



52nd CIML Meeting - Working Document

Additional Meeting Document

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Agenda item 2: General report by the CIML President



October 2017

General report by the CIML President to the 52nd CIML Meeting

I have been very aware over the past year that this is my last as CIML President. However, rather than spending my time looking back over the past seven years since I was elected in 2010, I have found myself heavily engaged in various projects, all of which concern the future development of our Organisation. As usual this work involves a mix of inputs, both from the staff at the Bureau and the personal contribution of many colleagues in our Member States. As a result I am pleased to say that this year I have quite a lot to report!

Concerning first the changes in membership of our Committee, it gave me great pleasure when Cambodia joined us as our sixty-second Member State, represented by Ms. Vorleaks Peou as the CIML Member. I also extend a warm welcome to our other new CIML Members:

- Mr Raimundo Alves de Rezende (Brazil)
- Mrs Brankica Novosel (Croatia)
- Mr Loizos Loizides (Cyprus)
- Mr Peter Gal (Hungary)
- Mr Galymzhan Dugalov (Kazakhstan)
- Mr Geir Samuelsen (Norway)
- Dr Isabel Godinho (Portugal)
- Ing Pavol Pavlis (Slovakia)
- Mrs Renée Hansson (Sweden)
- Mrs Nuntawan Sakuntanaga (Thailand)

In addition, we welcome Bolivia, Ecuador and the Philippines as OIML Corresponding Members. Although Kyrgyzstan has unfortunately been de-listed, that means we still now have sixty-six Corresponding Members. I think I can safely say that interest in the work of the OIML across the globe has never been greater and we can all be proud of this fact.

The financial position of the Organisation, in the technical accounting sense of the term, continues to be a healthy one. Indeed, following the discussions at the 15th International Conference on the best way to use the surplus which built up over the last four-year accounting period, a lot of thought has gone into how this surplus can be used to benefit the whole of our membership without embarking on new activities which might not be sustainable in the long run. Training in the use of the new rules and the new technology available to us for conducting our technical work is an extremely good use of such funds and reports will be made during the CIML meeting on the steps that have already been taken to roll out such training.

The BIML Director will provide detailed financial information during our meeting. I would like to emphasise, however, that in addition to the overall financial position, it is necessary to keep a close watch on the cash position, and in particular the cash flow, if the Organisation is to continue to function smoothly. Our dependence on subscriptions from Member States as the principal source of income means that we are very dependent on timely payments coming in from our Members, in particular the larger ones.



Within the Bureau, the temporary staffing arrangements adopted following the untimely passing of BIML Assistant Director Willem Kool have continued to operate throughout the year. Although this is undoubtedly less effective than running the Bureau at full strength from the office in Paris, I am pleased to say that the dedicated efforts made by the other staff in the Bureau, the continued support we have received from many CIML Members and their colleagues, and of course the contribution made by Paul Dixon and Gilles Vinet have together enabled us to continue to make excellent progress on the ambitious agenda set at previous CIML meetings. Hopefully once the vacant Assistant Director has been filled we will be able to see an even greater level of pace in the delivery of that agenda.

Discussions on staffing within the Bureau are likely to be an important topic during our meeting in Cartagena, as we will need to start the process of recruiting a successor to Stephen Patoray. Stephen's term continues to the end of 2018, but as this is my last report to the CIML I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the skills and dedication he has brought in his role as Director. A key feature of his approach has been the emphasis on teamwork within the Bureau and the success of that has been evident in the way we have been able to carry on in the difficult circumstances experienced since the beginning of 2016.

It is a relief to me personally, and no doubt even more so to those who work in the Bureau, that these annual reports no longer detail the various challenges of building work or indeed major changes to the Organisation's IT and communication systems. The process of improvement is a continuous one, however, so it was good to see the adoption of a new email system which has made remote working a lot more efficient. In addition, there have been many other improvements during the year which may not be visible to colleagues outside the Bureau but which have greatly improved the system's resilience. For most of our Members, the really important aspect is the working of the interactive elements of the OIML website, in particular the possibilities provided by the "PG Workspace" facility.

After the pause which was made necessary by last year's reprioritisation, it is good that we were able to recommence the programme of training sessions so that secretariats and conveners in particular are able to make use of these tools which are designed to render the conduct of technical work quicker and more effective. As I have said before, however, there is an important role for CIML Members themselves in making sure we understand what is possible and how to make the best use of it. One of the advantages of the number of projects we have had over the past few years to produce or revise Basic Publications is that it has greatly increased the familiarity with the new systems which many CIML Members – myself included – are able to develop. A key feature of the training programme we are rolling out is that it is available to CIML Members and I would definitely encourage you to take advantage of this.

