



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Single Market for Goods
Internal Market and its International Dimension

Brussels,
NB

**NOTE TO THE EXPERT GROUP ON THE INTERNAL MARKET FOR PRODUCTS (IMP) –
WORKING GROUP ON ACCREDITATION AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT**

Subject: Draft Minutes of the IMP Meeting on 11 April 2013

A representative of the EP IMCO Secretariat the meeting.

1. ACCREDITATION

1.1. UK government study: The Economics of Accreditation

UK presented a study it had commissioned of the University of London which sought to quantify the economic impact of accreditation.

A hyperlink to the UK study will be uploaded on the Commission website.

1.2. Report from EA

The EA chairman reported on EA's activities.

The FPA for the period 2014-2017 between EA and the Commission will also have to be renegotiated in 2013.

1.3. Tour de table: National accreditation systems: resources for non-self-financing activities in support of European and international activities and public policy

Member States reported on the resources available to national accreditation bodies and on their involvement in EA and ILAC/IAF as well as on activities in the national and EU regulated areas.

1.4. Report on the Implementation of Regulation (EC) 765/2008 and the Staff Working paper on accreditation

The Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package has been adopted by the Commission in February 2013. The Staff Working Paper included consolidates all the CERTIF Papers on accreditation that had been agreed in the SOGS between 2008 and 2012.

1.5. Open issues for discussion and development

1.6. Activities of Accreditation bodies that are not accreditation

Working document CERTIF 2012-02 REV 2 – IMP N003

The paper had been revised to incorporate comments made by delegations at the last meeting. Some delegations asked for a transition period. A new version of the paper will be presented at the next meeting.

Legal personality requirements to obtain accreditation

Working document CERTIF 2012-04 REV 2 - IMP N004

The Commission Legal Service will be consulted on the matter. This matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

‘Non-national accreditation bodies’ that claim to provide accreditation

Working document CERTIF 2013-01- IMP N005

The final paragraph will be amended to take into account the concerns and then the paper will be adopted at the next meeting.

Requirement to seek accreditation in the Member State of establishment

Working document CERTIF 2013-02 – IMP N006

After a debate on whether reference should be made to conformity assessment services that are aimed at activities outside the internal market, the paper is adopted without reference to activities outside the EU.

2. NOTIFIED BODIES

Coordination of accreditation requirements for notified bodies

Working document CERTIF 2013-03 – IMP N007

On the proposal that there should be a coordination of notification requirements for notified bodies, there is general support. The subject and progress on this issue will be put on the agenda of the IMP in the future.

Template for notification procedure

Working document IMP N008

According to the Art. R16 of Decision 768/2008, Member States will be obliged to publish notification procedures for aligned legislation. The idea is to set up a facility in NANDO that may cover all future legislation. The template will be sent out to Member States with a short explanation.

Ensuring continuous competence of notified bodies over time

Working document IMP CERTIF 2013-04 – IMP N009

The Commission notes that from a point of view of equal treatment, there needs to be a control of unaccredited notifications over time. A new version of the paper will be adopted at the next meeting.

3. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORTS

3.1. EU – Russia Regulatory Dialogue

The Partnership for Modernisation aims to align Russian technical regulation and standards to those of the EU. Currently there are two projects funded by the Commission, one that is run by EA to assist set up RosAccreditation, and another more general one on the more horizontal aspects of the NLF (excluding accreditation) and sectoral legislation.

3.2. EU-US FTA

The High Level Working Group on Growth and Jobs has presented its final report proposing a comprehensive free trade agreement between the EU and the US. Presidents Obama and Barroso issued a statement. Full negotiations are likely to start in July 2013 and non-tariff barriers, including accreditation and conformity assessment will play a role.

4. AOB

Blue guide revision

A first draft of the revised Blue Guide has been circulated to delegations and industry. A 2nd draft should be discussed at the end of September. The Blue Guide should be ready by the end of 2013.

Outdated standards

Delegations are invited to inform the Commission about any standards that may not fulfil their purpose or create safety hazards. A form will be circulated to delegations.