

## Report from the General Assembly in Køge, Denmark

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This year's General Assembly of Eurachem (the 26<sup>th</sup>) was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on May 27–28. To be more specific, it was held in the little town Køge [Koege], at the southern border of the major Copenhagen City area! A picturesque old town at the seaside with a name which most participants had a hard time pronouncing (it is like..... well, that's a long story, which those who where there at the conference dinner probably can testify to; it can hardly be described in words)!

34 participants in total joined the 2 days meeting (and some of them even spent the whole week there participating at working group activities or an international Conference/Workshop on the days before).

As usual the General Assembly dealt with a number of important and interesting issues with relevance to the community of analytical laboratories in Europe, but I will leave it to the description in the minutes to go into the details on that. In this little informal report I will rather focus a little bit on some of the persons present and the more social aspects of the event. That is by the way also an important part of the meetings in Eurachem – the nice and social atmosphere contributing to the fruitful discussions and leading to relevant and useful results.

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### Address by the new chair

Let me express my thanks to my predecessor, Kyriacos C. Tsimillis from Cyprus for his leadership over the past two years and welcome the new EURACHEM vice-chair Bertil Magnusson and the new EURACHEM secretary Ivan Koruna.

My main tasks for the oncoming two years are maintaining the prestigious position among similar organisations in Europe, to retaining the high level of educational guides, and promoting laboratory community from non-member states in foundation of national laboratory organisations (a perspective observer members of EURACHEM!).

Above-mentioned tasks are difficult to fulfil without significant cooperation of all EURACHEM members.

***I would like to count on your participation, dear EURACHEM members!***

Miloslav Suchanek  
Eurachem Chair

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**TrainMic**  
Training in Metrology in Chemistry

Read on page 5



Delegates at the 26th Eurachem General Assembly, Copenhagen, May 2010



It was such a great pleasure and joy to have this group of people here in Denmark. It was nice to welcome all the "old" friends from previous events - "Hello – how are you?", "Good to see you again – what have you been doing since last time", "Do you remember...." etc. etc. – these events are never very formal and quiet because you feel that you are among friends from the very first minute.

But it was also very good to see some new heads in the assembly: Eugenia from Romania, Olga from Spain, Vlastimil from Czech Republic and Michel from The Netherlands. I do hope you felt welcomed and comfortable and looking forward to see you again next time.



On the other hand things are changing and the development goes on in different directions for all these nice people once they are back in their normal daily functions, so we never know who we actually are going to see next time!



Unfortunately one will not be there for sure – and that's Liz, who has been working hard and dedicated for years (... ages! ©) with the Education & Training Working Group but insisted on now saying good bye to that.



We are surely going to miss your extensive expertise, Liz, - and even your strong look through the glasses (... but always with a trace of a smile in there ☺). Others like Kyriacos and Evangelos stepped down from their assignments as Chairman and secretary but hopefully we will still benefit from your presence and contributions also in the years to come.



This year had no special social arrangement out of the house (except for those who individually found their way to the old town square of Køge, to the local brewery bar, to the quiet coast line with the beautiful landscape and lots of interesting birds (I heard!) or maybe even to a sightseeing in the nearby Copenhagen City area). But I think (.. and hope others felt the same) that every coffee break, every lunch – and not least the GA Dinner gave plenty of opportunities to experience nice social fellowship with time for serious discussions as well as fun and laughter. And then there was of course also the intermezzo with old traditional Danish folk music – and even some dancing!! ☺



Although I think we had a good arrangement in a nice venue with very good service and food – it is really not the settings which make it! It's the people attending! THANK YOU dear friends for being there and contributing to yet another very good General Assembly of Eurachem.



Can hardly wait to see you again. Next year we will move from a little town close to the seaside to a major city far away from the sea – just for a change – and for the benefit of enjoying the Russian hospitality in Moscow. Looking very much forward to that – and to seeing you all there ☺

Lorens



# Briefing by Dr Kyriacos C. Tsimillis\*

## on the occasion of handover of the Chairmanship Eurachem General Assembly, Copenhagen, 27th May 2010

### Introduction

When starting the 2-year period as Chair of Eurachem, I was aware of the responsibilities I undertook and the hard effort I had to make in order to meet the expectations of all members of the Eurachem Family. A lot of tasks had to be promoted in a changing period, dominated by the Regulation (EC) no. 765/2008 and relevant developments following it. On the other hand, I needed to encourage national committees, which became inactive for a long time to reactivate, despite economic problems they were facing during a lasting economic crisis. Another task was to ensure that new colleagues would undertake roles in the Working Groups and go on with reviewing of documents and guidelines and, where necessary, draft new ones. The economic resources of Eurachem were and still are not in a good condition with regard not just to what is currently achieved but what could be achieved with better flexibility. Only half of the national Eurachem committees were paying their contribution for a long time and this created a barrier to them when they decided to become active again. For most of the national delegations the reason for not participating in Eurachem

activities was the economic problems they faced.

### In memory of Professor Dobkowski

It was with deep sadness that we heard in September 2009 of the sudden death of Professor Zbigniew Dobkowski. Professor Dobkowski was an active and respected member of Eurachem since its formation, participating both in the General Assemblies and in the Education and Training Working Group up to our last meetings in Bratislava. A note in his memory was published in Eurachem Newsletter.

### Election of three new members to the Executive Committee

Invitation for candidates for the three vacant seats of the Executive Committee. Following the voting procedure of last September, Maire Walsh and Robert Kaarls were re-elected while Marina Patriarca became a new member.

### Re-activation of national delegations

During this period a number of national delegations promptly responded to our

insistent invitations and they are back; I may refer to Spain, Russia, Portugal, Romania who recently returned while some others promised to be back soon. To this end I would like to refer to a recent very encouraging message from France while some other countries (e.g. Serbia, Albania, Georgia) have shown their interest in establishing links with Eurachem.

### The Newsletter

Despite difficulties (including the rather small number of contributions), the Newsletter 2009 was issued with a particular reference to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Eurachem. At the end of 2008 we were much more ambitious about the events that we were to organise for this occasion; even so, and taking into consideration the difficult economic conditions of 2009, this publication was a symbolic contribution to the anniversary, with all respect due to the pioneers who created and supported Eurachem during these two decades. The collection of documents and preparation of this publication was carried out by the Secretariat Evangelos Bakeas.

\* Chair of Eurachem, May 2008 - May 2010



With great sorrow we announce to the EURACHEM community that Margherita Plassa, former Italian delegate till 2004, left us on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, after a serious illness, at the age of 75. Born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, 1935, Margherita graduated in chemistry and started work in industrial laboratories, but in 1963 she moved to the Italian National Research Council, Institute for Dinamometry, to work in a striking new area: the production and application of thin films for the measurements of force and pressure. In 1970 Margherita became head of the new Section "Mass and Volume", within the "G. Colonnetti" NMI (now INRIM). In this role, beside other activities, she created the Italian scientific laboratory for primary measurements of mass, promoted the development of collateral areas and pursued research devoted to the understanding of the long term stability and environmental interactions of materials used to produce mass measurement standards. Following the developments in metrology organisations, Margherita represented Italy for mass (and derived quantities) metrology in EUROMET (now EURAMET) and as a Member of the *Comité Consultatif pour la Masse et les grandeurs apparentées* (CCM), created in 1981, where she chaired the CCM WG on mass measurement standards.

