

Letter from Europe

by Prof. Horst Czichos



European Union (EU): political and economic union of 27 member states (with 23 official languages for national regulations), It was established by the Treaty of Maastricht in 1993 upon the foundations of the pre-existing European Economic Community. With almost 500 million citizens, the EU combined generates an estimated 30% share of the world's nominal gross domestic product (WIKIPEDIA 2008). Legislation in Europe was revolutionised by the "New Approach":

- **Four basic freedoms** for movement of **goods, persons, services, capital**.
- Flexible regulatory framework providing access to the common market while protecting public requirements, e.g. safety, health, environment.
- "Essential requirements" defined in EU-Directives: from machinery to toys.
- Harmonised EN Standards define the technical details:
 - ENs must be transposed into national standards and conflicting standard withdrawn (Cassis Agreement).
- CE marking: the manufacturer declares that the product is safe and in conformity with the relevant EU Directives.



The scope of this new contribution to the **metrologist** is to report on developments and news in the fields of measurement and testing science and technology in the form of a *letter from Europe*. In this letter an overview on the development and activities of EUROLAB is given.

EUROLAB evolved in connection with the evolution of the European Union (EU) whose basic features are outlined in the box below.

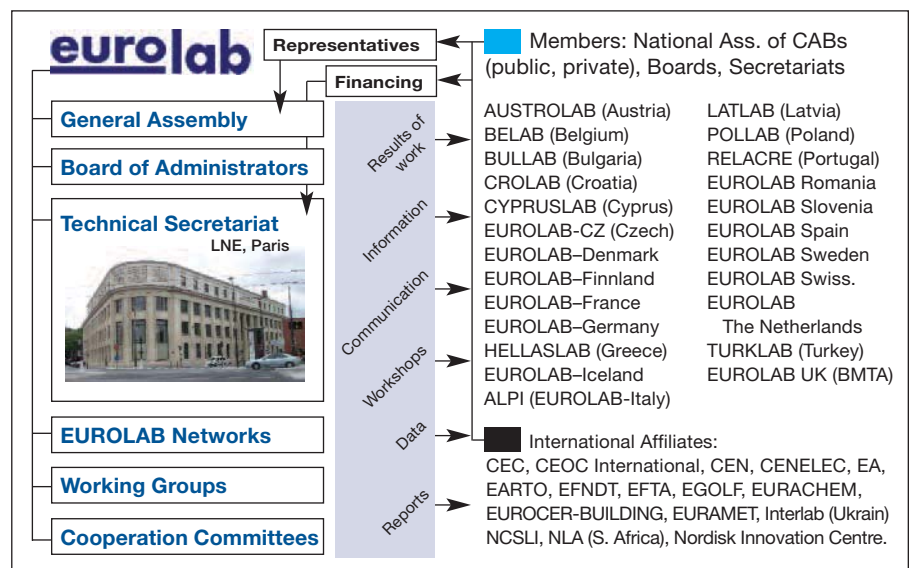
EUROLAB was initially formed on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between National Associations of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) of the EU Member Countries; the MoU was signed in Brussels on 27 April 1990. EUROLAB, since 1998 – known as *European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories* – a legal entity in the form of an international association under Belgian law (aisbl: association internationale scientifique sans but lucratif). It represents now a network of more than 3000 public and private laboratories and conformity assessment bodies with the following objectives:

- **Representation** by formulating and voicing the opinion of European laboratories regarding political and

technical issues having direct impact on their activity, both on the European scene and worldwide.

- **Coordination** by interacting with all European organisations having activities of interest to the laboratory community, and striving to avoid duplication of efforts.
- **Action** by providing adequate means for exchange of information and experience, such as the publication of Position Papers, Technical Reports, Seminars, etc.
- **Promotion** of cost-effective testing, calibration, measurement services, for which accuracy and quality assurance requirements should be adjusted to actual needs.

EUROLAB is organized as follows: the General Assembly is the central body. It consists of two representatives from every National Member Association (one from the public and one from the private sector) and one representative from every International Affiliate. The General Assembly elects the Board of Administrators (BoA) and confirms the Technical Secretariat nominated by the BoA. Since 2006 EUROLAB's Technical Secretariat is located at LNE, the French National Institute for Metrology and Testing in Paris (Laboratoire National de Metrolo-



gie et d'Essais). The EUROLAB activities are performed by Working Groups, Cooperation Committees, and Sectorial Networks. The results of the work – information, communication, workshops, data, reports – are made available to all EUROLAB parties by the Secretariat at LNE and the Member Secretariats; documents of general importance are available via the internet: www.eurolab.org.

EUROLAB is not running an annual general conference but is performing every year several workshops and symposia in various technical fields – hosted by National Member Associations of EUROLAB – enhancing multisectorial interdisciplinary cooperation. A recent example is illustrated in the adjoining box. ■

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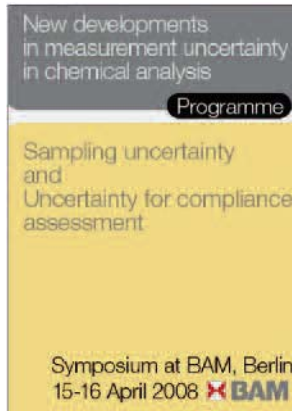
**EURACHEM / CITAC / EUROLAB
 Joint Symposium
 on new developments in
 measurement uncertainty
 in chemical analysis**

The Symposium, with participants from 27 countries, focused on two major topics:

- Measurement uncertainty arising from sampling
- Use of uncertainty information in compliance assessment.

Both topics are also subject of two EURACHEM / CITAC Guides which are available from the EURACHEM website: www.eurachem.org

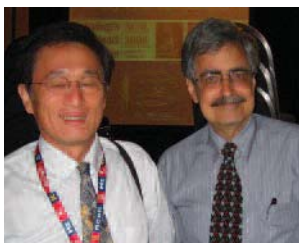
The lectures of this symposium are published on the website of EUROLAB-Germany: www.eurolab-d.bam.de



Japan Region 5200
Kazumi Hayakawa,
International Region Coordinator
Held At: NCSLI Conference, Orlando, FL
August 3-4, 2008

A dozen people from Japan Region 5200 attended the Symposium held in Orlando.

It was a 24 hour journey for me from the time I left home to the time I arrived at the Dolphin Hotel. ■



Dr. Tanaka of NMIJ with Dr. Richard Davis, the keynote speaker of the conference.



Members from NMIJ and IA Japan From left to right: Dr. Tanaka, Dr. Fujima, Dr. Okaji, Dr. Uematsu, Dr. Oraguchi.

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Puzzle Solution

Solution: The minimum number of marks is 7. They can be placed on the ruler in two different formats: 0, 1, 2, 3, 7, 12, and 15 or 0, 1, 2, 3, 8, 12, and 15. See the **Golden Ruler** to the right.

The table shows one way that all the units, from 1 to 15, are measured.

Unit	Measure From / To
1	0 / 1
2	0 / 2
3	0 / 3
4	3 / 7
5	2 / 7
6	1 / 7
7	0 / 7
8	7 / 15
9	3 / 12
10	2 / 12
11	1 / 12
12	0 / 12
13	2 / 15
14	1 / 15
15	0 / 15



Golden Ruler