



Eurachem General Assembly



Eurachem General Assembly ready to step into the future

Eurachem held its Executive Committee Meeting and General Assembly, in Nicosia-Cyprus, on 15th-18th May 2002, under the invitation of Kyriakos Tsimillis, the National Eurachem Delegate. The meetings were chaired by Maria Filomena Camões (University of Lisbon), elected Eurachem Vice-Chair in January 2000 and now taking the Chair for the next two years, coming after Ed de Leer (NMI) who remains as Vice-Chair together with Veikko Kompa (Finland).

On this occasion, also the Secretariat was handed over from Werner Hasselbarth and Johannes van Kreek (BAM) to Maria do Céu Ferreira (IPQ) and Maria Leonor Rodrigues (UL). The General Assembly counted with the participation of delegates of full and associated member countries, representatives of organisations Eurachem liaises with and guests. The meeting addressed issues concerning cooperation with other organisations with complementary objectives. National delegates

presented an inventory of the activities of their own National Eurachem Committees. The views of small countries and the problems they find on the implementation and compliance with international scientific, technical and legal recommendations concerning quality of the analytical results, deserved considerable attention.

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Eurachem General Assembly in session

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The Eurachem Secretariat
IPQ - Portuguese Institute for Quality
Rua António Gião, 2
2829-513 Caparica
PORTUGAL

Tel + 351 21 2948100
Fax + 351 21 2948188
E-mail eurachem@fc.ul.pt
Internet <http://www.eurachem.ul.pt>

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IPQ, Portugal

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Also in this issue:

Eurachem Workshop in Luzern

New documents:

- CITAC&Eurachem Traceability Guide
- EA&Eurachem Microbiology Guide
- Uncertainty Guide for Microbiology

Revision of ISO/IEC 17025

Forthcoming events and meetings

National Eurachem reports: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Italy, Sweden

Reports on international workshops

Eurachem/CITAC Traceability Guide - draft version available

The final version of the revised CITAC/Eurachem Guide 1 (June 2002) has been prepared after extensive circulation of previous drafts and the receipt of considerable input from interested parties.

As is usual with this type of document, consensus rules the drafting group has tried to incorporate as many of the comments as possible (but in some areas we received rather diverging views!).

A number of editorial improvements have been made to previous drafts and the references and bibliography has been restructured to hopefully provide a more concise and useful resource.

Please note that this Guide is a "living" document. The major task given to us in 2001 was to align the previous version with the new ISO 17025 so the current version is not a total rewrite.

As we develop further concepts like traceability, the need for further amendment in the future will become apparent - some of the comments received relate to this and will be "stored" for future revisions.

The document will be freely downloadable from both the CITAC and Eurachem websites in due course.

On behalf of the drafting group (M.Walsh, D.Holcombe, B.King and myself), I would like to thank all for very positive contributions.

Message from Alan Squirrell (CITAC), adapted by the Editor for the Newsletter

*Note from the Editor:
The above mentioned draft version, prepared for the Eurachem Luzern Workshop in June 2002, is already downloadable from the Eurachem website, under the "Guides and Documents" section.*

Microbiology Uncertainty Guide from MIKES (Finland)

Providing guidance on the estimation of the uncertainty of test results is currently one of the live issues in analytical sciences.

Chemists are responsible for much of the work also for microbiological methods.

Knowing that chemists are not likely to be familiar enough with the metrological performance characteristics of microbiological methods, an ad-hoc microbiology working group under the Advisory Commission for Metrology in Finland was formed in order to produce a guide on the principles and practices of the estimation of uncertainty of microbiological test results.

The original guide was published in Finnish by the Center for Metrology and Accreditation (MIKES) in 2001.

Despite the language barrier the information spread quickly and a certain pressure was felt to make the information more widely available. An English edition*, corrected and somewhat expanded, was published recently.

The basic ideas of the microbiology guide are in agreement with the metrological and statistical principles expounded in its two models, the ISO GUM (1995) and Eurachem/CITAC (2000) guide.

The ideas were only selected and modified to suit microbiological methods. This meant concentrating the work on the principle of combined uncertainty and on the use of assumed statistical distributions.

Variation due to particle statistics, unknown in chemistry, and also the uncertainties of personal interpretation and identification occupy prominent positions in the microbiology guide.

Principles of limited applicability in microbiology, such as collaborative tests for the estimation of precision characteristics, were omitted.

Seppo Niemela

*Note from the Editor:
Comments should be sent to the author, sam.niemela@kolumbus.fi with a copy to Veikko Komppa, veikko.komppa@ytt.fi*

*Downloadable from - http://www.mikes.fi/documents/upload/Publication%20J3%202002_1.pdf

Revision of EA/Eurachem Guide to Accreditation for Microbiological Laboratories finished

Finally, the work of the joint EA/Eurachem working group for the revision of the former guide for accreditation of laboratories performing microbiological testing came to an end, and the new document, entitled "Guide to Accreditation for microbiological laboratories" has been approved.

The convenor of this task was M.Walsh, which was performed during 2001 and 2002, with the aim to reflect the present state-of-the-art, and to assist in the implementation of the new accreditation standard (ISO/IEC 17025). The editorial policy pursued was to address only technical requirements, and to remove the sections

concerning organisational requirements.