Since 1993, following the set-up of the *Comité consultatif pour la quantité de matière* (CCQM, to become *Comité consultatif pour la quantité de matière – métrologie en chimie* in 2001), Margherita devoted her great experience and competence to the new challenges of the application of metrology in the strategic areas of chemical and biological measurements. To this aim, she established an Italian reference laboratory for gas analysis, supported the integration in INRIM of a new unit with expertise in characterisation of reference materials for chemical elements by neutron activation analysis and promoted the involvement of young scientists in the CCQM activities. Participation in EURACHEM offered her the opportunity to pursue the establishment of a network between INRIM and other Italian parties interested in the quality of analytical measurements in the fields of health protection, food safety and the environment, according to mandates of EU Directives, such as the Istituto Superiore di Sanità and the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale. In addition, Margherita supported the transfer of metrological concepts to the various areas of human activities, with a variety of initiatives, including education and training, translation of relevant guides and documents, among which the EURACHEM Guide on measurement uncertainty and participation in audits of calibrating laboratories.

Beside her scientific excellence, many of us had the opportunity to appreciate her human qualities, her true friendship, her support to ideals of justice and freedom. As a woman, she promoted the role of women in science and portrayed a positive and creative image for women in science.

We will miss her.

*On behalf of all Margherita's friends, Marina Patriarca and Enzo Ferrara, Italian Delegates to EURACHEM*

### The Website

The website continued to be used as an important channel of communication not only within Eurachem. It may be useful if WGs report more frequently on developments in their projects so that colleagues not actively involved have some further incentive to participate in our activities. The past Chair Steve Ellison continued with updates and maintenance of the Website.

### Publications

A leaflet entitled "Use of Uncertainty in Compliance Assessment" was prepared by the Working Group on Measurement Uncertainty and Traceability in cooperation with CITAC. The leaflet entitled "Pre- and Post-Analytical Proficiency Testing", prepared by the Working Group on Proficiency Testing, is being translated in national languages (8 for the moment) under the coordination of the IRMM.

### Non-payment policy

The document recently drafted on the non-payment policy is expected to help in the management of this issue. Anyway, it is unfair for some delegations, even the very small ones, to pay their fees regularly while others do not contribute at all. The final draft for a policy to cover this situation has been circulated for voting during this General Assembly.

### Working Groups

The Chairs of the Working Groups will report accordingly; I would like to refer to a new Working Group on Method Validation (Lorens Sibbensen) while there is today a proposal for another one on Flexible Scope; to this end, the Forum to follow will be very useful. The WG on Bioanalysis is still waiting for its Coordinator. I would like to refer to the big success of the 6<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Proficiency Testing (Rome, October 2008) and the planning of the 7<sup>th</sup> Workshop to be hosted in October 2011 in Istanbul. Brian Brookman has all relevant information on these events.

### Funding of the participation at selected events

For some years now, I kept underlying the need for funding of basic travelling expenses for those representing Eurachem in selected events. This would be the only way not to discourage the participation of delegates coming from smaller societies without any support from their institutions. The Executive Committee recently accepted this idea and decided to make a plan for its implementation, taking into consideration the existing restrictions.

### EA

Some developments within EA are analysed under the relevant topic; I would only like to mention the new status of a Recognised Stakeholder proposed for Eurachem after a resolution of EA GA last week in Zurich. Following a new trend in EA (especially EA LC), according to which, documents are to be reviewed /revised by the stakeholders initially involved, Eurachem has undertaken the coordination of the revision of EA 4/10 on Accreditation of Microbiological Laboratories. This might be proved useful in the efforts being made for enlargement of the scope of activities of Eurachem e.g. Bioanalysis. I also need to mention that the 9<sup>th</sup> June is declared by ILAC and IAF as the International Accreditation Day; this year's message is "Global Acceptance".

### 5-year Strategy Programme

We follow the procedure decided by the Executive Committee this morning; we are to contribute to the proposed draft by mid July.

### The Executive Committee

There was a meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus in November 2009. This gave the opportunity for a very interesting workshop to be hosted two days earlier by the Cyprus Accreditation Body. Relevant information is included in the Cyprus report.

### Problems in communication

A number of problems in the smooth communication appeared both within the Executive Committee and between it and the GA delegates. There were problems in the distribution of documents to all delegates till the whole contact details list was thoroughly reviewed. Time schedules were not always met and this is reflected in this GA as well, since some documents had not been finalized and circulated in time. As the Chair, I have to apologise on behalf of the Executive Committee, for this weakness. Evangelos Bakeas took a corrective action and today we received a full set with all documents on our personal CD. I hope that additional effort is to be made to ensure the necessary improvement.

### Eurachem Week 2010

Thanks to Lorens Sibbensen for all his hard efforts which made this Week a reality. I would like to inform you on a very successful Workshop which was organized on Tuesday and Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May on Analytical Results for Decisions! I would also like to thank him for his hospitality and the efficient management of all activities, Working Groups meetings etc.

### Special thanks...

are due to Elizabeth Prichard for her great contribution during a number of years now in the development of Eurachem and especially the Education and Training issues within the relevant Working Group which she chaired during the last four years. We hope we will have the opportunity for some further cooperation especially in training activities where she has been so active for the last decades. I wish all the best, health and happiness, for Elizabeth and her family.

### What we need

We need to enhance our efforts and improve our links, to support local activities encouraging younger colleagues to

### Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary TrainMiC®!

In 2011 it will be 10 years since the start of TrainMiC®, a life-long learning programme initiated and coordinated by the EC JRC IRMM and now operating via national teams covering 21 countries. TrainMiC® addresses the issues of how to interpret the metrological requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 for chemical and bio-analytical measurements in many different sectors (environment, food, consumer protection, ...). European legislation indeed often requires such measurements for their implementation. Shareware pedagogic tools have been developed which have been harmonized at European level by a joint effort of many experts from across Europe working in an editorial board. The material has been translated into fourteen different languages. Some 6000 people have followed TrainMiC® courses over these years. Part of the TrainMiC® teaching material is based on the EURACHEM Guides, to which trainees are addressed for further reading. Visit [www.trainmic.org](http://www.trainmic.org) for updated information on this celebration!

participate both locally and at the European level, i.e. the activities of the Working Groups. We need to improve our planning and stick to time schedules so that we become more efficient and productive.

### Acknowledgements

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to all members of the Executive Committee for their cooperation and support and to all national delegates for their confidence. I wish all the best to the new Chair Miloslav Suchanek; I promise myself to provide him and the Executive Committee as a whole with all support to our common tasks.

*Dr Kyriacos C. Tsimillis*  
*Eurachem Chair*

## New members of Executive Committee

At GA in Copenhagen new members of EC were elected: Prof. Eugenia E. Totu (RO) for the period 2010–2013, Bertil Magnusson (S) as vice-chairman (2010–2012), and Ivan Koruna (CZ) as Secretary (2010–2012). Ivan Koruna has been appointed also as a treasurer (2010–2011). Miloslav Suchanek took the chairmanship over for the period 2010–2012.

# Working Groups Reports

## Eurachem Education and Training Working Group

The EURACHEM Education and Training Working Group (E&T WG) has made progress on the proposed work activities. The Group has not met formally since the meeting in Bratislava but those working on the Guide to ISO Guide 99 met in Teddington in January.

From the activities identified at the Bratislava meeting several projects have been progressed.

