

# EA REPORT TO IAF/ILAC AND REGIONS

STATUS JULY - DECEMBER 2024



**EA**   
EUROPEAN  
ACCREDITATION

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I - STRUCTURAL STATUS AS AT DECEMBER 2024</b>	<b>3</b>
1 - EA Membership	3
2 - Signatories to the EA MLA	3
3 - EA Recognised Stakeholders	4
<b>II - EA MLA AND PEER-EVALUATION ISSUES</b>	<b>4</b>
1 - New and remaining signatories to EA MLA scopes	4
2 - Latest developments relating to EA peer evaluations	5
2.1 - Peer evaluations in 2024	5
2.2 - Peer-evaluator trainings	5
<b>III - STATUS OF EA'S RECOGNITION IN IAF/ILAC</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>IV - STATUS OF EA DOCUMENTS</b>	<b>7</b>
1 - Documents published since July 2024	7
2 - Documents under revision	7
3 - New documents under development	8
4 - Documents withdrawn since July 2024	8
<b>V - ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE IAF MLA AND ILAC MRA</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>VI - MAJOR OTHER ACTIVITIES/DEVELOPMENTS IN EA</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>VII - EA MEETINGS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>VIII - EA REPRESENTATIVES IN IAF AND ILAC COMMITTEES</b>	<b>10</b>

# I - Structural status as at December 2024

## 1 - EA Membership

In November 2024, the General Assembly decided in accordance with Article 6 of the *EA Articles of Association* and paragraph 4 of EA-1/17 Supplement 5 - *Levying of Membership Fees*, to terminate with immediate effect the EA Membership of JAS-AU, the Jordan National Accreditation Body.

EA has a total of 48 Members.

The complete list of EA Members together with their details and their EA Multilateral Agreement (MLA) status is available on the EA website at <https://european-accreditation.org/ea-members/directory-of-ea-members-and-mla-signatories/>

## 2 - Signatories to the EA MLA

44 Members are signatories to the EA MLA.

The individual EA Multilateral and Bilateral Agreement Signatories are listed by EA MLA scope on [EA-INF/03: Signatories to the EA Multilateral and Bilateral Agreements](#).

	Calibration (EN ISO/IEC 17025)	Testing (EN ISO/IEC 17025)	Medical Examinations (EN ISO/IEC 15189)	Inspection (EN ISO/IEC 17020)	Management System Certification (EN ISO/IEC 17021-1)	Product Certification (EN ISO/IEC 17065)	Person Certification (EN ISO/IEC 17024)	Validation and Verification (EN ISO/IEC 17029 & EN ISO 14065)	Proficiency Testing Provision (EN ISO/IEC 17043)	Reference Material Production (EN ISO 17034)
<b>Members signatories to the EA MLA</b>	41	42	39	43	35	38	32	27	22	14

Recapitulative table of signatories by MLA scope

### 3 - EA Recognised Stakeholders

EA cooperates with more than 40 Recognised Stakeholders, whose complete list is available on the EA website at <https://european-accreditation.org/about-ea/ea-stakeholders/>

In accordance with [EA-1/15: EA Policy for Relation with Stakeholders](#) providing for a formal review every five years, the Recognised Stakeholder agreements with the following organisations have been renewed in November 2024 for the coming five years:

- Bioenergy Europe;
- EDQM (European Directorate for the Quality of Medicine and HealthCare of the Council of Europe);
- EFNDT (European Federation for Non-destructive Testing);
- EOCC (European Organic Certifiers Council);
- IQNet (International Certification Network);
- NB-Rail Association;
- PEFC International (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Scheme);
- TIC (Testing, Inspection and Certification) Council.

## II - EA MLA and peer-evaluation issues

### 1 - New and remaining signatories to EA MLA scopes

Upon decisions made by the MLA Council (MAC) at its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 23 October 2024 in Brussels, Belgium, and through electronic ballots carried out in the second semester 2024:

- EGAC, the National Accreditation Body (NAB) of Egypt, became an EA MLA signatory in the fields of validation and verification (EN ISO/IEC 17029).  
Furthermore, EGAC remained an EA MLA signatory in the field of proficiency testing provision (EN ISO/IEC 17043).
- IPAC, the Portuguese NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration (EN ISO/IEC 17025), testing (EN ISO/IEC 17025) including medical examinations (EN ISO 15189), inspection (EN ISO/IEC 17020), certification of management systems (EN ISO/IEC 17021-1), certification of products (EN ISO/IEC 17065), certification of persons (EN ISO/IEC 17024), and validation and verification.
- NAH, the Hungarian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the field of certification of persons.
- NAAU, the Ukrainian NAB, became an EA MLA signatory in the field of validation and verification.  
Furthermore, NAAU remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, certification of management systems, certification of products and certification of persons.
- OLAS, the NAB of Luxembourg, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, certification of management systems and certification of products.

