



Confederation of Control, Inspection and Prevention Organisations
Confédération des Organismes de Contrôle, d'Inspection et de Prévention
Vereinigung der Überwachungs-, Prüf- und Präventivorganisationen

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***CEOC – Promoting Safety world-wide
through Independent Inspection,
Testing and Certification***

**This report was compiled and edited by
M. Völzow, Secretary-General, May 2003**

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The Confederation

CEOC is a voluntary group of independent private, semi-private or governmental third party organizations, or associations of such organizations, for testing, technical inspection, certification of products and Quality Management Systems and risk prevention.

Created in Switzerland in 1961, the Confederation became an international non-profit association registered under Belgian law (AISBL) in December 1996. At the end of April 2003 it comprised 29 Member Organisations from 19 European States and from Japan. Many of these Member Organisations can trace their origins to the late 1800s.

Membership

The criteria for membership of CEOC are based upon European standards and procedures for accreditation, notification and certification.

Most are Notified Bodies within the framework of the EU New Approach Directives. Their collective experience and opinions contribute to effective implementation of European Directives.

Membership Criteria

Member organizations must employ experts and be:

- legally identifiable
 - financially independent
 - independent from industries
 - financially viable
- and must be a Body
- Notified by a National Authority under a EC Directive
 - or conforming to EN 45004 type A Annex A
 - or with a management system which conforms to a relevant ISO 9000 series standard

CEOC is developing mutual understanding between conformity assessment bodies both within the European Union and the Central and Eastern European countries.

Through associate and observer membership or agreements with organizations outside Europe, CEOC is strengthening its international network to maintain an ongoing dialogue and the exchange of information.

The total number of employees of the member organizations is more than 60.000 (about 30.000 of which are graduate engineers & technicians).

CEOC Members are recognised/authorised by the public regulatory authorities to provide inspection and other conformity assessment services for a large variety of equipment such as boilers, pressure vessels, lifts, machines, cranes, medical equipment, electrical and heating installations, industrial plants, nuclear power stations, buildings and toys.

Development of Membership

Until the end of April 2003 one new member organization has been taken on board, IBNA, Latvia, and our former provisional member TDT, Poland, has become a permanent member by March 2003.

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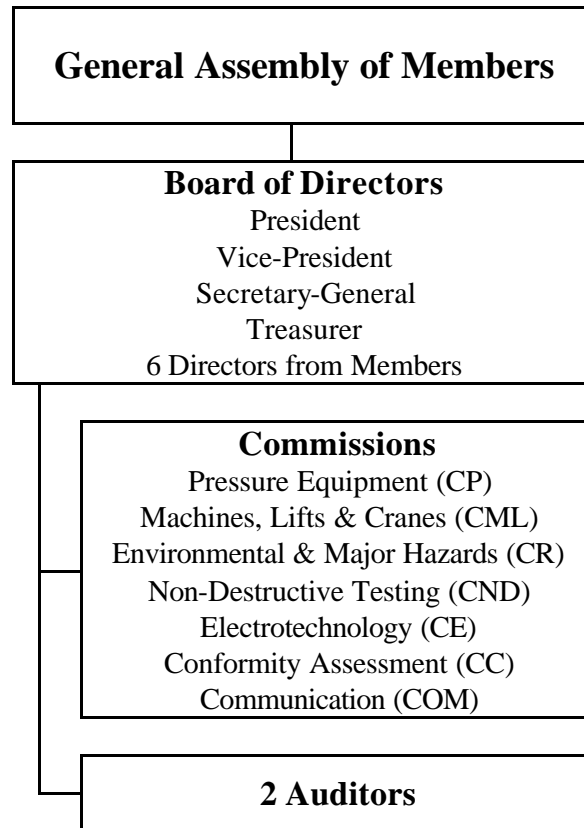
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- *HSB Houghton Engineering Insurance Services Ltd*
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The CEOC Structure



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Managing Director
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MACHINES, LIFTS & CRANES "CML"

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President, Urząd Dozoru Technicznego - UDT
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Board of Directors (CD)

The composition after the 42nd General Assembly is as follows:

PRESIDENT

Hugo EBERHARDT
Managing Director,
TÜV Österreich
Austria

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jean-Rémi Gouze
Managing Director,
Apave Groupe
France

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Michael VÖLZOW

TREASURER

Charles BEAURAIN
Financial Manager,
AIB-Vinçotte
Belgium

MEMBER

Richard MORGAN
Technical Director, SAFed
United Kingdom

MEMBER

Lutz K. WESSELY
Managing Director, VdTÜV
Germany

MEMBER

Simo HASSI
Managing Director,
Inspecta Oy
Finland

MEMBER

Herbert Egolf
Managing Director,
SVTI
Switzerland

MEMBER

Marc VAN OVERMEIRE
Chief Research Officer
Vingotte International Holding
Belgium

MEMBER

Bent LARSEN
Director FORCE-Dantest CERT
Force Technology
Denmark

CD - Meetings in 2002

The Board of Directors (CD), which is responsible for directing the activities of CEOC, proposes the future policy and ensures the execution of the members decisions, met three times after the last General Assembly:

- May 27 2002, Brussels
- October 15, Vienna
- March 27, Brussels.

42nd General Assembly

in Budapest, Hungary, on May 28, 2002



Steady participation in our annual events demonstrated how widespread our member organizations are. After Helsinki, our venue in 2001, we went to Budapest, Hungary.

The excellently organised, well appreciated days were filled up with a social programme during the weekend. The weather, in addition, was fine, the knights' games were an unexpected surprise. During the following working period we had fruitful discussions about the future role of our Technical Commissions which could be strengthened – though a strong support by our member organizations is still needed.

A representative from a Hungarian Ministry participated partly but actively in the CC

meeting, made good remarks. And emphasised later the high knowledge level of our delegates.

The chairmen and convenors of our Technical Commissions reported about the work undertaken during the preceding 12 months. They also presented proposals for new activities, which were supported by members and accepted by the large majority of the delegates.

