

## **List of Conclusions and Resolutions**

**agreed at the 51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the EA Advisory Board  
held on 3 May 2024 in a hybrid form in Brussels, Belgium**

### **Agenda Item 1 - Changes and new members**

The Board takes note that:

- Svatava Lagronová from the Czech Republic has been nominated as a new member of the National Authorities College (NAC), and that Ariane van Cutsem from Belgium has been appointed the interim Chair of the NAC, in order to stand in for Natália Kolibová who left the EAAB;
- Maria Elena Greco from Italy will resign very soon from the EAAB and a new call for nominations should be processed through the IMP (Informal Commission experts group on the Internal Market of Products);
- Jan Deconinck is the new WELMEC representative on the Board;
- Alexandra Arnarsdottir is the new EFTA representative on the Board.

*Note: the list of EAAB membership and EA-INF/02, which have already been updated accordingly, will also reflect Maria Elena Greco's leaving.*

### **Agenda Item 3 - Topics for discussion**

#### **Agenda Item 3.1 - Renewal of the Board in November 2024: approval of call of nominations to be launched**

The Board agrees to:

- send the call for the renewal of the Board at the next meeting on 8 November 2024 as distributed among the meeting papers, with a deadline set on 4 October 2024 for nominations, including those for all three Chair positions, to be sent to the EAAB Secretariat.  
**Action Secretariat/EAAB Members**
- hold an exclusively physical meeting on 8 November 2024 as the first meeting of the renewed Board.

#### **Agenda Item 3.2 - Challenges for the conformity assessment infrastructure: new regulations for new technologies' implementation (Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Sustainability): progress report of actions by EA**

The Board:

- takes note of EA's work and efforts undertaken so far to cope with the challenges posed by those regulations addressing new technologies and sustainability;
- reiterates its concerns over the lack of resources in conformity assessment and accreditation bodies, faced with a lack of harmonised technical standards and specifications;

- reaffirms the concerns raised in the marketplace about the risk of uneven levels of competence of notified bodies following from varying practices of notification applied by the competent Member States' notifying authorities, and resulting in a lack of equivalence of conformity assessment, in particular under regulations addressing new technologies.

### **Agenda Item 3.3 - Accreditation policy developments - effective EC communication strategy: update**

The Board:

- acknowledges and welcomes the excellent and efficient communication put in place between EA and the EC;
- agrees that communication needs to be improved between the notifying authorities and the EC, on the one hand, and among the notifying authorities, on the other hand, by establishing adequate channels for the exchange of experience in all fields of legislation, and invites the EC to provide for the organisation of such an exchange of experience between the Member States' national authorities responsible for notification policy as is foreseen under each piece of NLF legislation that provides for the use of notified bodies;
- acknowledges the request from the CAB and Industry Colleges to receive short regular information reports from the EC on the current developments in the area of conformity assessment and accreditation policy;
- takes note that EUROLAB proposes organising case-by-case workshops as separate, in-between meetings with the college chairs to ensure such communication between the EC and all stakeholders of European accreditation.

## **Agenda Item 4 - Topics for information**

### **EAAB Matters**

#### **Agenda Item 4.1 - Update of the EAAB Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure**

The Board agrees to update the EAAB Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for approval at the next meeting in order to reflect:

- the establishment of in-between meetings between the college chairs and EA;
- the establishment of hybrid meetings;
- that the reports provided to the Secretariat for the EA General Assemblies are considered as annual reports of the EAAB.

***Action Secretariat together with the EAAB Chair and Vice-Chairs for the next meeting***

#### **Agenda Item 4.2 - Update of the EAAB Work Programme**

The Board agrees to close most of those "key topics and actions" discussed at the Board's meetings since November 2019 and carried forward in the EAAB Work Programme, as reviewed during the meeting.

