



October 2016

General report by the CIML President to the 51st CIML Meeting

The past year has been quite a challenging one for our Organisation. The untimely passing of BIML Assistant Director Willem Kool has been greatly mourned by all who knew him; it has also left a significant gap in the Bureau and thus in the resources we have available to us to tackle the ambitious programme which was adopted in Arcachon. Nevertheless, dedicated efforts by the staff in the Bureau and the continued support we have received from many CIML Members and their colleagues means that we have made significant progress on a number of projects.

As an organisation, our Members are at the heart of everything we do, and it has been a great pleasure to see Thailand join us as our sixty-first Member State. In addition to welcoming Miss Wiboonlasana Ruamraksa as Thailand's CIML Member, I also extend a welcome to our other new CIML Members:

- Mr. Bill Loizides (Australia),
- Mr. Wu Qinghai (People's Republic of China),
- Mr. George Hajipapas (Cyprus),
- Mrs. Hanne Scherrebeck (Denmark),
- Mr. Hans Arne Frøystein (Norway),
- Mr. Maciej Dobieszewski (Poland),
- Mrs. Susana Santos (Portugal),
- Mr. Cedomic Belic (Serbia),
- Mr. Jose Manuel Bernabe Sanchez (Spain), and
- Mr. Lotfi Khedir (Tunisia).

In addition, Angola has joined us as a new OIML Corresponding Member. Unfortunately, three other Corresponding Members have had to be delisted for non-payment of fees, but nonetheless there remains a high level of interest in our activities in all parts of the world.

The BIML Director will be providing detailed information on the current financial position of the Organisation, together with projections for the next four years, as part of our preparations for the 15th International Conference which will be held during the week. Overall, the financial position is a strong one but there are some concerns about cash flow which arise when countries, in particular large ones, fall behind in their payments. There will no doubt be discussions on this during the Conference.

I have already mentioned the sad passing of Willem Kool, and this has of course placed considerable strain on the staff resources within the Bureau. As I noted in my Report last year, staff within the Bureau have a tremendous record of being willing and able to cover for each other, but the impact of this way of working for any length of time is significant. Work has to be re-prioritised and individuals have to become familiar with new subjects and new issues. I should like to pay tribute to all the staff of the Bureau for the way in which they have dedicated themselves to carry on our Organisation's business under the circumstances.

Our current procedures allow us very little flexibility when there is a need to replace an Assistant Director but it was clear from an early stage that additional resources would have to be brought in on a temporary basis. We are fortunate that we have been able to secure the services of two excellent individuals. First, the UK Government has made available Paul Dixon, formerly Head of the UK's



Certification Body, on a temporary but full-time basis until the end of 2017. Second, Gilles Vinet, who recently retired from his position in Measurement Canada, has agreed to work on specific projects on an hourly basis as and when required. Both Paul and Gilles will be known to many of you and will also be present at our discussions in Strasbourg.

The effect of these arrangements is that hopefully the day-to-day operation of the Bureau has been maintained and many of those contacting the Bureau will have seen little or no impact on the service they receive. Where there have been problems in delivering all of what we hoped to achieve following our 50th meeting, I am pleased to say that CIML colleagues have been understanding. Team morale in the Bureau remains high and I believe we have reason to be proud of the way both the Bureau and the rest of our Organisation have coped.

As I mentioned last year, attention has been increasingly focused on updating the Organisation's IT and communication systems. I am pleased to say that the possibilities provided by the "PG Workspace" facility introduced last year are becoming more widely appreciated as the facility itself becomes used for more and more projects. Nevertheless, there is still a clear need for more training on how to make the most of the new tools which we now have available. The planned programme of training sessions, building on the start made with our German colleagues last year, was one of the items we were not able to progress as the result of the reprioritisation which I have already spoken about. But I hope it is something which we can take forward vigorously in the coming year.

In the meantime, we must also ensure that the rules on how we use these new systems are clear. In Arcachon last year, the CIML agreed to take forward a limited review of the *Directives for OIML technical work* (OIML Basic Publication B 6) specifically to ensure that there is a shared understanding of how we should carry out our technical work with the new facilities we now have. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to keep to the ambitious timetable we set at the 50th CIML Meeting. To a large extent that is because of conflicting demands I have faced which have affected the amount of time I have been able to devote to acting as Convener of the Project Group carrying out this review. Nevertheless, we have been able to produce, and obtain comments on, a number of policy papers which indicate a high degree of agreement on most of the major issues. As a result, although we will not be able to consider a revised text of B 6 at our 51st meeting, I am confident that we will be able to submit a well-crafted revised B 6 for adoption in 2017.

While there are still these areas for further work, however, we are already seeing some benefits from the new systems and the greater transparency they generate. The review of the technical work carried out at the Presidential Council meeting in March was probably the most effective and productive we have had, helped by the greatly improved information that is now provided. I would like to express my appreciation for the way in which so many of the secretariats and conveners have responded to the new reporting requirements. In previous reports I have expressed my concern at what appeared to be a reduction in the amount of technical work being carried out, most notably shown by the reduced number of meetings of Technical Committees, Subcommittees and Project Groups. However, increasingly we are able to see that it is possible to make progress using the new tools and without so many formal meetings. And possibly most encouraging of all, we have a large number of proposals for new projects to be considered at this year's meeting. So there are signs that our technical work is alive and well and I am very pleased to be able to report this.