The document may be freely downloaded from the Eurachem website, under the section for "Guides and Documents".

Ricardo Bettencourt da Silva
Webmaster

Editorial

This is the first Newsletter issued after May 2002, the date when Eurachem Chair, Secretariat, Webmaster and Newsletter Editor, all started speaking Portuguese! Not because they are particularly skilled in languages, but simply because they have all been born Portuguese! This team will do its best to continue keeping Eurachem in the route of success for the next two year period. Thanks are due to those who, before us, performed so well and achieved so much.

The Newsletter is a very important vehicle for dissemination of information about Eurachem activities and projects. The long mailing list shows an increasing number of interested readers who are worth of our efforts to make it useful and pleasant to read. The editorial project will follow closely the lines set up by the previous Editor. The Newsletter will be published twice a year, with Summer/Autumn and Winter/Spring issues. Needless to say that suggestions and contributions are not only welcome but rather sought and requested.

Important issues of relevance to the analytical community are under development and Eurachem, through the activity of its working groups, will work towards supplying the required advice and scientific and technical support.

Input from delegates to the General Assembly is essential for ensuring awareness to the needs and demands of the analysts. In this respect, national Eurachems are proving to play an important role in leveling expertise and competences.

Cooperation with other organisations, whose final goal is also that of promoting the quality of analytical results is, has been and will continue to be highly appreciated and cultivated.

Last but not least, a word of appreciation goes to the Eurachem Executive, a constant and systematic source of dialogue and efficiency.

Finally and since one of Eurachem ongoing projects is the GAT (Glossary of Analytical Terms), I find it appropriate to close this short message of good wishes for Eurachem with a big

OBRIGADA (THANK YOU)

Maria Filomena Camões

The new Editor

Leopoldo Cortez is the coordinator of the Chemical and Interdisciplinary Metrology sector of the Portuguese National Metrology Institute (at IPQ). He holds a degree in Chemical Engineering and a MSc in Analytical Chemistry and Quality Control from the Technical University of Lisbon.

He first worked as a chemist in the Natural Parks and Reserves Agency of Portugal. Since those days he participated in several BCR and SM&T projects, including CRM exercises.

He joined IPQ in 1992 for the Accreditation Service, and qualified as a lead assessor for laboratories and certification bodies. He represented IPQ in various EA committees, namely the Multilateral Agreement Committee and the Laboratory Committee. He performed several EA peer reviews to other accreditation bodies in Europe and America.

He was elected chairman of the EEE-PT WG from 1999 to 2001. He has also been involved in various training and teaching activities, related to accreditation, QA&QC, measurement uncertainty and other metrology topics, as well as chemometrics. He is since 1994 the Technical Manager of the national Water Proficiency Testing scheme.

He was Chairman of EuroLab-Portugal Chemical Testing Committee from 1995 to 1999, and is National Delegate to Eurachem since 1999.



The new Webmaster

Ricardo Bettencourt da Silva has a degree in Chemistry and a MSc on Food Quality Control and Toxicology by the University of Lisbon. Currently he is developing a PhD project on Chemical Metrology.

He is a staff member of the Portuguese General Directorate for Crop Protection.

His research interests are focused on measurement uncertainty, method validation and routine analysis quality control where has been developing strategies based on models of the performance of the analytical methods. He has several publications on measurement uncertainty applied to the determination of pesticide residues in foodstuffs.

As part of his contribution to the Eurachem Secretariat he is the webmaster of the website.

Since the website often represents the first and easy way to get immediate information about the aims, scope and activities of the organization, effort is being made to ensure that the homepage is kept updated and becomes an efficient forum of discussion serving the interests of the Analytical Community. Constructive criticisms and suggestions for improvement are (always!) Welcome.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2000-2005

A paper setting out the Mission, Key Objectives and Work Programme for Eurachem during the period 2000-2005, has been prepared by the Eurachem Chairs in collaboration with the Executive Committee and approved by the full Eurachem Committee, where references to other key documents and a summary of activities are provided.

Mission

Improve the quality of chemical measurement, and measurements where chemistry is coupled with other disciplines, e.g. physics and biology, in order to meet the needs and expectations of their customers.

Key Objectives

- To promote best practice in chemical measurement and to develop strategies and work programmes which will cater for new and emerging analytical technologies and will meet the requirements of Eurachem members and their customers in the 21st century.

- To develop European networks and national Eurachem groups as a mechanism for the exchange of information and the promotion of collaboration aimed at identifying and defining best practice in chemical measurement.
- To contribute to the development of international chemical measurement systems which enable the results of chemical measurements to be traced to authoritative, internationally recognised references, and where feasible to SI.
- To provide a robust input to and collaborate with other European and international organisations concerned with improvement of the quality of chemical measurement.
- To help decision makers and users of measurements appreciate the importance of quality issues and to encourage them to ask for evidence of the validity of the measurements they procure.
- To influence and collaborate with the Commission of the European Union and the EU programs.

Work Programme

A mid-term forum discussion has been triggered at the last General Assembly held in Cyprus. The Work Programme (2000-2005) has been revised and several topics have been debated.

