

May 2009

FINAL

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

EA – The European co-operation for Accreditation

and

WELMEC – The European Cooperation in Legal Metrology

EA the “**European co-operation for Accreditation**” – which is the Association of nationally recognised Accreditation Bodies of the Member States of the European Union (EU) and of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and of countries that have been formally identified as candidates for membership of EU and EFTA – whose mission is to provide, through its members, effective and reliable accreditation services fulfilling at best the needs of the European economy and society

and

WELMEC the “**European Cooperation in Legal Metrology**” – which is the cooperation between national Legal Metrology Authorities of the Member States of the EU and EFTA and of countries that have been formally identified as candidates for membership of EU and EFTA – whose principal aim is to establish a harmonized and consistent approach to legal metrology in Europe

hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

recognizing that

- EA applies, for accreditation, the pertinent standards and guides, duly supported by EA applicative documents, to further the effective and harmonized operation of accreditation by its member Accreditation Bodies.
- EA ensures that such Accreditation Bodies are properly following the applicable rules and duly enforcing their observance by the accredited conformity assessment bodies, by operating a peer evaluation system founded on solid and transparent criteria and procedures and managing the related Multilateral Agreement (MLA).

- Accreditations issued under the EA MLA, pursuant to the provisions of Regulation (EC) 765/2008 – that establish, among others, a legal base and principle rules for accreditation, strengthen its use in the mandatory area and provide for the recognition of EA as official European Accreditation infrastructure – do provide confidence in the accredited attestations of conformity, contributing to promote their recognition and use in both voluntary and regulated areas.
- WELMEC, as the cooperation of national Metrology Authorities, has experience in the implementation of important European Directives and has developed guidance documents that have been accepted and supported by the European Commission for applications in the field of legal metrology.
- WELMEC guidance documents will, as far as applicable, be used by EA to set up harmonized guidance for the assessment and eventual accreditation of Notified Bodies, both in general and in the field of legal metrology in particular.
- A stricter cooperation between EA and WELMEC will be beneficial to both organizations and to the respective members and stakeholders.

All the above being stated, the Parties have reached the following understanding

- WELMEC will be recognised in the EA structure as an Observer.
- Representatives of WELMEC will be invited to participate in the meetings of the EA General Assembly (with no voting rights and except for parts restricted to EA Full Members) and in the work of Technical Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces of EA (excluding the fora institutionally reserved to particular member categories, for example the meetings of the EA MLA Council).
- EA will make available to WELMEC the relevant policy and technical documents and will grant appropriate level of access to the EA Intranet. WELMEC will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of such documentation, providing inputs and comments, although not being entitled to vote on their approval.
- WELMEC will recognize EA as an Observer Organization and will grant to EA the rights pertaining to such Observer status pursuant to WELMEC regulations, including regularly informing EA on the development of those of its activities that have a relationship with those of EA.
- WELMEC will make available to EA the relevant policy and technical documents and will grant appropriate level of access to the WELMEC website. EA will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of such documentation, providing inputs and comments, although not being entitled to vote on their approval.
- EA and WELMEC may arrange joint cultural/educational initiatives, such as conferences, seminars, workshops, training courses and other pertinent activities. The practical and financial aspects of such collaboration will be subject to separate specific agreements.
- In the frame of this Memorandum of Understanding, WELMEC and EA will provide each other with the details of one or more contact persons.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon signature by both Parties.

It is concluded for an indefinite period of time and will be formally reviewed every two years after its signature and amended, as far as necessary and applicable, including possible development into stricter forms of cooperation or termination.

The Memorandum of Understanding may, however, be terminated at any time by any one of the Parties, after due notification and motivation to the other Party.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized by the respective organizations, have signed this Memorandum.

Done at Luxembourg, in duplicate, on 28.05.2009 in the English language.

For EA
The European co-operation for Accreditation
The Chairman
Lorenzo Thione



For WELMEC
The European Cooperation in Legal Metrology
The Chairperson
Nataša Mejak Vuković

