

WELMEC

European Cooperation in Legal Metrology

WELMEC STRATEGY DOCUMENT 2010

1. Background

European cooperation in legal metrology (WELMEC) is regional legal metrology organisation (RLMO) with voluntary nature which is not a legal entity or part of European Union. Its Members are representative national authorities responsible for legal metrology in EU and EFTA member countries.

WELMEC was created in June 1990 by MoU signed by 18 countries in EU and EFTA. The last WELMEC strategy document dates back to 2003, when it was adopted at 19th WELMEC Committee meeting. EU and WELMEC have been through significant changes since 2003, facing an enlargement of 12 new Member Countries in 2004 and in 2007. Six European countries which have signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the European Union and its Member States have since then been accepted as Welmec Associate Members.

WELMEC has at present¹ 30 Members and 7 Associate Members.

During the last four years the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID) has given WELMEC many new additional tasks and an expanded working programme. On the basis of a statement from the European Commission² about cooperation with WELMEC in 2004, WELMEC guides are regularly recognised by the European Commission as reference documents.

WELMEC Working Groups have since October 2006 developed a number of comparisons documents, identifying normative documents drawn up by OIML and indicating the parts thereof compliance with which gives rise to a presumption of conformity with the corresponding essential requirements of MID. After the positive advice from the Measuring Instruments Committee was obtained, the simplified tables were published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

WELMEC has also provided the basis for information exchange for Market Surveillance and Administrative cooperation under Article 18 of MID.

¹in May 2010

²The Statement from the European Commission in Casta-Papiernicka in May 2004

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One important WELMEC activity in the near future is the forthcoming possible revision of MID, foreseen in Article 25 of MID, which says: "The European Parliament and the Council invite the Commission to report before the 30th of April 2011 on the implementation of MID, inter alia, on the basis of reports provided by the Member States, and where appropriate submit a proposal for its amendments." In this respect Member States are already making use of WELMEC Working Groups as one of the important platforms where the possible issues for MID revision might be identified.

In its future work WELMEC should take into account the EU legislation which has a significant influence on some activities in legal metrology such as:

- the New Legislative Framework which contains:
 - Regulation (EC) No 764/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 laying down procedures relating to the application of certain national technical rules to products lawfully marketed in another Member State and repealing Decision No 3052/95/EC,
 - Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93,
 - Decision No 768/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on a common framework for the marketing of products, and repealing Council Decision 93/465/EEC.
- Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market.

WELMEC should also seriously consider the effects of the Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on energy end-use efficiency and energy services and repealing Council Directive 93/76/EEC on the MID requirements for utility meters.

Due to the above mentioned changes and new tasks, WELMEC has encountered new challenges.

2. WELMEC's objectives

As set out in the Memorandum of Understanding the objectives of WELMEC are to:

- develop and maintain mutual confidence between legal metrology services in Europe;
- achieve and maintain the equivalence and harmonisation of legal metrology activities taking into account the relevant guidelines;
- identify any special features of legal metrology which need to be reflected in the European metrology, certification and testing framework;

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- organise the exchange of information for legal metrology applied at national and local level;
- identify and promote the removal of technical or administrative barriers to trade in the field of measuring instruments;
- identify specific technical problems which might be subjects for collaborate projects;
- promote consistency of interpretation and application of normative documents and propose actions to facilitate implementation;
- maintain working links with all relevant bodies and promote the infrastructure relating to harmonisation of legal metrology;
- debate trends and establish criteria for the scope of legal metrology and maintain channels for continuous flow of knowledge.

3. WELMEC vision (what we aim to be)

WELMEC's vision is to be the primary source for trusted advice on legal metrology issues in Europe.

4. WELMEC mission (what we aspire to achieve)

WELMEC's mission is to develop and maintain mutual acceptance among its members and to maintain effective cooperation to achieve a harmonised and consistent approach to the societies needs for legal metrology and for the benefit of all stakeholders including consumers and businesses.