A list of major activities has been elaborated, and includes the promotion of stronger links with National Eurachems, and the harmonisation with other organisations, namely EA, Eurolab, Euromet, CITAC and ILAC, aiming at optimising efforts and synergies, avoiding clashes and duplications.

The thematic Workshops and the Eurachem guides were considered important tools for disseminating information and increasing education and training, so these activities will continue to be prioritised.

The Eurachem website, will be further developed to make it still more interactive, "a portal to a virtual institute".

Maria Filomena Camões (Chair)

Revision of ISO/IEC 17025

The ISO policy committee on conformity assessment (ISO/CASCO) is pleased to announce the progress made by its group working on the alignment of ISO/IEC 17025:1999 with ISO 9001:2000 (Working Group 25). The Working Group recently had its second meeting on July 5th, 2002 in Geneva.

The main topic discussed was the report of the Working Group's subsidiary Task Group on which clauses of ISO 9001:2000 Quality management systems - Requirements necessitate amendments of ISO/IEC 17025:1999 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

The most important changes needed relate to two aspects:

- The commitment of "continual improvement of the quality

management system effectiveness" is not clearly stated in ISO/IEC 17025:1999.

- The customer satisfaction as specified in 8.2.1 of ISO 9001:2000 is not sufficiently addressed in ISO/IEC 17025.

Both aspects appear several times in ISO 9001:2000. It has not yet been decided how and where these necessary amendments will be addressed but the amendments should have little consequence for laboratories.

The WG has decided to change the term "quality system" to "quality management system."

As the total number of amendments is limited, and the changes are not fundamental, the WG members are in favor of going direct to the Draft International Standard (DIS) stage in order to speed up the alignment process.

The procedure in order to make this possible has been started.

It is also evident that the Scope, Normative References, Terms and Definitions, Annex A and the Bibliography of ISO/IEC 17025:1999 need to be amended but these will not effect the operations of a laboratory.

The term "process" will not be introduced in the text of the standard but will be addressed in the Introduction.

The subsidiary Task Group has been given the task of drafting the text for the amendment. In addition, a paper will be produced that explains how ISO/IEC 17025:1999 addresses the other aspects of ISO 9001:2000.

The next meeting of ISO/CASCO WG25 is scheduled for December 12, 2002.

Peter van de Leemput (ISO/CASCO)

METCHEM

The 2nd Metrology in Chemistry (METCHEM) meeting occurred on 6th-8th February 2002 in Prague, at the Czech Metrology Institute, organized as a joint Euromet & Eurachem activity.

Great part of the time was devoted to the question of the CMC's (Calibration and Measurement Capabilities) accepted for each National Metrology Institute, under the framework of the BIPM MRA (Multi-recognition Agreement). Two levels of scrutiny (intra-regional and inter-regional) are involved for this. Further details and CMC data can be found on the BIPM website: <http://www.bipm.fr>

Four working groups (WG) had meetings before the plenary session:

- Gas WG convened by P.Woods;
- Inorganic WG convened by R.Matschat;
- Organic WG convened by M.Walsh;
- Electrochemistry WG convened by M.Mariassy.

The following projects were closed:

- Comparison of ozone standard reference photometers;
 - Trace elements in sediment;
 - Pb content and isotopic composition in wine;
 - Ethanol in air standards;
 - Electrolytic conductivity;
- Other projects were still on-going:
- Revision of terms in the VIM;
 - Cd and Pb in water;

- Calcium, glucose and creatinine in human serum;
- Cd in rice;
- S in fuel;
- Standards for reactive gases;
- Standards for NO in nitrogen;

Two new projects were presented:

- a supplementary comparison of NO and SO₂ at ambient concentrations;
- PAH measurements in soil.

Reports from CCQM, Euromet, Eurachem and EEE-RM were also presented by representatives. The next meeting will be hosted by METAS in Wabern (Switzerland) from 12th to 14th February 2003.

Leopoldo Cortez (IPQ)

EPTIS - The website

Last year, Eurachem formally declared its commitment to EPTIS - the European Proficiency Testing Information System. An introduction to EPTIS was given in the previous edition.

EPTIS takes the form of a database which is free and publicly available on the internet. It is a joint publication of a network of 16 European partners. The associated website serves as a portal to EPTIS, giving access to the database and providing additional information to the user. The countries covered by EPTIS (see map aside) have most of their PT schemes registered in the database. EPTIS is open for geographical expansion and requests and applications indicate that there is an interest indeed, but these intentions require funding.

On the front page we make clear reference to our supporting organisations who have agreed to give active support and patronage. At present these are Eurachem, Eurolab and ILAC - the Eurachem liaison officer is Nick Boley. EPTIS very much appreciates these commitments.

The search button provides access to the database. The query is based on a selection of predefined keywords. The query results are listed and the

details of each PT scheme displayed on demand. These details include a comprehensive summary of the scheme's quality characteristics based on the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 43.

To help the user judge this information we have prepared an impression of what good PT practice in Europe is. The quality button takes the user to a compilation of those quality elements which are or are not satisfied in the majority of the schemes contained in EPTIS. Since EPTIS contains a large part of the European PT schemes we

suppose this compilation is representative for Europe.

