Annual Report 2019
It is a pleasure to present the EA Annual Report 2019. There were so many highlights in 2019, which demonstrate the important role of EA and accreditation.

The new Framework Partnership Agreement for 2019-2022 was signed with the European Commission end of 2018 and the European Free Trade Association early 2019, with the aim of widening and strengthening the cooperation with EA and its members, to reflect and support actively the development of EU policy and legislation for open and fair trade on the European market.

In May 2019 the EA Multilateral Agreement for Reference Material Producers was launched. At the end of 2019, 8 National Accreditation Bodies were evaluated and confirmed to comply with all relevant requirements.

2019 was also marked by the departure of Maria Papatzi-kou (ESYD, Greece) as EA Vice-Chair replaced by Cecilie Laake (NA, Norway), and Rolf Straub (SAS, Switzerland) replaced by Orbay Evrensevdi (TURKAK, Turkey) as EA Inspection Committee Chair.

The first report on the functioning of accreditation, as requested by the European Commission, was published in October 2019. The purpose is to show how accreditation is accepted in Europe and used by the European and national authorities, as well as private scheme owners and users, as the preferred means to demonstrate competence of Conformity Assessment Bodies and how robust the accreditation system is.

This work couldn’t be achieved without the continuous involvement and close cooperation between EA Members, Stakeholders, EA Evaluators and the Secretariat. The reactivity shown by EA and the National Accreditation Bodies in time of crisis is a living proof of the processes’ agility, for the benefit of the society.

2020 sounds challenging, and I’m convinced that we will face it as we have always been doing: together, all focused on our mission.
Audit time calculation has been on the EA Certification Committee (EACC) and the International Accreditation Forum’s (IAF) agenda for a few years. At every CC meeting, there are Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to this subject, and it has been the focus of more in-depth attention at recent meetings.

EN ISO/IEC 17021-1 — Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements requires a certification body to calculate sufficient time for a complete and effective audit to be carried out. IAF MDS Determination of Audit Time of Quality and Environmental Management Systems was developed to help harmonise the calculation of how much time is needed depending on the size of organisation, technical complexity of the processes, etc.

Since then, similar tools for time calculation have been included in other normative documents and guidance. However, there is a growing concern that the situation has become too complex, and that the Accreditation community may have lost the original intention and turned it into a mathematical, rather than a logical, process.

IAF has started early 2019 a project to reconsider the whole question of Audit time allocation and the EACC has been supporting this through membership of the IAF Task Force (including the 2 co-Convenors) and activities within the CC, which included an exercise using 3 scenarios to calculate audit time, and a workshop to discuss these results and consider the implications and next steps. This topic will remain on the EACC agenda at least while the IAF project is underway.

The Certification Committee also dealt with the following issues:

- Harmonization of Management systems certification scoping;
- Revision of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) regulations;
- Implementation of ISO/IEC 17029 - General principles and requirements for bodies performing Validation and Verification activities;
- Guidance for Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) (ISO 37001);
- Revision of several documents (click here to access to the full list).

The CC has established the following groups: CC EU/ETS Network group, CC WG Environment, CC WG Food.
On the other hand, a few stakeholders also underlined unfair competition between accredited and non-accredited laboratories, based on falsification of certificates, misreading in several countries of what accreditation is, and sometimes the length of time needed to go through the accreditation process and lack of assessors and technical experts available for the National Accreditation Bodies.

Both HAA and BAS, which hosted the CPC meetings in 2019, reported they are well aware of these concerns and take actions to improve the situation. It also confirms the constant need for EA to carry on developing tools and materials to promote accreditation on the national and the international levels.

The Communications and Publications Committee worked on the following topics:

• Design of a future EA MLA Mark;
• Organization of Communications and Marketing workshops;
• Revision of document (click here to access to the full list).

In 2019, the CPC has started to invite national stakeholders to their meetings. The purpose is to strengthen the relationships between the National Accreditation Bodies, EA and stakeholders at national and international levels. During each of the 2019 CPC meetings, national stakeholders (two organizations in Croatia – Končar and TPK Zavod - and three in Bulgaria – CTEC, EUROTEST Control, LOT Consult) presented their activities, the benefits of accreditation and the challenges they are sometimes facing.

For several of them, accreditation is a significant help in their business development, but also to build and support teamwork, confidence and constant improvement that accreditation requires. It is a keystone in their development, and it allows them to compete with bigger companies throughout Europe, and at the end to win contracts. With their clients they also refer to accreditation as a proof a quality and reliability, impartiality and confidentiality.

