



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Internal Market for the Free Movement of 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 6 November 2013

Chairman: DG ENTR/C.1

1. ACCREDITATION

1.1. EAAB candidacies

Two candidates are appointed to the EA Advisory Board.

1.2. EAAB Progress Report

The Commission presents the progress report of the EAAB. These reports have been introduced to improve the link between the EAAB and IMP.

1.3. DE government study: “Economic Analysis of Conformity Assessment and Accreditation in Germany”

DE presents a study about qualitative aspects and takes a regulatory perspective. It comes up with a prognosis for 7 key areas and assesses the indirect leverage that accreditation has on the economy. The study itself is in German, but an executive summary is available in English.

A hyperlink to the DE study has been uploaded on the Commission website.

1.4. Report from EA

The EA chairman reports on the changes in EA personnel. Furthermore an action grant with DG CLIMA on the elaboration of a new accreditation scope for ETS verifiers has been signed. The JRC is working with EA on an accreditation and certification scheme for breast cancer, which should cover all stages of treatment from screening to palliative care. Furthermore an EU project to approximate the EU and Russian accreditation systems is on-going.

1.5. Report on EA Peer Evaluation Process

The Chair of the EA peer evaluation committee explains the peer evaluation process to the group. This includes that all accreditation bodies that are members of ILAC/IAF will be recognised at an international level through EA as a region.

1.6. Summary paper on the resources of national accreditation bodies

This paper summarises the responses given by Member States on their NAB's resources at the April 2013 IMP Meeting. It is noted that a close cooperation between the national accreditation body and national authorities is desirable.

1.7. Open issues for discussion and development

Activities of Accreditation bodies that are not accreditation

Working document CERTIF 2012-02 REV 3

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

Legal personality requirements to obtain accreditation

Working document CERTIF 2012-04 REV3

The paper had been revised to incorporate comments made by delegations at the last meeting. A new paper will be presented for adoption at the next meeting.

Delegating notification to national accreditation bodies

Working document CERTIF 2013-05

The paper will be clarified to underline that this delegation remains the choice of the Member State in question. A new version will be presented at the next meeting.

Notified bodies and the peer evaluation of national accreditation bodies

Working document CERTIF 2013-06

Most Member States support the document. The paper should be adopted with minor modifications at the next meeting.

Non-national accreditation bodies' that claim to provide accreditation

Working document CERTIF 2013-01REV1

The introduction of the paper will be revised and this new version will be presented at the next meeting.

2. NOTIFIED BODIES

2.1. Open issues for discussion

Envisaged timeframes for notifications following the Alignment Package

Working document CERTIF 2013-07

The paper explains the envisaged timeframes of all concerned notified bodies after the Alignment package has been adopted. Member states are encouraged to start the process as quickly as possible. The Commission notes that it hopes to be able to present a new version with precise dates at the next IMP meeting.

NANDO procedure for notification of notified bodies that are not accredited by a national accreditation body

Working document CERTIF 2013-08

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 REV 1

The Commission notes that the alternative to limiting the duration of notifications is that notifying authorities continuously report on their monitoring and if this is not done sufficiently infringement proceedings are opened against the Member State in question. A new version of the paper will be discussed at the next meeting.

3. BLUE GUIDE REVISION

Comments to the new version of the Blue Guide are welcome. The final version should be published in early 2014.

4. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORTS

4.1. State of Play: EU-US Free Trade Agreement

The timeframe for the negotiations is 2.5-3 years. For the regulatory part, the aim is to develop mechanisms and solutions for regulatory compatibility. In this respect the agreement will be different from any other free trade agreement that the EU has concluded so far. However, there are important systemic differences and elements that are non-negotiable. The agreement will focus on functional equivalence and be outcome focussed. It will be important to overcome doubts about the robustness of the respective systems.

4.2. Progress Report: EU Regulatory Dialogue with Russia

A standardisation agreement has been signed with Russia which enables Russia to use European standards. A cooperation project is in place to ensure that there is efficient use of the standards. A large project covers the systemic

aspects. A smaller project aims to assist in setting up a Russian national accreditation body. EA is the project partner. A law on accreditation is currently being discussed in the Duma.

4.3. State of Play: Agreements on Conformity assessment and Acceptance of industrial products (ACAAs) with Mediterranean neighbours

These agreements are designed for sectors where partners have taken over harmonisation legislation. The partners benefit from technical assistance projects. So far one ACAA has been concluded with Israel on pharmaceutical products. For Tunisia a joint declaration has been signed and negotiations should start with Morocco. Little progress has been made with Egypt.

5. AOB

Outdated standards

Feedback on the questions asked at the last IMP meeting should be given at the next meeting.