The next general assembly will take place in Saarbrücken, Germany on June 3rd, 2003.

Workshop on Development in Conformity Assessment

A CEOC Workshop in co-operation with TÜV Austria, Vienna, 16 October 2002



Conformity Assessment is subject to permanent alterations. The new Standard ISO/IEC 9000:2000 has initiated a number of projects. Existing quality management systems based on and certified against the former series of standards have to be amended and the standard-makers started a leapfrogging between ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 9000 apparently not having in mind that each change of a conformity assessment standard causes high costs to the conformity assessment bodies.

The New Approach is not new anymore. All parties concerned, the Commission, Notified Bodies, accreditors, authorities, manufacturers and consumers have gained some experience with this system over the last decade and see a need for improving the current system. It is, therefore, appreciated that the Commission DG Enterprise is reviewing the New Approach.

The modular concept has had some weaknesses from the very beginning because it is a mixture of different approaches saying that they were equal, but e.g. a type test (Module B) has a different effect than a full quality system (Module H).

A quality management system is a priori not a tool to make products safer but it is a tool to make sure that products have the same quality over a longer period.

Liberalisation of the testing, inspection and certification market has not improved the safety and quality of products, the opposite has happened.

The "normal rules" of the market namely what is the best quality of the service at the best price does not work because it is difficult for most of the clients to evaluate the quality of the work of a conformity assessment body. Most of the clients make their decision just on the basis of the lowest price.

Market surveillance does not yet work sufficiently but is one of the most important tools of the whole system. As there are hardly any safeguard clause cases notified, in relation to the huge number of products on the market one can assume that many products not fulfilling the essential requirements of the directives are undetected on the market.

The meaning of CE marking has not been made clear to the public. CE marking is just an information to the authorities and can be considered as a passport for products valid within the EEA (European Economic Area). Marks issued by an independent 3rd party conformity assessment body have a different meaning. It is a request of the market whether to have additional marks on the product or not. These voluntary marks are not in any form a barrier to trade.

The Workshop on this important horizontal topic brought together about 70 delegates from all the different parties concerned, authorities, legislators, accreditors, certification bodies, manufacturers from 20 countries.

Under the excellent chairmanship of our CC Chairman, Mr. Richard Morgan, many views on a very high level were exchanged, especially during the time the European Commission Enterprise DG representative, Mr. Johann Dietrich, was present. The outcome of an interview with Mr. Dietrich during lunchtime is available upon request.

Cost-effectiveness in Standardisation work

Dr. Hugo Eberhardt, CEOC President



Standardisation has become an important element in our life. At the very beginning, standardisation was very much

restricted to states and clearly focused on harmonisation of technical products. In the course of time it has turned out that an international approach to standardisation is beneficial and may save costs for users of the standards. On the other hand, regional standardisation is a means to protect markets by promoting regional standards.

In the world of conformity assessment of products, systems and persons ISO / CASCO produced Guides which were used on a voluntary basis.

In the early nineties CEN / CENELEC developed a series of standards based on a mandate of the European Commission in order to support the so-called New Approach. As a result of this the first standards for conformity assessment came into force in Europe. These series of standards, the EN 45000 series, covered testing, inspection, accreditation, certification and suppliers declaration.

At that time there was the beginning of a certain type of leap frogging between CEN / CENELEC and ISO / IEC CASCO. One of the stumbling blocks was the revised guide for laboratories, ISO / IEC-Guide 25. This Guide, which was published in order to replace EN 45001, was not accepted by the laboratory community. It turned out that the preparation of conformity assessment standards should preferably be done on a world-wide basis involving all parties concerned. At the same time the idea of a functional approach was borne. A joint technical committee was established with the participation of experts from CEN / CENELEC and ISO / CASCO with the aim of defining the functional

approach, to avoid points of discontinuity in future standards, and to reduce costs for conformity assessment bodies. A report was prepared by this joint technical committee and submitted to both CEN/CENELEC and ISO/CASCO.

Meanwhile ISO / CASCO has elected to prepare standards as well as guides thus the whole task of preparation of standards for the field of conformity assessment is now undertaken by ISO / CASCO. The EN 45000 series has been replaced by ISO/CASCO standards or guides.

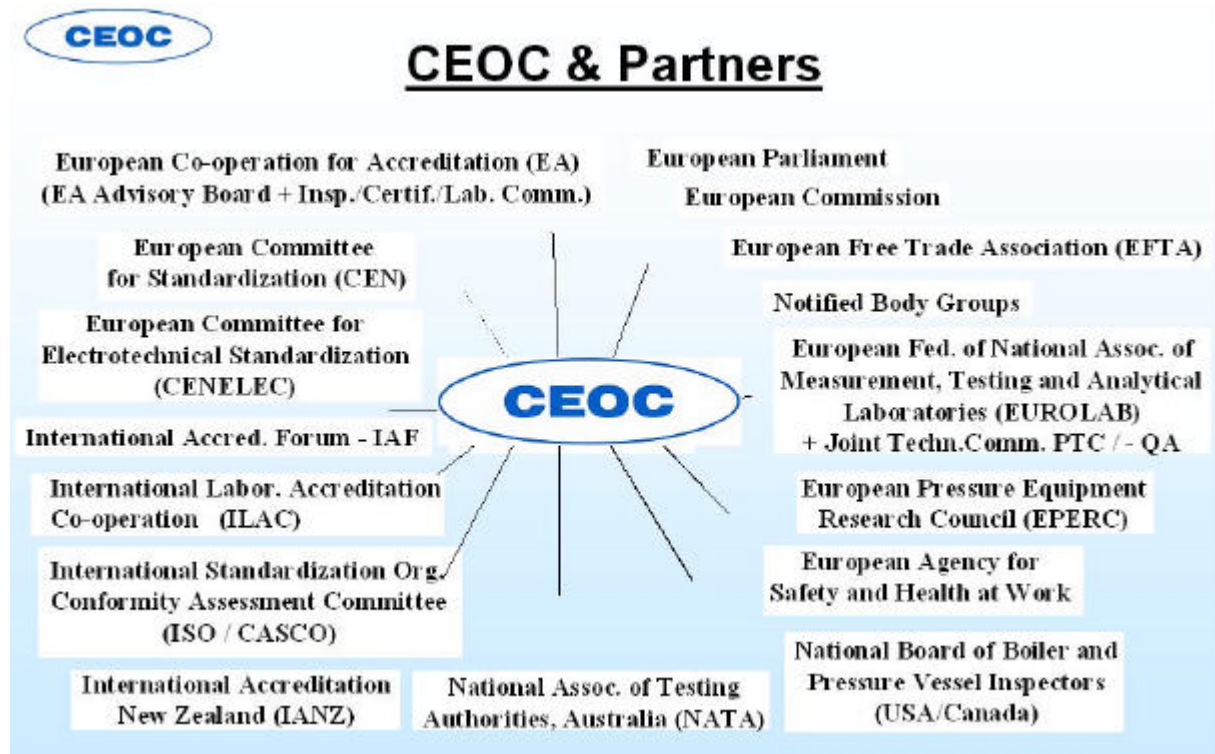
The result of this process of co-operation between ISO and CEN / CENELEC is that standards have improved in a number of cases, but the requirements for conformity assessment bodies have become increasingly more expensive.

