

# Accreditation: A choice or a need?

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# Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD)

**The Hellenic Accreditation System S.A., under the distinctive title "ESYD", was established in its current form in 2002 and succeeded the Hellenic Accreditation Council, which under the same distinctive title, has been operating directly under the Ministry of Development since 1994.**

# Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD)

**ESYD is a private liability company operating in favour of the public interest, having the responsibility for the management of the accreditation system in Greece. The share capital of the company has been undertaken by the Greek State. It is foreseen, however, that shares up to 40% are transferable to legal entities of the public or of the private sector, with a scope of activities related to quality.**

# Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD)

**The organization of the Company (the Board of Directors and the Hellenic Accreditation Council), assures a well balanced representation of Ministries, scientific associations and professional and social unions, safeguarding independence and impartiality in its activities.**

# **ESYD provides accreditation services to:**

- **Testing and Calibration Laboratories, i.a.w ISO 17025.**
- **Product Certification Bodies, i.a.w. EN 45011.**
- **Certification Bodies for Management Systems, i.a.w. ISO 17021, namely for:  
Quality Management Systems,  
Environmental Management Systems &  
Food Safety Management Systems  
Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems**

**and also to:**

- **Product, Process and Installation Inspection Bodies, i.a.w. ISO 17020.**
- **Environmental Verifiers of Eco - Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).**
- **Persons Certification Bodies, i.a.w. ISO 17024.**

# European co-operation for Accreditation (EA)

The European Accreditation Bodies have established the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA), one of the main goals of which is to promote the international recognition of the accreditation provided by its members, by maintaining reliable multilateral agreements (MLAs).

ESYD is one of the founding members of EA.

# ESYD as a signatory to the MLAs

- ✓ **March 2004: signatory to the MLAs for Testing Laboratories, Calibration Laboratories and Inspection Bodies**
- ✓ **March 2005: signatory to the MLAs for all services provided (certification of products, persons, quality management systems, environmental management systems, Eco-Management and Audit Scheme /EMAS)**

# International Cooperation

- **ESYD is full member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Collaboration - ILAC and of the International Accreditation Forum-IAF and a signatory to the relevant MLAs-MLAs.**
- **ESYD regularly participates in the EA General Assemblies and in the meetings of the EA Committees for the MLAs, the Laboratories and the Certification / Inspection Bodies.**

# Definitions

*'accreditation'* shall mean an attestation by a national accreditation body that a conformity assessment body meets the requirements set by harmonised standards and, where applicable, any additional requirements including those set out in relevant sectoral schemes, to carry out a specific conformity assessment activity

*'national accreditation body'* shall mean the sole body in a Member State that performs accreditation with authority derived from the State

*'market surveillance' shall mean the activities carried out and measures taken by **public authorities** to ensure that products comply with the requirements set out in the relevant Community harmonisation legislation and do not endanger health, safety or any other aspect of public interest protection*

