

List of Conclusions and Resolutions

**agreed at the 41st Meeting of the EA Advisory Board
held on 14 May 2019**

Agenda Item 1 - Changes in National Authorities' College - Election of new Chair Appointment of new EAAB observer to MAC Appointment of new EAAB observer to HHC

The Board:

- further to Maureen Maria Logghe's resignation from the EAAB, unanimously elects Miruna Dobre as the new Chair of the EAAB;
- regrets not to be able to appoint a new EAAB MAC observer for the time being, and asks the National Authorities' College, if possible, to inform the EAAB Secretariat of the appointment of a new candidate by September so as for him/her to be able to attend the next EA MAC meeting on 2-3 October 2019;
Action NA College
- further to Emmanuel Geneiatakis' resignation from the Board, regrets not to be able to appoint a new EAAB HHC observer for the time being, and would appreciate any expression of interest, especially from the CAB College which is invited to nominate one of its members to serve as EAAB observer to the HHC and to inform the EAAB Secretariat consequently.
Action CAB College

Agenda Item 3 - Key topics for discussion

Agenda Item 3.1 - Revised Work Program and expectations of members

The Board:

- decides to remove the duplicate key topic "Consistency and harmonisation among ABs" (EAAB M35, which duplicates EAAB M40) from the current EAAB Work Program, and asks the CAB College, if possible, to come up with a paper to support the discussion on the issue at the next meeting;
Action EAAB Secretariat; CAB College
- takes note of EA's proposal to distinguish between indirect customers of accreditation and end-users of products and services in order to emphasize the important role that accreditation is expected to play to increase confidence in the marketplace;
- agrees to re-submit the "Stakeholders' expectations" document to a review by the EAAB Colleges and Members, and to specifically invite the Board members representing the European consumers, the European metrology institutions and the European standardization organizations to formulate their expectations of accreditation, for inclusion into the document;
Action EAAB Colleges and Members; EAAB Secretariat

Agenda Item 3.2 - Withdrawal of FAMI-QS from the seat allocated to European private scheme owners

The Board:

- regrets FAMI-QS' decision to withdraw from the EAAB, and unanimously shares a lack of understanding for having made this decision without any prior discussion;
- leaves it for EA to consider whether a reply should be given to the withdrawal letter co-sent by FAMI-QS, BRC Global Standards, FSSC 22000, GLOBALG.A.P., GMP+ International and IFS and, if needed, agrees to cooperate with EA to send a formal answer in line with the Board's mission which is based on representation of broad stakeholder constituencies, clarifying that the *EAAB Terms of Reference* in principle also allow international stakeholder organisations to be represented on the Board provided that they coordinate their views with other recognised stakeholders;
Action EA/EAAB eventually
- asks the EAAB Secretariat to extend an invitation to those *other* European private scheme owners that are also EA Recognised Stakeholders to allow them, within a couple of months, to appoint one representative as a member of the Board, with the ensuing obligation to coordinate and express their views on political issues, as set out in the Board's *Terms of Reference* to be enclosed in the invitation.
Action EAAB Secretariat

Agenda Item 3.3 - IAF/EA resolutions on non-accredited product certification where the CAB is accredited for the same scope; harmonised approach

The Board:

- expresses serious concerns over the IAF resolution on non-accredited product certification, and stresses the need for harmonisation, notably regarding the accompanying "note" according to which an AB may unilaterally accept exceptions to the rule which would then be "considered accredited" ;
- notes that EA sees no room for introducing any changes to the IAF resolution;
- invites EA to discuss further within the Certification Committee on how the IAF resolution could be implemented in a harmonised way, and urges EA NABs to come to a harmonized definition of product certification scopes; **Action EA**
- asks EA to keep the EAAB informed about the further developments on the issue both at the EA and IAF levels. **Action EA**

Agenda Item 4 - EAAB matters

Agenda Item 4.1 - Revised *EAAB Terms of Reference*

The Board:

- agrees to revise the *EAAB Terms of Reference* under § 4.8 as follows:
The EA shall report on how far recommendations from the Board have been taken into consideration.

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- agrees to revise the *EAAB Terms of Reference* under § 5.5 as follows:

The Board shall appoint one of its Members to participate as observer in the meetings of the EA Multilateral Agreement Council (EA MAC), and may appoint one of its Members to participate in the meetings of the EA Horizontal Harmonisation Committee (EA HHC) in order to receive direct information about the EA peer evaluation system and (horizontal) accreditation issues. The EAAB observers may ask questions and provide advice on behalf of the Board. The EAAB MAC observer shall not interfere with the decision-making process. The EA MAC and EA HHC shall facilitate the roles of the EAAB observers. The observers shall report back to the Board in full respect of the confidentiality of the information divulged.

