



## **BIML Report to the 14th Conference on liaisons (Item 3.2)**

The OIML has established liaisons with a large number of international organizations. The liaisons with some of the most important of these have been formalized by concluding Memoranda of Understanding. These are:

### **The BIPM and UNIDO**

The MoU between the OIML, the BIPM and UNIDO was signed on 3 December 2008 with the stated aim of enhancing the impact of industrial development on economic growth and minimizing technical barriers to trade (TBT) which are still a major obstacle to exports from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Since the signing of this MoU, the OIML and the BIPM have participated in a World Metrology Day event open to staff at the UN headquarters in Vienna, held in May 2010, as well as in several UNIDO regional expert group meetings.

The main joint event during this period was the highly successful AFRIMETS Metrology School, held in Nairobi, Kenya in February 2011. The liaison will be reinforced in the coming year as the OIML takes the lead in the organization of a follow-up to this event in the form of an AFRIMETS Legal Metrology School to be held in 2013.

### **ILAC and the IAF**

The 2006 MoU between ILAC and the OIML (signed on 12 November 2006) resulted from the increased cooperation between the two organizations when the MAA was implemented and included shared interpretations of common technical issues (e.g. assessments according to ISO/IEC 17025) and shared use of technical and metrological experts (validated by the OIML) and lead assessors (validated by National Accreditation Bodies, ILAC full Members).

In 2007, the MoU was extended to include the IAF in view of the fact that the OIML had started technical work that would include the assessment of certification system requirements, such as for certification systems for prepackages.

The MoU between the OIML, ILAC and the IAF was renewed in 2010.

Under the MoU the BIML and the ILAC/IAF liaison officer meet regularly to review and update a joint action plan and to coordinate joint activities. The BIML is represented in the ILAC Accreditation Committee.



## ISO

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the OIML signed a first Memorandum of Understanding on 10 June 1966. A revised MoU was signed on 9 December 2008. The OIML has reviewed existing technical liaisons with ISO and their status for each OIML TC/SC, permitting the establishment of new liaisons between ISO and OIML TCs and SCs. From an administrative point of view, the OIML is a Category 'A' Liaison Organization for the Technical Committees concerned, which means that OIML TCs/SCs can make effective contributions to the work of their ISO counterparts.

There is close cooperation with ISO/CASCO, the Conformity Assessment Committee. The OIML was already active in some of CASCO's working groups concerning standards on product certification (relevant to the MAA) and recently became a member of CASCO/STAR, the Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group. STAR is a forum where economic sectors and intergovernmental organizations can interact with CASCO for the purpose of identifying relevant conformity assessment issues and provide advice to CASCO on how best to develop conformity assessment policy and related documents.

In 2011, a liaison with ISO/COPOLCO, the Consumer Policy Committee of ISO was established. The primary aim of this liaison is to obtain consumer input in OIML technical work where relevant. One of the first activities was the OIML's participation in the 2012 COPOLCO workshop which focused, among other things, on the importance of legal metrology for consumers.

The OIML has also cooperated with ISO/DEVCO on developing country activities, mainly through the DCMAS network mentioned below.

## IEC

On 13 October 2011, the OIML and the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) signed an MoU covering matters of technical cooperation, conformity assessment and the development and application of standards. A joint work program is currently under discussion and will include cooperation on developing standards, such as for electricity meters used in charging stations for electrical road vehicles.

Some of the other main active liaisons are with:

## WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee

The OIML is an observer organization on the WTO TBT Committee and participates in the Committee's meetings when possible. OIML Recommendations are considered to be "appropriate international standards" in the context of the TBT Agreement, and in this light,



the OIML is currently following closely, and providing input to the fourth triennial review of the Agreement.

### **UNECE**

The OIML has had close relations with UNECE's Working Party 6 for many years. UNECE/WP6 is the only United Nations body dealing with regulatory cooperation and standardization. Although part of a regional UN organization, its membership is open to all UN member States. In WP6's annual sessions, the OIML is the rapporteur for metrology issues.

### **Codex Alimentarius**

Recent liaison activities concern issues relating to the control of the quantity of product in prepackages, a subject where the scopes of the OIML and CODEX overlap. A proposal to adopt OIML procedures for sampling of prepackages to control drained weight of product packed in a liquid medium is currently under discussion in the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV).

### **DCMAS Network**

This Network is currently chaired by the UNECE, and tries to provide a means to encourage communication between organizations involved in metrology, accreditation and standards in support of developing countries. It holds an annual meeting which is attended by the OIML. This year, for the first time, there was also a virtual meeting held half way through the year to follow up on some issues and to prepare for the annual meeting. This will be repeated in the coming year as it was felt to be a useful addition to the Network's activities.

There are many liaisons at the level of OIML Technical Committees and Subcommittees. An overview of these liaisons is available on the OIML web site at:

[http://www.oiml.org/tc\\_sc/liaisons.html](http://www.oiml.org/tc_sc/liaisons.html).