- PCA, the Polish NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, certification of management systems, certification of products, certification of persons, validation and verification, proficiency testing provision and reference material production (EN ISO 17034).
- TURKAK, the NAB of Türkiye, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, certification of management systems, certification of products, certification of persons, validation and verification, proficiency testing provision and reference material production.

## 2 - Latest developments relating to EA peer evaluations

### 2.1 - Peer evaluations in 2024

For 2024, the MAC scheduled 16 peer evaluations. 8 of those peer evaluations had been performed by end of June 2024.

The remaining 8 peer evaluations were carried out as follows by end of December 2024:

- 6 re-evaluations: ATCG, (Montenegro), COFRAC (France), DANAK (Denmark), NA (Norway), SWE-DAC (Sweden) and UKAS (United Kingdom);
- 1 pre-evaluation: ARMNAB (Armenia);
- 1 progress report dedicated to persons certification: NAH (Hungary).

Furthermore, two witnesses in the fields of reference material production and validation and verification were carried out in advance of the peer evaluation of AA (Austria) scheduled for 2025.

### 2.2 - Peer-evaluator trainings

#### Newcomer training sessions

A newcomer training session was held on 3-5 December 2024 at the EA Secretariat's office in Paris, France.

As a result of the newcomer training session, the number of evaluators has increased by 14 new evaluators, of which 8 are directly Team Members and 6 are Trainee Team Members.

The next newcomer training session will take place in 2026.

#### Refresher training sessions

Three refresher training sessions took place in 2024.

After a first session targeted at Team Members authorised in calibration, reference material producers and biobanking held on 5-6 June, a second refresher training session gathered Team Members authorised in management system certification, person certification and validation & verification on 20-21 November 2024 in Brussels, Belgium.

The last session, which was held remotely, put together on 27-28 November 2024 Team Members authorised in testing, medical examination and proficiency testing providers.

### III - Status of EA's recognition in IAF/ILAC

The next re-evaluation of EA by IAF/ILAC is scheduled to begin no later than July 2026.

In December 2024, EA applied to IAF for the recognition of the following sub-scopes under the IAF MLA on product certification (ISO/IEC 17065):

#### **Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA)**

Level 4 - GLOBALG.A.P. General Regulations, V6

Level 5 - IFA (SMART and GFS) Principles and Criteria, V6

#### **IFS Logistics**

Level 4 - IFS Logistics, Part 1, Part 3, Sections 2 and 3 and Part 4 (Note 1)

Level 5 - IFS Logistics, Part 2 (Note 1)

Note 1 - This scope adds requirements at Level 1 - IFS Logistics Part 3, Section 1

#### **IFS Broker**

Level 4 - IFS Broker, Part 1, Part 3, Sections 2 and 3 and Part 4 (Note 2)

Level 5 - IFS Broker, Part 2 (Note 2)

Note 2 - This scope adds requirements at Level 1 - IFS Broker, Part 3, Section 1

#### **IFS PACsecure**

Level 4 - IFS PACsecure, Part 1, Part 3, Sections 2 and 3 and Part 4 (Note 3)

Level 5 - IFS PACsecure, Part 2 (Note 3)

Note 3 - This scope adds requirements at Level 1 - IFS PACsecure, Part 3, Section 1

#### **BRCGS Global Standard for Ethical Trade and Responsible Sourcing**

Level 4 - BRCGS Global Standard for Ethical Trade and Responsible Sourcing, Part III and IV

Level 5 - BRCGS Global Standard for Ethical Trade and Responsible Sourcing, Part II

In December 2024, EA also applied to IAF for the recognition of the following sub-scopes under the IAF MLA on management system certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1):

Level 4 – FSSC 24000 Scheme Social Management System Certification, Parts 3 and 4 (Note 4)

