List of Conclusions and Resolutions
agreed at the 43rd Meeting of the EA Advisory Board
held online on 28 April 2020

Agenda Item 2 - Approval of agenda
List of conclusions and resolutions of 42nd Meeting of the EAAB
Approved Minutes of 42nd Meeting of the EA Advisory Board
Action list (actions not covered elsewhere)

The Board:

- takes note that, since the last meeting, EFTA has no further update on the situation that ISAC, the Icelandic national accreditation body, had never been peer evaluated by EA and never applied for the EA MLA signatory status; EFTA Surveillance Authority is working on the matter and there have been further exchanges between the Authority and the Icelandic government;

- again, notes that EA has not to take this issue on board because it is up to each NAB to get prepared for peer evaluation and apply for EA MLA signatory status, and that this is an issue for regulators and Icelandic authorities.

Agenda Item 3 - Topics for discussion

Agenda Item 3.1 - Stakeholders’ representation in EA; interaction between EAAB and EA

The Board:

- acknowledges the EC’s formal request that the NA College should coordinate with all national authorities which it represents, and the EC’s willingness to support the NA College in this objective after the latter decides upon a way of improvement;

- acknowledges the EC’s formal request that EA, which should consult the EAAB, should demonstrate more formal responsiveness to the advice given and the comments made by the EAAB;

- takes note that the CAB College, highlighting the advisory role of the EAAB, proposes reorienting the Board’s agendas to be more focused on those topics EA would like or need to receive advice on;

- confirms that the EAAB is called upon to act as the structure to ensure effective stakeholder involvement within EA and to perform the related tasks, as agreed by EA and required by Article 4 (11) of Regulation (EC) 765/2008, the proper implementation of which is also an EC responsibility, and notes the request from the Industry College for clearer guidance by the EC as to what the expectations of the EC are in this regard, including a clear statement that EA should give effective support, including financial support, for the EAAB to play its role;

Action EC
agreed that each EAAB College and other Board Members should prepare and send written contributions (stating needs and expectations), based on the document "Interactions between EA and EAAB: potential for improvement" (meeting paper EAAB(20)03), on the following issues:
1/ How to improve the interaction between EA and the EAAB?
2/ How do stakeholders consider the EAAB’s role in the future?
in order to have further discussions at the next meeting of the Board.

Action EAAB Chair/Secretariat to send a formal call for contributions
Action EAAB Colleges and Members to answer the call by mid-September 2020

Agenda Item 3.2 - Extension of implementation deadline for ISO/IEC 17025

The Board:

- notes that, owing to the Covid-19 outbreak, many assessments against the new ISO/IEC 17025 (published in November 2017) cannot be performed completely and, as a result, all laboratories cannot demonstrate compliance with the requirements to the new standard by the 3-year implementation deadline, i.e. November 2020;

- supports EA’s initiative on asking EC to consider the upcoming ILAC decision to extend the implementation deadline of ISO/IEC 17025 until 1 June 2021, and to publish the extension in the EU Official Journal in order for European NABs to follow the extension.

Agenda Item 3.3 - Consultancy by conformity assessment bodies: CERTIF / HHC documents

The Board:

- notes that a new non-mandatory guidance document EA-2/20: Consultancy, and the Independence of Conformity Assessment Bodies, setting out what consultancy is and what is acceptable in terms of consultancy, has been published for use not only by NABs but also by CABs;

- appreciates that such practical guidance based on different scenarios has been established for stakeholders’ input and is looking forward to seeing how it will be applied;

- agrees that the document should remain general guidance and not be developed into a mandatory document.

Agenda Item 3.4 - Coronavirus outbreak and its impact on the assessment of CABs

The Board appreciates the initiative taken by EA to issue a statement on the consequences of the Covid-19 outbreak on assessment of CABs and the option given for remote assessments.