Another focus of activity this year has been the project to introduce a single, integrated OIML Certificate System. Once again, in Arcachon we adopted a very ambitious timescale for completing this project and I am pleased that it has indeed been possible to get to a point where we have a new Draft Basic Publication ready for CIML approval. The approach which we have adopted, based on models which have been found to be successful in other international organisations, is one which will place much of the responsibility for running the System in the hands of a new Management



Committee. Nevertheless, it is also important that the right balance is struck between proper oversight by the CIML and the practical authority which the Management Committee needs to operate effectively. I am sure this will be a major topic of our discussions in Strasbourg. We will be helped enormously by having available an almost complete set of documentation so that we have a clear picture of how the new System is meant to work, and I would like to express my appreciation of the work which has been put in by the whole of the Project Team, and most particularly its convener, CIML First Vice-President Dr Roman Schwartz, and Paul Dixon, who has assumed the role of Bureau contact for this work. As a result of these efforts, we can be confident that if the new Basic Publication is approved at our meeting in Strasbourg the new System will be able to start operating provisionally next year and come into full operation in 2018.

The third major topic discussed in Arcachon led to the adoption of CIML Resolution no. 2015/10 on “addressing the needs of countries and economies with emerging metrology systems” (CEEMS). As foreshadowed in Resolution 2015/10, a lot of effort has gone into developing the concept of Pilot Training Centres and two very successful centres were initiated in Beijing and in Guangzhou in July and August this year. One of the most important features of the approach we adopted last year was the focus on co-operation with others, not least bilateral co-operation with individual Member States. This is clearly illustrated by the initiatives in China. Another excellent example occurred in Bangkok in March where Manfred Kochsiek and I organised a joint PTB/OIML workshop on different approaches to type approval as part of the PTB’s programme of support to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Nevertheless, there is still much to do in this area and one of the things we will have to discuss in Strasbourg is how we organise oversight of our work on CEEMS matters going forward.

In various conversations I have had with colleagues who are keen to develop the legal metrology systems in their own countries, the approach adopted in Arcachon has generated a lot of interest. This was particularly evident at the Annual SIM Meeting in the Dominican Republic which I attended in November 2015. It is also clear how important OIML Certificates are in establishing our visibility in so many parts of the world. All of this is additional confirmation of the benefits which we can hope to see when the new and improved scheme is introduced.

In my last two reports I made reference to the OIML’s participation in the OECD’s study of the role of international organisations in regulatory cooperation. In fact, the OIML has featured in this work as a case study, carried out under my supervision by Marc Loesewitz, a student at the Nanterre Centre of International Law (CEDIN), who served as an intern at the Bureau. This study has in turn contributed to a major OECD Report which will be published at the beginning of November. As well as giving us the opportunity to share with colleagues in other organisations our experience of introducing reform and modernisation into our processes and procedures, this work has ensured that the OECD Report acknowledges the wide diversity of models for international co-operation, not least our own model which depends so heavily on involving our Member States. It has also been a useful opportunity to raise the profile of legal metrology with other important international organisations. Marc will be present at our meeting in Strasbourg and will be able to provide additional information on his work.

The OECD study has confirmed the importance of the bilateral relationships which we have with a number of other international organisations, most notably the BIPM. Last year I noted the scope there was for our two organisations to work even more closely together in promoting the role which a modern metrology infrastructure, designed to support scientific metrology, industrial metrology and legal metrology, can play in economic development. This is one of the areas that we have not been able to give much attention to this year, due to the need for re-prioritisation, but it remains an important element in our approach to the CEEMS community and I hope the discussions at the 15th Conference will provide an opportunity to explore further how these ideas can be taken forward.



In preparing for the 15th Conference, I have naturally looked again at what we have previously identified as the three main challenges for our Organisation over the next few years. The past year has confirmed the relevance of those priorities:

- First, speeding up and making more efficient our processes for producing and revising our Recommendations and other publications is vital if we are to remain relevant in an ever-changing world. That means embracing new technology, amending our procedures to reflect that new technology and training ourselves on how best to operate those procedures.
- Second, our Certificates are a major part of how we are seen in many parts of the world. Potentially they are one of the most important elements we can offer to countries which want to improve their levels of metrological control but which lack the resources to operate full-scale type approval controls. Simplifying and modernising our Certificate System is key to responding to those needs.
- Third, meeting the needs of our Members – including our Corresponding Members – with emerging metrology systems is an essential part of remaining relevant in a world which is increasingly globalised and where the resources available to public authorities are under pressure everywhere. The comprehensive package of proposals we adopted last year is an excellent start, and has been very well-received, but delivering that package will involve several years of effort.

Finally, on a personal note, many of you will be aware that I and my family have faced some difficult issues of our own this year. I would like to express my thanks to you all for the kindness and support I have received from the two Vice-Presidents, other members of the Presidential Council, many other OIML Members and the Director, Stephen Patoray, and his staff. I am grateful to everyone who makes this the very special organisation which it is.

I look forward to a very successful week of meetings and, together, to taking our Organisation into the future.

Peter Mason

OIML President