Of the Projects for producing or revising Basic Publications, the one of most direct personal interest to me is the review of the *Directives for OIML technical work* (OIML Basic Publication B 6) in which I acted as the Project Group convenor. In many ways this Basic Publication, alongside the Convention itself, represents the "instruction manual" for how we conduct our core activity of technical work. Although the review agreed in 2015 was deliberately limited, it became clear that even within those carefully defined terms of reference there was a need for significant changes to ensure a shared understanding of how we should carry out our technical work with the new facilities we now have. I am pleased to say that although it was not possible to keep to the ambitious timetable we set at the 50th CIML Meeting, the Project Group was able to reach a high degree of agreement on all of the major issues. As a result, I am confident that we now have a well-crafted revised B 6 presented to the CIML for adoption at our meeting in Cartagena. I would like to thank all my colleagues in the CIML who have contributed to this work. I would also like to express my appreciation of the significant contribution made by a number of others, notably Ian Dunmill and Gilles Vinet from the Bureau and Morayo Awosola, Regina Kluess, Ralph Richter and George Teunisse from the UK, Germany, USA and the Netherlands respectively.



As I have mentioned before, the revisions of B 6 and the development of better communication tools are not ends in themselves. They are the means by which we improve the efficiency of our technical work and ensure that our Recommendations and Documents remain relevant. Last year saw a significant increase in the number of Projects approved by the CIML – probably a record in the period since the approval process has been finalised. It is not to be expected that we will see such numbers every year as there is a limit to the resources Member States can make available to carry out technical work, but I believe the modernisation of the way we conduct our technical work was an important factor in this increase. Moreover, another feature of the new systems is that they make it easier for a much wider range of countries to participate in our technical work. One of the things I find most encouraging is the interest we are seeing from some of our smaller or newer Members in participating in projects relevant to them.

At the same time, it is important that when resources are under pressure we apply them where they can be of most benefit. The Presidential Council, through its review of the technical work programme, has an important part to play in this and I am pleased to say that our meeting in March saw further developments in the tools we have available for identifying areas in which there may be a need to change priorities.

In terms of the future shape of our Organisation, possibly the most important development of all will be the introduction of the new single, integrated OIML Certification System. The approval last year of Basic Publication B 18:2016 *Framework for the OIML Certification System* was a very important milestone, but a lot more work has had to be completed since then.

The provisional Management Committee (prMC) was established last year to undertake the necessary actions to ensure that the OIML-CS can come into operation in January 2018. Two successful meetings of the prMC were held in 2017; the first in Berlin in February and the second in Shanghai in June. In association with the prMC meeting in Shanghai, AQSIQ organised a very successful seminar on the OIML-CS, attended by over 400 people, which provided an excellent opportunity to promote the OIML-CS to key stakeholders. A final meeting of the CPRs under the MAA also took place in Shanghai to support the transition of existing Issuing Participants from the MAA to the OIML-CS.

The prMC has undertaken a wide range of tasks during the year, including the identification of improvements to B 18 (a revision is presented to this meeting for approval) and the development and publication of the range of Operational and Procedural Documents that underpin the Framework. The prMC has also developed a number of recommendations regarding the implementation of the OIML-CS for consideration at this meeting. Among the important decisions we will have to take at the CIML meeting is the appointment of the Management Committee Chairperson and Deputy, and the Board of Appeal Chairperson and Members. I would like once again to express my appreciation of the work which has been put in by CIML First Vice-President Dr Roman Schwartz, Paul Dixon and Luis Mussio, supported by a large number of colleagues across the Organisation.

In recent years it has often seemed that we have approached what many now speak of as “the CEEMS Agenda” as a separate area of activity, to be prioritised as a third area alongside improvements in our Technical Work and the introduction of the new Certification System. I am not always sure that this is a helpful way of looking at things – the most significant thing about “the CEEMS Agenda” is that it touches activities right across our Organisation. A major benefit of the changes we have introduced into the way we carry out our technical work is that it makes it easy for members of the CEEMS community to participate in that work and thus ensure that it is relevant to their needs. One of the major advantages of the new Certification System is that it will be easier to understand and thus be easier for CEEMS administrations to see how it can be used to make their approach to regulation both easier and more effective.



Nevertheless, I believe there is a need to bring together the various strands of our CEEMS-related activities, as we did for instance when we adopted CIML Resolution no. 2015/10 in Arcachon two years ago. The Advisory Group on matters relating to countries and economies with emerging metrology systems (abbreviated to the “CEEMS Advisory Group” or even “the AG” these days) has a key role to play here. I was greatly encouraged by the agreement last year to put the AG onto a more formal basis by drawing up a Basic Publication setting out its purpose and the way it is expected to carry out this work. Adoption of this Draft Basic Publication is one of the matters we need to consider at our meeting in Cartagena. A significant advantage of putting the Advisory Group on a more formal basis is the opportunity it offers to introduce a strategic approach to planning the work that is important to the CEEMS Community, and after the meeting of the Advisory Group immediately before the CIML meeting in Cartagena I hope we will have a work plan which can guide activities over the next few years. I would like to acknowledge once again the contribution of the AG Chair, Mr Pu Changcheng and his colleagues in China, most particularly Mr Guo Su, for the support they have offered to this work. I have also worked closely with the BIML staff to expand and improve the section on the OIML website dedicated to these activities and I encourage you to view the information that is available there.

