

## **EURAMET-WELMEC FOCUS GROUP on Facilitating National Metrology Infrastructure Development**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE Version: 1 December 2010**

#### **1. Background**

The purpose of **EURAMET** e.V. is according to the byelaws the promotion of science and research and European cooperation in the field of metrology. Whereas the cooperation in science and research among European NMIs enters a new era through the development and implementation of the EMRP, there are still needs and demands to focus some effort on the cooperation in developing national metrology infrastructures. New and emerging **EURAMET** Members and Associates still need support in establishing and developing their infrastructures and in their integration into existing **EURAMET** structures.

The principal aim of **WELMEC** is to establish a harmonized and consistent approach to European legal metrology. **WELMEC** Associates need the necessary support to prepare, adapt, upgrade and/or to improve national legislation to be harmonized with relevant EU legislation. The operation of Focus Group will help them to better and easier conduct the necessary actions and projects in their integration processes into existing **WELMEC** structure.

In many members of **EURAMET** and **WELMEC** the tasks of a NMI and of the national authority responsible for legal metrology are included in one common organization. Hence synergies could be developed by combining scientific, industrial and legal metrology matters in one joint Focus Group.

Since **EURAMET** and **WELMEC** signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the last **WELMEC** Committee meeting in May 2010 in Bled, this Focus Group can be considered as a first concrete implication of the MoU.

#### **2. Goals of the Focus Group**

Focus Group aims at:

- promotion and development of the metrology infrastructure in the countries of the new and emerging **EURAMET** Members and Associates and **WELMEC** Associates by an increased cooperation and collaboration to achieve concentration and a synergetic and efficient use of competences and resources;
- facilitation and acceleration of the integration of its member NMIs into **EURAMET** activities. It is not designed to create parallel structures within **EURAMET** but to accelerate the integration into existing structures and to bridge the gap between small and new NMIs to the leading NMIs;

- raising awareness about the development in metrology and quality infrastructure in the countries of the new and emerging EURAMET Members and Associates and WELMEC Associates;
- encouragement and development of the legal metrology activities in countries where national authorities responsible for legal metrology are WELMEC Associates;
- preparation and speeding up of the integration of WELMEC Associates into WELMEC activities;
- cooperation between WELMEC Members and Associates in order to achieve WELMEC objectives faster.

### **3. Tasks of the Focus Group**

The tasks of the Focus Group are to:

- organize joint trainings: the transfer of knowledge and experience will be enhanced and the competences can be more efficiently used and developed through an extensive exchange and benchmarking between experts;
- organize comparisons: NMIs which have not yet participated in comparisons will be enabled to gain experience and know-how on all aspects of the implementation of comparisons. NMIs which have not sufficient comparisons to support their CMCs will be enabled to catch up with their participation in comparisons;
- facilitate collaboration and joint use of facilities: given the small markets in some countries enhanced division of labour and sharing of costs between the NMIs of neighbouring countries enables the efficient use of the available resources;
- support networking and awareness;
- establish discussion fora and exchange of experience and information between the NMIs and between the national authorities responsible for legal metrology;
- involve NMIs and national authorities responsible for legal metrology in active participation at EURAMET and WELMEC level in order to prepare them for full membership in both organisations.

### **4. Membership and meetings**

- EURAMET and WELMEC participate in the Focus Group on equal footing.
- Each interested NMI or national authority responsible for legal metrology appoints a contact person for the FG to the Chairperson of the FG through its EURAMET delegate and/or through its WELMEC Committee Member.
- The group will meet regularly on an annual basis. During these meetings joint problems will be identified, ways for the solution developed and responsible actors will be assigned.
- It is recommended to formalise the activities of the group as EURAMET projects, if appropriate.