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• Design of a future EA MLA Mark;
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• Revision of document (click here to access to the full list).
In 2019 the Horizontal Harmonization Committee (HHC) has been managing several projects meant to improve the harmonization of accreditation activities of EA members by undertaking a joint effort to revise and/or develop five EA-documents for usage by EA accreditation body members. For these five task force groups (TFGs) had been set up in 2018 and did considerable work in 2019. The issues they have dealt with are:

- Relations with and assessment of conformity assessment schemes
  - New developments occurred in the area of privately owned conformity assessment schemes (e.g. schemes becoming separate IAF - subscopes) have led HHC to start a revision of EA-1/22 EA Procedure and Criteria For the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members.

- Harmonisation of accreditation practices for notification purposes
  - EA-2/17 EA Document on Accreditation for Notification Purposes was revised in order to make it clearer, more understandable, and easier to apply compared to the present version, and in order to improve the usage of the so called “preferred standard”, thus leading to a more level playing field in the different member states. More specifically, the special aspects of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) were to be addressed in EA-2/17. CPR does not determine compliance but constancy or invariability of performance. It makes use of harmonized standards mandatory and applies the AVCP system instead of modules. The Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance (AVCP) is a harmonised system defining how to assess products and control the constancy of the assessment results. This system safeguards the reliability and accuracy of the declaration of performance.

- Promotion of the EA MLA and enhancing visibility of accredited results and benefits of accreditation
  - To improve the visibility on the market and help prescribers in their choice when choosing an accredited service or products, EA-3/01 EA Conditions for the use of Accreditation Symbols, Logos and other claims of accreditation and reference to the EA MLA Signatory status was revised. The dedicated Task Force Groupe is currently working on a supplement about rules for use of the future EA MLA mark by accreditation body members and their accredited customers.

- Implementing a harmonized approach to the new version of ISO/IEC 17011 - Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies
  - Since the new version of ISO/IEC 17011, the implementation of a risk management system is now required. EA-2/19 INF List of risks for accreditation processes and operation of national accreditation bodies will help NABs to acquire a harmonized approach and support them in the areas impacted by this evolution.

The Horizontal Harmonization Committee also dealt with the following issues:

- Guidance document for selection of Conformity Assessment standards between EN ISO/IEC 17021-1 (Management systems certification) and EN ISO/IEC 17065 (Product certification);
- Workshops on “Risk-based-approach” and “Remote Assessments” in relation to the new ISO/IEC 17011;
- New Scheme: Agents and Brokers owned by British Retailers Consortium - EN ISO/IEC 17065 “Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services”;
- Publication and revision of several documents (click here to access to the full list).
The Inspection Committee (IC) is the forum for the discussion of all matters related to the accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies performing inspection activities.

The IC held its meetings in Oslo (Norway) on 12th March 2019 and in Berlin (Germany) on 5th - 6th September 2019.

IC Chair
Rolf Straub (SAS, Switzerland)

IC Vice-Chair
Orbay Evrensevdi (TURKAK, Turkey)

IC Secretary
Frédérique Laudinet

The Inspection Committee (IC) also dealt with the following technical issues:
• Expression of flexible accreditation scopes in Inspection,
• Car Type Approval,
• Application of new technologies (e.g. drones) in the field of Inspection,
• Application of ISO/IEC 17020 in the field of crime scene investigation (CSI).

The Inspection Committee developed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) list in order to enhance and facilitate harmonisation between EA National Accreditation Bodies (NABs) of their practices in the accreditation of Inspection Bodies.

An IC Review Group analyzes and gives preliminary answers to each question submitted by the other IC members between meetings, and then prepares a proposal for a draft answer to be presented for discussion and recommendation during the meeting.

The final consolidated answers agreed at the meeting are then fine-tuned and included into the IC FAQ list before they are reviewed and formally approved at the next meeting, as needed.

The FAQ list is also a great source for IC members to identify which topic deserves regular review because they have been discussed a lot through the years. For example, in 2019 the most used words in the FAQs are “independence” and “independent” with 75 occurrences and two questions related to “independence” in the 37th and 38th IC meetings. This is another evidence of the fact that this concept continues to raise questions for the NABs and their assessors and how important it is to continue to discuss openly. It emphasizes also the importance of the notion of “independence” in the field of Inspection and in ISO/IEC 17020 - Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.
The major topic for the LC in 2019 was the transition of laboratory accreditation to the new EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The LC focused its work to support the National Accreditation Bodies in the implementation of the new requirements, the greatest level of harmonization required being the keystone.

Issues related to new or different requirements were addressed within all the LC Technical Networks.

A workshop on the transition to EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 was held on September 25th 2019 after the "Train-the-Trainer" workshop held in Paris at the beginning of 2018. More experience being gained, the aim of the workshop was to exchange on the implementation of the new standard and transition assessments. This transition workshop was developed by the LC Management Group, based on the Members’ feedback. The program was refined according to the results of a survey ran in April 2019 among the LC Members to identify the unexpected, common, difficulties faced with the implementation of EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The objective was also to spot any potential need for application or other documents regarding specific clauses of the standard, always with the aim to ensure harmonised approach to accreditation.