EPTIS was launched in the year 2000 and the number of PT schemes has steadily grown since then. The current number of PT schemes is displayed automatically at the bottom of the button bar - at present over 700. We are convinced to have set up a useful service for laboratories, PT providers and accreditors and we kindly invite you, too, to visit EPTIS at <http://www.eptis.bam.de>.

Johannes van de Kreeke (BAM)

Workshop on Measurement Traceability and Uncertainty in Analytical Chemistry

The workshop took place in the Culture and Congress Center in Luzern/Switzerland from June 16-18 2002.

Traceability and uncertainty are important elements of measurement results and for this reason they are given greater emphasis in ISO/IEC 17025 than in Guide 25.

The main objective of this workshop was to share experiences and to develop guidance on how these requirements can be met in a cost effective manner.

After reviewing these requirements, the first session concentrated on the experience gained using the 2nd edition of the Eurachem/CITAC Guide "Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement" with particular emphasis on the use of validation data in uncertainty estimation. Working Groups considered such topics as practical examples of uncertainty evaluation, design of validation studies to provide uncertainty data and experience on implementation of ISO/IEC 17025. In addition, topics not covered in the current edition of the Eurachem/CITAC Guide, such as evaluation of uncertainty near detection limits and in qualitative analysis have been discussed, together with current work being carried out to update the ISO GUM.

Results of the Questionnaire (1)	opinions	abstention	excellent *	good *	could be better *
Global Evaluation					
Overall impression of the event	97	4	55%	42%	3%
Organisation	102	0	89%	10%	1%
Service of the workshop office	98	3	69%	31%	0%
Service of the tourist office	62	39	53%	42%	5%
Training session	61	40	23%	51%	26%
Workshop	94	7	28%	53%	19%
Get together party	78	23	58%	38%	4%
Workshop dinner	88	13	93%	6%	1%
Location	89	12	94%	2%	3%
Lunches	100	1	51%	44%	5%
Luzern	95	6	76%	24%	0%

* percentiles excluding abstentions

Table 1 - Results from the evaluation of returned questionnaires on organisational issues

The second session covered the Eurachem/CITAC draft guide on measurement traceability (124 kB), giving practical guidance on how to establish the traceability of results obtained using existing methods. Selection and use of reference materials for establishing traceability has been discussed as has been the international work being carried out under the auspices of BIPM to provide traceability to SI. Working Groups on traceability for existing methods, traceability and method development, selection and use of reference materials, accreditation and the development

of international traceability system were held.

The lectures can be freely downloaded from the CITAC&Eurachem website: www.measurementuncertainty.org

The results from the evaluation of the questionnaires returned by the participants showed that the majority of persons graded the overall impression as excellent (see table 1 above). Social activities were also highly appreciated.

(Continues page 7)



Break with a marvelous view to Luzern during the Workshop

Workshop on Measurement Traceability and Uncertainty in Analytical Chemistry

(Continued from page 6)

The results from the questionnaires' evaluation regarding the sessions indicate that the what may be considered as new topics (measurement uncertainty in qualitative analysis and traceability) were most welcomed by the participants (see table 2 below) - it should be noted that the number of persons attending the lectures is different from those attending the working groups sessions.

Text partially extracted from www.measurementuncertainty.org with contribution from Matthias Roesslein and additional comments from the Editor



The beautiful scenery of Luzern impressed many participants

Table 2

Results of the Questionnaire (2)

Evaluation of sessions

	opinions	abstention	highly relevant *	very relevant *	relevant *	not relevant *
Why do we have measurement uncertainty (MU)	59	42	25%	41%	31%	3%
An introduction into the evaluation of measurement uncertainty	61	40	26%	44%	28%	2%
An introduction to uncertainty modelling	59	42	25%	24%	37%	14%
Discussion of examples in three working groups	57	44	28%	28%	39%	5%
ISO/IEC 17025 requirements on measurement uncertainty and traceability	99	2	26%	47%	26%	1%
Introduction to Eurachem / CITAC Uncertainty Guide 2nd edition	99	2	30%	50%	20%	0%
Procedures for utilising validation datafor uncertainty evaluation	98	3	33%	52%	12%	3%
Interpretation of ISO/IEC 17025 guidance on measurement uncertainty and traceability	97	4	29%	47%	23%	1%
Application of GUM to purity verification: an outlook to new approaches for evaluation of MU	99	2	16%	41%	32%	10%
Introduction of the measurement uncertainty concept in Nestlé laboratories	99	2	45%	33%	20%	1%
WG 1.1 Evaluation techniques/practical examples	31	70	29%	45%	16%	10%
WG 1.2 Design of validation studies to provide uncertainty data	35	66	23%	37%	40%	0%
WG 1.3 Experience on implementation of ISO/IEC 17025	25	76	28%	36%	36%	0%
WG 1.4 Meeting customer requirements for compliance with specifications	20	81	30%	35%	35%	0%
WG 1.5 MU and limits of detection and quantifications	27	74	22%	37%	41%	0%
WG 1.6 MU in qualitative analysis	20	81	55%	25%	20%	0%
Report back of WGs	62	39	32%	40%	24%	3%
Principles and purpose of traceability	98	3	36%	49%	14%	1%
Introduction to Eurachem / CITAC Draft Guide on traceability	100	1	38%	41%	20%	1%
Selection and use of reference materials for establishing traceability	99	2	39%	44%	16%	0%
Establishing international traceability and comparability	93	8	27%	33%	33%	7%
WG 2.1 Traceability for existing methods	34	67	47%	35%	18%	0%
WG 2.2 Traceability and method development	29	72	45%	28%	24%	3%
WG 2.3 Accreditation – what should accreditators look for	31	70	32%	32%	26%	10%
WG 2.4 Selection and use of reference materials	19	82	47%	37%	16%	0%
WG 2.5 Development of international traceability system	22	79	59%	23%	18%	0%
Report back of WGs	50	51	38%	50%	12%	0%

