



16th Conference

Agenda Item 6

Report by the CIML President
for the period 2017 - 2021

(see Addendum 6)



1 - Introduction (1/2)

- Considerable changes in the OIML and the Bureau in many respects.
- A special challenge: many meetings had to be cancelled, held as online meetings, or postponed as in the case of the 16th Conference itself.
- But thanks to the high level of motivation, flexibility and creativity of all those responsible, I believe we have mastered this challenging situation very well.
- The OIML has remained fully operational since the pandemic began in early 2020, proving that we can competently deal with major challenges and respond to crises in a decisive and appropriate manner.



1 - Introduction (2/2)

- In these challenging times it is important that we use video-conferencing and other online facilities.
- Enquiry amongst CIML Members in 2020: clear majority of CIML Members support online meetings / voting; first purely online CIML meeting last year.
- Online voting tools developed by the BIML and hosted within the restricted access area of the OIML website were successfully tested shortly after the 55th CIML Meeting and have proven to be both user-friendly and secure.
- Application of these tools during the 56th CIML Meeting and the 16th Conference, subject to final confirmation that in-person and online participation in OIML meetings is considered equivalent under the OIML Convention.



2 – Changes CIML office holders

- I was elected as CIML President in October 2017 for a six-year term as the successor to Mr Peter Mason.
- Dr Charles Ehrlich was appointed CIML First Vice-President in October 2018 for a six-year term.
- Dr Bob Joseph Mathew was appointed CIML Second Vice-President in October 2019 for a six-year term, succeeding Dr Yukinobu Miki, who retired in 2020.
- Mr Anthony Donnellan was appointed BIML Director, effective from January 2019 for a five-year term, as the successor to Mr Stephen Patoray.
- Mr Paul Dixon was appointed as BIML Assistant Director, effective from January 2018 for a five-year term, following the passing of Mr Willem Kool.



3 - Membership

- We now have 62 Member States.
- I am very pleased to welcome Ukraine as a new Member State (a long-standing OIML Corresponding Member).
- We currently have 63 Corresponding Members.
- I am pleased to welcome Guyana as a new Corresponding Member since January 2021, and Gabon as a reintegrated Corresponding Member since February 2021.
- There is still potential for further extension of our global reach, especially in the African, Caribbean and Central and South American regions.



4 - Internal financial audit

- Unexpected financial issues discovered at the beginning of the year 2019: instead of an expected surplus, our Organisation found itself with a significant financial deficit; immediate, substantial austerity measures had to be taken.
- The situation was quickly brought under control by the new BIML Director, yet the financial consequences are still noticeable in the next budget period.
- Action: establishment of an annual internal financial audit performed by two experienced CIML Members, nominated by the President, with the objective of further improving the internal quality/control mechanisms regarding the correct application of OIML B 7 *BIML Staff Regulations* and OIML B 8 *OIML Financial Regulations*, in addition to the existing external audit by an independent chartered accountant.



5 – Task Group 2023 (TG2023)

- In 2019 a “Task Group 2023” was formed to look at strategic questions for our Organisation, based on our Convention (OIML B 1) and our Strategy, as laid down in OIML B 15:2011, and to come up with proposals on how to adapt the OIML to best address the key challenges of the 21st century.
- TG2023 included the CIML President, the two CIML Vice-Presidents, the BIML Director, the two BIML Assistant Directors, and two PC members.
- TG2023 came up with substantial proposals related not only to the four defined “pillars” of the OIML’s work, but also to more general aspects such as the communication with our stakeholders.
- A detailed summary of the proposals of TG2023 can be found in my general report to the 54th CIML Meeting (2019) in Bratislava.



