

Summary report

Sixteenth International Conference on Legal Metrology

Online
20–21 October 2021



Bureau International de Métrologie Légale (BIML)

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The Sixteenth International Conference on Legal Metrology (The Conference) was held on 20–21 October 2021 as an online meeting. There were over 160 participants from OIML Member States, OIML Corresponding Members, and organisations in liaison.

Dr Charles Ehrlich (USA, First Vice-President of the International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML)) was elected as the Conference President, and Dr Roman Schwartz (Germany, CIML President) and Dr Bob Joseph Mathew (Switzerland, CIML Second Vice-President) were elected as Conference Vice-Presidents.

Dr Roman Schwartz reported on the major activities that had taken place during the five years since the 15th International Conference on Legal Metrology in 2016, including the way in which the OIML had organised its activities during the pandemic, notably by holding its CIML meetings, Conference, technical meetings, and other meetings such as the OIML Certification System (OIML-CS) Management Committee (MC) and the RLMO Round Table online. He summarised the financial situation of the Organisation and the proposal put to the Conference concerning Member contributions for the financial period 2022–2025. He also spoke of the introduction of the concept of “pillars” in the OIML’s approach to its technical work, the OIML-CS, Countries and Economies with Emerging Metrology Systems (CEEMS), and international cooperation work.

Dr Schwartz described the work undertaken to increase cooperation with other international organisations, notably the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), citing World Metrology Day as a prime example of successful cooperation, and also the digital transformation agenda with regard to key metrological processes as another example.

The financial accounts for the period 2016–2020 were presented. The Conference noted that the budget had been managed in conformity with the expenses necessary for carrying out the work of the Organisation, and that the accuracy of the report had been certified by annual external audits. The Conference gave its definitive discharge to the CIML President and to the BIML Director for their management of the budget during the financial period.

The Conference studied the budget for the 2022–2025 financial period, including the proposal to revise Member State contributions and Corresponding Member fees, and approved the budget. The Conference also endorsed the Resolution taken by the CIML concerning the Operating Reserve Fund of the Organisation.

The Conference sanctioned the list of new, revised, and withdrawn publications approved by the CIML over the last five years.

Mr Anthony Donnellan, BIML Director, reported on the activities and achievements of the BIML and its staff over the five-year period, particularly the continued efforts to improve the effectiveness of OIML technical work and activities in favour of CEEMS, the OIML-CS, and World Metrology Day in close cooperation with the BIPM. Work with other liaison organisations also included close collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), notably the OIML’s

contribution of various best-practice examples to the *Compendium of International Organisations' Practices* (IO Compendium), which offers a single repository describing how IOs are striving to improve the quality and impact of their rulemaking.

Mr Donnellan emphasised the initiatives introduced by the BIML to minimise the impact of the pandemic and to ensure business continuity, and described the ongoing efforts to encourage new economies to join the Organisation, which currently comprises 125 Members, and efforts to reduce (and prevent) bad debt.

Dr Schwartz spoke about communications with OIML stakeholders. He notably mentioned the OIML Bulletin and the ongoing need for more contributions from Members in the form of articles. The concept of “Mentors” to manage specific topics or themes, launched in 2020, has been very successful: the July 2021 Bulletin featured the topic “Digital transformation” and the theme for the October edition was “Legal metrology and health”.

It is planned to hold the 17th Conference in 2025, and the 16th Conference Resolutions, documents, and presentations can be found on the OIML website at:

<https://www.oiml.org/en/structure/conference/sites>.