

1. General Aspects

The EURAMET Technical Committee for Quality (TC-Q) is EURAMET's operational structure to share and develop knowledge on ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO Guide 34 and on their implementation in National Metrology Institutes (NMI) and associated Designated Institutes (A-DI). TC-Q is responsible for reviewing and providing formal acknowledgement of the Quality Management Systems (QMS) of EURAMET Members and Associates in the framework of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement of the CIPM (CIPM MRA).

Currently TC-Q has 35 contact persons from 35 EURAMET members out of 37. In addition, the International Atomic Energy Agency and Kosovo, under the UNSC Resolution 1244/1999, have nominated permanent observers to the TC-Q.

2. Meetings

The twelfth TC-Q meeting was held in Dublin (Ireland) on April 12 - 13, 2017. It was attended by 52 experts from 33 countries and international organisations together with invited observers from EURAMET (Wolfgang Schmid), European Accreditation (Trevor Thompson), representatives of APMP (Isao Kishimoto), COOMET (Andreas Odin) and GULFMET (Masomah Akbar and Faisal Alsulaiman). The TC-Q plenary meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Steering Committee on April 11, 2017. The Steering Committee and the plenary meetings were hosted by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

The main outcomes of the meeting were:

- QMS initial evaluation:
 - Estonia, Metrosert AS, full confidence given.
- QMS periodical re-evaluations:
 - The Netherlands, VSL, full confidence given;
 - International Atomic Energy Agency, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
 - Sweden, SSM, full confidence given;
 - FYR Macedonia, BOM, full confidence given;
 - Germany, PTB, full confidence given;
 - Germany, BAM, full confidence given;
 - Germany, BVL, full confidence given;
 - United Kingdom, NPL, full confidence given;
 - United Kingdom, LGC, full confidence given;
 - United Kingdom, NEL, full confidence given;
 - United Kingdom, NMO, full confidence given;
 - United Kingdom, NGML, full confidence given.



In all but one case the presentations were made by the representatives of the NMIs/DIs. In the case of National Gear Metrology Laboratory (United Kingdom), the presentation was made remotely via Skype.

Although the presentation of Umweltbundesamt (UBA) was scheduled for this year's meeting, the representative of the UBA was not present at the meeting due to illness. For this reason, the written re-evaluation report of the institute was accepted, but the oral presentation of the UBA was rescheduled to the next TC-Q meeting.

- The review of 106 annual reports from 33 countries and 3 international organisations, including those whose QMSs were re-evaluated during the meeting, were made. Full confidence was given to 34 NMIs/DIs on the spot, minor additional information was requested from 70 NMIs/DIs and major complementary information was requested from 2 Danish designated institutes (FORCE Technology and DELTA Danish Electronics, Light & Acoustics). The additional information has to be delivered and all required actions have to be completed by June 8, 2017.
- At the end of the meeting, representatives of APMP, COOMET and GULFMET made presentations on the current status of review of the NMI's/DI's quality management systems within their respective RMOs.
- A workshop on "Risk assessment related to management" was held during the meeting. The objective of the workshop was to share knowledge on the current status of implementation of risk assessment in NMIs/DIs, as it is a requirement in an increasing number of the 17000 series standards to take risk into account when operating a compliant management system. Two presentations were made on the subject, followed by a productive discussion and exchange of ideas.
- All relevant documents, including the presentations, are available on the EURAMET TC-Q website and also on the TC-Q database, which is accessible to TC-Q contact persons, EURAMET delegates and TC Chairs. From these documents, both the EURAMET Chair and the TC Chairs may obtain basic information for any further actions. In particular, TC Chairs have been asked to use the NMI's/DI's Annual Reports as a source of information about the current status of QMS implementation and to check on the the status of coverage of relevant CMCs.

3. Projects

TC-Q projects are mainly focused on peer reviews. Currently 32 peer review projects are registered on the EURAMET website. The projects initiated since the last EURAMET General Assembly are presented below:

Project No. 1393	IMBiH (BiH), MIRS/IL-FE/LMK (Slovenia)
Project No. 1408	INM (Romania), PTB (Germany)
Project No. 1417	LNE-CNAM (France), INRiM (Italy), IPQ (Portugal), HMI-FSB (Croatia) and Comma Consulting (France)
Project No. 1419	NSAI NML (Ireland), TÜBİTAK UME (Turkey)
Project No. 1420	LNE-SYRTE (France), METAS (Switzerland)

Some of the TC-Q projects were registered on the EURAMET website many years ago and remain open although no activity has occurred in recent years. For this reason, the status of the projects

will be reviewed and updated with the purpose of keeping active projects “in progress” status on the EURAMET website.