- asks the EAAB Secretariat to republish the *EAAB Terms of Reference* as approved at the meeting, including the editorial improvements made by EA and the Industry College, onto the EA internet and intranet.

Action EAAB Secretariat

Agenda Item 4.2 - EAAB's implementation of EA Policy for Relations with Stakeholders (EA-1/15: 2010)

The Board:

- takes note that an internal audit in EA has raised the issue that, according to EA-1/15, EAAB Members are by definition EA Recognised Stakeholders whereas no formal agreement is signed;
- suggests that EA should consider whether and how to address the issue and to come up with proposals for relevant provisions to be included into EA-1/15, for further decision at the next EAAB meeting.

Action EA

Agenda Item 4.3 - Reports from the EAAB HHC and MAC observers

The Board thanks Maureen Maria Logghe for her comprehensive written report and takes note of the various issues addressed in it, notably the good step forward made by the proposals for re-engineering of the EA Peer Evaluation.

Agenda Item 5 - EA matters

Agenda Item 5.1 - Endorsement of new EA work items

The Board:

- endorses the new work items proposed for:
 - the elaboration of a list of risks;
 - the revision of EA-4/18 - *Guidance on the Level and Frequency of Proficiency Testing Participation*;
 - the elaboration of a guidance document on anti-bribery management systems (ABMS);
- invites the CAB College to send the Board any issue relating to "risks" raised by CAB associations for discussion at the next EAAB meeting;

Action CAB College

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- takes note that the CAB and Industry Colleges recommend that EA should first seek the elaboration of guidance on ABMS at the international (IAF) level rather than start work at the European level.

Agenda Item 5.2 - Relations with stakeholders BRC Global Standards' application for Recognised Stakeholder status

The Board:

- recommends that EA should take a prudent approach to BRC Global Standards' request since they have been acquired by the LGC Group as a single CAB and are not an association, and not to engage in a Recognised Stakeholder agreement with them;
- advocates that EA should consider the need to specify further in EA-1/15 the criteria for organisations to be eligible to sign the Recognised Stakeholder agreement.

Agenda Item 5.3 - Implementation of EA Strategy 2025 - Progress report

The Board:

- welcomes the progress made in implementing the EA Strategy;
- takes note that the first paper drafted by TFG 6 under Section 2 (*Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders...*) of the *Strategy*, Section 2.1 (*Develop the EA stakeholder policy... Evaluate the size and composition of the EAAB*), should be available in autumn, and decides to discuss the issue as a key topic at the next EAAB meeting in November 2019, in which Ed Wieles is invited to participate as TFG 6 convener.

Action EAAB Secretariat to invite Ed Wieles to the next EAAB meeting

Agenda Item 5.4 - EA TFG "Consultancy"

The Board:

- takes note of the current situation of the issue, which is addressed by an EA HHC TFG, and supports the view that EA should go ahead in their discussions with the EU-Commission;
- invites the CAB and Industry Colleges to provide further input to the work made by the HHC, and recommends that the HHC should consider involving additional stakeholders in the HHC TFG work.

Agenda Item 5.5 - Use of accreditation by the European Commission - current developments

The Board thanks EA for the update on the current developments and efforts in supporting accreditation as the best option to demonstrate competence of conformity assessment bodies.

Agenda Item 5.6 - Brexit and EA – Progress Report

The Board:

- takes note that if the United Kingdom were to leave the European Union in autumn, the application of article 6 clause 7 in *EA Articles of Association* should be approved at the EA General Assembly in November 2019;

- welcomes EA's efforts to keep UKAS among the EA Members.

Agenda Item 5.7 - Revision of EA-2/17 and the Accreditation for Notification (AfN) project Part II

The Board:

- advises EAAB Members to study carefully the revised document to be sent out for comments;
- asks EA to circulate the finalised version of EA-2/17 to the Board among the papers for the next EAAB meeting. **Action EAAB Secretariat**

Agenda Item 6 - Items for information

Agenda Item 6.2 - CETA – implementation of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with Canada/SCC – progress report

The Board invites the EC and EA to ensure a swift conclusion and implementation of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement in all the four sectors concerned.

Agenda Item 6.4 - Draft agenda of the 43rd EA General Assembly on 22-23 May 2019 in Rome, Italia

The Board:

- decides to include “Impact of digitalisation” as an additional key topic into the EAAB Work Program. **Action EAAB Secretariat**
- agrees to discuss the issue as a key topic at one of the next EAAB meetings, and asks the EAAB Colleges for their input.
Action EA Colleges

The Board thanks EA for the oral and written reports provided under this item.

Agenda Item 8 - Confirmation and selection of dates and places of next meetings

The Board:

- confirms to meet on **Thursday 7 November 2019**
Action EAAB Secretariat to confirm the location with ETFA
- agrees to meet on Tuesday 28 April and Tuesday 10 November 2020.
