

## 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, Moldova and Kosovo, under the UNSC Resolution 1244/1999, have nominated permanent observers to the TC-Q.

## 2. Meetings

The 13<sup>th</sup> TC-Q meeting was held in Paris (France) on April 18 - 19, 2018. It was attended by 85 experts from 35 countries and international organisations together with invited observers from EURAMET (Wolfgang Schmid), European Accreditation (Trevor Thompson), representatives of AFRIMETS (Peter Kahihia), SIM (Georgette Macdonald), and GULFMET (Faisal Alsulaiman). The TC-Q plenary meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Steering Committee on April 17, 2018. The Steering Committee and the plenary meetings were jointly hosted by the Laboratoire National de Métrologie et d'Essais (LNE) and Ecole National Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers de Paris (LNE-ENSAM).

The main outcomes of the meeting were:

- QMS initial evaluation:
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Institute of Water (IW), confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
- QMS periodical re-evaluations:
  - Montenegro: MBM, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
  - Germany, UBA, full confidence given (postponed presentation from 2017);
  - France, LNE, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
  - France, CETIAT, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
  - France, INM, full confidence given;
  - France, IRSN, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
  - France, LADG, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
  - France, LNHB, full confidence given;
  - France, LTFB, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
  - France, SYRTE, full confidence given;
  - France, TRAPIL, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
  - Austria, BEV, full confidence given;
  - Austria, EAA, full confidence given;
  - Austria, E+E, full confidence given;
  - Spain, CEM, full confidence given;
  - Spain, CIEMAT, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;



- Spain, IO-CSIC, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
- Spain, INTA, full confidence given;
- Spain, ISCIII, full confidence given;
- Spain, LCOE, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
- Spain, ROA, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
- Switzerland: METAS, full confidence given;
- Switzerland: IRA, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
- Switzerland: PMOD/WRC, full confidence given;
- Switzerland: Roth, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
- Switzerland: MBW, full confidence given;
- Portugal: IPQ, confidence given, minor clarifications requested;
- Portugal: IST/LPSR, confidence given, major clarifications requested;

In all cases the presentations were made by the representatives of the NMIs/DIs.

- The Albanian NMI, the General Directorate of Metrology, did not submit a re-evaluation Quality Management System Report and failed to make a re-evaluation presentation as requested by EURAMET in accordance with the “Quality Management System review procedure” (G-TCQ-PRC-001). Consequently, EURAMET TC-Q made the following decision:

**Due to lack of confidence in the fully operational status of the Quality Management System of the General Directorate of Metrology (DPM) and according to the rules of the CIPM MRA, TC-Q will apply for the graying-out of DPM’s published CMCs. This concerns seven (7) CMCs in the field of mass calibrations. The CMCs would be reinstated after peer-review jointly organized by the EURAMET Technical Committee for Quality (TC-Q) and Technical Committee for Mass and Related Quantities (TC-M) confirming the fully operational status of a QMS covering the CMCs and a successful presentation of DPM’s QMS at the TC-Q meeting after the peer review.**

TC-Q applied to the BIPM KCDB office for the greying-out of the CMCs of Albania on 27 April 2018. The CMCs were greyed-out on 3 May 2018.

- The review of 105 annual reports from 33 countries and 2 international organisations, including those whose QMSs were re-evaluated during the meeting, were made. Full confidence was given to 37 NMIs/DIs on the spot, minor additional information was requested from 67 NMIs/DIs and major complementary information was requested from DPM (Albania). The additional information has to be delivered and all required actions have to be completed by June 14, 2018.
- General principles for transition to the requirements of the new edition of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard and ISO 17034 standard were discussed. The TC-Q decision is summarized below:

From the 2019 TC-Q meeting onwards (i.e. the next meeting) all initial presentations of NMIs/DIs shall be in accordance with the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard.

From the 2019 TC-Q meeting onwards all initial presentations of NMIs/DIs involved in CRM production shall be in accordance with the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17034 standard.

For the 2019 and 2020 TC-Q meetings, re-evaluation reports and presentations meeting the requirements of either the 2005 or 2017 editions of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard are allowed.

For the 2019 TC-Q meeting only, re-evaluation reports and presentations of CRM producers meeting the requirements of either ISO Guide 34 or the ISO 17034 standard are allowed.

All NMIs/DIs shall submit short summary about the current status of their QMSs on the way to transitioning to the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard and the ISO 17034 standard (if applicable).

The summary shall address identified gaps and the action plan for adapting the QMS to meet the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and ISO 17034 standards.

Guidance and the template to be used for this purpose will be prepared by the TC-Q Steering Committee (SC) by the end of June 2018.