Besides, liaisons with the ILAC Accreditation Issues Committee and other interested parties such as EURAMET have been active, with inputs from each of them during LC meetings. Both accreditors and accredited laboratories shared the same point of attention: the new standard for accreditation!

For all in the accreditation community, the main goal is to manage a successful transition for all accredited laboratories by 1st of December 2020.

The Laboratory Committee also dealt with the following issues:
- Extended Field of Application (EXAP) standards and Fire Testing Classification;
- Biobanking and issues related to accreditation and MLA coverage;
- Liaison with European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) and accreditations under Regulation EU 2017/625 (replacing 882/2004) on official controls and other legislation which currently govern the control and enforcement of rules along the agri-food chain;
- Construction Products Regulation (System 3; preferred standard EN ISO/IEC 17025);
- Publication and revision of several documents (click here to access to the full list).

The Laboratory Committee (LC) is the forum for the discussion of all matters related to the accreditation of laboratories, Proficiency Testing Providers (PTP) and Reference Material Producers (RMP). The LC held its meetings in Paris (France) on 26th – 28th March 2019 and in Warsaw (Poland) on 24th - 26th September 2019.

LC Chair
Laurent Vinson (COFRAC, France)

LC Vice-Chair
Trevor Thompson (UKAS, UK) until March 2019
Sergio Guzzi (ACCREDIA, Italy) starting July 2019 for the term 2019-2020.

LC Secretary
Samantha Haddar
### 3 PUBLICATIONS

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8 published publications

17 publications under revision

4 new documents under development

1 publication withdrawn
Peer-evaluation activities

In May 2019 the EA MLA for Reference Material Producers (RMP) was launched. At the end of 2019, 8 National Accreditation Bodies were evaluated and confirmed to comply with all relevant requirements. They all became EA MLA signatories in the field of RMP according to ISO 17034:

- ACCREDIA (Italy)
- CAI (Czech Republic)
- DAkkS (Germany)
- ENAC (Spain)
- INAB (Ireland)
- RvA (The Netherlands)
- TURKAK (Turkey)
- UKAS (UK)

Launching the EA MLA for Reference Material Producers

For the peer evaluations carried out in 2019 16 Team Leaders, 73 Team Members and 16 trainees were assigned. They spent around 935 man-days.

In total, 17 evaluation reports were reviewed during the EA MAC meetings held in May and October 2019. Additionally, 1 progress report (BAS – Bulgaria) was reviewed during the October MAC meeting.

In 2019, a total of 71 non-conformities, 170 concerns and 125 comments were reported by the evaluation teams in the reports reviewed by the MAC.

By the end of 2019, peer evaluations of 11 NABs were reported to be in progress and expected to be completed in 2020, when 9 other NABs are planned to be peer-evaluated in 2020.

At the end of 2019, there were 43 EA Members signatories of the EA MLA, including 9 Associate members through a Bilateral Agreement (BLA).
How to maintain robustness of the EA MLA and peer-evaluation process? By working together, sharing knowledge, building up common understanding and developing consistent approach to peer evaluation. To guarantee a constant level of competence and harmonization, EA organized two Refresher training in 2019 for Team Members (TM) and Deputy Team Leaders (DTL) / Team Leaders (TL). During the December training for TM, workshops were organized to cover each particularity of the following scopes: Proficiency Testing Providers (PTP), Certification of persons and Laboratories.

- DTL / TL Refresher Training, 18-19 June 2019, Brussels (1)
- TM Refresher training, 12-13 December 2019, Paris (2)

It is essential that National Accreditation Bodies (NABs) deliver accreditation in a harmonized way, including for new or updated standards and scopes. This is the reason why EA organized a train-the-trainer workshop on ISO/IEC 17029 Conformity assessment — General principles and requirements for Validation and Verification bodies on November 2019, to help NABs better apprehend the requirements and characteristics of the new standard and its impact on the Validation and Verification activities. Another Harmonization training took place also in November hosted by the Laboratory Committee to consolidate a harmonized understanding of the requirements in the field of Reference Material Producers. It was a follow up workshop designed to build upon experience gained with the development of accreditation in that area based on the new standard ISO 17034:2016.

- Train-the-trainer Workshop on ISO/IEC 17029, 28 November 2019, Paris (3)
- Harmonization training RMP, 13-14 November 2019, Paris (4)

4 trainings in 2019

128 participants in 2019
6 EUROPEAN COMMISSION
AND STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders

In 2019, EA cooperated actively with nearly 40 Recognized Stakeholders, (click here to access to the full list) representing Regulators, Industry, Consumers, Conformity Assessment Bodies, Standardization Bodies and Metrology.

