

Welcome address to the workshop

Accreditation with Flexible Scope - Needs, Current Situation, Future Developments -

First of all on behalf of EUROLAB I would like to thank EUROLAB-CZ, the Technical and Test Institute for Construction in Prague and its Managing Director, Jiri Sobola, to host this workshop and to give us the opportunity to have open discussions with our stakeholders about technical matters.

I am very pleased to welcome all of you to participate and to contribute to this workshop organized by the technical committee on Quality assurance of EUROLAB and dedicated to the accreditation with flexible scope.

Let me also address my warm thanks to the representatives of numerous Accreditation Bodies who are very keen to contribute today to this event either as speaker or active participants.

I would like to remind you the workshop organized three years ago in Borås on the accreditation with flexible scope. At that time the general conclusion of the presentations and discussions highlighted the need and the benefit of a flexible scope in accreditation but there was not a full consensus in how to interpret the term flexible scope and how to use it in the routine activities of laboratories, clients and accreditation.

Nowadays the situation is much better for all interested parties as coming presentations will point it out but there is still improvement to bring forward.

As questions still remain and need comprehensive answers such as :

- What is accreditation with flexible scope?
- Do laboratories need such an accreditation?
- Is it applicable and necessary in all technical fields?
- What is the current situation?
- Where do we want to go?
- What are the needs of notified bodies?

I do hope that most of them will get responses during the day with your fruitful contributions particularly during the panel discussions.

Then the rationale of this workshop will be met and it will give input to the European co-operation for accreditation, namely EA, in order to have a common and better understanding of flexible scope, and to promote and further develop it for the respective benefits of laboratory, client and accreditation communities.

And now it is time to start the presentations and I am very pleased to invite our first speaker Mrs Martina Bednarova from the Czech Accreditation Institute, representing EA, and give her the floor to present the current practices of EA members.

Please Martina

Jean-Luc Laurent, Prague, November 4, 2009