Summary reports from NMIs/DIs shall be submitted by the end of September 2018.

Reports will be evaluated by the TC-Q SC in the same way as the QMS Annual Reports and feedback will be provided to NMIs/DIs.

Implementation of the action plan and the transition to the new standards will be monitored through annual reporting.

- At the end of the meeting, representatives of AFRIMETS and SIM made presentations on the current status of review of the quality management systems of the NMIs/DIs within their respective RMOs.
- 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 status of coverage of relevant CMCs.

### 3. Projects

TC-Q projects are mainly focused on peer reviews. Currently 38 peer review projects are registered on the EURAMET website. The projects initiated since the last EURAMET General Assembly are presented below:

Project No. 1419	NSAI NML (Ireland), TÜBİTAK UME (Turkey)
Project No. 1420	LNE-SYRTE (France), METAS (Switzerland)
Project No. 1427	IMBiH (Bosnia and Herzegovina), CMI (Czech Republic)
Project No. 1430	LCOE (Spain), INRiM (Italy)
Project No. 1438	NSAI NML (Ireland), MIRS/UL-FE/LMK (Slovenia)

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 only active projects in the “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 greyed-out CMCs. A summary of greyed-out CMCs belonging to EURAMET NMIs and DIs with the dates when the CMCs were greyed-out is as follows:

- Belgium (SMD): 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)
- Slovakia (SMU): 6 CMCs in acoustics (January 13, 2016) and 2 CMCs in length (April 4, 2016)
- Portugal (IPQ): 1 CMC in length (January 22, 2016)
- IRMM (JRC): 2 CMCs in chemistry, Category 6 (June 28, 2016)
- Latvia (LATMB): 30 CMCs in electricity (September 12, 2016)
- Germany: 12 CMCs in chemistry, Category 13 (June 30, 2017)
- Italy (INRIM): 15 CMCs in electricity (December 9, 2015), 29 CMCs in mass (viscosity / Category 6) (March 24, 2016), 2 CMCs in metrology in chemistry (Category 7) (October 13, 2016), 1 CMC in density (November 10, 2016), 1 CMC in length (DimL) (December 21, 2016), 1 CMC in metrology in chemistry (Category 4) (April 19, 2017), 1 CMC in mass (pressure / Category 3) (November 14, 2017)
- Albania (DPM): 7 CMCs in mass (mass / Category 1) (May 3, 2018)

In total, there are 139 greyed-out CMC entries from EURAMET NMIs and DIs. Greyed-out CMCs from Latvia and Albania resulted from the follow up of actions due to problems reported to the TC-Q by LATMB in 2016 and by DPM in 2018.

#### 5. Next Meeting

The next TC-Q plenary meeting will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia on April 17-18, 2019. The Steering Committee will meet the day before the plenary meeting on April 16, 2019. The meetings will be hosted by the Metrology Institute of Republic of Slovenia (MIRS). The following NMIs and DIs are scheduled to make presentations during the meeting:

- Finland - MIKES, Aalto, MIKES-FMI, MIKES-SYKE, FGI-GG, STUK
- Greece - EIM, IRCL/GAEC-EIM
- Hungary - BKFH
- Ireland - NSAI NML
- Italy - INRiM, ENEA-INMRI
- Poland - GUM, INTiBS, POLATOM
- Slovenia - MIRS, MIRS/SIQ/Metrology, MIRS/UM-FS/LTM, MIRS/UL-FE/LMK, MIRS/IJS/F-2,O-2, MIRS/KI/L05, MIRS/IMT/LMT, MIRS/ZAG/SM 480, MIRS/UP-ZRS/LPOO, MIRS/NIB/FITO
- Turkey – UME, TAEK, MAM ME UAL (initial presentation)

## 6. Issues

- 5 EURAMET institutes (MIRS/UP-ZRS/LPOO, MIRS/ZAG/SM 480, HMI/FSB-LIMS, 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 2017.
- In cooperation with the BoD Working Group on Capacity Building, TC-Q was involved in the organization of “Training in support of effective assessment of quality management systems in EURAMET”. The main objective of the training was 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 provided 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. The training was held in Madrid on November 7-8, 2017, hosted by Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial (INTA) and attended by 23 persons representing 21 NMIs/DIs from 12 countries. Also in attendance were representatives from COOMET and GULFMET.
- The second term of the current TC-Q Chair will be finished at the time of the General Assembly in 2018. Kai Stoll-Malke from PTB (Germany) was elected by written voting as the TC-Q Chair for the term from 2018 to 2020. The term of the new TC-Q Chair will start after the General Assembly.

Enver SADIKOĞLU  
TC-Q Chair

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