6 – Technical Work (1/2)

Fortunately, it has been possible to prepare or revise many key publications over the last five years, for example:

- R 117:2019 *Dynamic measuring systems for liquids other than water*
- R 139:2018 *Compressed gaseous fuel measuring systems for vehicles*
- D 1:2020 *National metrology systems – Developing the institutional and legislative framework*
- D 31:2019 *General requirements for software-controlled measuring instruments - Consolidated edition with Amendment 1 (2020)*
- B 18:2018 *Framework for the OIML Certification System (OIML-CS)*
- B 19:2017 *Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group on matters concerning Countries and Economies with Emerging Metrology Systems (CEEMS)*



6 – Technical Work (2/2)

- TG2023 considered a major concern that has been expressed for many years, namely that it sometimes takes a very long time for projects to be completed.
- Recommendation: to focus on high priority projects and publications to be identified by the Presidential Council and the OIML-CS Management Committee.
- These bodies established such a list in 2019 and they keep it updated prior to approval by the CIML annually.
- High priority projects are given priority support by the BIML, including training of the respective Project Group conveners regarding the correct application of OIML B 6 *Directives for OIML Technical Work*, as well as the basic elements and examples of good project management.



7 - OIML Certification System (1/2)



- The OIML-CS was launched on 1 January 2018 and replaced the previous Basic Certificate System and Mutual Acceptance Arrangement.
- The previous OIML Basic Publications B 3 and B 10 were replaced by B 18:2018 *Framework for the OIML Certification System (OIML-CS)*.
- Responsibility for running the OIML-CS is in the hands of a Management Committee (MC), supported by an Executive Secretary within the Bureau; from the beginning: Mr Paul Dixon, BIML Assistant Director.
- The OIML-CS MC meets annually; 6th MC meeting (online): March 2021.
- MC Chairperson: Mr Mannie Panesar (UK), since January 2021.
- MC Deputy Chairperson: Mr Bill Loizides (AU), since January 2018.



7 - OIML Certification System (2/2)



- As at 1 January 2021 there are 39 categories of measuring instruments in the OIML-CS.
- 12 OIML Issuing Authorities
- 33 Utilizers and Associates
- Almost 900 OIML-CS certificates issued since 1 January 2018.
- All in all: good start to the OIML-CS.
- However: it requires continuous promotion to manufacturers and potential new Utilizers and Associates.
- Useful promotional materials are made available to interested members and stakeholders on the OIML website (under OIML-CS).



8 - CEEMS activities (1/2)

- 2017 was the first year during which the CEEMS AG operated under its new Terms of Reference defined in OIML Basic Publication B 19:2017.
- At the beginning, the focus was on the development of the new CEEMS web pages on the OIML website, which are now well established and contain a large amount of useful information for the CEEMS community, e.g. a database of 22 experts who are available for consultation work.
- The focus then changed to the preparation of a strategy for “OIML Training Centers” and “OIML Training Events”, published 2019 as B 21, and the revision of OIML D 1 *National metrology systems – Developing the institutional and legislative framework*, published last year.
- Since 2020, the work of the CEEMS AG has been severely affected by the travel restrictions and significant changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



8 - CEEMS activities (2/2)

Current priority areas of activity for the CEEMS AG include for example:

1. Extension of the suite of e-Learning modules to support a variety of training needs; some work on developing an OIML policy on e-Learning was begun, and new hardware acquired. However, also here, the pandemic has led to some delay of the work to develop an appropriate software platform, preferably in close cooperation with the BIPM;
2. Revision of OIML International Documents
 - D 14:2004 *Training and qualification of legal metrology personnel*, and
 - D 19:1988 *Pattern evaluation and pattern approval*.
3. Based on CIML Resolution 2020/26, the CEEMS AG has started to draw up a new document on *Capacity building and other CEEMS activities in a post-COVID-19 world*.



9 – International Cooperation (1/4)

1. With BIPM:

- Traditionally, the OIML enjoys good relationships with the BIPM, e.g. in the preparation of World Metrology Day each year, where the two international metrology organisations have complementary tasks which cover the entire field of industrial, scientific and legal metrology.
- 2018: the BIPM successfully launched the revised International System of Units, the SI; the “new SI” came into force on 20 May 2019 (WMD 2019).
- 2020: based on Decision CIPM/109-15 and CIML Resolution 2020/6, a new OIML/BIPM Joint Task Group (JTG) was established with the objective of exploring opportunities for an even closer cooperation towards the development of a common vision and a common concept to promote metrology as an important element of the quality infrastructure of a country.