2 new organizations signed in 2019 the EA Recognized Stakeholder Agreement in accordance with EA-1/15 EA Policy for Relations with Stakeholders:

- **TIC Council** (merge of CECC (International Confederation Of Inspection And Certification Organisations) and IFIA (International Federation of Inspection Agencies)) is the association of the global independent Testing, Inspection and Certification industry – whose mission is to engage governments and key stakeholders to advocate for effective solutions that protect the public, support innovation and facilitate trade. The TIC Council works with its members to promote best practices in safety, quality, health, ethics and sustainability.

- **NB-Rail Association** is an international non-profit organization of the notified bodies for interoperability in the railway sector – whose mission is to use its experience to contribute to achieving a harmonised European legislative framework and fully support the railway sector, and the role of Conformity Assessment Bodies in certifying products that are interoperable and safe and advocate the benefits of third-party assessment to verify product safety.

European Commission

The New Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for 2019-2022 was signed with the European Commission (EC) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). The FPA aims to widen and strengthen the co-operation with EA and its members in order to reflect and support actively the development of EU policy and legislation for open and fair trade on the European market.

It aims to support the realization of the specific Action Plan 2018-2021 under which EA makes several major commitments to:

- Continue strengthening its peer-evaluation system;
- Review and extend the Accreditation for Notification package to ensure harmonization of accreditation against European legislation;
- Extend coverage of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and EU to new product fields;
- Establish the EA training Academy, change and reinforce EA’s management and decision-making structure;
- Reaffirm and reinforce cooperation with its stakeholders, improve conformity assessment visibility and enhance EA’s role at the international level.

The implementation of the Action Plan is made possible thanks to the financial resources allocated to EA by the EC and EFTA under the new FPA. The balance between financial support given by EC, EFTA and EA Members is a strong asset to a fruitful and sustainable cooperation.
The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement is a trade agreement between the European Union and Canada. It aims to cut tariffs and makes it easier to export goods and services, benefitting consumers and businesses in both the EU and Canada. CETA entered into force provisionally on 21st September 2017, and most of the agreement now applies. In a nutshell: reassure the Canadian and European citizens and companies that the products and services imported from Canada are in compliance with the applicable standards in Europe, and vice versa.

In 2019, EA cooperated with the DGs and European Agencies on the following issues:

- DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW)
  - Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 on accreditation
  - Proposed Regulation on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers
  - Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/945 on unmanned aircraft systems and on third-country operators of unmanned aircraft systems
- DG Mobility and Transport (MOVE) / EU Agency for Railways (ERA)
  - Directive (EU) 2016/797 on the interoperability of the rail system
  - Implementing Regulation (EU) No 402/2013 on the common safety method for risk evaluation and assessment
  - Regulation (EU) 445/2011 on a system of certification of entities in charge of maintenance for freight wagons
  - Proposed Regulation on electronic freight transport information
- DG Climate Action (CLIMA)
  - Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2087 on the verification of data and on the accreditation of verifiers pursuant to Directive 2003/87/EC
  - Regulation (EU) 2015/757 on the monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport (MRV)
- DG Justice and Consumers (JUST)
  - Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (GDPR)
- DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE) / Joint Research Centre
  - Support services regarding the accreditation aspects of the project on a European voluntary Quality Assurance scheme for Breast Cancer Services underpinned by Accreditation and high-quality Guidelines
- DG Environment (ENV)
  - EU Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) programme
- EU Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA)
  - Regulation (EU) 2019/881 on ENISA and on information and communications technology cybersecurity certification
The re-evaluation of EA by IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) started in 2018 and included the extension to the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for the scope Reference Material Producers.

- In 2018 the IAF/ILAC team observed the EA peer evaluations in two Accreditation Bodies (INAB, Ireland and ACCREDIA, Italy) and evaluated the activity of the EA Secretariat.
- In 2019, the decision-making process was evaluated during the EA MAC meeting held in May in Reykjavik, Iceland.
- The report on the re-evaluation of EA is under review by the Task Force Group appointed at IAF/ILAC level.

EA continued to ensure appropriate contribution to the IAF/ILAC peer-evaluation system, including evaluation resources. EA members provided peer-evaluation resources as showed below:

- 1 Team Leader from IPAC (Portugal) participated in the evaluation of the new body resulting from the merger between Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) and Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APAC). The region is now called Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC);
- 1 Team Leader from TURKAK (Turkey) participated in the re-evaluation of Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC);
- 1 Team Member from ENAC (Spain) participated in the APAC evaluation for the scope Reference Material Producers.