It is quite clear that accredited and notified conformity assessment bodies need to fulfil a number of important requirements but there must be a certain stability in the standards to which they must conform. At the present time this is not the case. Some ISO/CASCO Work Groups are starting new projects or revisions of standards causing a lot of potential costs for conformity assessment bodies without any benefit for the market. It is not only the task of producing standards which is expensive because of travel costs and the costs of manpower, but also the costs for conformity assessment bodies who have to change their procedures and have to pay for additional accreditations. These costs finally have to be passed on to the market.

ISO / CASCO is urgently requested to stop the unnecessary proliferation of both the revise of existing standards and guides and the commencement of new projects. For each revision or new project, a cost value analysis should be a pre-requisite. Whenever such an

Analysis does not clearly indicate a positive result, no action should result.

Co-operation and Agreements



A common technical environment created by the market operators in the fields of European standardisation, conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology, is not only of importance to the proper functioning of the common internal market, but also constitutes one of the factors that contribute to the safety of users and the public.

For that reason, the European and other international Institutions welcome and endorse the initiatives undertaken by CEOC to improve this technical environment and make more visible the importance of quality assurance instruments and the promotion of mutual recognition agreements.

Contacts with the European Commission (EC)

Conformity assessment

Regular contacts were kept with those Directorates of the European Commission that are of high importance for the activities of our member organizations, but also for the further development of the New Approach. In negotiations with Mr. E. Vardakas, Director of

the Directorate G (Single market: regulatory environment, standardisation & new approach) in the European Commission DG Enterprise, we expressed our views on this issue.

Pressure equipment

Since almost all our member organizations are active in the field of conformity assessment of pressure equipment, Mr. C. Weinberger, European Commission DG Enterprise, Directorate G (Single market: regulatory environment, standardisation & new approach), Unit 4 (Pressure equipment, medical devices, metrology), is one of the very important contact partners with whom a regular contact has been kept, leading to the invitation to talk at our workshop in Helsinki.

PECA

The "Protocol to the Europe Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products" between the European Community and the Country shall provide for the applicant countries during the transition period, the mutual acceptance of specified industrial products, and the notification of bodies to assess conformity. We were involved

in the assessment of several potential notified bodies under this agreement.

A very comprehensive overview on the existing PECAs indicating the sectoral coverage under the competence of the Enterprise DG of the European Commission is shown on the web-site

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/regulation/pecas/pecas_sectors.htm.

Other issues

Through contacts on a regular basis with relevant DGs of the European Commission, e.g. in the areas of machines, lifts and cranes, pressure equipment, transport of dangerous goods, environmental protection, industry policy, the interests of our members and the branch were represented and opinions were exchanged.

CEOC Reception in the European Parliament

Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels, 26 March 2003

Technical Safety of Products: Regulatory Protection of Workers and of Consumers



CEOC President, Dr. Hugo EBERHARDT, opened this year's reception in the European Parliament by defining Technical safety a

political agreement of the society based on technical knowledge and science, economical and political aspects and the general

acceptance of a number of casualties in some areas within a certain time period.

In order to keep the level of safety of a specific product several legal requirements are necessary.

Should the number of e.g. 1000 casualties per year due to traffic accidents to be lowered than the legal framework has to be changed.

New Challenges for Inspection Bodies were then described by Mr. Guy JACQUES, Department Manager of AIB-VINÇOTTE International, a CEOC member. He focussed on three themes closely linked to the regulatory protection of citizens:

The globalization process uses a set of tools including “Mutual Recognition Agreements” at regional- or at international level, international standards, and accreditation.

For *the protection of the consumer*, the “Product Safety Directive” and the “Product Liability Directive” were two of the major pillars that drew the attention of CEOC member organization from the protection of the worker at work to the protection of private consumers.

Credible and visible conformity marks can also be a powerful tool to help the consumer find his way to safe products in a market overfilled with information.

How *the public authorities monitor* the correct application of the rules is and will remain a capital issue. Most of the discussion related to the credibility of the CE marking would be unnecessary if there were a potentially credible surveillance of the market within the European Union.

Mr. Pieter De Munck, advisor of the Belgian Federal Minister for Consumer Protection, Public Health and Environment, highlighted the major elements for a functioning market surveillance.

ICSMS – the Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance - can be seen as the basis for an effective and efficient co-operation between the market surveillance bodies in Europe who presently only have a very limited exchange of information.

