

Developments of the German Accreditation System

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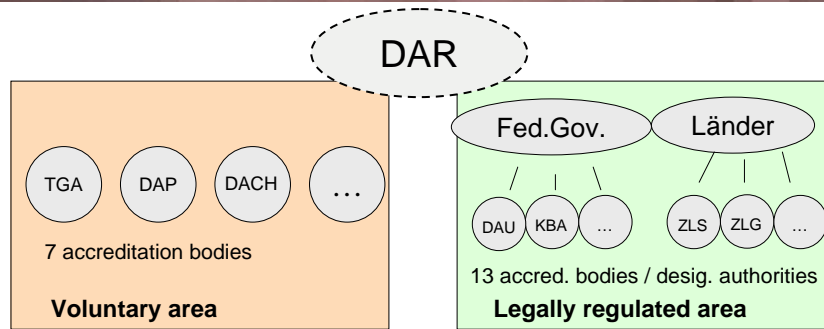
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Accreditation structure in Germany

historical development:

- Expanding of accreditation in Europe was closely connected with the **development of the New Approach** in the late 1980s.
- In Germany: development of a **parallel system of sectorspecific accreditation bodies and designating authorities**
– not in one horizontal body (as in most other countries).
- Currently the German accreditation structure consists of approximately **20 accreditation bodies** / designating authorities.
- **Deutscher AkkreditierungsRat (DAR)** as coordination organ.

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Consequences

- German accreditation structure is complex
- not all accreditation bodies /designation authorities are members of DAR

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Accreditation structure in Germany

Advantages

- sectorspecific expertise
- high competence and quality of the German accreditation bodies
- German know-how is requested by other countries
- often accreditation and authoritative designation as one process

Disadvantages

- several accreditation bodies
- multiple-accreditations of CABs by several accreditation bodies
- may lead to double assessments (e.g. QM part)
- insufficient international recognition due to complexity and lack of transparency

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Provisions for modification

- Improving the competitiveness for German economy by ruling out the mentioned disadvantages;
- **EU regulation** for the review of the new Approach will regulate accreditation and its organization throughout Europe;
- Draft regulation foresees **one single national, governmentally recognised accreditation body** per EU member state from **2010**
- One accreditation body is preference of majority of EU member states;
- Due to the difficult starting position in Germany, the Federal Government supports the possibility of one accreditation body or system.
- But same aim: also accreditation system has to ensure the same quality and acceptance.

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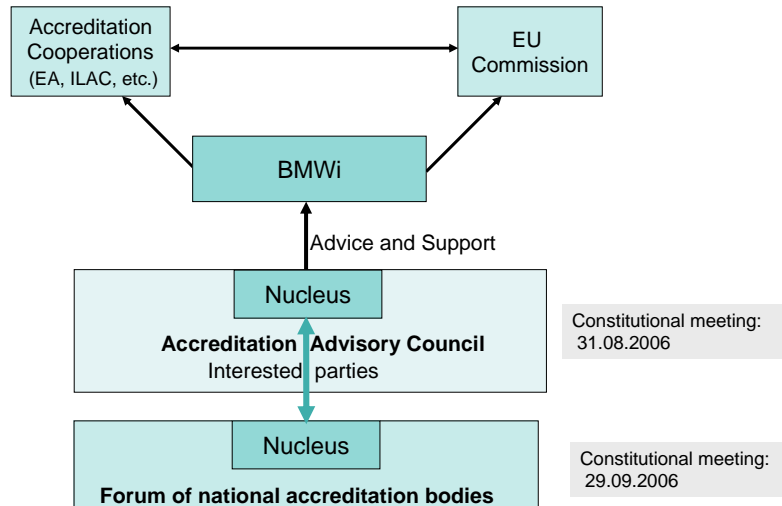
First steps towards a German accreditation law

- 2003 / 2004: first **drafts for a German accreditation law**;
- 2004: Paper on cornerstones and hearing with interested parties
- Because review of the New Approach was decided in 2003, it was agreed to **wait for the concrete legal requirements** to come from the EU, before continuing with the German project.
- **2006**: presentation of a study commissioned by the BMWi on conformity assessment in Germany and other European countries (Prof. Röhl, Univ. Konstanz)¹.

¹Study "Conformity assessment in Germany" is available at
www.bmwi.de/BMWi/Navigation/Service/Veranstaltungen/dokumentationen_did=148670.html

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BMW's interim concept



Current developments – the way to a single accreditation body / system ?

- Ongoing negotiations in order to fulfill the aim of a single national accreditation body (AB) / system for Germany.
- Project group of the Accreditation Advisory Council has been installed to identify the different possible models.
- ABs of the regulated area: model involving an authority
private ABs: model with a governmentally recognized limited liability company.
- Currently the project group is identifying and compiling the legal questions and complications that may occur for each model.
- There is broad consensus, that the existing competence must be included in the final new accreditation structure.
- In the meantime, different mergers of accreditation bodies are already on their way.

Preconditions for the new German accreditation structure

Prerequisites for one accreditation body / system are:

- fulfillment of the requirements of the expected EU-regulation,
- fulfillment of ISO 17011,
- existing competence shall be included to the greatest possible extent.
(currently ca. 20 accreditation bodies and designation authorities in Germany, together ca. 150 employees, ca. 4000-5000 single accreditations).

Possible organizational structure: 3 models

- authoritative solution
- hybrid structure (governmentally recognized limited liability company with mixed shareholdership)
- governmentally recognized ltd. with industry as shareholder.

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- ➡ A German accreditation law will be required to provide the legal basis
- ➡ The EU regulation (or at least concrete contents) are needed to be able to continue the process.

The way forward

- BMWi will start in close future with the drawing up of a national accreditation law.
- The accreditation law will implement the organizational prerequisites for the EU-regulation and regulate the new organization of the German accreditation body / system.
- The overall aim is that this new accreditation structure will strengthen confidence in German test reports and certificates and thus the competitiveness of the German economy.

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**Thank you
for your attention !**