**Continued compliance surveys**

EA MAC has strengthened its process for ensuring continuing compliance with the MLA requirements on transitions to publications and standards. In 2019, 3 transition periods came to an end, and the MAC carried out surveys on each to monitor compliance by its members with the new or revised requirements, namely:

- IAF MD 4-2018 - IAF Mandatory Document for the Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Auditing/Assessment Purposes;
- IAF MD 23:2018 - Control of Entities Operating on Behalf of Accredited Management Systems Certification Bodies;
- ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 - Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 3: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems.

Feedback received from each survey indicated that all members had successfully completed the respective transitions within the agreed timeframe. Therefore, EA confirmed that it continues to comply with the requirements of IAF and ILAC as a Recognized Region.
8 COMMUNICATIONS

Raising accreditation profile to EU citizens
Because consumer awareness of accreditation has always been a challenge, EA keeps on working on a number of initiatives to improve its visibility among the general public.

In 2019, a video was published using ‘plain English’ to show how accreditation benefits our everyday lives.

Twitter is one of the suitable tools to talk directly to consumers. Therefore, a new concept of infographics was launched. Three such infographics were published in 2019. Each infographics focuses on one scope of accreditation, with a simple example of how accreditation improves consumers’ daily life.

5 reports released in 2019
How accepted is accreditation in Europe and used by the European and national authorities as well as private scheme owners and users as the preferred means to demonstrate competence of CABs, and how robust is the accreditation system?

EA has been requested by the European Commission to provide specific indicators, which shall or are expected to give information about the functioning of accreditation in Europe. In response to the EC request, EA launched a survey to all EA National Accreditation Bodies and the results were summarized in the “Report on the Functioning of Accreditation in Europe”.

The second edition of the EA Annual Report was released in July 2019, giving a comprehensive review of the main achievements by EA Committees, cooperation with Stakeholders, IAF and ILAC in 2018.

The EA 2018 MLA report was published in April 2019, and 2 Regional Reports were also published in February and August, to give IAF and ILAC a detailed overview of EA’s activities and results.

World Accreditation Day 2019
The theme for the Word Accreditation Day (WAD) 2019 was “Accreditation: adding value to the supply chain”. A video was realized by IAF and ILAC with the help of EA CPC Members. To increase visibility of the WAD, Brahim Houla (IAF Communications Marketing Committee Chair) stated that he had been investigating the feasibility of making WAD a United Nations (UN) Official Day. To achieve this the process provides that a request has to come from a UN Member with a proposal for vote and approval at the UN Council. Tunisia and Costa Rica are going to submit a proposal to the UN for the WAD to be officially recognized.

International Congress of Metrology 2019
The EA Secretariat and COFRAC, the French National Accreditation Body, organised and co-facilitated a roundtable on the transition to EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 with contributions of 2 National Accreditation Bodies, UKAS (UK) and COFRAC (France), as well as the accreditation body A2LA (USA), and accredited laboratories, LNE (French National Laboratory of Metrology and Testing), QTI (Calibration and Metrology in Spain) and the French Police Forensic Services. It was the most successful event of the Congress with 152 participants compared to 146 delegates who attended the Congress Plenary. During 2 hours, speakers explained the new concepts of the standard, highlighting the main differences compared to the previous version, and how laboratories could get perfectly prepared in view of their accreditation assessment.

Even if some slight differences in approach were identified between the different National Accreditation Bodies, the solutions were unanimous: prepare thoroughly the assessment and see that as a way to improve the laboratory risk management system, training courses for laboratories, trainers and staff, and finally adaptation to the customer needs.

Forum
The EA Forum has been launched in September 2019. The main objective is to facilitate communications between members on a secured platform. Committee Chairs and Secretaries introduced the tool to their committees. Assessment mid-2020 will be organized to evaluate the Forum, collect users’ feedback, and proceed to an evolution if needed.
9 EA STRUCTURE
Who we are

The European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) is the association of the legally appointed National Accreditation Bodies (NAB) of the Member States of the European Union (EU), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), candidate countries and the countries covered by the EU Neighborhood Policy. Its mission is to ensure confidence in accredited conformity assessment results through harmonized operation of accreditation activities in support of European and global economies.

Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 establishes the legal basis for accreditation in Europe. Pursuant to Article 14 of this Regulation EA has been appointed as the body responsible for the European Accreditation Infrastructure.

Peer-Evaluation System

Through the EA Multilateral Agreement (EA MLA), EA operates a rigorous, transparent and uniform European peer-evaluation system. Assurance must be provided that National Accreditation Bodies have successfully undergone peer evaluation and have the necessary technical expertise and capabilities to assess, attest and regularly monitor the competence of Conformity Assessment Bodies. Hence, EA ensures that the peer-evaluation system between its members is operated in such a way that conformity assessment results may be considered as equivalent across the EU/EFTA and can be justified on the basis of sound and transparent evaluation criteria and procedures.