* percentiles excluding abstentions

Table 2 - Results from the evaluation of returned questionnaires on Workshop sessions.

Eurachem General Assembly *(Continued from page 1)*

A Forum Discussion was organised around three major topics, Eurachem-midterm review (2000/2005) and the way forward, Proficiency Testing, Reference Materials and their roles in Quality Management. The discussion around these latter, aimed at sensing the arguments of the Laboratories

Community about the present scene on what concerns standards and recommendations.

The next Eurachem Executive Committee Meeting will take place next October, in Dublin-Ireland, under the invitation of Maire Walsh and Eurachem Ireland.

Eurachem General Assembly 2003, upon invitation by Ernst Halder and Bruno Wampfler, will be housed by Eurachem Switzerland, at St.Gallen, 20th-24th May 2003.

Maria do Céu Ferreira (Secretary)

Regional Workshop in Cyprus

Taking the opportunity of the presence in Nicosia of a considerable number of international experts in Quality related issues, the Cyprus Eurachem Committee, in cooperation with PUC, the Pancyprian Union of Chemists, organised a regional workshop "Quality Assurance in Testing Laboratories - a need and a challenge", which took part on the 14th and 15th May and counted with the support of CYS (Cyprus Organisation for Standards and Control), CyprusLab, IRMM, CITAC and Eurolab.

The Workshop was well attended by nearly one hundred participants, about half from Cyprus and the other half representing countries from almost all member states of EU and the accession countries as well as Australia and Syria.

The objective of the organisers in acting as a bridge between European and Mediterranean countries was fulfilled.

The program evolved over three half day sessions, addressing International Developments, Practical Tools for Achieving Quality and Applications.



The excellent atmosphere lived in the Workshop is illustrated in this group photo

After an introductory lecture by K. Tsimillis on "Quality Assurance Activities in Small countries - Problems and Perspectives" thirteen other lecturers addressed topics that covered a wide range of items concerning Metrology in Chemistry its tools and needs, such as Traceability in Analytical Chemistry, Uncertainty requirements of the ISO 17025, Certified Reference Materials, Proficiency Testing, Fitness for Purpose of Analytical Methods and Accreditation.

The Program was well organised, having allowed for a good balance between oral presentations and vivid Panel Discussions, denoting the high

level of interest and expertise of the attendants.

The atmosphere among the participants in this week of Eurachem events was friendly, allowing fruitful discussions. The meals, with excellent food which takes advantage of the many aromas of the local products, were an excellent opportunity for extra discussion of work plans.

Traveling to Nicosia gave the western and central Europeans a better understanding of the way of living, the feelings and hopes of the not much more than half a million Cypriots and a sense of admiration for the effort they are putting on the development of their country, on the way to EU membership.

After six days of solid work, the after meeting excursion to the mountains, to the beaches and to traditional villages, was a deserved and much appreciated way of closing the week and this memorable stay. We will meet again.

In the meantime, "Good Work" and "Thank You"!

Maria Filomena Camões (Chair)



An aspect of the workshop sessions, showing a highly focused audience

Workshop "Towards an Integrated Infrastructure"

The Minister of Science of Poland housed the above named Workshop, under the auspices of the European Commission, in Warsaw, on the 18th and 19th June.

The 6th Framework Program is defined, the priority Thematic Areas have been decided and soon calls will be launched; Measurement and Testing will not be one of them. The state of the art concerning "Measurements" and their relevance for quality of life, sustainable development, was discussed over two days along four half day sessions.

In session nr. 3 four speakers made presentations, one of them being Paul Hetherington, Euromet's Chair. Eurachem, was invited to participate in a Panel Discussion, that followed and the same happened to Eurolab represented by its Chairman Horst Czichos. After a short presentation in which we introduced Eurachem its goals and achievements, the Chairman of the session, Klaes Blackwel, President of the High Level Expert Committee addressed us with the following questions.... Why so many Es? Can you not integrate?

The short debate that followed, brought more comments and recommendations than suggestions and these were basically in the sense of making the message of "Measurements with Quality" available to the general public, the user of analytical data that exists in any of us and, in particular, the legal community. Klaes Blackwell finished with the wise statement "again and again,..." which goes in the same line of Eurachem slogan "Education and Training, Training and Education".

