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

**Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): Recent Development in the Area of  
Standardization**

This paper has been submitted by the secretariat of the CIS Interstate Council of Standardization Metrology and Certification.

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**INTERSTATE COUNCIL ON STANDARDIZATION, METROLOGY  
AND CERTIFICATION  
(EURO-ASIAN COUNCIL FOR STANDARDIZATION, METROLOGY AND  
CERTIFICATION - EASC) RESULTS OF 10 YEARS OF ACTIVITIES**

1. March 2002 is a jubilee date for us, as 10 years have passed since the signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement which provides the basis for consistent policy performance in the field of standardization, metrology and certification carried out by the Euro-Asian Council.
2. The last ten years have shown that adoption of the Agreement on conducting consistent policy in the field of standardization, metrology and certification has played a key part in the consolidation of commercial and economic, scientific and technical co-operation, as well as Commonwealth Independent States (CIS) member States' markets protection from poor quality and unsafety products.
3. Today it is difficult to imagine which additional obstacles States would face when moving towards a market economy if 10 years ago cumulative normative and technical potential had not been adapted to the existing circumstances. If we address the history it is necessary to note the following:
4. In December 1991 the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was created on principles of voluntarism and equal rights.
5. The Commonwealth joined together Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
6. The main objective of the Commonwealth is to create a common free market zone on the basis of market relations.

7. It is evident that this cannot be done without a common intergovernmental standards system, a traceability support system, and a unified order for conducting certification and testing of products. Therefore in February 1992 at a meeting held in Minsk, the leaders of the national bodies for standardization, metrology and certification made an appeal to the political executives of the independent States and brought up the necessity of signing the intergovernmental Agreement “On the realization of a coordinated policy in the field of standardization, metrology and certification”.

8. The appeal was signed by the standardization bodies of the following countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

9. Later the appeal also joined by the Heads of the national bodies of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, who were not present at the meeting.

10. On 13 March 1992, at the meeting of CIS member States’ political executives in Moscow, the Agreement was signed.

11. Parallel with the main principles of forming and pursuing a coordinated policy in the field of standardization, metrology and certification, the Agreement envisaged the creation of a Euro-Asian Council – the body framing consistent policy and coordinating work on its realization. It has allowed the combining of potentials and resources of the CIS member States’ national bodies for standardization, metrology and certification, using jointly cumulated potential, improving and developing normative standardization documents, as well as pursuing the common technical policy in these areas.

12. During the last years we succeeded in creating an optimal organizational framework for the Council executive and technical bodies ensuring its work in all directions of activity which are in the competence of the Council. There are science and technical commissions or working groups, as well as the Council of Plenipotentiaries for the Intergovernmental Agreement on cooperation in the area of time and frequency traceability and also more than 230 technical committees for standardization.

13. At present, the working body is the Bureau on Standards, which is situated in Minsk.

14. Since the moment of EASC creation 20 meetings have been held where more than 500 matters were considered and decisions taken ensuring coordinated action which were aimed towards improving and raising the safety standards of products made in CIS member States, market protection from poor quality products which are unsafe for life, health, property of citizens and the environment and also aimed towards providing traceability. Delegations of all CIS member States, CIS Executive Committee, CIS branch bodies as well as international standardization organizations and national standardization bodies from other countries permanently take part in the work of the EASC meetings. The leaders of the national bodies for standardization, metrology and certification are at the head of the Council on a rotation basis.

15. The main directions of the activities of the Euro-Asian Council and its working bodies are:

- development of normative standardization documents, including intergovernmental standards, rules, recommendations and classifiers;
- forming, storage and maintenance of fund of international, regional and national standards of other countries and ensuring the agreement of member States with these standards;
- maintenance and development of the reference base and the system of physical value units transmission;
- intergovernmental service of time and frequencies;
- maintenance of information funds of measurement instrumentation, reference standards and standards reference data of substances and materials properties;
- development of rules and procedures on mutual recognition of the State testing results, metrological certification, verification and calibration of the measurement instrumentation;
- elaboration of rules and procedures on mutual recognition of the accredited testing calibration and measurement laboratories (centres), certification bodies, product certificates and quality management systems;
- international co-operation in the field of standardization, metrology and certification and quality.

16. Intergovernmental agreements and agreements concluded by the national bodies for standardization, metrology and certification within EASC make up the legal base of the activities in the field of intergovernmental standardization, metrology and certification.

17. The Council has prepared a range of intergovernmental agreements, which were adopted at the meetings of CIS member States' political executives:

- the Agreement on the realization of a coordinated policy in the field of standardization, metrology and certification (13 March 1992, Moscow)
- the Agreement on cooperation in providing the time and frequencies traceability (9 October 1992, Bishkek);
- the Agreement on immunity from customs clearance charges, taxes and issue of transit permits of normative documents, reference standards and measurement tools transported for the purpose of testing and metrological attestation (10 February 1995, Almaty);
- the Agreement on order of development and observance of coordinated norms and requirements on the protection of labour and mutual supplied products (12 April 1996, Moscow);
- The concept on development and implementation of intergovernmental standards and systems of certification in the field of tourism in CIS member States.