National Accreditation Bodies are admitted to the MLA only after stringent evaluation of their operations by a peer-evaluation team assigned to determine continued compliance with Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 and EN ISO/IEC 17011, the internationally recognized standard for Accreditation Bodies. Peer evaluation should also serve as a benchmarking tool in order to stimulate further improvement of accreditation in Europe.

Cooperation with Stakeholders

Close cooperation with stakeholders is essential to the European Accreditation Infrastructure. Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 Annex 1 clause 3, EA shall consult all relevant stakeholders. The use of accreditation is increasing, especially in new areas, therefore it is essential from a technical and strategic point of view that EA cooperates regularly and efficiently with the relevant stakeholders.

Training Activities

To ensure reliable and consistent assessments within the peer-evaluation process, EA has developed an appropriate training program for evaluators. There are two types of training:

- Newcomer training for potential Team Members, in order to provide them with the specifics of peer evaluation and a common level of understanding of the procedures, requirements and their application.
- Refresher training courses for evaluators to exchange information, enhance harmonization and develop best practices to maintain and develop skills and good performance during evaluations when changes are made in standards and other additional requirements.

International Cooperation

EA operates as a Recognized Region in the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), and manages EA peer-evaluation system so as to qualify EA members to be automatic signatories of global Mutual Recognition Agreements (IAF MLA/ILAC MRA) - provided they are a member of IAF/ILAC.

EA and its members are working actively with ILAC and IAF to ensure that the European accreditation system is recognized at global level and that development of the international accreditation system is as far as possible in line with the accreditation policy adopted and implemented in Europe.

Cooperation With The European Commission, EFTA and the member states

The formal relationship between EA, the European Commission and EFTA is further elaborated in a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA). EA regularly cooperates with the European Commission, EFTA and the competent National Authorities in the development and implementation of Community regulations and programmes by providing technical assistance to Directorates Generals (DGs).

EA also supports National Accreditation Bodies (NABs) in countries that are part of the EU’s Neighborhood Policy and potential candidates for EU membership, with a view to their becoming members of EA and ensuring their full participation in EA’s work. The objective is to embrace and support effective development of NABs in these countries in order to enable cooperation with EA and facilitate proper understanding of EA’s practices in relation to the accreditation of conformity assessment activities based on EU legislations.

Market Needs

“Accredited once, accepted everywhere”. Accreditation, therefore EA, is playing a key role in defining, harmonizing and building consistency in accreditation as a service to European trade, industry and society, with the aim of reducing barriers to trade and contributing to protect consumers’ and citizens’ health and safety. Thanks to accreditation, the access to new markets is made easier for companies through recognition of European accreditation, equivalence and reliability of conformity assessment services conveyed by accreditation.

Once tested or certified by an accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB), products and services may be exported without the need for re-testing or re-certification for each new European market.
9 EA STRUCTURE

Who we are

The organization is operated and managed in accordance with the principles and decisions taken by the General Assembly. The EA structure is comprised of:

- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
- **FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**
- **EA ADVISORY BOARD**
- **EA SECRETARIAT**
- **MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT COUNCIL**
- **CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE**
- **COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**
- **HORIZONTAL HARMONIZATION COMMITTEE**
- **INSPECTION COMMITTEE**
- **LABORATORY COMMITTEE**

The **General Assembly**, the association’s highest decision-making body, supervises its management and takes decisions on strategy and general policies. It also elects EA’s Chair and Vice-Chair as well as the Chairs of EA Committees, EA Multilateral Agreement Council, and additional members of the Executive Committee.

The **Executive Committee** is responsible for implementing EA policies and managing the association between General Assembly meetings.

The **EA Advisory Board** (EAAB) gives continuous support to the association’s work and advises EA on a broad range of issues. The Board’s composition constitutes a well-balanced representation of the parties which rely on and contribute to the European accreditation system, with representatives from:
- Conformity Assessment Bodies;
- Industry, services and trade;
- Private scheme owner organizations;
- Consumer associations;
- Metrology institutions;
- European standardization organizations;
- National Authorities;
- European Commission and EFTA.

In particular, the EAAB seeks assurance from EA that accreditation is applied in such a way that it ensures openness and transparency in conformity assessment activities in general and those carried out under EU legislation in particular.

It also monitors EA developments to promote an accreditation process leading to quality and competence driven competition between accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies and coherence with international accreditation practice.

The **EA Secretariat** handles EA’s daily operations. It is continuously developing as an internal services provider, in order to take the lead in managing operational issues, including coordination of EA’s technical work and support of Committee Chairs in running committees, as well as managing the peer-evaluation and training system and program.