The last session was devoted to the presentation of the 6th Framework Program, its instruments, its budget, its objectives and scope.

Eol for Network of Excellence

Eurachem has submitted an Expression of Interest (Eol) on a Network of Excellence "Trust Traceable Analytical Results/TAR" for the call that closed on the 7th of June. This was possible due to the support, incentive and collaboration of many of Eurachem delegates and colleagues from the organisations Eurachem liaises with among others. The Core Group is representative of our areas of expertise and interest.

In the case of a successful application, we hope that projects will be submitted with an enlarged list of participants.

Our achievements along the past decade speak for us and we feel reassured that Eurachem will continue to be recognized, and will come out of this process stronger and more visible. We have shown efficiency by fragmentation in productive Working Groups and we have shown competence in integrating those competences as well as with NMIs, Accreditation Bodies, Academia, Professional Organisations, Testing Laboratories and, last but not least, the Users. This period when we have set the foundations and opened the way has been very exciting and rewarding.

This success story is likely to be recognized and we will be stakeholders of a new, reformulated, upgraded, infrastructure for Measurement. Restructuring may be involved, but we will face it as we have always done when a new problem emerges, let it be chemical or otherwise. We will follow the developments and will seek guidance on the best way to contribute to a move that is intended to be beneficial. Horst Czichos foresees a "Federation of Institutions". Time will tell, the organisations may change, but the competences, the goals and the needs are there.

Although we have always been busy and attentive, we should tell ourselves that this is another special moment for concentrating efforts.

Announcements

4th Workshop EURACHEM / EQALM / CITAC

PROFICIENCY TESTING IN ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY, MICROBIOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE
Bracknell, UK
16-18 February 2003

Monday 17 February 2003

Lectures:

Effect of ISO/IEC 17025 on laboratories and accreditation bodies to make participation in PT a requirement : Alan Squirrel (NATA)
Statistical interpretation (ISO 13528) and uncertainty in PT Schemes : Steve Ellison (LGC)
Regulatory Aspects of PT - Experience from the Water Sector : Michael Koch (University of Stuttgart)
Application and use of PT by participants customers: various speakers.

Working groups:

PT as a tool for regulators and customers
PT as a tool for accreditation
Evaluation of performance and uncertainty
Frequency of PT participation
Selection of appropriate PT schemes

Tuesday 18 February 2003

Lectures:

A clinical update : Dan Tholen (A2LA)
Developments in microbiological PT : Mike Noble (CMPT)
International harmonisation : To be advised
Use and abuse of PT : Nick Boley (LGC)

Working groups:

Added value of PT and cost benefit evaluation
Global harmonisation and rationalisation
New technical areas and challenges in PT
Accreditation of PT providers

Conclusions

Closure

More informations available on:
Website: www.lgc.co.uk
E-mail: ptgroup@lgc.co.uk

Survey "Quality Management at University Laboratories"

With the increasing international focus on the quality of analytical results, laboratories are required to demonstrate comparability of their measurement results with results obtained elsewhere in the world. This requires concepts and tools to establish traceability.

The Eurachem Working Group Analytical Quality Assurance (AQA) at Universities was established to develop concepts for actions and structures of AQA at universities. The scope is to provide assistance and support to universities facing the challenges of the new developments and demands in this field. With this survey we are seeking guidance and advice in ensuring the position of Analytical Chemistry in science and technology.

The goal of the survey is to identify the needs and priorities of analytical laboratories at universities.

Questionnaire available from <http://www.coast.gkss.de/analytic/aqm.html>

We invite you to take the time to complete the questionnaire and fax or send it back at the earliest convenience. We appreciate any help and would be delighted with any thoughts, comments and suggestions going beyond the survey. Please note that any information will be kept confidential. It is expected that the questionnaire is discussed and disseminated to as many university colleagues as possible. The questionnaire is available on the homepage indicated below.

In case of questions please don't hesitate to contact the author, Prof. Dr.-Ing. B. Neidhart. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Contribution from B.Neidhart, adapted by the Editor for the Newsletter.

Forthcoming meetings (2003)

EA-EuroLab-Eurachem-Euromet Chairs meeting: Lisbon (Portugal), 17th January

METCHEM 2003 meeting: Wabern (Switzerland), 12th-14th February

CITAC-Eurachem-EQUALM Workshop on PT: Bracknell (U.K.), 16th-18th February

Eurachem 2003 General Assembly / Executive meeting: St.Gallen (Switzerland), 20th-24th May

BERM-9: Berlin (Germany), 15th-19th June

Eurachem Workshop on AQA and Education & Training / Executive meeting: Siegen (Germany), 6th-12th October

11th International Metrology Congress: Toulon (France), 20th-23rd October

Eurachem Glossary of Analytical Terms (GAT)

During the last Eurachem meeting in Cyprus it was decided, at the Education and Training (E&T) Working Group session, to take the GAT project back under the supervision of the Group and to take up work again for the Glossary of Analytical Terms (see AcQual for the published terms of the Glossary of Analytical Terms).