Co-ordinated action by the various bodies provides greater efficiency. More time to concentrate on other products that have yet to be tested. Wherever necessary, consumers and dealers can be informed without the need to go through complicated bureaucratic channels. As the system is based on the Internet product safety becomes reality at a click of a mouse, for the surveillance bodies and for the consumers. Unsafe products can be removed from the market immediately. His speech was supported by a good set of informative slides.

Dr. Rainer Wieland, Member of the European Parliament and of the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market, in his capacity as the host welcomed the participants of the event and described the political background and the challenges for this important issue.

The closing Remarks were held by Mr. Jean-Rémi GOUZE, CEOC Vice President, who underlined the important role of independent third party organizations. They are in a position to help defining the safety rules that can be taken over in the European directives and national legislation.

He reminded the obligation of the member states to organize a functioning market surveillance, to harmonise the rules for notified bodies whose competence could be proven by accreditation on the basis of mutual recognition agreements and, finally, to clarify the rules for conformity assessments of products and systems.

All these activities should be done for the benefit and protection of worker and consumers, of the whole society.

EA – The European Co-operation for Accreditation

EA Bodies: CEOC is represented in the most important EA bodies, thus ensuring that the

experiences and concerns of CEOC members are taken into account in the debates on EA Guidance documents. CEOC participates in the following EA Bodies:

- EA Advisory Board (EAAB), which ensures the necessary feedback between EA and the stakeholders and bodies interested in accreditation. Presently the Vice-Chairman of EAAB is Dr. Egolf, from the CEOC member organization SVTI.
- EA General Assembly (EAGA), which usually meets twice a year and makes all the basic decisions, e.g. the adoption of EA guidelines.
- EA Inspection Committee (EAIC)
- EA Certification Committee (EACC)
- EA Laboratory Committee (EALC)

EAAB

Report by Dr. Herbert Egolf, CEOC Representative in the EAAB

The EA Advisory Board (EAAB) is made up as a balanced representation of the stakeholders of the EA. The EAAB represents a link between EA, the European Commission, EFTA, the national authorities of EA member states, conformity assessment operators, standardisation, consumers and trade and industry and comprises representatives from

- National Governments of EA member states (5)
- Conformity Assessment Bodies (5)
- Industry and Business (5)
- Consumers (1)
- European Commission (1)
- EFTA (1)
- European Standardisation Bodies (1)
- EOTC (1 observer)

In the autumn 2002 the 2nd two-year term for EAAB members ended and therefore the representation from the different stakeholder groups had to be renewed. A modification of the Board's terms of reference provided for the possibility to elect two vice-chairmen. This is well justified by the need to involve all three major colleges in the preparation and follow-up work of meetings. As a result of the elections, Günther Beer (Industry and Business/ORGALIME) and

Herbert Egolf (Conformity Assessment Bodies/CEOC) were re-elected chairman and vice-chairman and Malcolm Hynd (National Authorities of EA member states) was elected as new vice-chairman of the Board.

The EAAB held two meetings in 2002, on May 3 and October 24. Each meeting has been prepared the day before in a preparatory meeting with the representatives of all major conformity assessment organisations interested (CA College) at the CEOC premises. For these college meetings Eurolab provided the secretariat support, Herbert Egolf acted as the group's convener.

The representatives of the Conformity Assessment Bodies' (CAB) college for the current two-year term ending autumn 2004 are

- Herbert Egolf (CEOC, EAAB Vice-chairman)
- Paul Hetherington (Euromet)
- Andrew Kirkby (IIOC)
- Marc Mortureux (Eurolab)
- Michel Nuyens (EEPCA)

The basic guideline for the Board's work is a "standing paper" reflecting stakeholders' expectations towards accreditation. It serves for the board as a benchmark for EA's activities. Its requirements have been accepted by EA as a fundamental task guiding its activities. The EAAB monitors EA's activities in the light of these expectations and continuously develops the document for the benefit of all stakeholders.

The main topics treated at the two 2002 EAAB meetings in 2002 comprise

- **Evaluation of customers' satisfaction**
The Board insisted that there is a need to get factual evidence about efficiency of accreditation and its impact on the marketplace not only from the perspective of accredited bodies but also from the final users of conformity assessment services. It was agreed that EA relies on the CAB college representatives to promote the survey of customer's satisfaction and to

motivate the accredited bodies to respond. The CAB college members will be kept informed of the schedule and an information note will be distributed for the members to explain and promote the survey to their accredited bodies.

It was additionally agreed that other available results of evaluations of customers' satisfaction (EA, Eurolab, etc.) and possible consequences extended to the second circle customers (industry, national authorities, consumers) shall be addressed at a next meeting as a key topic.

- **Procedure for development and approval of EA publications**

The EAAB made proposals to reinforce the draft and strengthen participation of stakeholders and claimed to strictly stick to the „no more, no less“ principle. A revised document introducing a classification will be submitted to the EAAB again and then to the EA members for approval.

- **Criteria for EA membership: the non-competition issue**

From the CAB side it was pointed out that any non-competition framework would require a comprehensive participation of stakeholders in the setting-up of reference documents, interpretations and procedures of EA. The EAAB reaffirmed the position that accreditation shall be non-competitive and agreed that all colleges should maintain their efforts to promote this position.

The EAAB recognised that EA had done its part of the job and that the developments are difficult in some way, in particular in Germany and in the Netherlands. Contacts with the European Commission, with the SOGS group, are to be maintained.

- **Development of an EA MLA for inspection**

Intensive discussions concerning related bodies in the case of type A inspection bodies have made it necessary to set up a sub-committee within EA to analyse the issue and also to establish an overview of the practices within and outside EA. A harmonised definition for type A inspection bodies would

enable the setting-up of an MLA for inspection.

- **Co-operation with PEFC**, the Pan European Forest Certification.

The EAAB was reluctant to give green light to EA to start with this sector accreditation scheme without additional information and justification that there is a real demand by the producers and consumers. According to the EA policy on sector schemes, the Certification Committee has to evaluate such aspects for EA and to come back with further information.