A new EA Vice-Chair and a new EA Inspection Chair

Cecilie Laake graduated from the Technical University of Trondheim, department of Electrical Engineering, in 1990. She joined NA, the Norwegian Accreditation body, in 1991, where she first started as a lead assessor and quality manager. She then became head of department, and in March 2017, she was appointed Director General of NA. Since 1991, she has been representing NA in international forums for accreditation and has been acting for several years as team leader for peer evaluations. Cecilie participates in the EA MAC and the MAC MG, EA HHC, EA General Assembly and several IAF/ILAC Committees and General Assemblies.

Orbay Evrensevdi graduated from the Hacettepe University, department of Industrial Engineering for Wood Processes in 1992. He joined TURKAK, the Turkish Accreditation in 2000, where he first started as an Assistant Expert in the Department of Product, Certification and Inspection. He then became lead assessor, head of department, and since 2018 Acting Secretary General. Orbay is an EA peer evaluator; he participates in the EA IC, EA HHC, and several IAF/ILAC Committees, and General Assemblies.

New arrivals mean new departures. Two members of the EA Executive Committee finished their terms in the Executive Committee.

Maria Papatzikou was member of the MAC Management Group between 2010 and 2017, and member of the Executive Committee in 2017 and 2018, and as the EA Vice Chair since 19 May 2018.

Rolf Straub was Chair of the Inspection Committee, and a member of the Executive Committee from January 2012 until December 2019. He has also been Convenor of the Working Group Healthcare from 2010, Member of the MAC Management Group from 2017, and an EA team leader in 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016.
## 10 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

### ASSETS (€ x 1,000)

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<td>Communications and publications</td>
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<td>Other operating costs</td>
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### INCOME (€ x 1,000)

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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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ALBANIA - Directorate of Accreditation (DQA)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 131
Phone: +355 4 22 409 325
info@dqa.gov.al - www.dqa.gov.al

AUSTRALIA - Australian Accreditation Service (NAS)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 469
Phone: +61 3 9422 8057
info@nas.gov.au - www.nas.gov.au

BELGIUM - Belgian Accreditation Council (BELAC)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 578
Phone: +32 2 17 55 434
belac@ecommerce.fgov.be - www.belac.fgov.be

BULGARIA - Bulgarian Accreditation Service (BAS)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 646
Phone: +359 2 97 03 02
office@nab-bas.bg - www.nab-bas.bg

BULGARIA - Bulgarian Accreditation Service (BAS)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 646
Phone: +359 297 03 02
office@nab-bas.bg - www.nab-bas.bg

CROATIA - Croatian Accreditation Agency (HAA)

Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 442
Phone: +385 1 61 63 22
akreditacija@akcreditacija.hr - www.akcreditacija.hr

CYPRUS - Cyprus Organization for the Promotion of Quality (CYPQS)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Inspection

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 107
Phone: +357 22 409 351 - +357 22 409 310
accredit@cyq.moi.gov.cy - www.cyq.moi.gov.cy

CZECH REPUBLIC - Czech Accreditation Institute (CAI)

Status: Public
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 1,156
Phone: +420 272 096 222
caii@caii.cz - www.caii.cz

DENMARK - Danish Accreditation Institute (DAKKS)

Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 319
Phone: +45 72 10 05 00
danak@danak.dk - www.danak.org

DENMARK - Danish Accreditation Institute (DAKKS)

Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 224
Phone: +37 2 6 02 801
info@daai.dk - www.daai.dk

FINLAND - Finnish Accreditation Service (FINAS)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 3,360
Phone: +358 96 92 20
information@finas.fi - www.finas.fi

FRANCE - Commission française d'accréditation (COFRAC)

Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 2,949
Phone: +33 1 44 88 82 20
information@cofrac.fr - www.cofrac.fr

GERMANY - Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle GmbH (DAK)\n
Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers, Reference Material Producers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 4,307
Phone: +49 (0) 37 17 02 90 19
contact@dak.de - www.dak.de

GREECE - Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 605
Phone: +30 210 704 502
esyd@esyd.gr - www.esyd.gr

HUNGARY - National Accreditation Authority (NAH)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 600
Phone: +36 (1) 550-1077
nah.asd@nah.gov.hu - www.nah.gov.hu

ICELAND - Icelandic Board for Technical Accreditation (IBAC)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA in 2019:
Phone: +345 580 9400
ibac@ibac.is - www.ibac.is

IRELAND - Irish National Accreditation Board (INAIB)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 238
Phone: +353 1 6147152
info@inaib.ie - www.inaib.ie

ITALY - L’Etablissement d’accréditation (ACCREDA)

Status: Private
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 2,165
Phone: +39 02 84 51 85 67
info@accredia.it - www.accredia.it

LATVIA - Latvian National Accreditation Bureau (LATAK)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 318
Phone: +371 6737 3501
admin@latak.lv - www.latak.lv