The Head of this Working Group is Prof. B. Wenclawiak from the University of Siegen in Germany. As you might know, he is the successor of Prof. B. Neidhart, who set up the GAT project initially. This nominal change in responsibility does not affect directly the work on the GAT, which will continue in the spirit it was set up. I will continue as the contact person.

It was discussed that the translations of the terms into the various team member's native languages, should afterwards be published in an appropriate way in their respective home countries.

If it has been done already, perfect!

I am collecting the translations from all participants and have already a 'nice collection of languages. I was already able to collect GAT translations of 2/3 of the European languages up to now.

This is already a very nice outcome of the project, but it means on the other hand that 1/3 of the languages are still missing - I would like to have these translations soon.

Suggestion of new analytical terms which should be explained in the GAT is also asked.

But I need to say that there is more work coming than just the translations. After completing the list of unexplained GAT terms, groups of terms will be formed. The terms which need clarification will be sent around (in regular intervals) and a definition, a description and an example will be asked.

Then the 'real work' will come up! This does certainly not mean that I am expecting perfectly formulated paragraphs! A short account of ideas on these terms for definition, description and example, will be perfectly enough!

Since so many different opinions will appear on the terms, I will need to collect these anyway and will formulate something which will afterwards be sent for approval. The approved terms will then be published in AcQual as it was done in former times.

For more information on the Project, do not hesitate to contact me.

Markus Ostermann (BAM)
[Markus.Ostermann@bam.de]

Eurachem - CZ

Report from Czech Republic

National Eurachem organization in the Czech Republic Eurachem-CZ was established in September 1992 as an independent organization. It now represents about 90 members: 83 laboratories from academia, universities, industry and private sector and 7 'individual members'. 'Individual membership' is open on request to individuals who are not associated with any laboratory or organization.

Eurachem-CZ has issued up to now 25 issues of Eurachem-CZ Newsletter. Every issue includes now a pilot article dealing with topics from analytical QA/QC, chemical metrology or accreditation written by an expert in the field. Contents and short Czech abstracts of articles of current issues of the Accreditation and Quality Assurance journal are also included.

Eurachem-CZ homepage at www.eurachem.cz is available since 1997.

Many Eurachem Guides were translated into Czech and published within a series of Eurachem-CZ monographs QUALIMETRICS, now comprising 11 volumes.

Much of the effort is focused on promoting education and training for analytical chemists through seminars, workshops, and courses. QA/QC courses for analytical laboratories, started in 1994.

Eurachem-CZ organizes 2 - 3 monothematic all-day seminars per year. The number of participants at these seminars was usually around 150 persons.

Eurachem-CZ is one of the founders of METROCHEM, the Association of reference laboratories, established in 1997 and now has 7 members. Eurachem-CZ has good cooperation with Czech Accreditation Institute and CZECHOLAB, the branch of EUROLAB.

Zbynek Plzak (CAS)

Eurachem Italy

Activities and plans of the Italian National Committee

In Italy the Eurachem activity is carried on at present, after the closure of the "Centro Nazionale Materiali di Riferimento" (CNMR), by the working group "Metrology in Chemistry and for the Environment", a joint group created by two NMIs, the "Istituto di Metrologia Gustavo Colonnelli del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche" (IMGC-CNR), and the "Istituto Elettrotecnico Nazionale Galileo Ferraris" (IEN). Both Institutes develop national reference systems for chemical measurement.

Around this nucleus an informal network is being developed, mainly dealing with operators involved with environmental monitoring, health care control, accreditation and quality assurance, standardisation, reference materials production. Efforts have been devoted to cover different types of chemical analysis, and to include people from different institutions and enterprises.

The activities of the joint WG relevant to Eurachem are mainly:

- Diffusion of the information about Eurachem achievements, through distribution of the newsletters and dissemination of the guides;
- Translation into the Italian language of the Eurachem guide "Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement";
- Organisation of workshops in the field of chemical measurements and metrology.

In the near future the publication of a bulletin is planned, to inform about the developments of Metrology in Chemistry at the national level and in international fora (METCHEM, Eurachem, ...).

Enzo Ferrara (IEN)

Eurachem Sweden

The Eurachem MoU for Sweden was signed by SP (Swedish National Testing and Research Institute), with the support of Swedish Chemical Society. The authors act as contact and liaison persons to Eurachem. There is a national network of chemists through the Swedish Chemical Society and industrial chemists that also functions as Eurachem Sweden network. Information is disseminated normally twice a year in connection with the distribution of the Eurachem Newsletter.

Seminars and presentations in the name of Eurachem Sweden are made in cooperation with The Swedish Chemical Society or other organisations. Eurachem Sweden has regular contacts with Eurolab Sweden, and the two organisations collaborate on specific tasks.

Relevant recent activities:

- Translation and adaptation of the Eurachem Guide "The Fitness for Purpose of Analytical Methods";
- Translation and adaptation of the Eurachem Guide "Quantifying uncertainty in analytical measurement, 2nd edition (revised);
- Information leaflet for customers concerning the quality of measurements, prepared in collaboration with various international bodies and organisations;
- Technical report on Measurement uncertainty - Survey about customers' knowledge, reactions and needs, prepared in collaboration with SP and Eurolab Sweden;

Planned and On-going activities:

- Swedish-English alphabetical index of defined quality terms. Based on papers published in the Accreditation and Quality Assurance journal;
- Translation and adaptation of ILAC-G13:2000;
- Analysdagarna 2003: Organisation of 1/2-day seminar on QA and metrology in chemistry, in cooperation with the Swedish Chemical Society.