- **Accreditation versus certification**

The EAAB express its continued support to accreditation and the necessity to disassociate it from certification. The Board fully supports EA for the principle that CB's should not have the possibility to claim accreditation when certifying against accreditation standards.

- **ILAC/IAF Plenaries in Berlin**

Through the EA chairman's report the EAAB took note of the discussions, in particular concerning the project of a common mark. The EAAB reiterated its strong support to a strong co-operation of ILAC and IAF leading to a future merger.

In each of the two meetings in 2002 a considerable part of the time has been dedicated to the discussion on a key topic:

Key topic: Accreditation and notification (April meeting)

From the CAB side a general support was expressed for the principle of having one sole accreditation body/system per country, operating for both the voluntary and the regulatory fields. Regulators should base their notifications on adequate requirements such as the standards supplemented by specific requirements derived from the directives. There was a general expectation that the functional approach/analysis would help

structuring the processes necessary and needed for notification.

The forthcoming assignment of a new mandate to CEN/CENELEC/TC 1 to carry out a gap analysis was welcomed. Since EA had already done some similar analysis it was also recommended to provide these EA documents as an input to TC 1.

Key topic: EA peer evaluation process (October meeting)

A presentation given by the EA MAC (Multilateral Agreement Committee) chairman gave a good overview of the nature and quality of the EA peer evaluation process. The EAAB appreciated the thoroughness and seriousness of the EA process. KPI (Key Performance Indicators) are a relatively new tool for the peer evaluators and training and experience on the use of the KPI need to be accumulated to provide relevant feedback.

The relatively scarce resources in peer evaluators are one of the problems to maintain a sound peer evaluation scheme. Concerning Europe however, it was pointed out that the new bodies would in the near future contribute and provide evaluators.

EA General Assembly

CEOC's representatives attended the General Assembly meetings of EA.

Inspection bodies – an important topic of the 9th EA General Assembly

On 12 and 13 June 2002 the 9th General Assembly of EA, the European co-operation for Accreditation, took place in Bucharest.

An important topic for CEOC Members was the planned internationalisation of the Guidance on the application of ISO/IEC Standard 17020, literally identical to the European standard EN 45004 for inspection bodies. To develop this Guidance the international alliances of accreditation bodies ILAC (for testing laboratories) and IAF (for certification bodies) have set up a joint committee (JIC). The vice-chairman of the committee believed that non-European inspection bodies would need extensive help to understand the 17020 standard. It was his

wish therefore that the ILAC/IAF Guidance – contrarily to the present EA Guidance – should contain varied information and explanations. CEOC's representative strongly opposed this proposed way of proceeding and urged accreditation bodies to only include guidance on complying with the Standard in their Guidance documents and not to include information on training activities. The CEOC representative also requested that a small drafting group should be convened to take charge of the elaboration of the Guidance.

The EA General Assembly also addressed the topic of Guidance on the application of EN45004 for inspection bodies involved with the inspection of motor vehicles. This Guidance had been elaborated by a sub-group (together with CITA) of the EA Inspection Committee. Representatives from member organizations also participated in the elaboration.

News from the 10th EA General Assembly

EA Guidance for accreditation for non-destructive testing adopted

The EA General Assembly of 27 and 28 November 2002 adopted a new version of the EA Guidance on the accreditation of bodies that carry out non-destructive testing. These accreditations can be based on the ISO/IEC standard 17025 (testing laboratories) or on the EN 45004 (inspection bodies).

Status of accreditation bodies – an important topic at the General Assembly

An important topic was the future status of accreditation bodies. EA aims at a monopolisation of accreditation activities in order to avoid competition among accreditation bodies with negative effects on the quality of their activities. EA would prefer to have in every Member State of the EU only one accreditation body recognised. EA transmitted a corresponding initiative to the European Commission, which however has rejected until now any monopolisation of accreditation activities in the non-regulated sector.

CEOC has sent a letter on this no-competition issue between accreditation bodies to the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA) and the European Commission Enterprise DG.

At the General Assembly CEOC required as conditions for a monopoly not only an independent accreditation fee control, but also a control of other accreditation conditions. One particular condition concerns EA Guidance documents to whose elaboration interested parties such as CEOC could contribute, but whose adoption only accreditation bodies may, until now, decide ..

CEOC activities in other EA Bodies

The collaboration between CEOC and the EA Bodies is co-ordinated by the CEOC Technical Commission "Conformity Assessment".

EA Inspection Committee

In the EA Inspection Committee, which is the most important to CEOC members, CEOC is represented by two observers.

Testing, inspection and certification bodies increasingly get accredited in order to emphasise their competence on the market and also vis-à-vis the authorities. The major objective of EA is to guarantee the competence of these bodies according to uniform approaches in the framework of accreditations, and through multilateral agreements to achieve mutual acceptance of testing and inspection reports and certificates following the motto "Once tested, inspected or certified – everywhere accepted". To achieve the most possible harmonised accreditation procedure, EA develops Guidance documents for the application of standards in force at the International level for the accreditation of testing, inspection and certification bodies. These Guidance documents are increasingly harmonised world-wide within IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation).

The **EA Certification Committee (EACC)** had one meeting in 2002, in which CEOC was represented.

The official enquiry stage for the new ISO/IEC standard 17024 "General requirements for bodies operating certification schemes for persons" will be closed shortly. After adoption the new standard 17024 will be published as a European

standard and then replace the existing EN 45013 of May 1990.

With the publication of the standard 17024, the EA Guidance on EN 45013 will be superseded. At the meeting of the EA Certification Committee on 5/6 September 2002, in which CEOC was represented, a revision of this EA Guidance was decided. As the 17024 is an international standard, the revision must take place in the framework of the International Accreditation Forum IAF. The competent IAF Committee will entrust a Task Force of experts in the field of certification of persons with the revision.

The **EA Laboratory Committee (EALC)** is competent for a series of EA Guidance documents in the field of "Testing and Calibration" and co-ordinates the implementation of interlaboratory comparisons. In 2002, EALC had a meeting in which CEOC was represented. The participation of CEOC in the EALC is especially important because it provides a positive collaboration between laboratories on the one part, and inspection and product certification bodies on the other part, complying with clear delimitation criteria.