LITHUANIA - Lithuanian National Accreditation Service (LNAS)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 283
Phone: +370 706 65173
info@lnas.lt - www.lnas.lt

LUXEMBOURG - Office Luxembourgeois d’Accréditation et de Surveillance (OLAS)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Inspection

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 57
Phone: +352 24 77 43 00
dominique.ferrand@lnas.public.lu - www.lnas.public.lu

MALTA - National Accreditation Board (NAB-Malta)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing, Inspection

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 26
Phone: +356 3259001
claudio.borri@nabmalta.org.mt, www.nabmalta.org.mt

MONTENEGRO - Accreditation Body of Montenegro (ATOS)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA:

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 7
Phone: +38 02 246 2786
atos@atos-mc.org

NORWAY - Norsk akkreditert (NAK)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 345
Phone: +47 64 88 06 00
akkreditert@nakro.no - www.nakro.no

POLAND - Polski Centrum Akredytacji (PCA)

Status: Governmental
Activities under the EA MLA: Calibration, Testing and Medical examination, Product certification, Management Systems Certification, Certification of Persons, Inspection, Validation and Verification, Proficiency Testing Providers

Number of accreditations under the EA MLA in 2019: 1,621
Phone: +48 22 355 70 00
sekretariat@pca.gov.pl - www.pca.gov.pl
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11 PRACTICAL INFORMATION

EA Full Members

EA Associate Members

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EA Annual Report 2019
# 11 Practical Information

## EA Multilateral Agreement Signatories

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<th>Testing Laboratories</th>
<th>Medical Examinations</th>
<th>Certification Bodies - Products</th>
<th>Certification Bodies - Persons</th>
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### New signatory in 2019
- New signatory in 2019

### Multilateral Agreement Signatories
- Algeria - Algerac
- Belarus - BSCA
- Bosnia & Herzegovina - BATA
- Egypt - EGAC
- Georgia - GAC
- Israel - ISRAC
- Republic of Moldova - Moldac
- Ukraine - NAAU
- Tunisia - TUNAC

### Bilateral Agreement Signatories
- 9

### Total Accreditations
- 36,856
11 PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Executive Committee

Ignacio Pina
Chair

Maria Papatzikou
Vice-Chair

Kevin Belson
CC Chair

Laurent Vinson
LC Chair

Lucyna Olborska
CPC Chair

Rolf Straub
IC Chair

Gabriel Zrenner
HHC Chair

Paulo Tavares
MAC Chair

Emanuele Riva
Additional member

Martin Sencák
Additional member

Jiří Růžička
Additional member

Ed Wieles
Additional member

EA Secretariat

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Executive Secretary
Tel: +33 (0)1 40 21 24 81
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General Administration
Administration of Peer Evaluators
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Amandine Combe
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Samantha Haddar
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Daniela Ionescu
Secretary of Multilateral Agreement Council
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Frédérique Laudinet
Secretary of Certification Committee, Inspection Committee and EA Advisory Board Relations with EA Recognised Stakeholders
EA Reporting - Assistant to the Executive Secretary
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Yannick Nol
Finances Manager
Tel: +33 (0) 1 40 21 24 66
yannick.nol@european-accreditation.org

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10 PRATICAL INFORMATION

EA Recognized Stakeholders

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<tr>
<td>ANEC</td>
<td>Confederation of Inspection and Certification Organisations</td>
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<td>BUSINESS EUROPE</td>
<td>Confederation of European Business</td>
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<td>European Committee for Standardization (CEN) - European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC)</td>
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<td>International Confederation of Inspection and Certification Organisations</td>
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<td>European Commission - Directorate-General (DG) for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs</td>
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<td>European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare of the Council of Europe</td>
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<td>Association of Product Certification Bodies in Europe active in the Construction sector</td>
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<td>NB-RAIL Association</td>
<td>International non-profit organization of the Notified Bodies for Interoperability in the Railway Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGALIME</td>
<td>European Engineering Industries Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEFC</td>
<td>International Certification Network - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIC COUNCIL</td>
<td>International Association representing Independent Testing, Inspection and Certification companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UILI</td>
<td>Union Internationale des Laboratoires Indépendants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WELMEC</td>
<td>European Cooperation in Legal Metrology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES (members of the EA Advisory Board 2019)

BELGIUM - Federal Public Service Economy, Metrology
CZECH REPUBLIC - Administrative Activities Unit, Testing Department, Czech Office For Standards, Metrology And Testing
GERMANY - BAM Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing
ROMANIA - Ministry of Economy of Romania, Department Industrial Policies and Competitiveness
TURKEY - Head of Department of Quality Infrastructure and Market Surveillance, DG Product Safety and Inspection, Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Turkey

Recognized stakeholders