Agenda Item 3.5 - Brexit and EA: update

The Board notes that, further to the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union in January 2020, the application of Article 6 clause 7 in the EA Articles of Association allowing the UK to remain an EA Member for a period of time no longer than two years, i.e. until January 2022, has to be endorsed at the online EA General Assembly on 14 May 2020.
Agenda Item 4 - Topics for information

EAAB Matters

Agenda Item 4.1 - Report from the EAAB MAC observer: latest developments
Report from the HHC: latest developments

The Board thanks Gabriel Zrenner (DAkkS), the HHC Chair, for his written exhaustive presentation and Christian Schramm (IIOC), the newly-appointed EAAB HHC observer, for his report.

Agenda Item 4.2 - Multi-site certification: need for harmonised approach

The Board:
- thanks the CAB College for raising the issue and presenting document EAAB(20)04;
- takes note that market information shows that a harmonised application of the requirements defined in IAF MD1:2018 *IAF Mandatory Document for the Audit and Certification of a Management System Operated by a Multi-Site Organization* by all of its MLA signatory ABs needs to be ensured further;
- highlights the need for clarification by IAF on how it intends to prevent any additional requirements being added to its mandatory documents, and to stick to their basic principle "*Accreditation bodies, which have been evaluated by peers as competent, sign arrangements that enhance the acceptance of products and services across national borders, thereby creating a framework to support international trade through the removal of technical barriers, when these additional requirements from the AB serve to put such barriers in place*?";
- agrees to continue to observe the proceedings on this issue at the IAF level.

*Action EAAB > CAB College*

EA Matters

Agenda Item 4.3 - Endorsement of new EA work items

The Board endorses the new work item proposed for the revision of EA-1/17 S3 - *EA Procedure for the investigation and resolution of Complaints and Appeals*.

Agenda Item 4.4 - Update on implementation of IAF resolution on non-accredited product certification where the CAB is accredited for the same scope

The Board reiterates the conclusions and comments made at the previous meetings about the need for clarification and a harmonised understanding in particular regarding the issue of what is covered by the note in IAF Resolution 2018-13 on non-accredited product certification where the CAB is accredited for the same scope.

Agenda Item 4.5 - EA planned event on digitalisation and its impact on accreditation

The Board acknowledges that, until more information is available on the Covid-19 development, EA has to stop the preparation of the event on digitalisation, which is however quite upheld.
Agenda Item 4.6 - Revision of EA-2/17: EA Document on Accreditation for Notification Purposes

The Board:

- acknowledges that revised EA-2/17 has been published and is an important step forward with regard to better consistency and harmonisation in the use of standards for the notification of CABs, also in the construction products area;

- notes that the application of preferred harmonised standards is mandatory for NABs unless another standard is defined by the relevant national notifying authorities.

Agenda Item 4.7 - The EC Blue Guide: update

The Board asks the EC to keep the Board informed on the revision of the EC Blue Guide which has been starting. **Action EC**

Agenda Item 4.8 - EA MLA Mark

The Board:

- notes that the application of the EA MLA mark, whose shape has been adopted at the EA General Assembly in November 2019, will be effective in the first half of 2021 when the procedural aspects (use) of the mark to be finalised in revised EA-3/01 and its registration process will be closed;

- agrees that the application of the mark should remain voluntary for NABs.

Agenda Item 4.9 - CETA – Implementation of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with Canada/SCC – Progress report

The Board notes that the operationalisation of the CETA agreement is still delayed due to the lack of European recognition of SCC, for which a legal agreement is being elaborated on by the EC.

Agenda Item 4.10 - Single international accreditation organisation: update

The Board notes that a steering committee has been established by ILAC and IAF for them to become a single international accreditation organisation, and that a call for interest for an external facilitator in charge of managing operational issues should be launched soon.

The Board thanks EA for the oral and written reports provided under those items.

Agenda Item 6 - Confirmation and selection of dates and places of next meetings

The Board:

- confirms to meet on **Tuesday 10 November 2020**, and thanks EFTA for offering to host the meeting at EFTA’s old offices, provided that there are no more travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic;

- agrees to meet on Thursday 29 April 2021.