



October 2012

Report on the work of the CIML (2009-2012)

Item 2.1: Report by the CIML President

The four years since the 13th Conference in Sydney have seen a number of significant changes in the OIML and the Bureau.

Concerns about management issues within the Bureau, highlighted by a management audit conducted in 2009, were expressed at the 44th CIML Meeting in Mombasa and a decision was taken to seek alternative candidates for the position of Director of the Bureau. Following a formal advertising and selection process, a new Director, Stephen Patoray, was appointed by the 45th CIML Meeting in 2010 and took up office in January 2011. At the same meeting, I was elected CIML President, effective from October 2011, and Roman Schwartz was elected second Vice-president, to serve alongside Grahame Harvey.

Much of the work of the new Director has so far been focused on the challenge of improving the way in which the Bureau functions, building on changes promoted by my predecessor as CIML President, Alan Johnston, and guided by the findings of the 2009 management audit and a subsequent audit conducted in 2010. The results of this work can be seen in the new Financial Regulations which will be submitted to Conference and the far-reaching changes to the Staff Regulations which are almost complete. Financial management within the Bureau has also been substantially improved, a process which has been greatly assisted by the decision taken several years earlier to move to accrual accounting. Although the process of switching from cash to accrual accounting is always a long and complex process, and takes a number of years to become fully established, the OIML is fortunate to have started this journey some years ago. We are now seeing the benefits of this change in terms of a better understanding of the position of our assets and liabilities, and a better view of what needs to be done to preserve and exploit those assets.

There have also been several changes in staff within the Bureau, which has helped with the introduction of new structures and new ways of working. Overall, the result has been a reduction in staffing levels, which represents a significant improvement in efficiency, and a healthy financial position. This has allowed us to prepare the budget proposals which the Conference will be asked to approve during its session.

Another area of the OIML's internal working which has received a lot of attention is the procedure for conducting its technical work - the "Directives for OIML technical work". This publication forms the basis for the development of our Recommendations, Documents and Guides. After many years of discussion, the 46th CIML Meeting in Prague adopted a revised version of OIML B 6-1 & B 6-2 which we have since been refining in the light of experience. As part of this process we have also introduced a greater level of formality and transparency into the role of the Presidential Council, which continues to function as an advisory body.

While this programme of changes has inevitably concentrated to a large extent on the internal working of the OIML and its Bureau, the important outward-facing work has not been neglected.



The 46th CIML meeting adopted OIML B 15:2011 *OIML Strategy*, which focuses more clearly on the outcomes we seek to achieve:

- standards and documents which can form the basis of advances in legal metrology;
- influence in other organisations whose work affects the way legal metrology is conducted;
- arrangements which underpin higher levels of confidence in the trade between Member States, such as the MAA;
- support for members of the world-wide legal metrology community;
- better understanding of the role of legal metrology in strengthening the economies of Member States.

The core work of the OIML in producing Recommendations and Documents has continued, as will be seen in the body of publications the Conference will be asked to sanction. It is inevitable that in an organisation with 57 Member States there will be issues where there are differing views - sometimes very strongly held. However, it is encouraging to see that even in controversial areas such as “conformity to type”, systems for facilitating trade in packaged goods, and the role of manufacturers’ test laboratories in OIML systems, there is a commitment to continued dialogue as we seek ways forward for the benefit of all.

One of the key elements in the new strategy adopted last year is the need for the OIML to work with others if it is to achieve maximum impact. Two areas of liaison are particularly important – the relationship with the BIPM and our links with the Regional Legal Metrology Organisations.

As the world-wide Organisation responsible for legal metrology it is vital that we pay very close attention to our relationship with the BIPM, the international organisation responsible for scientific metrology. Often that relationship is spoken of in terms of “rapprochement”, and this subject was discussed in some detail at the 44th, 45th and 46th CIML Meetings. Emerging from those debates, we have identified that the relationship between the organisations needs to be considered at three levels:

1. **Increased co-operation in daily activities** - with a view to formalizing means and creating a culture committed to reducing duplication of effort, improving exchanges of information and taking advantage of opportunities for collaboration (for both technical and administrative functions).
2. **Possible collocation with the BIPM** – examination of the advantages, disadvantages, legal considerations, costs and benefits associated with collocation with the BIPM.
3. **Strategic alignment** – as we develop the role, mission and strategy for the OIML in order to strengthen our relevance in the global marketplace we also need to consider the fit with the BIPM’s role, mission and strategy so we can evaluate the benefits and disadvantages (not merely from a financial perspective) of full integration, with particular consideration for emerging regulatory needs.

Increased co-operation is apparent in the excellent working contacts established between the Directors and staff of the two organisations. Day to day co-operation has been greatly improved between the two organisations and there is a much better level of mutual understanding. We look forward to welcoming the BIPM’s new Director Designate to this week’s meetings.

As regards collocation, we have explored, on a strict cost benefit basis, whether there would be an advantage if both organizations were to be brought together at the BIPM’s site in Sèvres and the OIML’s building in rue Turgot were to be rented out. 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 limited space available and the substantial refurbishment costs would not make this a practicable proposition at the present time. However, as the BIPM works through the major review of its strategic



direction and its governance – a process which has already begun – I believe it would be prudent to keep this possibility under review.

As regards strategic alignment, the OIML's Strategy has now been laid out but it is clear that there are very significant challenges ahead for the BIPM. Until the future shape and direction of their organisation is settled I am sure it would be premature for us to plan further changes, especially any requiring approval by the Conference.

The new Strategy also recognizes the important role which the Regional Legal Metrology Organizations (RMLOs) have to play. Although no formalized relationship exists between the OIML and the RLMOs, some years ago, a "Round Table" was established in conjunction with the annual CIML Meetings. The Round Table replaced the presentations of individual RLMOs to the CIML Meetings and it has become a forum for the exchange of information and initiatives for cooperation. The Round Table is facilitated by the Bureau and operates under Terms of Reference agreed by the participants. Another feature of the last four years is the continuing challenge of providing developing countries with the support they are looking for, within the constraints of the Convention and the resources available to us.

Over the years, the OIML has adopted different approaches to its work in support of developing countries. There have been seminars and workshops, and an OIML Development Council existed for a number of years. The 13th Conference established the unsalaried position of "Facilitator on developing country matters", and Dr. Eberhard Seiler, who was appointed to this position, tried several initiatives, in particular to stimulate the exchange of information and experiences. Unfortunately, he reported to the 46th CIML Meeting that he was standing down from his position due to the lack of feedback and apparent interest in his activities amongst the membership.

It is therefore clear that we need a wider range of responses if we are to make a significant contribution to improving the legal metrology infrastructure in developing countries. One area in which we play 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 very encouraging both to see the continued increase in OIML Corresponding Members and the more prominent role that CIML Members from developing countries are playing in our work. There are high expectations from this section of our membership and this 14th Conference gives us an opportunity to consider how best those expectations can be met.

The world today is certainly a no less challenging place than it was four years ago. The standards expected of all organizations spending public money are high – in terms of impact, efficiency and transparency. However, I believe that the changes we have seen in the OIML over those last four years mean that we have an excellent foundation for addressing the challenges which exist for legal metrology. Building on the improvements in our internal workings over the past few years, I am confident that we are poised to make an even greater contribution to helping the world-wide legal metrology community improve its effectiveness and its contribution to prosperity and well-being in each of our Member States.

Peter Mason

CIML President