Björn Lundgren (SP) and Ulf Örnemark (EQUALIS)

Eurachem Cyprus Committee

The Eurachem Cyprus Committee is operating under the umbrella of the Pancyprian Union of Chemists (PUC). The Committee was established in 1997 when an application for Membership was submitted to Eurachem. Most of its members (up to 60) have a long experience in different disciplines within Analytical Chemistry, namely chemical or clinical laboratories (both in the public and private sector, the latter either in industry or as third part labs, as well as the University of Cyprus).

Recent activities

- Seminars and training courses;
- Conferences;
- Dissemination of information in the quarterly Journal of PUC;
- Organization of Eurachem events 2002 in Nicosia

- Promotion of cooperation with neighboring countries: two members of Eurachem Cyprus were invited lecturers in training events in Lebanon and Syria; Four members of Eurachem Cyprus were invited lecturers in a five-day training course on Quality Assurance in Medical Laboratories.

Planning of future activities:

The organization of Eurachem events in Nicosia last May was of great importance for Eurachem Cyprus and PUC in general. A lot of scientists were involved in the workshop and those not yet members were interested to be more active and keep in contact with the Committee. The following steps and activities have been decided for the coming months:

- Installation of a Website (in cooperation with PUC);

- Establishment of Working Groups in line with those of Eurachem;
- Improvement of the administrative support to the Committee;
- Better use of the publications of PUC as channels of information and communication;
- Promotion of the cooperation with scientists in the neighboring countries.
- Training activities:

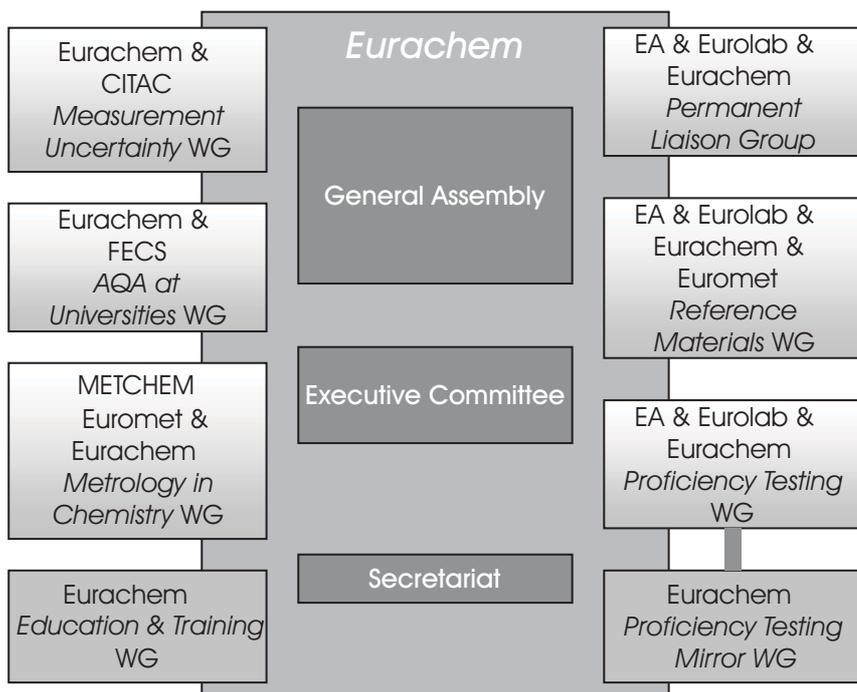
A seminar in cooperation with the Cyprus Organization for the Promotion of Quality is planned for May 2003;

A meeting with representatives from neighboring countries is planned for June 2003;

A regional workshop (as a follow-up activity of the 2002) is planned for May 2004.

Kyriakos Tsimillis (PUC)

Eurachem: Organisation, Members and Addresses



Eurachem Chair

Prof Maria Filomena Camões
University of Lisbon, Faculty of Sciences
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry,
P-1 700 Lisbon, PORTUGAL

Eurachem Vice-Chairs

Dr Ed W.B. de Leer
NMI Van Swinden Laboratory BV
PO Box 654, 2600AR Delft, THE NETHERLANDS

Dr Veikko Komppa
VTT - Chemical Technology
PO Box 1401, 02044 VTT, FINLAND

Eurachem Secretariat

Maria do Céu Ferreira
Portuguese Institute for Quality (IPQ)
National Metrology Laboratory
P-2829-513 Caparica, PORTUGAL

Member Countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom

Associate member countries: Albania, Russian Federation and Ukraine

Eurachem has interfaces with AOAC, CCQM, CITAC, EA, Eurolab, EUROM II, EUROMET, FECS, ILAC, ISO/REMCO and IUPAC. A complete list of all contact points for both Eurachem activities and partner/liaison organisations can be found on the Eurachem website

<http://www.eurachem.ul.pt>