EA Guidance Documents: The most important EA Guidance documents for CEOC members are available on the Internet, free of charge under: www.european-accreditation.org.

ISO/CASCO – the International Standardisation Organization/Conformity Assessment Committee

ISO Standard for accreditation bodies

CASCO, the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment, is currently summarising the existing ISO Standards/Guides on accreditation bodies for testing, inspection, and certification bodies in a new ISO/IEC Standard 17011. To elaborate the 17011, CASCO has set up the Working Group 18. The Draft International

Standard (DIS 17011) elaborated by WG 18 was submitted to ISO members. At a meeting on 24/26 March 2003 the positions submitted were discussed and prepared in a final version (FDIS) by a small Drafting Group of the WG 18, in which CEOC is represented. FDIS is the Final Draft International Standard, which is submitted to ISO members for a yes/no vote.

The DIS version of 17011, in whose elaboration CEOC also contributed, is a draft standard with a well-balanced content, which takes into account both the interests of accreditation bodies and those of conformity assessment bodies. Thus the inspection procedures through accreditation bodies are designed in an open manner, including the possibility to choose a random test, without imposing detailed deadlines. Contrarily to the CEOC representative, who was the only representative of the conformity assessment bodies in the Drafting Group, several representatives of accreditation bodies in the Drafting Group were of the opinion that these oriented-to-the-need procedures were not sufficient. It remains to be clarified, whether the compromises reached will be acceptable.

Standardisation

About 200 experts from our member organizations are involved in the work of the different standardising committees of CEN/CENELEC, e.g. also in the European Standardisation on conformity assessment by participation in the pertinent technical committee (CEN/CLC TC 1) and the Joint Working Group (JWG) with ISO/CASCO.

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

The Agency, based in Bilbao, was established by Regulation 2062/94 and became operational in September 1996. It is a so-called satellite of the European Union institutions. This means that the Agency is not a part of the European Commission nor is it a political institution which controls or issues legislation. It is an independent health and

safety institution with its own Administrative Board, on which all EU Member States, national and European social partners and the European Commission are represented.

The Agency's objective, as stated in its regulation, is to provide the Community bodies, Member States and those involved in safety and health at work with the technical, scientific and economic information of use in the field of health and safety.

The Agency's aim is to improve the lives of people at work by stimulating the flow of information to and from national and international organisations and directly to the people affected by health and safety issues – workers, employers, safety representatives and occupational safety and health practitioners.

Special attention is paid to three main issues. Firstly, to providing practical and effective solutions in the workplace, secondly, how best to communicate safety and health messages to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and thirdly, how to ensure those messages reach people in different employment situations as work patterns change.

Co-operation with EUROLAB

On the basis of the renewed MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) the co-operation between the two organizations has successfully continued in

- the EA Advisory Board
- the joint EUROLAB and CEOC Technical Committee on Product Testing and Certification (JTCPTC).

EUROLAB and CEOC have demonstrated a good co-operation in their joint Committee on Product Testing and Certification under the Co-chairmen Lorenzo Thione from EUROLAB and Alfred Nagel from CEOC.

In 2002 meetings were held 18th March 2002 in Munich, Germany, and 4 November 2002 in Bellaterra (Barcelona),

SPAIN

Major items within the field of product testing and certification were connected to the European Commission and their approach to product testing and product marks.

Furthermore, the JTCPTC followed the accreditation activities within the EA Certification Committee and the developments in standardisation concerning certification at ISO CASCO.

At its meeting on 4 November 2002 JTCPTC addressed a series of topics related to the standardisation of CASCO, the ISO Committee on conformity assessment. The discussion focused on the non-uniform CASCO procedure for the perpetuation of ISO standards for conformity assessment bodies. Thus presently the standards for accreditation bodies, testing bodies, bodies operating certification schemes for persons and for management systems are not revised as a unified whole. This leads to the fact that independent conformity assessment organizations that carry out testing, inspection and certification of different types must fulfil different requirements for similar cases.

In order to avoid these inconsistencies and to ensure in future the uniformity and long-lasting stability of ISO standards for conformity assessment bodies the CEOC-EUROLAB Committee proposed by a corresponding letter that CASCO recommend the development of a long-term policy for standard amendment through the national standards organizations.

At the CASCO General Assembly in Geneva on 7/8 November 2002 the CASCO Chairman confirmed that the Chairman's Advisory Group would deal with this proposal.

The CASCO Working Group 23 is currently identifying "common elements" of standards for conformity assessment bodies. These common elements can then be included in the individual standards for testing, inspection and certification bodies. The aim is that equivalent contents in the respective standards should be described in a uniform way. For testing, inspection and certification bodies, this harmonisation has the great advantage of enabling them to organize themselves according to homogeneous criteria.

The Working Group 23 met on 20/21 January 2003 to formulate further "common elements". The main topics were the elaboration of common elements for the independence of conformity assessment bodies, for complaint procedures and for the inclusion of ISO 9001 in the requirements for management systems of conformity assessment bodies. Moreover the Working Group decided to address CASCO a recommendation to ensure that the "common elements" are taken into account in the elaboration of future standards for conformity assessment bodies.

EPERC – European Pressure Equipment Research Council

CEOC is a member of the European Pressure Equipment Research Council (EPERC). The general objective is to set up a European network for the dissemination of information and for the co-ordination of expertise and resources in the assessment and validation of R-D work needed for pressure equipment and safety in the non-nuclear industry, as required by manufacturers, users, inspection, standardisation and regulatory bodies. Delegates from CEOC member organizations are active in all of the 7 Technical Task Forces. The Secretary-General participates as a member of the Steering Committee, most of its meetings, and the General Assemblies.

