

Highlights: EUROLAB National Members' Meeting 2016, TCQA meeting & EUROLAB-CH International Seminar



The EUROLAB National Members' Meeting, TCQA meeting and EUROLAB-CH International Seminar took place in Lucerne, Switzerland, from 27th to 29th September, kindly hosted by EUROLAB-CH in conjunction with the Swiss Association for Standardization.

The events started with the EUROLAB TCQA meeting, on 27th September where, among others, the following topics were discussed:

- TCQA documents, such as: Continuous improvement within QM systems; Internal audits; Risk-Based approach; Traceability of measurement in medical laboratories; Decision Rules; new cookbooks on how to Plan Quality Assurance activities and how to handle electronic information; new cookbook on the new ISO / IEC 17025 standard and the need to update the existing EUROLAB cookbooks in order to align them with it;
- TCQA projects: Harmonisation of Assessors; Selection and Use of Reference Materials; Use and Promotion of the EUROLAB cookbooks;
- TCQA Working Groups (WGs) and Experts Advisory Groups (EAGs);
- TCQA and standardization with the main focus on ISO / IEC 17011 and ISO / IEC 17025.

The TCQA meeting was followed the next morning by the EUROLAB-CH International Seminar entitled 'Revision of ISO/IEC 17025 and its new aspects of leading a testing laboratory'. During the Seminar experts from Europe and Switzerland provided the participants with first-hand information on various topics. The Seminar was opened by the host, Urs von Känel, President of EUROLAB-CH who welcomed the participants and



gave an introductory presentation about EUROLAB-CH. Urs Fischer, Vice-President of SNV, presented the Swiss Association for Standardization (SNV) including its structure, organisation, main areas of focus and activities. Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, the EUROLAB President, introduced EUROLAB aisbl, with an overview of the EUROLAB creation and objectives, role and added-value, today's challenges and the TIC sector. Irache Visiers, the Chairwoman of the EUROLAB Technical Committee for Quality Assurance (TCQA), provided the participants with information about the TCQA tasks, structure and projects, documents produced and cooperation with other organisations. Drewin Nieuwenhuis, the Secretary General of CEOC International and EUROLAB, informed the participants about the current developments of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and its impact on accreditation and laboratories. Other presentations were:

- Accreditation in Switzerland and the challenges for the Swiss Accreditation Service (SAS) and the laboratories by Rolf Straub, Deputy Head of Swiss Accreditation Body;
- Revision of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 – Direct voice from the standardization group by Gabriele Dudek, Head of Section S.2. Accreditation and Conformity Assessment, BAM and Christian Müller-Schöll, Mettler Toledo GmbH;
- Is ISO 9001 good enough for covering the general management system of a Test- or Calibration Laboratory? by Paul Greenwood, UKAS Divisional Director (Operations).



The Seminar continued with a panel discussion on the 'Implementation of the new aspects of ISO / IEC 17025 – What can we do today to be prepared for tomorrow?'. The Seminar ended with closing and thanking remarks addressed by Urs von Känel.

The Board Meeting and National Members' Meeting took place on 29th September. During the National Members' Meeting the EUROLAB members discussed, among others, the developments and topics of the newly-created EUROLAB EAGs, the participation of EUROLAB in the ECVET-LAB Project: Erasmus+ KA2, the publication of the EUROLAB Policy Paper and the activity of the technical committees and working groups. The members also proposed topics for discussions, including the format of future National Members' Meetings, EUROLAB strategy, cooperation & communication with other stakeholders.



The upcoming major EUROLAB events were presented:

- The 7th International Safety Conference titled "How to ensure product safety in a global market?", 8th November 2016, Brussels, presented by Drewin Nieuwenhuis
- The General Assembly 2017, 3rd and 4th May 2017, Bologna, Italy, presented by Paolo Moscatti.

The meeting finished with thanking remarks addressed by the EUROLAB President, Álvaro. S. Ribeiro, to Urs von Känel and the EUROLAB-CH team for hosting the EUROLAB National Members' Meeting and for the very good organisation.

eurolab *laboratory and conformity assessment services supporting European technology and trade*

EUROLAB Secretariat
Rue du Commerce 20-22
B-1000, Brussels
Belgium

Telephone: + 32 2 511 50 65
Telefax: + 32 2 502 50 47
E-mail: info@eurolab.org
Website: www.eurolab.org