



**October 2012**

**General report by the CIML President to the 47th CIML Meeting – Item 2**

This has been my first full year as CIML President and it has been a great pleasure to become better acquainted with so many colleagues within the legal metrology community and within the Bureau.

Over the past year there have again been a number of changes in the composition of the Committee and updated information on the membership changes will be given during the meeting.

In his report, the BIML Director will be covering the further significant changes in the Bureau staff and the current financial position of the Organisation. It remains my view that the OIML is in a healthy financial position. With the revised treatment of the pension scheme (as agreed by the CIML at its 45th Meeting) now having worked its way through, the accounts for 2011 show that the final result for the year was a positive €110 k. This is a tribute both to the changes initiated by my predecessor and the careful stewardship of the Director. As a result we are in a good position to start repairing and upgrading the infrastructure of the Paris headquarters, which is important both for the efficiency of our Organisation and for ensuring that we can cover our future liabilities.

I have also followed up the discussion last year on reviewing how far the Action Plan, which was drawn up in response to the management audits in 2009 and 2010, has been implemented. I believe that appropriate changes have been introduced in response to all those findings, but the original auditor will be coming back to the BIML in the middle of October to provide independent assurance of that.

Much of the project work in the Bureau over the past year has been directed at completing the basic changes needed to modernise the way our organisation operates. A key element of that is, of course, the implementation of the revised OIML B 6 which was approved last year. I am particularly grateful for the contribution of the second Vice President, Roman Schwartz, in chairing the ad hoc group which has proposed further improvements which will be considered during the Committee's discussions this week. A lot of effort has also gone into revisions of the Financial Regulations which we will be asking the Conference to approve, and to the revision of the Staff Regulations which we hope to submit to the CIML in 2013.

This focus on our internal operations has inevitably reduced the resources that were available for our outward-facing work during the past year. However, we have been able to make a good start in implementing the new Strategy adopted last year.

One of the key features of the Strategy is the emphasis it places on working with others and one of the most important of those is the BIPM. Here, the relationship continues to develop very satisfactorily. The General Conference on Weights and Measures last year provided a good opportunity to consider the similarities in the challenges facing our two organisations. The excellent working contacts established both between the BIPM and BIML Directors and staff have continued to develop and we look forward to welcoming the BIPM's new Director Designate to this week's meetings.



Following up the Interim Report on “rapprochement” presented to the 46th CIML Meeting, we have continued to explore, on a strict cost benefit basis, whether there would be an advantage if both organisations were to be collocated. The requirements of the BIPM have been examined in some detail, as well as the availability of space in Sèvres. The conclusion so far is that the space available and the substantial refurbishment costs would not make this a practical proposition at the present time. However, as the BIPM works through the major review of its strategic direction and its governance which has begun, I believe it would be prudent to keep this possibility under review.

At its 45th Meeting in Orlando the CIML envisaged that it might be necessary for the 14th Conference to take decisions about the future shape of collaboration between the OIML and the BIPM. Given the way in which matters have developed in both organisations over the past two years, I do not believe there is anything which is sufficiently firm to refer to the Conference at this stage. Day-to-day co-operation has been greatly improved between the two organisations and there is a much better level of mutual understanding. However, it is clear that there are very significant challenges ahead for the BIPM and until the future shape and direction of their Organisation is settled I am sure it would be premature for us to be planning further changes which would require approval by the Conference.

Another matter discussed in some detail at the General Conference on Weights and Measures was the proposal to redefine a number of the SI units (“The New SI”). The OIML input on the implications for legal metrology will be discussed during the CIML Meeting and I am grateful to Roman Schwartz, Philippe Richard, Chuck Ehrlich and Yukinobu Miki for the work they have done on this.

However, the BIPM is not the only International Organisation which is important in our work. In particular, we continue to have good engagement with ILAC and IAF and while at the DCMAS meeting in Geneva in April I was pleased to have a very encouraging meeting with the Secretary General of ISO. The OIML’s involvement with UNIDO has also continued, and will be increasingly important in the coming years.

The other important group of stakeholders who are vital to the implementation of our new strategy are the Regional Legal Metrology Organisations. In December, I was very pleased to attend a symposium in Beijing organised jointly by the Asia Pacific Metrology Programme and the Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum, which provided a very useful opportunity to learn more about what both the scientific metrology community and the legal metrology community can contribute at the Regional level. The BIPM was also represented at the annual meetings of WELMEC, COOMET, SIM, APLMF, SADCMEI and AFRIMETS. It is particularly encouraging to note the increased involvement in the OIML and in legal metrology in general on the African continent.

The Bureau continues to support the RLMO Round Table which is held annually in conjunction with the CIML Meeting and which provides a forum for exchange of information and initiatives for cooperation to its participants. The chairman of this year’s Round Table will report on the results later in this CIML Meeting.

One theme running through so much of our work, referred to again and again at the various meetings I attend, is the importance of improving the legal metrology infrastructure in developing countries. At the Presidential Council meeting in March this year we had a useful opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues in the PTB about the role the OIML can play in this area and we will no doubt be discussing this extensively while we are in Bucharest.



One area where we seem to have a distinctive role is in preparing helpful and informative information, such as the revised D 1 *Considerations for a law on metrology*. But it is also clear that many of the most important and difficult questions facing us – the continued development of the OIML MAA and the OIML Certificate System, the Conformity to Type (CTT) issue, the work on pre-packages – are of particular interest to developing countries. It is in my view vital that we keep dialogue going in these areas. It is also very encouraging to have welcomed seven new Corresponding Members from the African continent during 2012. This is an excellent sign of the increasing level of interest in and development of legal metrology on that continent.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Presidential Council for the support they have given to me and for the contribution they have made to the work of OIML over the past year. I have mentioned some in connection with particular work items, but I would like to record my thanks to all of them for the time and resources they put into making our Organisation what it is today.

**Peter Mason**

**OIML President**