Level 5 – FSSC 24000 Scheme Social Management System Certification, Part 2 (Note 4)

Note 4 - This scope adds requirements at Level 1 - FSSC 24000 Scheme Social Management System Certification, Part 5

## IV - Status of EA documents

### 1 - Documents published since July 2024

EA-0/06	<i>Format &amp; Layout of EA Documents</i>
EA-0/09	<i>Procedure for Internal Audit</i>
EA-1/13	<i>EA's Relationship with Accreditation Bodies of Countries not being Members of the EU or EFTA</i>
EA-3/01	<i>EA Conditions for the Use of Accreditation Symbols, Logos and other Claims of Accreditation and Reference to the EA MLA Signatory Status</i>
EA-2/02 S4	<i>Supplement 4 to EA-2/02: EA Procedure for the Evaluation of a National Accreditation Body. Procedure for the Management of the Peer Evaluations in case of Extraordinary Events or Circumstances.</i>

### 2 - Documents under revision

EA-0/08	<i>Procedure for EA Management Reviews</i>
EA-0/10	<i>Procedure for EA Meetings</i>
EA-1/06	<i>EA Multilateral Agreement. Criteria for Signing. Policy and Procedures for Development</i>
EA-1/15	<i>EA Policy for Relations with Stakeholders</i>
EA-1/21	<i>EA Internal Procedure for Liaison Activities</i>
EA-1/22	<i>EA Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members</i>
EA-2/02	<i>EA Procedure for the Evaluation of a National Accreditation Body</i>
EA-2/17	<i>EA Document on Accreditation for Notification Purposes</i>
EA-3/02	<i>EA Policy for the Accreditation of Certification Bodies Providing Certification of PDO (Protected Designations of Origin), PGI (Protected Geographical Indications) and TSG (Traditional Specialities Guaranteed)</i>
EA-4/14	<i>The Selection and Use of Reference Materials</i>
EA-4/20	<i>Guidance for the Assessment of Laboratories Against EN ISO 15189 and EN ISO 22870 Point-of-Care Testing (POCT)</i>
EA-4/21	<i>Guidelines for the Assessment of the Appropriateness of Small Interlaboratory Comparisons within the Process of Laboratory Accreditation</i>
EA-4/22	<i>EA Guidance on Accreditation of Pesticide Residues Analysis in Food and Feed</i>
EA-4/23	<i>The Assessment and Accreditation of Opinions and Interpretations using ISO/IEC 17025: 2017</i>
EA-5/02	<i>Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020 in Vehicle Inspection</i>
EA-6/03	<i>EA Document for Recognition of Verifiers under the EU ETS Directive</i>
EA-INF/04	<i>Statement on Acceptance and Recognition of Activities under the EA MLA</i>
EA-INF/14	<i>Communication with the European Commission and its DGs</i>

### 3 - New documents under development

EA-2/02 S6	<i>Guidance on File Review during a Peer-Evaluation Process</i>
EA-3/01 S1	<i>Rules for Use of the EA MLA Mark</i> Note: approved in October 2020; not to be published before the EA MLA mark is formally registered.
EA-X/XX	Guidelines for the Accreditation of Laboratories carrying out Genetic Testing using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)
EA-4-XX	Guidance on Flexible Scopes for Proficiency Testing Providers

### 4 - Documents withdrawn since July 2024

None.

## V - Activities to promote the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA

EA contributed to the IAF newsletter published on 19 September 2024 with one [article](#) about the online workshop on the EU Cybersecurity Act and the Implementing Regulation on the EU Cybersecurity Certification scheme on Common Criteria (EUC) and State-of-the-Art (SoA) documents for accreditation, which had been held on 20 June 2024. The ILAC newsletter published on 25 November 2024 also includes several [articles](#) on the autumn 2024 meetings of EA technical committees.

For further information, please see EA's website and social media which have been reporting on the latest developments in EA.

## VI - Major other activities/developments in EA

### Renewal of the EAAB

The EA Advisory Board (EAAB) gives continuous support to the EA work and provides advice to EA on a broad range of issues relating to policy and harmonisation on accreditation. The Board's composition constitutes a well-balanced representation of the parties which rely on and contribute to the European accreditation system. It is composed of representatives from: the conformity assessment community; industry, services and trade; the EU Member States' national authorities; European private scheme owners; the consumer associations; the European metrological institutions; the European standardisation organisations; the European Commission and European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

Further to an EA Secretariat's call for nominations closed on 4 October 2024, the whole EAAB membership was formally renewed for the next 3-year term at the 52<sup>nd</sup> EAAB meeting held on 8 November 2024 in Brussels, Belgium.