1. The greatest effort of the E & T WG has been on further drafts of the Guide to ISO Guide 99 (VIM 3). The work has been carried out by 3 members of the WG and 3 additional metrologists co-opted for the project and a number of others have commented on the Guide. This project proved a considerable challenge and a third draft will be circulated to the GA members. If Draft 3 is accepted then the project can be finalised by mid 2010.

2. The tasks to ascertain the state of Education and Training in Metrology in member states has not been completed as the project group lost two of its members. A further draft Questionnaire has been produced and once finalised this will be circulated to all GA and WG members as well as other organisations identified by the E&T WG.

3. The E&T WG members have been working with LGC in preparing some web-based quality assurance training resource. This resource contains sections on quality standards and accreditation, method validation, measurement uncertainty, traceability, reference materials, quality control, quality documentation, proficiency testing and essential statistics. In addition to web pages there are short PowerPoint presentations. The material is freely available on the Chemical and Biological Metrology website ([www.nmschembio.org.uk](http://www.nmschembio.org.uk)) in the

Resources section which is linked to the Eurachem website.

4. As a result of a 'recruitment' campaign the E&TWG have two new members but regrettably several countries are not represented.

5. In order to clarify the commitment required by members who take an office the terms of reference of the Chair, Vice-chair and members has been drafted and will be presented at the May meeting.

6. Two members of the working group contributed to the Workshop on Measurement uncertainty and Compliance held in Cyprus in November 2009.

7. The E&T WG has maintained contacts with LGC for Chemical and Biological Metrology programme, EuCheMS and the TrainMiC and AcadeMiC programmes.

*Elizabeth Prichard*

*Chair EURACHEM E&T WG*

### Update by new Chair:

The EURACHEM Education and Training Working Group (E&T WG) meets formally once a year during the week of the General Assembly and had a successful meeting in Køge in May. The group was pleased to welcome two new members: David Milde (Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic) and Vasilisa Baranovskaya (GIREDMET, Russia). The Working Group is keen to attract new members and several member states are not represented. However, since the May meeting two additional members have joined: Wolfgang Kandler (Universität für Bodenkultur Wien, Austria) and Eugenia Eftimie Totu (University Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania).

The E&T WG has been very active this year with the main focus being on completing a guide for analysts to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of International Vocabulary of Metrology – Basic

and General Concepts (VIM). The guide has been prepared by a project group comprising E&T WG members and other metrologists co-opted for the project. A first draft of the guide was circulated at the General Assembly in 2009. Since then a significant amount of work has been undertaken to address the comments received. The guide is now nearing completion and it is anticipated that it will soon be submitted to the GA members for acceptance as a Eurachem Guide.

One of the other tasks of the E&T WG is to ascertain the state of education and training in metrology within member states. To assist with this a questionnaire has been developed by WG members and discussed at the WG meetings in 2009 and 2010. The questionnaire is aimed at universities and other institutions providing academic courses (dealing with metrology), and to institutions and other companies/organisations offering training for laboratory employees as part of continuing professional development. The questionnaire has now been finalised and will be circulated later in the year. The E&T WG urges Country Representatives to distribute this questionnaire widely to universities, colleges, professional bodies, training companies and accreditation bodies as well as others known to them who are interested in this topic. The questionnaire responses will inform EURACHEM of the extent to which metrology is part of the curriculum for chemistry and biology students, and the professional development of analysts.

In addition to the new WG members mentioned above there have also been some other changes in personnel. Sadly, in Køge, the WG said 'goodbye' to one of its most active members and Chair, Dr Elizabeth Prichard. Liz has been a member of the WG for 14 years and Chair since 2007. Liz retired from her role at LGC in 2007 but continued to support Eurachem. She has now also formally retired from the WG (although is still assisting with completion of a number of activities). At the May meeting a new Chair

(Vicki Barwick) and Vice-Chair (Philip Taylor) were therefore appointed.

As the 'new Chair' I would like to thank Liz for the valuable contribution she has made to the E&T WG (and education and training in general) over the years.

*Vicki Barwick*  
Chair, EURACHEM Education and Training Working Group

#### **Eurachem Education and Training Work Programme 2010-2014**

- Collate and evaluate information on the state of education and training in analytical science in different member states in particular with respect to the development of teaching aids and training materials on quality management which emphasise metrology.
- Contribute to the development and delivery of education and training in chemical metrology and quality assurance for both analytical scientists and the broader community by producing some freely available materials. Details of materials to be agreed annually at the working group meeting.
- Organise workshops in metrology in chemistry which bring together academic staff, industrial scientists, instrument manufacturers and students. Topic for consideration for 2011 workshop to be agreed in 2010.
- Collaborate with other interested organisations such as EuCheMS, Eurolab, IRMM for TrainMic and AcadeMiC, LGC for Chemical and Biological Metrology programme.

### **Eurachem/CITAC/ Measurement Uncertainty and Traceability Working Group**

The main activity continues to be the revision of the Uncertainty Guide. The body of the text is now complete and two new sections, one on the use of the Monte Carlo Method (MCM) and one on dealing with evaluation and reporting uncertainty on results close to zero have been drafted.

We anticipate that the present revision of the Guide would occupy at least a further year. We are looking at the possibility of holding a workshop to explain the draft of the new version of QUAM in May/ June 2011. If that is not possible then we would look to holding a workshop on the published version in 2012. R. Bettancourt da Silva is investigating the possibility of a workshop in Lisbon in either mid 2011 or early 2012.

The GUM is now under revision and the WG would like to monitor the activity closely and contribute where possible. We are going to contact the Chairman of JCGM Working Group 1 to investigate the possibility of formal liaison.

The WG members list is now very large and includes members circulated for information only as well as contributing members. In addition, several members listed (e.g. on the web page for the group) are known to have retired. We are planning to send an email enquiry, with follow-up, to confirm continued

membership and that the recipients who did not reply either to the original circulation or to the follow-up would be dropped from the list of members. In addition, contributing and collaborating organisations would be circulated, particularly CITAC.

The web page for the group is substantially out of date and would be updated. A list of current and past activities would be included.

We plan to hold a WG meeting later this year and R. Kaus will investigate the possibility of a meeting in Düsseldorf in September/October 2010. Possible dates will be circulated.

*Alex Williams*

### **Eurachem Sampling Uncertainty Working Group**

The Sampling Uncertainty WG is currently dormant, as agreed, until we need to revise the UfS Guide. However, members of the WG are working behind the scenes.

Steve Ellison and M. H. Ramsey have published a paper replying to comments that were made about the UfS Guide in ACQUAL:

Ramsey M. H., and Ellison S. L. R. (2010) Reply to Comments on EURACHEM/CITAC Guide "Measurement uncertainty arising from sampling" Accreditation and Quality Assurance: Journal for Quality, Comparability and Reliability in Chemical Measurement, 15:533-535 (doi:10.1007/s00769-010-0684-7) <http://www.springerlink.com/openurl.asp?genre=article&id=doi:10.1007/s00769-010-0684-7>.

Also the related RSC/AMC subcommittee on sampling uncertainty has been active in two ways:

- a) publishing technical briefs to explain the contents of the Guide to a wider audience;
- b) encouraging inclusion of the ideas from the UfS Guide (and its citation) in BSI and ISO documents

*Michael H. Ramsey (Chair)*

### **EA-EUROLAB- -EURACHEM Working Group "Proficiency Testing in Accreditation"**

The EEE-PT WG has continued to make progress on a number of work activities during the past year:

- The work on the position paper, "Accreditation Bodies' Policies on the Frequency of PT Participation", at the request of the EA Laboratory Committee, has been finalised. Due to other activities, such as the revision of the ILAC P9 document ('Policy for Participation in National and International PT Activities'), this work slightly changed its emphasis in that the work is contributing to the revision of ILAC P9. The final document has been titled "Guidance on the level and frequency of proficiency testing participation". The revised draft of ILAC P9 makes reference

to this paper. The final paper is expected to be published shortly by EA.