18. Within the EASC a range of agreements has been concluded and are now in effect, including the following.

- Agreement on principles of certification and mutual recognition of certification (4 June 1992, ? rasnodar);
- Agreement on mutual recognition of State test results and type approval, metrological certification and calibration of measurements means as well as accreditation results of laboratories which carry out tests and calibration of measurements means (6 October 1992, ??shkent);
- Agreement on co-operation and use of reference standards of composition and properties of substances and materials (6 October 1992, ??shkent);

- Agreement on co-operation in the field of creation and use of physical constants, substances properties and materials data (6 October 1992, Bishkent);
- Agreement on application of unified market access mark for CIS member States products (22 May 2001, Dushanbe) and others.

19. In 2000 the following documents were prepared jointly with or by CIS Executive Committee and signed by the Heads of Government:

- The Agreement on technical barriers to a free trade area, identifying unified principles of technical regulation, standardization and conformity assessment in member States free trade area harmonized with the requirements of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on technical barriers to trade. Ratification and implementation of this agreement in CIS States will allow technical regulation to be carried out with the help of technical standards on common principles found in international requirements. But for all that, during the development of such regulations international standards shall be used as the basis. Observance of these principles will facilitate CIS States joining the WTO and will stimulate the removal of technical barriers in the framework of the free trade area;
- Protocol on supplements and amendments to the Agreement on the realization of coordinated policies in the field of standardization, metrology and certification of 13 March 1992. According to the Protocol the Agreement has been brought into conformity with the rearrangement of CIS executive bodies which took place in 1998-1999. Instead of the abrogated EASC working body - Technical Secretariat – it is envisaged to create a Standards Bureau and widen EASC competence. Besides the matters of international standardization, metrology and certification, EASC is charged with coordination on accreditation in these fields.

20. With a view to harmonizing EASC technical legislation existing in the CIS the following model laws were drawn up:

- on standardization (adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of CIS member States inter-Parliamentary Assembly);
- on provision of measurement uniformity (adopted at the 11<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the inter-Parliamentary Assembly);

21. The international organizations for standardization (ISO, IEC) and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) have recognized the Euro-Asian Council as the regional organization for standardization. According to the rules adopted in ISO and IEC it is named “Euro-Asian Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC)” in English. With the above mentioned organizations long-term agreements were signed on cooperation envisaging the exchange of information and normative documents and mutual participation in different events.

22. In accordance with the signed agreements EASC has the right to apply international and European standards through intergovernmental and as for the EASC member States’ national standards. This facilitates maximal harmonization of intergovernmental and national standards with both the international and the European standards regardless of membership and status of EASC member States in these organizations.

23. The EASC web site presents the information of the Council structure and its governing and working bodies, legal and normative base, as well as databases, news and other current information useful for CIS member States’ governmental organizations, enterprises and foreign organizations.

24. Nowadays the existing stock of intergovernmental standards includes more than 19,300 modern documents. Over a period of time since 1992 more than 3,800 intergovernmental normative documents have been developed and adopted. Support for existing standards is maintained by EASC working body – Standards Bureau jointly with the national bodies of EASC member States.

25. When developing the intergovernmental normative documents, their requirements are harmonized with international, regional and advanced national standards. This establishes conditions for the retention of a common normative and technical area directed to the removal of technical barriers to trade and economic, scientific and technical cooperation under market conditions, as well as encouraging the promotion of products made in EASC member States on international and European markets.

26. Since 1998 work on standardization is coordinated by means of programmes development. At present the Working Programme on intergovernmental standardization for 2001-2003 and the following three Task Intergovernmental Programmes are implemented:

- Intergovernmental programme on standardization of light industry products for 1999-2002;
- Intergovernmental programme on standards development in the field of safety and labour protection on mutually delivered products for 2000-2005;
- Intergovernmental programme on the creation and use of intergovernmental reference standards of composition and properties of substances and materials for 1999-2002.

27. There is now clear evidence that the different industrial enterprises of member States belonging to the Agreement need up-to-date standards and are ready to take part in their development.

28. To summarize briefly the work done during the past 10 years:

1. In the region covering the territories of CIS member States the regional organization on standardization, metrology and certification was established and recognized by international organizations.
2. The legal basis, organizational structure, principles of functioning and CIS members co-ordination on equal base within the regional organization have been created and are ensuring the:
  - formation and realization of unified technical policy in the field of standardization, metrology and certification as well as accreditation lately;
  - application and development of a unified foundation grounded on intergovernmental standards, intergovernmental classifiers and other normative documents;
  - formation of a unified reference database and traceability assurance system including intergovernmental services of time and frequency, reference standards and reference information data on materials and substances properties;
  - mutual recognition of test results and product and services certification.



3. A technical database has been created and all the CIS member States specialists have been trained to use modern information technology in standardization, metrological assurance, certification and accreditation work. Thanks to joint efforts of EASC member States, the CIS standard automated information storage and retrieval system has been developed and operates successfully. The system includes databases of international, intergovernmental and national standards of the member States party to the Agreement. In the future it is planned to create databases on the technical regulations in CIS member States and the EU.

The plan developing automated information storage and retrieval system has been implemented. The system forms standardization plans in electronic format, defines the interest of States in work included in the plans and controls plan realization.

The Year 2002 will be a turning point on this question. Starting with 2003 we have to adopt new technology for providing the CIS member States with normative documents in electronic format.

4. Interaction with international organizations for standardization such as ISO, IEC and CEN, regional and national organizations for standardization of leading States has been established.

EASC will soon undertake a task to organize cooperation on the following:

- on metrology with the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML),
- on quality and conformity assessment with the European Organization for Quality (EOQ),
- on accreditation with the International Laboratory Accreditation Conference (ILAC).

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