI, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
 - PMOD/WMC, Switzerland: DI, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;

- UME, Turkey: NMI, full confidence given;
- TAEK, Turkey: DI, full confidence given;
- LNE, France: NMI, full confidence given;
- LNE-INM, France: NMI, full confidence given;
- LNE-LNHB, France: NMI, full confidence given;
- LNE-SYRTE, France: NMI, full confidence given.

In those presentations a problem was identified at the Spanish A-DI CIEMAT which itself has proposed some of their CMCs to be greyed-out - it will be made after the case is fully clarified in the process of clarifications mentioned above.

- The review of 99 annual reports from 31 countries or organisations including those QMS of which were re-evaluated during the meeting, full confidence given to 32 laboratories on spot, minor additional information requested from 59 laboratories and major complementary information requested from 8 laboratories; the additional information is to be delivered within eight weeks after the meeting.
- Following the BoD decision in August 2010 strongly recommending an involvement of self-declared institutes in on-site peer reviews a number of additional projects of this type has been added. Their main objective is the realisation of joint/unilateral peer review audits of quality management systems in the following laboratories:

EURAMET Project No. 1083 BEV (Austria), METAS (Switzerland) and PTB (Germany).

EURAMET Project No. 1123 CEM (Spain), INRIM (Italy), IPQ (Portugal).

EURAMET Project No. 1109 MIKES (Finland), CMI (Czech Republic), SMU (Slovakia), GUM (Poland).

EURAMET Project No. 1208 DMDM (Serbia) and BIM (Bulgaria)

EURAMET Project No. 1219 IAEA and BEV (Austria) + external experts

EURAMET Project No. 1119 BoM (FYR Macedonia) and UME (Turkey)

EURAMET Project No. 1199 NSAI (Ireland) and CMI (Czech Republic)

EURAMET Project No. 1227 LNE-CNAM (France) and various experts from different organizations

EURAMET Project No. 1238 UME (Turkey), PTB (Germany), LGC Ltd. (UK)

EURAMET Project No. 1231 EIM Greece + UME

EURAMET Project No. 1248 LNE-SYRTE France + INRIM Italy

EURAMET Project No. 1256 LCOE Spain + SMU Slovakia, National Univ. of Tucuman, Argentina

EURAMET Project No. 1265 MBM Monte Negro + UME Turkey

EURAMET Project No. 1266 IMBiH Bosnia and Herzegovina + BEV Austria, CMI Czech Rep. (mass, pressure)

Short presentations of these projects were given at 8th TC-Q plenary meeting. Just after the meeting, Lithuanian A-DI VMT/FTMC asked CMI Czech Republic to make a peer-review visit there later this year – under negotiation.

An overview of the EURAMET greyed-out/deleted CMCs as of March 2013:

- Bulgaria BIM: 1 CMC in length
- France LNE: 3 CMCs in pressure + 6 in flow
- Greece EIM: all the acoustical CMCs deleted
- Belgium SMD: all the electricity + T/F CMCs (64 in total)

- Finland MIKES: 6 CMCs in force/torque
- Italy INRIM: 1 CMC in EM
- France LNE-ENSAM: all the CMCs greyed out

All the relevant documents, including the presentations, are available on the EURAMET TC-Q website. From these documents, both the EURAMET Chair and the TC Chairs have the basic information for any further actions. In particular, TC Chairs have been asked to use the Annual Reports as a source of information as to the current status of QMS implementation and to look after the status of coverage of relevant CMCs.

In 2011 a thorough analysis of the situation of EURAMET institutes under CIPM MRA was made from the viewpoint of their coverage by external auditing – the resulting actions were implemented mainly in 2012. Currently, EURAMET pursues its quite flexible approach to on-site external auditing in the EURAMET institutes - the existing options are:

- accreditation (by an ILAC MRA signatory)
- on-site visit by peers (inclusive an internal audit with external auditors)
- an audit made by the corresponding NMI (applicable only to A-DIs).

The conclusion is (the details were given at the TC-Q meeting): all the EURAMET NMIs are covered by either accreditation by an ILAC MRA signatory or by on-site visits by peers. All the A-DIs with CMCs are either accredited, peer reviewed or audited by their respective NMI inclusive the international organization IAEA Vienna.

At the end of the meeting, representatives of EA LC and GULFMET held their respective presentations.

The laboratories or countries involved in the next QMS periodical re-evaluations are the following: EC JRC IRMM, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Egypt, Italy, Slovenia, Poland; possible initial presentation: EXHM/GSCL-EIM, Greece.

The next plenary meeting will probably take place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on April 9th -11th, 2014. The Steering Committee will meet at the same date and place. Czech Republic is considering to invite TC-Q for the meetings in 2015.

Several other points were also discussed by TC-Q:

In cooperation with the EURAMET Secretariat a decision has been made to prepare a dedicated TC-Q database to facilitate the handling of TC-Q documents (currently over 800 in number). The new developments concerning the TC-Q database were presented at the meeting. TC-Q database will enable to store all the TC-Q documents in more structured way and to simplify the work of reviewers during the evaluation process. The idea is to complete the process of filling the database with data by the end of the year 2013. The database will be made accessible to technical TC Chairs.

New TC-Q management - the tenure of the current TC-Q Chair expires in 2014. At the 9th TC-Q meeting the election of new TC-Q Chair will be carried out. The contact persons were invited to stand as candidates. The deadline for proposals is the end of September 2013. Already at the meeting some contact persons proposed Mr. Enver Sadikoglu (UME Turkey) as a candidate.

EURAMET Secretary and TC-Q Chair have proposed a new position of a permanent TC-Q Secretary to EURAMET BoD. The BoD agreed to generate a new post for a TC-Q Secretary in the EURAMET Secretariat. The post of the TC-Q Secretary was offered to Silvie Hoffmanova, CMI (CZ) which was accepted.