MoU with the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors, USA and Canada

A Letter of Understanding was signed with the National Board in order to establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue over the many commonly shared goals and objectives with respect to health and safety issues that arise in the design, construction, inspection and testing of pressure equipment.

National Association of Testing Authorities - NATA

With a similar purpose to that of the National Board, a Letter of Understanding with NATA, the National Association of Testing Authorities, was signed on July 14, 2000, to establish and

maintain an ongoing dialogue over the many commonly shared goals and objectives with respect to health and safety issues that arise in the design, construction, inspection and testing of pressure equipment and plants.

The Technical Commissions and Working Groups

Technical Branches and Fields of Activity

CEOC Member Organisations work in our different Technical Commissions and Working Groups dealing with the following fields of activities:

- Conformity Assessment and Quality Assurance (CC)
- Non-Destructive Examinations (CND)
- Environmental and Major Hazards (CR)
- Pressure Equipment, e.g. Boilers, Pressure Vessels, Pipework Systems, Gas Cylinders, Tanks, Transport of Dangerous Goods (CP)
- Machines, Lifts and Cranes (CML)

- Electrotechnology including Medical Equipment (CE)

These Commissions and Working Groups publish documents which to date include 111 trilingual (English, French, German) recommendations, inspection and approval certificates and trilingual (English, French, German) glossaries of technical expressions. Many of these have been incorporated into national and international regulations & standards.

Meetings in 2002

January 30	Conformity Assessment (CC)
March 19	Electrotechnology (CE)
March 20	Board of Directors (CD)
March 21	Environmental & Major Hazards (CR)
May 22	Pressure Equipment: Transport of Dangerous Goods (CP 6)
May 25-28	Annual Plenary Meetings, Budapest
October 8-9	Pressure Equipment: Commissioning and Operation (CP 5)
October 10	Electrotechnology (CE)
October 15	Board of Directors (CD), Vienna
October 15	Reception in the framework of the Workshop, Vienna
October 16	Workshop "Development in Conformity Assessment", Vienna,
October 29	Conformity Assessment (CC)
November 4	CEOC-EUROLAB JTCPTC
November 6-8	Central European Inspection Agencies meeting, Poznan
November 21	Non-Destructive Testing (CND)
November 26-27	Pressure Equipment: Commissioning and Operation (CP 5)

Meetings in 2003

January 21	Environmental & Major Hazards (CR)
February 25	Pressure Equipment: Commissioning and Operation (CP 5)
March 26	Conformity Assessment (CC)
March 26	Reception at the European Parliament
March 27	Board of Directors (CD)
April 10	Pressure Equipment: Transport of Dangerous Goods (CP 6)
May 28	CEOC-IFIA meeting, London
May 31-June 3	Annual Meeting, Saarbrücken, Germany

All meetings took place in Brussels unless otherwise indicated.

Annual Reports of the Technical Commissions

Pressure Equipment (CP)

*Alternating Chairmen: Mr. Loosli,
Mr. Wischin*

Summary of the report held by H. Loosli,
SVTI, and B. Wischin, TÜV Österreich, at
the last General Assembly, Budapest:

The first part of the meeting was chaired by the Secretary-General of CEOC, Mr Völzow, as no chairman had been nominated since the last general assembly. Presently the working groups CP 1 "Materials", CP 2 "Design" and CP 3 "Manufacturing" are not active.

The working groups CP 4 "Production Inspection and Certification" and CP 5 "Commissioning and Operation" deal with the new requirements resulting from the Pressure Equipment Directive.

The working group CP 6 "Transport of dangerous goods" is currently elaborating proposals for the draft European directive "Transport of dangerous goods".

CP 5 "Commissioning and Operation"

In the framework of the task assigned at the last plenary meeting, the convenor of CP 5, Mr. Loosli, had prepared an extensive working paper on the topic of "Pressure equipment: in-service inspection".

CP 4 "Production inspection and certification"

CP 6 "Transport of dangerous goods"

The convenor Mr. Wischin reported on the objectives and tasks of his CP 4 and of CP 6.

As a conclusion of the meeting on May 27, 2002 the following subjects seem to be of special interest for the future and should be discussed in the Technical commission Pressure Equipment and actions by CEOC should be taken as described below:

- Guidelines by the European Commission must be implemented not only by all members of CEOC, but also by all Notified Bodies
- The following Directives fall into the scope of the CP Commission:
Pressure Equipment Directive (PED): working groups CP 3 / CP 4
Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive (TPED): working group CP 6
- The border between PED/TPED needs special attention. Here CEOC can be proactive.
- There is a rumour of a new directive being prepared in Brussels on Periodic Inspection. Here also CEOC can be proactive.

In order to obtain the first objective, the Pressure Equipment Technical Commission proposes that CEOC reviews the existing guidelines:

- Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive: end of July
- Pressure Equipment Directive: end of September

CEOC's representative will have to be present in the EC Working Group to defend its position.

Report by Mr. Loosli, Convenor of **Working Group No 5 "Commissioning and Operation" (CP 5)**

At the 2002 plenary meeting in Budapest, the Working Group CP5's project to elaborate a possible CEOC recommendation on "First and periodical inspections of pressure equipment" was accepted. The project was enclosed as a proposal.

During the year of reference, a CP 5 core group held 3 two-day meetings at the General Secretariat in Brussels to adapt and complete the project.

As the Technical Commission "Pressure Equipment" is not active for the moment, CP 5 submits the approval of the project directly to the members present at the General Assembly. The project, which is enclosed to this report, shall not represent a CEOC consensus but shall rather be a document with suggestions and models concerning the following topics.

Excerpt from the Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Goal and purpose
3. Confidentiality
4. Benefit
5. Bases
6. Documentation
7. Inspection types and features
8. Operating licence: classification criteria
9. Periodic inspections: classification and inspection periods
10. Features for bonus – malus
11. Examples: Conversion classification and inspection periods
12. Summary

Should the members present at the next General Assembly in Saarbrücken approve the project, the three-language version will be finalised. The active members of CP 5 do not see any new works in the short term.