5. Goals, Strategies and Actions

Besides the main goals below WELMEC internal aim is to expand the knowledge among its members in order to enable them to participate actively in the work of WGs.

*Main Goals	Strategy	Initial Actions
1. Analyse and respond to the challenges of legal metrology	Contribute actively to EU policies, international and technological developments and developments in the society.	WELMEC Chair to identify and establish contacts in various DGs of COM as well as consumer associations Collect and identify the needs and compare it to the existing TORs of existing WGs

2. Raise the profile of legal metrology	Strengthen cooperation with EURAMET in the fields of common interest for the mutual benefit of legal and scientific metrology	Recognise areas of common interest and develop methods for cooperation which will be reflected in MoU Finalise text of MoU and approve it in 2010
	Strengthen cooperation with EA in the fields of common interest for the mutual benefit of legal metrology stakeholders	Identify experts within WELMEC and participate in appropriate EA meetings Develop the capacity within WELMEC for cooperation with EA based on the analysis of EA activities related to legal metrology
	Formalise the links with the European standardisation bodies especially to ensure that the development of harmonised standards respects legal metrology requirements	To prepare MoU
	Continue the strengthening of the cooperation with OIML	Continue to support the development of normative documents Assign normative documents to appropriate WGs Provide the information of WELMEC activities to OIML Facilitate the use of OIML R documents in connection to the TAA of WELMEC WELMEC will continue to act as regional legal metrology organization
3. Facilitate the application	To develop trust between	To provide the structured

<p>of Regulation 764/2008/EC on Mutual Recognition</p>	<p>members by providing exchange of technical information further to the EU requirements</p> <p>To utilise the Type Approval Agreement where appropriate</p> <p>Seeking information on ongoing discussion between Commission and WTO.</p>	<p>overview on non-harmonised instruments and packaged goods on the Welmec website in order to get the information which instruments are regulated in what country and their contact addresses for information.</p> <p>If necessary to draft guidance on the application of the Regulation in relation to legal metrology</p> <p>Chair to establish the contact with relevant DG of COM</p>
<p>4. Facilitate the coordination of the market surveillance activities in relation to Regulation 765/2008/EC on Accreditation and Market Surveillance based on national programs</p>	<p>To encourage and support the development of market surveillance among member states, prioritising effort according to the risk of non-compliance</p>	<p>WG5 to develop new working programme</p>
<p>5. Achieve and maintain the equivalence and harmonisation of legal metrology activities.</p>	<p>To maintain and develop an effective networking system beneficial to all interested parties</p>	<p>Identify and facilitate the removal of technical or administrative barriers to trade in the field of legal metrology(measuring instruments and prepacked products)</p> <p>Exchange of experience and information between the national legal metrology bodies including the inspection of packaged goods, imported products, measuring instruments in</p>

		use, control of instruments in service the correct use of instruments, prevention of fraud and protection of the consumers
6. Facilitate to meet Member States obligations in relation to the exchange of information under MID and NAWI	Provide low cost method of exchange	Fill 'gaps' in WELMEC portal for MID certificates and improve the existing level of information exchange
7. To seek support/assistance for WELMEC activities	Follow up the Commission statement dated 13/14 May 2004	Clarify extent of possible support by the COM (financial and support-in-kind e.g. provision of meeting facilities for Committee, WGs)
8. Support EU in helping EU neighbouring countries planning to align with EU legislation	To provide experience of WELMEC issues	Participate in seminars financed by EC or other sources of financing Establish an information exchange between WELMEC and the neighbouring countries
9. Improve the operational efficiency and effectiveness of WELMEC work	To develop optimum working methods and organisational structures	To appoint small editing group including at least one convener to prepare the first draft
10. Facilitate the application of Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market	To exchange the information on application of Directive in WELMEC Members.	Gathering the information (the contact persons) on the website (country info)

- Goals are not listed according to the priorities

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6. Review

This document was discussed in 2009 and 2010 and agreed during the 26th Committee meeting in 2010. It's application and evolution will be reviewed regularly and new version issued in 2012.