Within the expected items of the work plan, there are two in particular that I would like to comment on.

The first is the continued development of the Training Centre concept. We know from the initial Pilot Training Centres in China last year that this is a concept which has proved valuable and which is generating growing interest. I was really pleased to see that plans are now being made for a Centre in Kenya, and I hope this in turn stimulates interest in promoting similar initiatives in other parts of the world. One of the key features of the Training Centre approach is the role of individual Member States in providing support; I would like to take this opportunity to give my thanks to colleagues in China and now in Germany for the essential role they are playing. I hope their example will be followed by more of our Member States!

The second item in the CEEMS work plan I would like to mention is the proposed revision of International Document D 1:2012 *Considerations for a Law on Metrology*, which the CIML will be asked to approve as a project at our meeting in Cartagena. I know from several projects which I have been involved in from the UK how significant this Document can be for countries which want to modernise their metrology legislation. However, we are increasingly seeing such modernisation taking place within the wider concept of a “Quality Infrastructure” which includes standards development, accreditation and conformity assessment. Looking again at D 1 in the light of these developments gives us the opportunity to place metrology securely in this wider landscape. When we do so I believe it is important that we work closely with the BIPM, because the arrangements which Governments put in place require close co-operation between legal metrology and scientific metrology institutions. I was very pleased, therefore, that the BIPM has agreed that if the D 1 revision project is approved they will work with us with the aim of the revised Document becoming a joint publication.

Such collaboration is part of a wider pattern of co-operation among international organisations, particularly those that operate in the fields of standardisation, accreditation and metrology. The increased interest in the “Quality Infrastructure” approach has led to the DCMAS Network, a group of ten organisations concerned with metrology, accreditation, standardisation, conformity assessment and infrastructure development in developing countries, becoming more active again, and the OIML has played an important part in this. The BIML completed an overhaul of the DCMAS website this year, and we have agreed to continue to hold the secretariat of the Network for a further year to improve the continuity of the work. The OIML has also taken the lead, in collaboration with UNIDO, in ongoing work to re-orientate this Network to cover more effectively the subject of quality infrastructure, and has piloted the agreement of a definition of the terms “quality infrastructure” and “quality policy”



between DCMAS members. Many of the organisations in DCMAS are also part of a wider network of international organisations brought together by the OECD, which I have mentioned in previous reports. The OIML was one of the case studies published in November last year, and following this we expect that our involvement in this Network will reduce somewhat. I will however continue to be personally involved in the follow-up work because I have agreed with the OECD to act as the facilitator of the network, which has now been put on a permanent basis, after I retire from the UK government service.

The other aspect of international co-operation that is very important is the links with the Regional Legal Metrology Organisations. I was fortunate to be able to attend the annual meetings of WELMEC in Madrid in May and AFRIMETS in Pretoria in August. By the time of the CIML meeting I will also have attended the annual SIM meeting in San Salvador. In all cases there were also accompanying seminars or conferences which provided an opportunity to explain the OIML's work to a wider audience. The spirit of co-operation is now very strong, with a good understanding of how work at both the global and regional levels can provide mutual support. One other engagement I undertook in my OIML capacity was to speak at the World Metrology Day event organised in Cairo in May. In addition, I took the opportunity of visits to Jordan and Myanmar in other capacities to promote the work of the OIML.

As I have said, all this activity is part of a programme of work which will of course continue after the end of my term as President, and indeed we will mostly see the benefits over future years. It is inevitable, however, that I spend some time looking back at what has been achieved in the seven years since my election as your President.

The first few years were devoted to stabilising the financial position, in particular dealing with the potential burden of the pension arrangements, modernising the way in which the Bureau staff were managed, and safeguarding the value of our building in Paris, our principal asset. In the process we have also been able to modernise our systems and improve our efficiency, enabling the Bureau to cope with fewer staff while at the same time expanding its role. That efficiency is also becoming evident in the speed with which our technical work is being completed, although there is still a lot more that can be done on this. The strategic approach set out in the revised B 15 has, I believe, also been a success. I feel that our standing among other international organisations has been enhanced and we are now in a much better position to take advantage of the opportunities for co-operation. The place of the Certification System is now much better understood and the radical changes we are about to introduce will further change the way our Organisation is seen. Finally, I think we have seen really significant changes in how we meet the needs of our Members – including our Corresponding Members – with emerging metrology systems. As a result I am confident that our Organisation can remain relevant in a world which is increasingly globalised and where the resources available to public authorities are under pressure everywhere.

When I finally retire at the end of November, it will mark the end of a career as a public servant that has lasted over forty-four years. I can safely say that being your President has been the most satisfying time I have spent during that career. I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. I am also grateful for the kindness and support I have received from the two Vice-Presidents, other members of the Presidential Council, many other CIML Members and the Director and all the Bureau staff during what have been quite a difficult few years. I look forward to saying thank you to many of you personally while we are in Cartagena.

Peter Mason

CIML President