**The REGULATION (EC) No 765/2008 OF  
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF  
THE COUNCIL**

**of 9 July 2008**

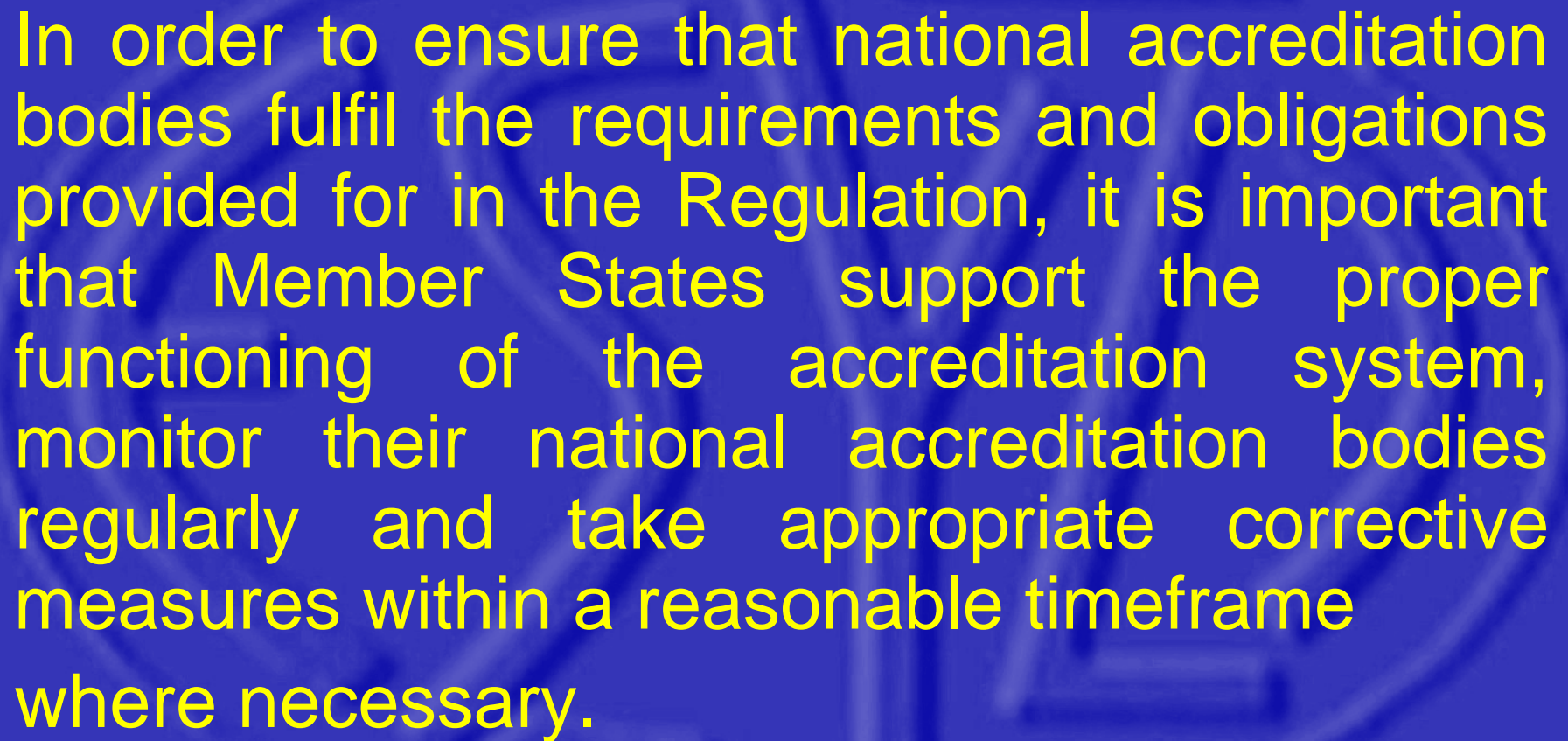
**setting out the requirements for  
accreditation and market surveillance  
relating to the marketing of  
products and repealing Regulation (EEC)  
No 339/93**

- Accreditation is part of an overall system, including conformity assessment and market surveillance, designed to assess and ensure conformity with the applicable requirements.
- The particular value of accreditation lies in the fact that it provides an authoritative statement of *the technical competence* of bodies whose task is to ensure conformity with the applicable requirements.

Accreditation, though so far not regulated at Community level, is carried out in all Member States. The lack of common rules for that activity has resulted in different approaches and differing systems throughout the Community, with the result that the degree of rigour applied in the performance of accreditation has varied between Member States. It has been therefore necessary to develop a comprehensive framework for accreditation and to lay down at Community level the principles for its operation and organisation.

Since the purpose of accreditation is to provide an authoritative statement of the competence of a body to perform conformity assessment activities, Member States should not maintain more than one national accreditation body and should ensure that that body is organised in such a way as to safeguard the objectivity and impartiality of its activities. Such national accreditation bodies should operate independently of commercial conformity assessment activities.

It is therefore appropriate to provide that Member States ensure that, in the performance of their tasks, national accreditation bodies are deemed to exercise public authority, irrespective of their legal status.



In order to ensure that national accreditation bodies fulfil the requirements and obligations provided for in the Regulation, it is important that Member States support the proper functioning of the accreditation system, monitor their national accreditation bodies regularly and take appropriate corrective measures within a reasonable timeframe where necessary.

In order to ensure the equivalence of the level of competence of conformity assessment bodies, to facilitate mutual recognition and to promote the overall acceptance of accreditation certificates and conformity assessment results issued by accredited bodies, it is necessary that national accreditation bodies operate a rigorous and transparent peer evaluation system and regularly undergo such evaluation.

This Regulation should provide for the recognition of a single organisation at a European level in respect to certain functions in the field of accreditation.

The European Cooperation for Accreditation (the EA), whose main mission is to promote a transparent and quality-led system for the evaluation of the competence of conformity assessment bodies throughout Europe, manages a peer evaluation system among national accreditation bodies from the Member States and other European countries.

- That system has proved to be efficient and to provide mutual confidence. The EA should, therefore, be the first body recognised under this Regulation and Member States should ensure that their national accreditation bodies seek and maintain membership of the EA for as long as it is so recognised.
- At the same time, the possibility of changing the relevant body recognised under this Regulation should be provided for, in case there is a need for it in the future.

*According to the new Regulation is important for the Member State:*

*a) to support the role of the National Accreditation Body*

*b) to enhance the market surveillance*