Andrew Evans (Industry College - CAPIEL) as the Chair of the EAAB, as well as Alexander Šafařík-Pštroz (CAB College - EUROLAB) and Ariane Van Cutsem (National Authorities College - Belgium) as the Vice-Chairs of the EAAB, were elected to manage the Board until November 2027.



## **Finalisation of the EA MLA mark registration**

According to the *EA Strategy 2025*, EA has been establishing a MLA mark for the purpose of identifying EA MLA signatories and their accredited CABs. After EA Members selected their preferred option for the MLA mark at the General Assembly in November 2019, the previous Executive Committee has been mandated to proceed with the formal registration of the MLA mark as a collective mark of the European Union (EU) in a first stage, and then to extend registration to non-EU countries at the international level based on the Madrid Agreement.

The formal registration as a collective mark of the EU was completed in June 2022.

Further to EA's formal application to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the EA MLA mark has been successfully registered dated 12 April 2023 as an international collective mark with the WIPO. The mark has been examined by the national offices of the 17 non-EU countries of EA MLA signatories.

The EA General Assembly in November 2024 confirmed that the EA MLA mark should be launched in summer 2025 even if the registration process is not completed in all MLA signatory countries.

The application of the EA MLA mark should remain voluntary for NABs signatories of the EA MLA, which will be entitled to use the MLA mark in combination with their logo. Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) accredited by a MLA-signatory NAB will have the right to use the MLA mark in combination with the NAB accreditation symbol. The basic principle is that the mark can only be used in a country where it has been properly registered.

## **Paving the way for accrediting Artificial Intelligence systems**

In November 2024, the EA General Assembly resolved to consider the best structure for EA to discuss and collaborate on topics concerning the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by National Accreditation Bodies, as well as the formal structure entitled to define and decide on the harmonised approach for EA-member NABs accrediting CABs using Artificial Intelligence and performing conformity assessment activities of AI systems.



## VII - EA meetings

Please visit the EA website <https://european-accreditation.org/information-center/newsroom/events-2/>

## VIII - EA representatives in IAF and ILAC Committees

### IAF Committees

General Assembly (GA)	Andreas Steinhorst (EA Executive Secretary)
Executive Committee (EX)	Maureen Logghe (EA President)
Technical Committee (TC)	Casper van Erp (RvA, Netherlands)
MLA Committee (MLAC)	Maria Papatzikou (ESYD, Greece)
MLA Management Committee (MLA MC)	Karine Vincent (COFRAC, France), Rolf Straub (SAS, Switzerland)
Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC)	Amandine Combe (EA Communications Manager)
Development Support Committee (DSC)	Andreas Steinhorst
Database Management Committee (DMC)	Herman Van den Langenbergh (BELAC, Belgium)

### ILAC Committees

General Assembly (GA)	Andreas Steinhorst
Executive Committee (EX)	Andreas Steinhorst
Accreditation Committee (AIC)	Sergio Guzzi (ACCREDIA, Italy)
Marketing & Communications Committee (MCC)	Amandine Combe
Arrangement Committee (ARC)	Andreas Steinhorst
Arrangement Management Committee (AMC)	Maria Papatzikou, Daniela Ionescu (MAC Secretary)
Arrangement Council (AC)	Andreas Steinhorst
Inspection Committee (IC)	Marek Wilgos (PCA, Poland)

### Joint IAF/ILAC Committee meetings

Joint Executive Committee (JEX)	Maureen Logghe, Andreas Steinhorst
Joint Management Committee (JMC)	Maria Papatzikou, Daniela Ionescu Rolf Straub, Karine Vincent
JWG Communications and Marketing (JCMC)	Amandine Combe
JWG Developing Countries	Andreas Steinhorst
JWG A-series	Maria Papatzikou, Daniela Ionescu

# EA REPORT TO IAF/ILAC AND REGIONS

STATUS JULY - DECEMBER 2024



75 avenue Parmentier  
F-75544 PARIS Cedex 11  
FRANCE  
Tel: 33 (0)1 40 21 24 62



Co-funded by the  
European Union



Co-funded by EFTA