- The revision of the Eurachem Guide 'Selection, Use and Interpretation of Proficiency Testing Schemes by Laboratories' is making good progress. The original guide is being completely revised to take account of new standards/guides that have been published since it was initially published, particularly including the recently published ISO/IEC 17043. The scope of the guide is also being extended to cover other sectors and to address all stakeholders.

- The EEE-PT WG has recently commenced work on two new work items:
  - Guidance on conducting bi-lateral PTs
  - Guidance on accreditation scopes for PT providers
- The EEE-PT WG has continued to provide input to the ILAC PTCG.

Current Eurachem representatives on the EEE-PT WG are:

Frank Baumeister, Germany  
Brian Brookman, UK  
Marina Patriarca, Italy  
Piotr Robouch, EU

*Brian Brookman*  
Chair, EEE-PT Working Group

### **Eurachem Proficiency Testing Working Group**

The EURACHEM Proficiency Testing Working Group (PTWG) has continued to make progress on a number of work activities during the past year:

- The new information leaflet on pre- and post- analytical proficiency testing is now complete. This takes the same format as the general PT leaflet previously produced. The PTWG is now in the process of having the leaflet translated into a number of other European languages.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> event of a series of workshops addressing current practice and future directions of proficiency testing (PT) and external quality assessment (EQA) in analytical chemistry, microbiology and laboratory medicine is being organised. The Workshop is being organised in co-operation with CITAC and EQALM. It will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Workshop will be structured to include key-note lectures along with a number of short presentations, discussions in working groups and poster sessions, to enable interactive participation and cross-fertilisation of ideas. The key topics to be addressed at the Workshop will be:
  - Implementing the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 by PT/EQA
  - Accrediting PT/EQA providers to ISO/IEC 17043
  - Establishing acceptability criteria in microbiology PT/EQA schemes
  - Evaluating participant performance in qualitative PT/EQA schemes
  - Establishing PT/EQA schemes in developing countries
  - Pre and post analytical aspects in EQA
  - Training sessions will precede (3<sup>rd</sup> October) the Workshop, which will be on "Establishing traceability and uncertainty of assigned values and assisting participants to assess/estimate their measurement uncertainty using PT results". Further

information will shortly be available at [www.labkar.org.tr/Eurachem](http://www.labkar.org.tr/Eurachem) 2011.

- The PTWG has recently commenced work on two new work items:
  - A guide on the evaluation of qualitative results in PT schemes
  - A leaflet on the evaluation of PT performance
- Current members of the PTWG are:

Brian Brookman, UK (Chair)  
Miklos Naray, Hungary  
Tracey Noble, UK (Secretariat)  
Ender Okandan, Turkey  
Owen Butler, UK  
Ulf Örnemark, Sweden (corresponding member)  
Andreja Drolc, Slovenia  
Marina Patriarca, Italy

Ildi Ipolyi, Italy  
Halina Polkowska-Motrenko, Poland  
Michael Koch, Germany  
Kees van Putten, The Netherlands  
Minna Loikkanen, Finland  
Piotr Robouch, EU  
Antonio Menditto, Italy

*Brian Brookman*  
Chair, EURACHEM PT WG

# National Reports

## BULGARIA

### YEAR OF TRACEABILITY

The section has been working in close cooperation with BULLAB and Bulgarian Institute of Metrology (BIM).

In the past year BULCHEM has concentrated on issues concerning traceability of chemical measurement results: traceability to the mole, other acceptable references, links to the reference procedures, use of certified reference materials, choice of proper CRMs and information on traceability.

In 2009 Bulgarian Institute of Metrology has a good collaboration with the Bulgarian Accreditation Body (BAS) on topics related to traceability of chemical measurement results.

Policy for the traceability of Chemical measurements was prepared and published on BIM site.

During this year representatives of BUCHEM participate as lecturers in training courses/workshops organized of the Union of Metrologists in Bulgaria.

## CYPRUS

### ASSESSORS' TRAINING AND UNCERTAINTY PROGRAMME

The Cyprus Eurachem Committee has been involved in a number of activities and took some important initiatives during the said period. A number of them was organized in cooperation with CyprusLab and /or the Cyprus Accreditation Body (CYS-CYSAB) as well as the University of Cyprus.

- A training programme (35 hours) for new assessors of CYS-CYSAB was organized in September 2009.
- A 2-day Workshop on the "Introduction to Uncertainty and Uncertainty for Compliance Assessment", was held in Nicosia on the occasion of the Accreditation Week 2009 (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November) just before the EURACHEM Executive Committee meeting (20<sup>th</sup> November 2009). A short report on this event appears in last issue of EURACHEM Newsletter as well as in ILAC News (issue 32, April 2010)
- A Conference on Metrology was organized in Larnaka on the 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010, by CyprusLab and HellasLab. More than 100 participants. Particular emphasis was given to Metrology in Chemistry.
- A Workshop organised on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010 by CyprusLab (with the support of Eurachem Cyprus Committee) on the occasion of the EUROLAB General Assembly.
- Further to these

- A number of new colleagues expressed their interest in being involved in our activities; we expect that this will help the further development of the Committee.

- Dr Mary Eleftheriadou was designated as representative of EURACHEM to coordinate the work for a revision of EA 4/10 on Accreditation of Microbiological Laboratories. This might be proved useful in the efforts being made for enlargement of the scope of activities of EURACHEM (e.g. Bioanalysis).

*K. Tsimillis*

## CZECH REPUBLIC

### PUBLISHING AND LECTURING

Education and publication – these were two main activities of Eurachem-CZ during the last year. In June 2009 we organised one-day workshop dealing with electronic version of laboratory documentation. This workshop was supported by Czech Accreditation Institute (National accreditation body) and was attended by about 100 participants.

We published new monograph, QUALIMETRICS 16. This 16<sup>th</sup> volume contains basic statistics for laboratories and is accompanied by CD-ROM with MS Excel spreadsheets that can be directly used in laboratories.

Eurachem-CZ with SEKK Company, which provides complex services in the field of EQA to clinical laboratories in the Czech Republic, prepared CD-ROM Metrological Terminology in Clinical and Analytical Laboratory. This CD-ROM was distributed to several hundred laboratories and will be available on our web page probably lately this year.

Eurachem-CZ issued three new Newsletters in last year (24 pages of text) and we use Eurachem-CZ Newsletter as a tool for disseminating 'hot topics' on issues of the quality of analytical measurements.

We continued with publishing Methodical Leaflets. The leaflets produced last year brought concise information (1-2 pages) on new terminology from VIM 3 and detailed information about terminology in sampling. These leaflets are in Czech language and are published on the web page with a possibility to download at no cost.

Since publication of Czech translation of VIM 3 as Czech National Standard in February 2009, we have tried to promote new terminology that rose from translation into Czech. With help of 4E-CZ (the association serving with philosophy similar to that of EEEE working groups in the Czech Republic) we try to achieve free accessibility of Czech translation of VIM 3 on web page.

