

OIML-CS

OIML-CS Management Committee meetings

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Introduction

The third OIML-CS Management Committee (MC) meeting and associated events were scheduled to take place in New Delhi, India during week commencing 16 March 2020. In early March, the situation regarding COVID-19 was evolving rapidly, and so a decision was taken to cancel the meeting and associated events. This was a difficult decision to take at the time as the representatives from the Legal Metrology Department of the Indian Government Department of Consumer Affairs had already made considerable efforts and commitments to organise the meeting and associated events. However, the health, safety and welfare of the meeting participants was paramount and this, combined with the increasing number of travel restrictions that were being imposed, meant that the correct decision was taken.

Online meetings

To ensure continuity of work, and to progress activities essential to the smooth running of the OIML-CS, a decision was taken to hold an online MC meeting on 19 May 2020. The meeting was intended as a “trial run”, with the aim of testing the feasibility of holding an online MC meeting and to test the use of the video-conferencing technology. The first meeting was successful, so a second online MC meeting was held on 2 June 2020. As it was not possible to cover all of the agenda items at the second meeting, a further meeting was held on 2 July 2020. This enabled all of the key issues to be given sufficient time for discussion and consideration by the MC.

At each of the online MC meetings, a significant majority of the countries and liaison organisations were represented. A quorum of MC Members from OIML Member States was achieved at each meeting, so the MC

was able to take decisions in accordance with the voting rules in the OIML-CS documentation.

Over the course of the three meetings, the following key items were discussed:

- Marking of measuring instruments with the OIML certificate number;
- Availability of Legal Metrology Experts;
- COVID-19 contingencies;
- “Top-10” publications and periodic reviews; and
- Updates/reports from the Review Committee, Maintenance Group and Working Groups.

During the meeting on 2 June 2020, the selection of the nominees for the positions of MC Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson took place. The MC selected Mr Mannie Panesar to be appointed as the MC Chairperson and Mr Bill Loizides to be re-appointed as Deputy Chairperson. The appointment of these positions will be considered by the CIML at the online 55th CIML Meeting in October 2020.

Looking forward

The meetings have demonstrated that online meetings can be a useful tool in supporting the work of the OIML. They have also proven to be a very useful test for the online 55th CIML Meeting that will be held in October 2020. Experience has been gained within the organisation on video-conferencing technology and how best to organise and manage online meetings.

It is hoped that an in-person MC meeting can be held in March or April 2021, but this will require a significant improvement in the global situation regarding COVID-19. The situation will be closely monitored and, if an in-person meeting is not feasible, online meetings will be used to ensure continuity in the work of the MC and the running of the OIML-CS.

More use of online meetings will also be considered by the various committees and working groups established under the OIML-CS to reduce the need for face-to-face meetings and the associated travel, and to convene ad-hoc meetings to address issues that cannot wait until the formal annual meeting. ■

