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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Technical Harmonization
and Standardization Policies

Ninth session, 17-19 May 1999

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITIES AND
IN THE FIELD OF REGULATORY COOPERATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL,
REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Information on COOMET (Cooperation in Metrology)

This paper has been submitted by the Chairman of COOMET.

This document is presented for information to delegates. It is reproduced in the form and language in which it was received by the secretariat.

Information on COOMET

Two main tasks of metrology on the international level are defined as follows:

- * to establish a world system of measurement standards based on the SI, sufficiently complete and generally recognized, and
- * to assure traceability to this system of all measurement instruments used everywhere to determine different physical quantities with known accuracy.

International metrology organizations, such as the Metre Convention and the International Organization of Legal Metrology contribute directly to accomplishing these tasks and stimulate and coordinate activities of national metrology institutes and of calibration and verification laboratories throughout the world. The scope of this task is immense.

Regional metrology organizations bring together national metrology institutions of states located in a particular region and cooperating in their economic activities. Over a relatively short period of existence the regional organizations have proved to be useful partners of international and national bodies in ensuring the uniformity of measures. Actually, some problems defined by world organizations can be solved more easily within smaller groups of states acting in concert after an internationally agreed distribution of tasks.

COOMET (its name refers to "Cooperation Metrologique") is an organization of national metrological institutions of the states of Central and Eastern Europe including CIS countries. It is open to national metrological institutions of countries of other regions which may join as Associate Members.

COOMET was established in Warsaw in June 1991. Its members are at present metrological institutions of Bulgaria, Belarus, Germany, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The basis for COOMET was the declared intention of the members to cooperate in the fields of measurement standards, legal metrology and calibration services. COOMET offers a forum for discussion cooperative projects in these fields.

The objectives of COOMET are the following:

- * to contribute to an effective solution of problems concerning the uniformity of measures, and to the uniformity and the required accuracy of measurements;
- * to contribute to closer cooperation between national economies and to the elimination of technical barriers to international trade;
- * to establish closer contact between the activities of the metrology services of the states of Central and Eastern Europe and the activities of corresponding services in Western Europe and, in particular, to cooperate with EUROMET, EA and WELMEC as far as both sides are interested in such a cooperation.

The principles of collaboration within COOMET are similar to those developed in the organizations of Western Europe. The Memorandum of Understanding expresses in principle the same ideas as EUROMET's Memorandum, and the Rules of Procedure are practically a replica of the Western original. It has been assumed that the analogy of principles and forms may facilitate possible common actions, bring the 14.04.9913:31 A:\jnfo-e-1 .doc.

Partners from the two European regions closer together and contribute to the desired integration. The formal difference is that COOMET's field of activity includes also some areas handled in Western Europe by WELMEC and EA.

The COOMET Committee consists of the Directors of the national metrological institutions which are members of COOMET and is responsible for organizing and supporting mutual cooperation. The Committee meets at least once a year; the President of the Committee is elected for a three-year period with the possibility of only one additional consecutive term of office. The Secretariat is provided by the Institution of the President. In their respective countries, Committee members appoint Contact Persons for the specified subject fields. In each subject field the Contact Persons propose candidates for Rapporteur, and the Committee appoints the Rapporteur.

A collaborative project may be placed in one of the following subject fields: Mass, Force and Pressure, Electricity, Length and Angle, Time and Frequency, Thermometry and Calorimetry, Ionizing Radiation and Radioactivity, Photometry and Radiometry, Flow Measurements, Acoustics and Vibration, Physical Chemistry, Reference Materials. General metrology, Legal metrology and Calibration procedures are included in a unique subject field. Most of COOMET's projects concern comparisons of measurement standards, the establishing of new standards and an improvement of the mechanisms for the dissemination of the units realized by the standards to the field instruments.

COOMET is prepared to conduct some key comparisons indicated in the BIPM programme.

COOMET is a member of the Joint Committee of the Regional Metrology Organisations and the BIPM.

COOMET maintains liaisons with OIML, as outlined in the Agreement signed with BIPM in 1993, and since 1992 has enjoyed the status of an Observer in WELMEC. EUROMET considers it its "sister organization".

Recently, some COOMET members have also become associated member of EUROMET, WELMEC or EA. It is understood that the multiple cooperative ties will contribute to the reciprocal understanding and to confidence in the opinions formulated by the partners.

English and Russian are the languages of the COOMET Committee meetings and of the documents received and sent by the Secretariat. COOMET has no financial means of its own.

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COOPERATION IN METROLOGY (COOMET)

PROGRAMME (the agenda) of the 9th COOMET
COMMITTEE MEETING

(12-13 May 1999, Moscow)

1. Opening the meeting, approval of the agenda
 2. Approval of the Protocol of the 8th COOMET Committee Meeting
 3. Information of COOMET member-organizations (about the new members of COOMET, changes in the COOMET Committee membership)
 4. COOMET activity in the period between meetings and its tasks on the increasing efficiency of cooperation. Rapporteur: President of COOMET (the brief characteristics of COOMET activity for the latest period of time, proposals for the improvement of the COOMET Committee work, creation of the specialized working groups, intensification of the information work, improvement of the planning).
 5. Information of the national metrological organizations-members of COOMET about the actual problems of the metrological activity in their countries.
 6. The results of the analysis on the subject of COOMET and "The Working COOMET Programme for 1999" (the subject of works, meetings of the contact persons and coordinators, information measures, etc. Rapporteur: International COOMET Secretariat).
 7. The reports of COOMET rapporteurs about the work fulfilled (taking into account the results of analysis on the subject of COOMET carried out by COOMET Secretariat).
 8. The reports of the representatives of the international and regional organizations (BIPM, OIML, EUROMET, WELMEC, MGS, APLMF and others).
 9. The information about relations of COOMET with the other international and regional organizations (the report of President of COOMET Committee, members of COOMET Committee and rapporteurs of COOMET).
 10. The draft of UN/ECE Guide "Procedures of Measurements".
 11. The international and national steps on metrology in 1999 which are interesting for COOMET (the information of COOMET Secretariat).
 12. The participation of COOMET member-organizations in the key comparisons.
 13. Coordination of the principles of the quotation of COOMET members's fees for keeping the International Secretariat.
 14. Information about the works on the preparation of the COOMET booklet.
 15. The date and place of the next COOMET Committee Meeting.
 16. Acquaintance with the laboratories VNIIMS, VNIIOFI and VNIIFTRI.
 17. The cultural programme.
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