New QA/QC course called "Quality Management in Chemical Laboratories" for laboratory staff is now under intensive preparation.

*David Milde & Pavel Janos*

## DENMARK

### TRAINING MEMBERS

A short summary on the development on Eurachem related activities in Denmark in 2009–2010. Eurachem in Denmark is nested in the Network for Analytical Chemistry within EuroLab Denmark, and as such the numbers of members mentioned below cannot be seen as direct Eurachem memberships. On the other hand this organisational structure seems natural to avoid any overlap (or competition) between two separate organisations. At the same time it secures that all members from analytical laboratories are kept informed about all issues of relevance for their current work and development – i.e. technical issues (mostly from Eurachem background) and political and management related issues (e.g. reaccreditation; mostly from EuroLab background). Memberships are normally company based (we also offer personal memberships but they are so far only very few) and every company member is allowed to sign up as many employees as they want to for the different activities in any of the networks within our organisation. The other networks are at present covering Microbiological Laboratories, Quality Management & Accreditation, and Calibration Laboratories. The total number of members in EuroLab Denmark is at present 70 (an increase of 10 since last year) whereof 40 of them have activities within analytical chemistry – covering a wide range of sectors like chemical and pharmaceutical production, environmental laboratories, food control, power plants, clinical laboratories, forensics a.o.. 102 individuals from these members have signed up for being affiliated to the Network for Analytical Chemistry (increase: 25).

The following activities in 2009–10 with relevance for analytical laboratories should be mentioned specifically:

- Meeting on "Analytical Chemistry in the Pharmaceutical Sector" with focus on Ph.Eur. methods, method development/validation and QA.
- Meeting on "The development within the Danish Accreditation system" (not only for analytical laboratories).
- Meeting on "Calibration" (not only for analytical laboratories).
- Meeting on "Market surveillance based on laboratory tests".
- In summer 2008 EuroLab Denmark carried out a survey on training needs among our

members and based on the results from that our board decided to increase the effort on offering trainings to our members. This did though turn out to be very little successful by the end as only very people signed up for the trainings eventually! (maybe because of the economical crisis)! We have therefore decided not to offer any specific trainings for a period and focusing on having good and informative meetings within our networks instead.

We are currently trying to attract new members e.g. by inviting guests from specific sectors (e.g. the food and pharmaceutical industry) to some of our meeting in an attempt to convince them of the benefits of signing up for membership

*Lorens P. Sibbesen  
Secretariat Eurolab Denmark*

## FINLAND

### MERGED AND INVOLVED IN WG

Eurachem-Finland and Eurolab-Finland have merged as FinnTesting Association in January 27<sup>th</sup> 2009. FinnTesting Association has executive board with 10 members. In year 2009 executive board assembled three times for a meeting. Association has 34 company members and 40 individual members. Information related to quality assurance as well as Eurachem and Eurolab activities has been distributed through our website and emails.

Members of FinnTesting Association have participated in working groups of Eurachem and Eurolab. In Eurachem working groups we have representatives in Education & Training WG, Measurement Uncertainty and Traceability WG, Proficiency Testing (EEE-PT) WG, Proficiency Testing WG and Qualitative Analysis WG. Eurachem Finland chairman and vice-chairperson attended also Eurachem General Assembly in 2009 in Bratislava.

FinnTesting Association organized one seminar in 2009. Seminar dealt with accreditation – pros and cons. Annual general meeting of FinnTesting Association was organized after the seminar.

*Teemu Näykki  
FinnTesting Association*

## GERMANY

### GUIDES AND LEAFLETS

EUROLAB-Deutschland as the German branch of the two European organisations Eurachem and EUROLAB aisbl has among its members 21 personal members, 39 laboratories and 7 associations which represent more than 1000 laboratories.

The developments and activities of EUROLAB-D in 2009 are compiled in an annual report (in German language). An English translation of the executive summary is attached to this report. In the past year events of major importance for the EUROLAB-D members were the passing of the German accreditation law and the establishment of DAkkS as the only German accreditation body. Now EUROLAB-D has a seat both in the Advisory Board of DAkkS and in the Accreditation Advisory Board of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. This Ministry is supervising the activities of DAkkS on behalf of the German Federal Government. In these boards EUROLAB-D will represent the interests of the accredited organisations and

will strive to contribute to a reliable and cost-effective accreditation system.

This year's annual meeting took place on 16 April in combination with a colloquium with three lectures:

- presentation of the structure and processes of the German Accreditation Body (DAkkS),
- validation and implementation of global LIM systems in industry,
- measurement uncertainty and compliance with specifications and threshold values.
- EUROLAB-D has three permanent Committees
  - on quality assurance (EDAQ),
  - on product testing and certification (EDAP),
  - on analytical chemistry (EDAC).

The latter committee acts as link to Eurachem. Some years ago a task force was established on measurement uncertainty in microbiology, which has organised three interlaboratory comparisons yet. This year it was decided to set up an additional task force, which will deal with the reliability and comparability of sensory testing.

On 6–8 September 2010 EUROLAB-D will organise together with BAM Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing a Symposium on the use of mass spectrometry for elemental analysis.

For further information please visit our website at [www.eurolab-d.org](http://www.eurolab-d.org).

### EURACHEM activities

In 2009 Eurachem continued its activities in developing guides and leaflets in the field of metrology and analytical chemistry. Among others a terminology guide and a leaflet on pre- and post-analytical proficiency testing are being developed. A German translation of the latter is being prepared.

## GREECE

### EDUCATING AND TRAINING

The Eurachem Greece represented by the Association of Greek Chemists continued during this period it's activities. Two of the Association's Scientific Departments, those of Analytical Chemistry and Food Chemical Analysis organized four (4) events. Three of the events were training courses on Accreditation of Chemical Testing Labs according to EN ISO/IEC 17025. The 4<sup>th</sup> event was a training course on LC/MS on pesticide residue analysis. The cooperation with TrainMic Hellas has been continued. A new plan for the coming year has already been discussed and decided including mainly short-term courses on specific issues on metrology in analytical chemistry.

## IRELAND

### STUDENT COMPETITION

Since 1999 Eurachem Ireland has promoted an annual competition for third level students – "The Eurachem Analytical Measurement Competition (EAMC)". The EAMC is designed to raise awareness among student analysts of uncertainty in measurement and the requirement for excellence in analytical skills.

The EAMC competition is open to teams of two full-time third-level (usually in the second year of their degree programme) studying

laboratory sciences in either Universities or Institutes of Technology anywhere in Ireland. Each participating college may submit a first team and one reserve team for the competition.

The competition involves two experiments covering a morning and an afternoon laboratory session and may entail titrimetric and spectrophotometric procedures together with a questionnaire on aspects of the methods that may influence the accuracy and/or precision of the final results. Typically a panel of three judges drawn from industry, academia or research institutes will select the winning team and two runners up teams.

The competition has proven very popular since it's initiation with the number of participating teams never falling below sixteen. This year the twelfth consecutive year for the competition some nineteen teams participated. The event was hosted by Sligo Institute of Technology on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The experiments involved the following:

- Determination of Ascorbic Acid by Back Titration
- Determination of Iron by Visible Spectrophotometry

The winning team came from Dublin Institute of Technology with the runners up representing Dublin City University and Limerick Institute of Technology.

