



INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION ORGANISATIONS

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Dear CEOC Member and/or Business Relation,

Please find below the latest CEOC news briefing informing you about the CEOC New Year's seminar and reception held on 17 February 2009.

CEOC International 2009 opening conference on European Accreditation and Market Surveillance - Analysing the impact and consequences of the implementation of the New Legislative Framework for inspection and certification companies in Europe

“Minimize risks ... maximize safety” was the guiding theme of CEOC’s latest conference to which the confederation had invited representatives of the inspection and certification sector, the European institutions and European and international organizations to the Residence Palace/ International Press Centre in the capital of Europe. Accreditation and market surveillance, the key topics covered by the New Legislative Framework for Goods which came to its final adoption last summer and is now on its way towards implementation, were highlighted by guest speakers coming from the European Commission, EA (European Cooperation for Accreditation), CEN (European Committee for Standardization) and Orgalime (European Engineering Industries Association).

Ghyslaine GUISSOLPHE, Director at DG Enterprise and Industry, Directorate C, said in her speech: “the NLF gives economic operators a clear and consistent legal framework whilst guaranteeing a proper level of safety”. She concluded by saying that “third party testing plays a central role in safety matters. The contribution of conformity assessment bodies is therefore essential for a successful implementation of the NLF.”

Graham TALBOT, Vice President of EA outlined, a.o., the future challenges for EU. In this connection he mentioned the importance of having a consistent approach for the assessment of Notified Bodies. Further challenges would include enhancements to the peer evaluation process; harmonisation of accreditation practices for the regulated sector; revision of cross-frontier accreditation policy; the way how to deal with multi-site conformity assessment bodies; transparent independence of peer evaluation decisions; stakeholder members; establishment of technical networks; best practice for communications with National Authorities.

The role of standardization in improving safety in Europe was explained by Hoang LIAUW, Conformity Assessment Manager at CEN. Regarding the NLF, he took as example the EN ISO/IEC 17000 series and the EC Mandate M/417 for the use of harmonised standards in support of the NLF (17000: Vocabulary and general principles; 17011: General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies; 17020: General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection; 17021: Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems; 17024: General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons; 17025: General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration

laboratories; 17040: General requirements for peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies; 17050-1 and -2: Supplier's declaration of conformity; EN 45011: General criteria for certification bodies operating product certification).

*“Keep It Simple and Stupid!” **Adrian HARRIS** from Orgalime brought it to the point saying that “Rules that are simple to understand and to apply are better followed (and ...) Rules that are simple to apply are easier to enforce and are usually better enforced”.*

With view to closing the weak gaps in the product chain he said: “We have product legislation which aims to make products on the market safe, for all: the standards exist; the conformity assessment procedures exist: what we need is that authorities apply the necessary checks when carrying out their market surveillance and work inspection duties.”

*CEOC International President **Dr. Hugo EBERHARDT** made clear that, looking back on a long and worldwide experience in the field of safety, the confederation of inspection and certification organisations will support the implementation of the NLF and cooperate closely with its counterparts in the accreditation and market surveillance area in order to optimize safety in all fields of modern society. CEOC International reiterates that the “Safety first” approach should prevail when it comes to consumer goods, for example, and that the new legal instruments set up a good frame for putting into practice this approach.*

Founded in 1961, CEOC International is involved through its members in numerous aspects of the modern society ranging from toys, machinery, electro-technical products and medical devices to construction products, transport systems and power plants.

The NLF has been adopted in summer 2008 and will apply as of 1 January 2010. It comprises the following legal instruments: Regulation (EC) 765/2008 which sets out requirements for accreditation and market surveillance; Decision 768/2008/EC on a common framework for the marketing of products and Regulation (EC) 764/2008 on procedures relating to national technical rules.

We hope that this briefing provides a good overview and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any additional information.

With friendly greetings,



Drewin Nieuwenhuis
Secretary General

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