4. CMCs

TC-Q is not involved in the CMC submission and review process. However, TC-Q is monitoring the status of the greyed-out CMCs. A summary list of greyed-out CMCs belonging to EURAMET NMIs and DIs with the dates when CMCs were greyed-out is given as follows.

- Finland (MIKES): 6 CMCs in force/torque (August 27, 2012)
- France (LNE): 1 CMCs in flow (November 24, 2012)
- Belgium (SMD): 6 CMCs in time and frequency (February 4, 2013) and 25 CMCs in electricity (August 13, 2013)
- France (LNE-ENSAM): all the CMCs greyed out (3 CMCs in electricity – August 13, 2013)
- IAEA: 1 CMC in ionizing radiation (September 9, 2013)
- Italy (INRiM): 15 CMCs in electricity (December 9, 2015)
- Slovakia (SMU): 6 CMCs in acoustics (January 13, 2016)
- Portugal (IPQ): 1 CMC in length (January 22, 2016)
- Italy (INRiM): 29 CMCs in mass (viscosity / Category 6) (March 24, 2016)
- Slovakia (SMU): 2 CMCs in length (April 4, 2016)
- Latvia (LATMB): 30 CMCs in electricity (September 12, 2016)
- Italy (INRiM): 2 CMCs in metrology in chemistry (Category 7) (October 13, 2016)
- Italy (INRiM): 1 CMC in mass (density / Category 2) (November 10, 2016)
- Italy (INRiM): 1 CMC in length (DimL) (December 21, 2016)
- Italy (INRiM): 1 CMC in metrology in chemistry (Category 4) (October 13, 2016)

In total, there are 130 greyed-out CMC entries from EURAMET NMIs and DIs. Greyed-out CMCs from Latvia resulted from the follow up of actions due to problems reported by LATMB to the TC-Q in 2016.

5. Next Meeting

The next TC-Q plenary meeting will take place in Paris, France on April 19-20, 2018. The Steering Committee will meet the day before the plenary meeting on April 18, 2018. Meetings will be hosted by Laboratoire National de Métrologie et d'Essais (LNE). The following NMIs and DIs are scheduled to make presentations during the meeting:

- Albania – DPM
- Germany – UBA
- Austria –BEV, EAA E+E
- France – LNE, CETIAT, INM, IRSN, LADG, LNHb, LTFB, SYRTE, TRAPIL, ENSAM (initial presentation)
- Montenegro – MBM
- Portugal – IPQ, IST/LPSR
- Spain – CEM, CIEMAT, IO-CSIC, INTA, ISCIII, LCOE, ROA
- Switzerland – METAS, IRA, PMOD/WRC, Roth, MBW

6. Issues

- 5 EURAMET institutes (MIRS/UP-ZRS/LPOO, MIRS/ZAG/SM 480, HMI/IRB-SSDL, MIKES-SYKE, NILU) have no CMCs 5 years after approval of their QMS.
- More than 20 EURAMET institutes having CMCs published in the BIPM KCDB have not issued a single calibration certificate with the CIPM MRA logo in 2016.
- In consultation with TC Chairs, TC-Q prepared a new template for “Declaration for coverage of CMCs by Quality Management System”. The objective of the template is to decrease the burden in internal CMC review process and to have clear documentary evidence for coverage of CMCs under review. The template shall be used as accompanying information for all CMC submissions from EURAMET NMIs/DIs and must be uploaded to the BIPM web-portal together with the Excel worksheets. The template is in use since October 1, 2016.
- In cooperation with the BoD Working Group on Capacity Building, TC-Q is working on organization of “Training in support of effective assessment of quality management systems in EURAMET”. The main objective of the training is to prepare quality managers and peer reviewers/assessors involved in the TC-Q review process of quality management systems (QMS) of NMIs and DIs. Furthermore it will provide the selected target group with an understanding of the CIPM MRA and the related processes, in particular the review of QMS, and an understanding of processes and expectations specific to EURAMET. Provisionally, the concept of the training has been agreed upon and the decision about dates and venue of the training has been made. The training will be held in Madrid on November 7-8, 2017.
- The second term of the current TC-Q Chair will be finished at the General Assembly in 2018. That is why names of prospective candidates for the position of the TC-Q Chair have to be submitted to the EURAMET by the end of October 2017. The new TC-Q Chair will be elected by written voting by the end of year. Already at the last TC-Q meeting Kai Stoll-Malke from PTB (Germany) has been proposed by TC-Q contact persons. However call for additional candidates have been announced within TC-Q via e-mail.

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TC-Q Chair

Gebze – Kocaeli / TURKEY