*Raymond G. Leonard / Eurachem Ireland  
Michael Nangle / Eurachem Ireland*

## ITALY

### PROMOTING EDUCATION

The activities of EURACHEM are carried jointly by the National Institute for Research in Metrology (INRIM), the National Institute of Health (ISS) and the National Institute for Environmental Research and Protection (ISPRA).

These activities focus on:

- a) Promoting education in metrology applied to analytical sciences, in conjunction with the EC JRC IRMM Programme TrainMiC "Training in Metrology in Chemistry";

In 2009 a TrainMiC training event has been organized in Rome, 22-23 October, covering the following topics: introduction to metrology in chemistry; metrology requirements of the international standards for the competence of calibrating and testing laboratories; terminology in metrology: the new VIM; traceability of measurement results; metrological confirmation of equipment; basic statistics in analytical chemistry; single laboratory validation of analytical procedures; approaches to the estimates of uncertainty in measurement; internal quality control; proficiency testing. 40 participants attended the training course, which included lectures, practical exercises and learning evaluation. In addition to the Italian TrainMiC authorized trainers, the presentation on Internal Quality Control was given in Italian by Bertil Magnusson, from SP Sweden, Eurachem Vice Chair and one of the authors of the Nordtest Handbook on Internal Quality Control on which the TrainMiC presentation is based.

A Working Group on "Metrology & Education", coordinated by INRIM, has been established to collate information on the different activities carried out in Italy and to constitute a transversal platform on this topic. It is. The first



tasks of the group are to create an inventory of the available training material and to start cooperation with several schools of different levels for teacher training in metrology.

b) Promotion, translation and distribution of EURACHEM guides and other guidance documents;

The Eurachem/CITAC Guide "Use of uncertainty information in compliance assessment" (2007) together with ILAC G8:2009 provided the basis for a guidance document (ISPRA *L'analisi di conformità con i valori limite di legge: il ruolo dell'incertezza associata a risultati di misura. Manuali e linee guida 52/2009*.

[http://www.apat.gov.it/site/it-IT/APAT/Pubblica\\_zioni/Manuali\\_e\\_linee\\_guida](http://www.apat.gov.it/site/it-IT/APAT/Pubblica_zioni/Manuali_e_linee_guida)), prepared by ISPRA and devoted to environmental analysis.

The translation into Italian of the document "Internal Quality Control. Handbook for Chemical Laboratories", NORDTEST TR 569, has been finalized and is expected to be published in 2010, available on-line free of charge, as a National Institute of Health Report (Rapporti ISTISAN).

c) Participation in Eurachem WGs: Education&Training, Measurement Uncertainty and Traceability, Proficiency Testing, and Validation.

## THE NETHERLANDS

### TRADITIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The main activity of the Dutch Section of Eurachem is the organization of a yearly symposium. The organization is carried out by the members of the Steering Committee.

In 2009 the subject of the symposium was the use of control charts in the analytical and microbiological laboratory. It was organized on November 11 at the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). The symposium was attended by 130 participants. Six lectures were presented focusing on the new Netherlands Standard Method NEN 6603 : Environment and food – Internal quality control by the use of control charts with chemical and microbiological analyses.

- J. Klaessens: *The new draft NEN 6603, a complete standard method for chemistry and microbiology.*
- R. van der Mee : *A choice of Charts and Reference materials, important decisions.*
- H. van de Wie : *Out of control ! What to do.*
- H. Stegeman: *Control charts in microbiology: what is possible, what is not.*
- J. Klaessens: *Multi component charts: a grip on the complete process.*
- J. van 't Bosch: *Procedure and timetable for comments on draft NEN 6603.*

The final discussion was lively, some points for improvement of the new draft were brought forward. The informative and entertaining day was concluded with an informal drink.

## POLAND

### NEW CHAIR

Eurachem-PL was lead by Prof. Zbigniew Dobkowski (chair), to 6.09.2009, when he suddenly died during the Symposium Club POLLAB in Zakopane.

Actually there are 57 member laboratories in the Eurachem-PL, Section of Polish Chemical

Laboratories in Club of Polish Testing Laboratories POLLAB. Since 10.12.2009 Eurachem-PL has been lead by Andrzej Brzyski (chair), Kinga Makuła (vice-chair), and the section secretariat based in the Military Institute of Armament Technology in Zielonka, near Warsaw. Administration is: Chair Andrzej Brzyski, Wojskowy Instytut Techniczny Uzbrojenia; Vice-chair Kinga Makuła, Centralny Instytut Ochrony Pracy – PIB; Secretary Dorota Zych, Wojskowy Instytut Techniczny Uzbrojenia; Member of Board Halina Polkowska-Motrenko, Instytut Chemii i Techniki Jądrowej.

The section was established in 1992 as POLLAB-CHEM, one of sections of the Club of the Polish Testing Laboratories POLLAB (recently the full member of EUROLAB). Polish delegates have been participating in Eurachem meetings and GAs, as well as have been working with Eurachem WGs - PT, E&T, MU&T.

Important tasks of the section in general consist of promoting ideas concerning the quality of chemical measurements and materials characteristics as well as distributing any information that member laboratories are interested in. Therefore, several Eurachem guides and other similar documents have been translated into Polish by the section members. The last translations are listed below:

1) Internal Quality Control. Handbook for Chemical Laboratories, NORDTEST TR 569, ed. 2006 [Podręcznik wewnętrznej kontroli jakości. Biuletyn Informacyjny nr 1/46/2006], distributed in 2007.

2) Measurement Uncertainty Revisited. Alternative Approaches to Uncertainty Evaluation, EUROLAB Technical Report TR 1/2007 [Niepewność pomiaru raz jeszcze: Różne podejścia do szacowania niepewności. Biuletyn Informacyjny nr 1/48/2007].

Members of the section are involved in organization of, and participate in, the symposia organized every year by POLLAB. The subject for 2009 XV POLLAB Symposium was „Technical requirements” that draw attention of about 500 participants (in 3 replicas, usually there are 2 replicas).

There are also special section meetings, at least one per year, with lectures on selected subjects. In 2009 there were two meetings, where participants discussed on „Flexible scope of accreditation”, especially after EuroLab Workshop in Prague – November 2009.

Recent action of the POLLAB-CHEM / Eurachem-PL section, i.e. inducing, promoting, and leading the organization of ILC/PT programs, according to the agreement between POLLAB and the Polish Center for Accreditation (PCA, the Polish AB) signed in 2003, is the most important one. In 2009 there were 8 such programs started and completed, in which totally about 50 laboratories participated.

In 2010 Eurachem-PL intend to continue present policy to support laboratories. Their members will attend in Symposium POLLAB, section meetings and new ILC/PT programs.

Andrzej Brzyski  
POLLAB-CHEM / EURACHEM-PL  
Military Institute of Armament Technology

## ROMANIA

### PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP

The Eurachem Romania Association has 88 active members from different institutions, which are active within four working groups:

- teaching staff from universities (University of Bucharest, Politehnica University of Bucharest, Transylvania University of Brasov, Ovidius University of Constanta, University of Iasi, Technical University of Iasi etc.),
  - researchers from research institutes (INCDSB, ICECHIM, INMR etc.),
  - specialists from national and/or local agencies for environmental monitoring, for public health, etc.,
  - practitioners from specialized and accredited laboratories.
- The main activities of Eurachem Romania Association developed in 2009 were:
- events: the Annual Forum, the General Assembly, workshop,
  - publications:
    - Eurachem Informative Bulletin no.13 November 2009, ISSN 1582-9057 (15 pages).
    - Translation of the Eurachem-CITAC 2007 Guide – "Uncertainty of measurement due to sampling. Guide to Methods and Approaches."
  - Development of the web site.<http://www.eurachem.ro> in order to assure a constant and dynamic information of our collaborators.