9 – International Cooperation (2/4)

1. With BIPM (cont.):

- 2020/2021: Several JTG meetings; development of an action plan, covering the categories “Regular meetings”, “Mutual representation”, “One single voice for metrology”, “OIML-BIPM bilateral MoU” and “Share resources and experiences”, with prioritization of actions.
- Three proposals of the JTG were considered at the 56th CIML Meeting:
 - (i) Joint Statement of Intent on the digital transformation in the international scientific and quality infrastructure; to be signed by the OIML, the BIPM,...
 - (ii) bilateral MoU between the OIML and the BIPM,
 - (iii) joint BIPM-OIML event on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Metre Convention and the 70th anniversary of the OIML in the year 2025.
- The Conference is asked to confirm its support for the latter proposal (iii).



9 – International Cooperation (3/4)

2. With ISO, IEC, ILAC, IAF:

Three renewed bilateral and multilateral joint statements and declarations with our major QI partners were signed in 2018:

- 1) Joint BIPM-OIML-ILAC-ISO Declaration on Metrological Traceability;
- 2) ILAC-IAF-OIML Memorandum of Understanding concerning the cooperation in accreditation, certification and legal metrology;
- 3) IEC-OIML Memorandum of Understanding concerning liaisons and collaboration in matters of relevant technical cooperation, conformity assessment, standards development and practices.



9 – International Cooperation (4/4)

3. RLMO Round Table (RLMO RT):

- Finding the right balance between the activities which need to be addressed at the global level and those which are better tackled through regional cooperation is a challenge which is faced by all the metrology, standardisation and accreditation bodies.
- Thanks to the CIML First Vice-President, Dr Charles Ehrlich, for taking over the chair of the RLMO RT from Dr Yukinobu Miki, former CIML Member for Japan and CIML Past Vice-President, in the year 2020.
- Several interim and regular online meetings in 2020/2021, to obtain valuable input and feedback, including strategic questions.
- More detailed information on a new sub-section of the OIML website:
<https://www.oiml.org/en/structure/rlmo-round-table>



10 - Digital transformation in legal metrology (1/2)

- I am convinced that our Organisation is well-advised to take up this key topic in close cooperation with other QI stakeholders in order to take part in the worldwide digital transformation process that has just started.
- Digital transformation can be defined as the process of using digital technologies to create new or modify existing processes and services to customers to meet changing business and market requirements.
- Digital technologies and concepts will certainly significantly affect traditional legal metrology concepts, but at the same time offer enormous opportunities.
- For instance, digital technologies can help to better coordinate legal metrology processes and improve their efficiency, to reduce product development costs, and to minimise the time to market of innovative products and services.



10 - Digital transformation in legal metrology (2/2)

- I am very pleased that the OIML is part of this digital transformation process.
- A joint PTB/OIML Webinar “Digital transformation in Legal Metrology” was held on 5 May 2021, which brought together more than 200 participants and various stakeholders from all over the world.
- The OIML also participated in the online CIPM Workshop “The International System (SI) in FAIR digital data” in February 2021 and contributed with two presentations.
- In order to take up the momentum from the OIML Webinar and the CIPM Workshop, and to be able to cooperate with other partners in the digital transformation process, the CIML supports the proposal to establish an OIML Digitalisation Task Group.



11 - Conclusion

- Overall, I consider that our Organisation is well prepared for the future and well recognised within and outside the legal metrology community.
- Our Organisation has proved that it can competently deal with major challenges and respond to crises in a decisive and appropriate manner.
- Many thanks to all those who helped master this challenging situation so well that the OIML has remained fully operational since the pandemic began in 2020.
- However, any success and progress heavily depends on the resources provided by the authorities in our Member States!
- If the existing level of resources, motivation, flexibility and adaptability to future needs can be maintained, and if the Conference can agree to the proposed realistic, sustainable and future-oriented budget, I see very good reasons for looking forward to the next years with much confidence.



Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale

International Organization of Legal Metrology



Close