***Action Secretariat to clean the WP (transfer all closed actions into separate Excel sheet) and publish it on the intranet.***

**Agenda Item 4.3 - Report from the EAAB MAC Observer: 24-25 April 2024 meeting  
Report from the EAAB HHC Observer: 6-7 March 2024 meeting  
EAAB Members' access to the EA intranet: update**

The Board:

- takes note of the information contained in the EAAB MAC Observer's report published as EAAB(24)07, thanks the observer for her comprehensive report, and was satisfied with the performance and running of the EA MLA;
- takes note of the information contained in the EAAB HHC Observer's report published as EAAB(24)06, and thanks the observer for his comprehensive report;
- acknowledges that access to documents should be granted for each recognised stakeholder *organisation*, rather than for every member thereof, and as a consequence, that EAAB Members should be granted access to the EA committees' intranet folders, provided that no other representatives of the same recognised stakeholder organisation are already members of these committees and participate in the meetings thereof.  
**Action Secretariat to check the whole of intranet access for each EAAB Member and, if relevant, give him/her access.**

**Agenda Item 4.4 - Stakeholders' representation in EA; interaction between EAAB & EA**

The Board:

- approves the document "*EAAB Management Review of Role, Operations and Interaction with EA*" as revised and updated during the meeting.  
**Action Secretariat to clean the document with the modifications agreed at the meeting and republish it on the EAAB web page.**

**Agenda Item 4.5 - IAF CertSearch database: update**

The Board:

- shares EA's concerns about the IAF Mandatory Document MD 28 (due for application in October 2024) which provides for the obligation placed on IAF Accreditation Bodies to oblige their accredited conformity assessment bodies to upload all their accredited management system certificates on the IAF CertSearch database, irrespective of their coverage by the EA MLA or not, and agrees with EA that EA NABs cannot be obliged to comply with IAF MD 28 unless there is a clear legal basis for this in their respective national legislations, given that EA NABs are bodies exercising public authority powers as required by Regulation (EU) 765/2008;
- takes note that the IAF TFG dedicated to the CertSearch database has established a process to deal with such kind of exceptions.

**EC Matters**

**Agenda Item 4.6 - Report from the EC**

The Board:

- acknowledges that the evaluation of the New Legislative Framework, which is closed, largely confirmed the solidity of the European accreditation and conformity assessment system, even though it is faced with some new challenges, such as those relating to sustainability;

- acknowledges that the EC takes as a recommendation the need to improve the communication with the notifying authorities, as well as the request to follow up the issue at the next meeting.  
**Action EC, and Chair for next meeting agenda**

## EA Matters

### Agenda Item 4.7 - Endorsement of EA new work items

The Board endorses the new work items proposed for:

- the revision of EA-2/17 M: *EA Document on Accreditation for Notification Purposes* according to the rationale set out in Document EAAB(24)02;
- the revision of EA-3/01 M: *EA Conditions for the Use of Accreditation Symbols, Logos and other Claims of Accreditation and Reference to the EA MLA Signatory Status* according to the rationale set out in Document EAAB(24)03.

### Agenda Item 4.13 - Relations with stakeholders

The Board:

- takes note of the first request from a group of public authorities to become EA Recognised Stakeholder, and acknowledges that it raises the wider issue of whether a group of public authorities should be accepted or not among the EA Recognised Stakeholders;
- agrees to discuss the issue at the next meeting, and in the meantime, to send the EAAB Chair any eventual advice to be put forward to EA before the General Assembly on 22-23 May 2024.

**Action EAAB Members/Secretariat**

## Agenda Item 5 - Any other business

The Board:

- acknowledges that the NA College would appreciate to get a more detailed EA report on complaints and appeals that mentions the whole background and the reasons thereof;
- acknowledges that EUROLAB suggests having extra preliminary meetings dedicated to specific topics for further consideration at the Board's or the Chair's meetings;
- takes note that EUROLAB has been restructuring their TCQA (Technical Committee on Quality Assurance in Testing and Calibration) to make it stronger and more effective in the future, and is calling for members to join their new working and task force groups;
- would appreciate that, in case of absence of the EA President at an EAAB meeting, the EA Vice-President or another member of the Executive Board could represent EA.

## Agenda Item 6 - Selection of date and place of next meeting

The Board agrees to hold the next, *physical* meeting on **Friday 8 November 2024** and thanks EFTA for offering to host the meeting at the EFTA House in Brussels.

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