Some details regarding the activities organized during the last year are given below:

The workshop "Quality assurance in analytical measurements" organized by our professional association supported by Ovidius University of Constanta took place between 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2009, in Mamaia. The topics of the presentations given by various specialists included: estimation of the measuring uncertainty ("*Estimation of uncertainty for determination of phenolic compounds from the waste waters*" presented by dr. Camelia Lucia Draghici and co-workers), using the computers in the testing labs ("*Use of computers and computer applications in testing laboratories*" presented by dr. Daniela Eugenia Cucu), methods validation and its importance ("*Importance of the validation of the spectrometric methods for the quality assurance in the physico-chemical and judicial expertise*" presented by Georgeta Maria Stoian). Also, within this Forum it was organized the General Assembly of Eurachem Romania Association. On this occasion it was done not only a balance of activities and actions so far, but also planning the year 2010 together with increased common efforts to attract material resources. The forum was a success considering, for example, that the number of participants has been particularly high or the participation to the works of the Specialized Technical Committee. This activity has received direct support from RENAR, the Romanian Accreditation Association. In addition, to the event attended as special guest, Dr. Kyriakos Tsimillis – Chair of the Eurachem organization, who presented the plenary lecture entitled "*Quality considerations in today's society. The role of Eurachem*".

President,  
Prof. dr. eng. Gabriel-Lucian Radu

# RUSSIA

## FROM CONCEPT OF ERROR TO CONCEPT OF UNCERTAINTY

The Eurachem Russia represented by Science Council of Analytical Chemistry continued during the period under review its activities. Activities included:

- Congress of Analytical Chemistry consisted of the workshop "Golden Club", Annual Council session and Association of Analytical Laboratories members meeting;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> All-Russian Conference with international participation "Analytica". Conference was dedicated to the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dmitriy Mendeleev;
- International Exhibitions "LaboratoryExpo" and "Analytica-Expo" and seminars in metrology and quality assurance in analytical laboratories within the framework of exhibitions.

Even another two Russian metrological organizations conduct activity connected with area of Eurachem focus. Ural metrological institute (UNIIM) develops methodological basics of PT in different directions of activity, verifies technical competence of Russian PT coordinators, develops and certifies special CRM for interlaboratory comparisons, organizes and conducts the PT programs to verify the qualification of laboratories. This institute in the passed period developed standards, harmonized with the recommendations of the ILAC devoted to inter-laboratory comparisons ILAC G22:2004 and ILAC G13:08/2007. As for now UNIIM expresses readiness to translate ISO/IEC 17043 to Russian for its acceptance as a national standard.

All-Russia D.I. Mendeleev Scientific and Research Institute for Metrology (VNIIM) has an experience with translation of Eurachem documents. With the participation of VNIIM Russian specialists in MiC actively use "Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement", "Traceability in Chemical Measurement". For this year VNIIM plans to translate "Use of uncertainty information in compliance assessment" and "Measurement uncertainty arising from sampling". In Russia this period is "go-ahead times" from concept of error to concept of uncertainty. That is why the VNIIM's activity plays a special role on a national level.

In general, Russian analysts conduct much and varied work on the development of new methods of analysis, their metrological assurance, standardization and use of international standards and recommendations in the field of analytical control. This information is published in two main analytical journals: "Journal of analytical chemistry" and "Plant laboratory. Diagnostics of materials", as well as the summary records of the Scientific Council on Analytical Chemistry.

# SPAIN

## PROTECTING AND REGISTERING EURACHEM DOMAINS

Relation of domains with Eurachem name that have been registered by EUROLAB-Spain in order to preserve Eurachem identity against third parties.

- eurachem.tel
- eurachem.org.es
- eurachem.nom.es
- eurachem.tv

- eurachem.mobi
- eurachem.com.es
- eurachem.cc
- eurachem.biz
- eurachem.es
- eurachem.net
- eurachem.tel

At the moment, the mentioned domains are only registered. Throughout this year we will direct them to the official page eurachem.info (Eurachem official page).

Related to the costs, during 2010 and 2011 will be assumed by EUROLAB-Spain.

**Proposal:** Finally, in order to protect our identity against third parties, we recommend that all the National members proceed to protect his local domains: eurachem."country".

## PROTECTION OF THE EURACHEM BRAND

During this year we are planning to protect the brand Eurachem and EURACHEM-Spain, in the Spanish Office of Patents and Brands for the classes 41 and 42 of Nice.

**Proposal:** The General Assembly should think about the protection of the "EURACHEM" brand at European level, and the Eurachem national members should think about the protection of their local domains: "EURACHEM-Country".

## TRANSLATING DOCUMENTS TO SPANISH

During this year 2010 is planned that EUROLAB-Spain starts the translation to Spanish language of some of the Eurachem Guides and Documents, respecting the integrity and reference to the authors of the same ones.

**Proposal:** We would need authorization of EURACHEM's Assembly in order to be allowed by the current publishers of the Guides / documents of EURACHEM to do the translations to Spanish language. We need the ISBN to do them.

## MORE INFORMATION ON EUROLAB-SPAIN/ EURACHEM-SPAIN

In 2009 a Network of Laboratories and Entities of Environmental Inspection have been created by FELAB; FELAB is the federation to which belongs EUROLAB-Spain (EURACHEM-Spain). Before, in the year 2006 a network of Laboratories of Acoustics had already been created.

At the beginning of this year 2010, the Mirror-TCQA EUROLAB-Spain has been created, too.

### Events

On November 25, 2009 was organized the VI<sup>th</sup> FELAB-AELI-EUROLAB-Spain's SIMPOSIUM, with the title "Looking at the future – in the community of the laboratories and of the conformity evaluation"

### Formation

In the year 2009 the following formative activities were given:

Total number of activities of formation: 22  
Number of participants: 315  
Number of participants associated: 140  
Number of associate organizations: 37

We want to emphasize number 15, which was: New trends in the use of the Uncertainty. Evaluation of the compliance with specifications. Sampling and Uncertainty. Guides EURACHEM-CITAC 2007.

### Courses

Controlling software and hardware in agreement with ISO/IEC 17025 (Guide EUROLAB). 2009-02-16.

Practical tools of EXCEL for accomplishing calculations in laboratory. 2009-02-17.

Laboratory internal auditors conforming to ISO/IEC 17025. 2009-02-18 and 19.

Test uncertainties estimation after requirements of ISO/IEC 17025. 2009-04-27.

Test uncertainties: Guide G-ENAC-09 and Guides EUROLAB (TCQE 1/2006 and 1/2007). 2009-04-28. Microbiology: Estimation of test uncertainties after ISO/IEC 17025. 2009-04-29.

Quality control applied to the laboratory: Chemometrics Practice after ISO/IEC 17025 - Modulate I. 2009-05-25 and 26.

Quality control applied to the Laboratory: Chemometrics Practice in conformity with the norm ISO/IEC 17025 - Modulate II. 2009-05-27

Characterization of Materials of Reference Not normalized. General beginning and Statistics Applicable 2009-05-28.

Practical cases: Interpretation of the norm ISO/IEC 17025. 2009-06-16.

Guide G-ENAC-14 Rev. 1 on the participation in exercises of Intercomparison. 2009-06-17.

Laboratories accreditation of test and entities of inspection in the environmental area. 2009-06-18.

Calibration of equipment of direct measure. 2009-06-29.

Validation of Tests. 2009-06-30.

New trends in the use of the uncertainty. evaluation of the fulfillment of specification. sampling and uncertainty. Guides EURACHEM-CITAC 2007. 2009-07-01.

Quality auditors in the execution of works in conformity with the ISO procedure 9001 and ISO/IEC 17025. 2009-07-21 and 22.

Technical and management requirements for entities of inspection according to the standard ISO/IEC 17020.

Acoustics: Estimation of uncertainties of test in conformity with ISO/IEC 17025. 2009-10-27 (Promoted by ACUSTILAB).

Technical and management requirements for laboratories of test and calibration according to the standard ISO/IEC 17025. 2009-10-28

Physicist-mechanics: Estimation of uncertainties of test in conformity with ISO/IEC 17025. 2009-10-29

(In situ - Department of Employment). Implantation of the standard ISO/IEC 17025 and technical competition for organisms of Control PE-ENAC-OC/01 Rev. 04. 2009-04-15 and 16.

(In situ - Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade.) Characterization of Materials of Reference Not normalized. General beginning and Applicable Statistics. 2009-06-09

## PARTNERS OF EUROLAB-SPAIN (EURACHEM-SPAIN)

On 31-12-2009 the number of organizations associated to EUROLAB-Spain (EURACHEM-Spain) was 69.

## SWEDEN

### DISCUSSIONS ON HOT TOPICS

Members in this Swedish organization are about 30 companies and analytical chemists that are members of the Swedish Chemical Society.

On the two members meetings the following issues were discussed:

In the autumn meeting we discussed nonconformities from Swedac e.g. length of calibration interval, demand on internal revisions, how to report uncertainty. In the spring meeting we discussed how will accreditation develop and demands on uncertainty estimation and validation, flexible scope, international harmonization of accreditation including technical assessors. Regarding validation we discussed the extent of validation dependent if the lab uses a standard method or not, which methods can be regarded as standard methods and which

guidelines can be recommended. Regarding flexible scope we discussed the very positive experience we have had with implementing flexible scope but also important limitations dependent on the scope and the competence of the laboratory. Flexible scope can only be implemented for a laboratory that already has an accreditation.

From 2010 EuroLab/Eurachem Sweden will be represented in one of the advisory boards of the Swedish accreditation body, Swedac. We also managed to include the important sector, laboratory medicine among our members and our organization is now representing a large part of Swedish laboratories.

## UKRAINE

### CONFERENCING

1. Conference "Problems of analytical chemistry with respect to quality and safety of food products, food raw materials and potable water", September 14-17, 2009, Odessa, Ukraine.

2. Participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> Black Sea Basin Conference on Analytical Chemistry, September 23 – 26, 2009, Turkey.

## UNITED KINGDOM

### EURACHEM UK-LGC TANDEM: EDUCATION, METHODOLOGY

Eurachem UK together with LGC organised a 1-day seminar in January 2010 entitled Method Validation. Vicki Barwick, a Knowledge Transfer Consultant at LGC, with some of her colleagues organised this well-attended meeting. Some of the principles of method validation were explained followed by 3 case studies from various sectors describing the practical application of validation methods. There was also ample opportunity for networking. The attached programme gives more detail of the event.

Other UK members involved in chemical metrology activities have contributed to Eurachem in areas relating to Education and Training, Uncertainty in Sampling and Proficiency Testing methods.

The Royal Society of Chemistry continues to give its support to Eurachem by paying the annual fee and sponsoring representation at the annual GA meeting.

# Actions arising

## INVITATION TO GA 27, MOSCOW

National University of Science and Technology NITU "MISIS", Scientific Council on Analytical Chemistry at the Russian Academy of Science, Association of Analytical Centers "Analitica" invites to the 27<sup>th</sup> Eurachem General Assembly (GA), Moscow, Russia, in second half of May 2011.

The organizing NITU "MISIS" Institute is possessing meeting rooms, technical recourses and own domestic hotel – all the things needed for conference and workshops.

First Announcement (GA and Workshop) will be distributed to national Eurachem representatives at the end of January.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY

The revised EURACHEM guide  
Lisbon June 2011  
(Proposed date 6-7 June)

### Proposed Topics

A revision of the principles of uncertainty

The revised guide: use of data from validation studies, quality assurance, proficiency testing etc.

The revised guide: Monte Carlo technique  
With break out session

The revised guide: uncertainty for results near zero  
With break out session

Use of uncertainty assessment of compliance  
Uncertainty and traceability, which comes first?  
JCGM and the revision of GUM

### Time Table

We plan to draft a budget and an outline programme to agree at our WG meeting at LGC on 7 December. The first announcement and call for papers will be distributed by e-mail at the beginning before the end of 2010. We will also consider whether a mail shot should also be used.

Registration forms containing details of the programme will be sent out at the end of February.

Alex Williams

## 7<sup>TH</sup> WORKSHOP ON PROFICIENCY TESTING

IN ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY,  
MICROBIOLOGY AND  
LABORATORY MEDICINE

Istanbul (Turkey), [3]-4-6 October 2011



The EURACHEM Proficiency Testing Working Group ([www.eurachem.org](http://www.eurachem.org)), in co-operation with CITAC ([www.citac.cc](http://www.citac.cc)) and EQALM ([www.eqalm.org](http://www.eqalm.org)), is organising the 7<sup>th</sup> event of a series of Workshops addressing current practice and future directions of proficiency testing (PT) and external quality assessment (EQA) in analytical chemistry, microbiology and laboratory medicine.

### Venue

The Workshop will be held in Istanbul, an historic city where east meets west. The month of October is a pleasant time of the year to enjoy scenery and historic sites, some of which dates back 8000 years. There are good airline connections from most major international cities to Atatürk Airport, at the European side of the city. There is also a second international airport, Sabiha Gökçen Airport which is in the Anatolian side of Istanbul. The Workshop will be held in Polat Renaissance Hotel, close to Atatürk Airport ([www.polatrenaissance.com](http://www.polatrenaissance.com)).

### Technical Programme

The Workshop will be structured to include training sessions, key-note lectures, short presentations, working group discussions and poster sessions, to enable interactive participation and cross-fertilisation of ideas. The official language of the Workshop will be in English. Invited lectures and accepted presentations/posters will be considered, through peer-review, for publication as full papers in a special issue of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (Springer Verlag).

### Training Sessions

Training sessions, which are open to Workshop participants, will be on "Establishing traceability and uncertainty of assigned values and assisting participants to assess/estimate

their measurement uncertainty using PT results”

#### Lectures and Working Group Topics

- Implementing the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 by PT/EQA Providers
- Accrediting PT/EQA Providers to ISO/IEC 17043
- Establishing acceptability criteria in microbiology PT/EQA schemes
- Evaluating participant performance in qualitative PT/EQA schemes
- Establishing PT/EQA schemes in developing countries

- Pre and post analytical aspects in EQA

#### Who should attend?

The Workshop will provide an excellent opportunity for PT/EQA scheme organisers, and end-users of PT/EQA (laboratories, accreditation bodies, regulators and the laboratories' customers) to come together and share their views

#### Registration

Submission of abstracts, registration and hotel reservations is now open via the Workshop website

#### Workshop Secretariat

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