Environmental & Major Hazards (CR)

Chairman Jean-Rémi Gouze

The Technical Commission « Environmental & Major Hazards » held two meetings in the last 12 months, on May 27th 2002 and on January 21st 2003. To develop lobby in this field a meeting with Mr Wettig of the European Commission took place on march 7th 2003.

Inquiry

To get an overall view of the position of CEOC members in Environment & Major Hazards, an inquiry was made to collect information on the business made in this field, and on the needs and expectations of the members. We received 7 answers, 4 from private bodies and 3 from statutory bodies. Their sizes were very different: 3 had 0-200 employees, 2 had 200-500 employees, 2 more than 500.

The business in the scope of the TC was very broad: risk analysis, advice in implementation of Safety or Environmental Management Systems, impact assessment, inspection in accordance with the SEVESO Directive.

The expectations were very broad as well, and no clear priority was visible between lobby with the European authorities, preparation of guidelines, or definition of a charter of good practices.

Only 4 of the bodies were ready to provide experts for the TC.

Referring to the actions that had been defined previously and described in the report of last year, the TC decided the following steps.

SEVESO Directive

❖ Lobby with the Commission. This was the objective of the meeting with Mr WETTIG. Although no project exists for a SEVESO 3 Directive, the Commission is interested in return of experience from CEOC on SEVESO 2.

❖ Guidelines for Safety Study: preparation of a summary of existing documents, and definitions of the minimal content of a safety study.

❖ Use of databases on accidents: contact to be taken with the MAHB (Major Hazards Bureau). See how to use these databases, their relationship with technical inspections.

Improvement of ISO 14001 and EMAS Certification

❖ A project was set up and submitted to TC CC. The opinion of this TC was negative, members of this TC seeing more difficulties than advantages in the proposal.

IPPC Directive

❖ This action still has to be launched, with an appropriate expert.

The field of Environment & Major Hazards clearly needs that CEOC be active on the different items that have been mentioned: SEVESO Directive, ISO 14000, IPPC Directive. It is the objective of the TC to carry on these works, but since the number of participants to the TC has been decreasing (6 on March 2002, 5 on May 2002, 4 on January 2003) this will be possible only if more members bring their contributions.

Non-Destructive Testing (CND) Chairman Gracjan Wisniewski

Summary of the report held at the last General Assembly, Budapest:
During the period CEOC CND held one meeting, 27th May 2002 in Budapest.

Resulting from the fact that a great number of members had accepted membership of the CND and only few participated in the meeting, the Chairman decided to write to all members for confirmation of membership.

At the meeting and during personal meetings with some members during another meeting (as for example during a CEN/TC 138 meeting) technical items of current common interest were discussed.

These items focused especially on selected problems concerning conformity assessment in the field of NDT i.e.:

- EU directives (with special emphasis of PED) requirements concerning NDT applications,
- Accreditations of the inspection body (acc. EN 45004) / NDT laboratories (EN ISO/IEC 17025:2000) as a tool for notification with special emphasis of:
 - a) technical requirements of EU directives,

- b) requirements against personnel competence – training and practice, qualification and Certification (observation works of CEN/TC 138, EA WG6, EFNDT WG4),
 - c) methodology for qualification / technical justification on NDT (observation works of EPERC, CEN/TC WG10),
 - d) validation of an NDT procedures/ methods applied to specific assembly, component, product,
- qualification and Certification of NDT personnel:
 - a) observation of implementation of EN 473:2000 in CEOC member countries with observation works of CEN/TC 138 on new European style training syllabus, EA WG6,
 - b) observation of revision EN 45013/ implementation EN ISO 17024 and EN 45004/ implementation EN ISO 17020

The CND Chairman will observe the work of CEN/TC 138 during plenary meetings (as well as ADH GROUP concerning European training syllabus and will participate in a working group within the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA)).

CND Members also exchanged information regarding other European organisations relevant for NDT and inspection areas.

CND Members will modify the already approved and established draft matrix as a proposal for each activity which will be subject to future discussion and approval.

Electrotechnology (CE) Chairman Eduardo Goulão Ferreira

Summary of the report held at the last General Assembly, Budapest:

The Electrotechnology Commission has met three times since the last General Assembly. During that General Assembly three new activities were approved, respectively:

- Inspection in explosive atmospheres;
- Electromedical equipment in operation;
- Risk catalogue.

With the aim to collect existing practices in Members Countries, to establish a harmonised document and to propose it to National Authorities or to European Organisations.

On the first two items some questionnaires were distributed and answers discussed, but little progress has been achieved.

The main objective of the item “Risk Catalogue” was to establish a classification of the several different types of electrical installations as per their safety risk and to establish the level of inspectors’ qualification and the type of structure and/or organisation considered to be adequate for an intervention on each of those installations.

A table to collate the information from each CEOC members detailing the different types of electrical installations, where there are mandatory regulations, indicating the administration authorities and detailing the inspection frequency and the level of the inspectors authorisations.

All return answers will be analysed in view to prepare a document to be presented to the Board of Directors highlighting the great differences within the countries and recommending some harmonisation throughout the European Countries.

Machines, Lifts & Cranes (CML) Chairman Adolf Rußold

Summary of the report held at the last General Assembly, Budapest:

Activities in Working Groups:

WG 1 (Convenor Mr. Lamy) had worked out a position paper on the Machinery Directive Draft, regarding the problems of replacing the EC type examination by a certified quality system.

WG 2 (Convenor Mr. Dussart) had no activities concerning the Use of Work Equipment Directive (89/655/EEC).

WG 3 (Convenor Mr. Gareis) revised the incident report. Only one country made a contribution.

WG 4 is still dormant.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES OF CML

There was no general view from the participants present about the continuation of previously planned activities but to follow these considerations:

1. To create as quickly as possible a CEOC position paper for clarification the EHSR’s for lifting persons between defined levels (borderline between LD and MD). Task: To promote safety and periodical inspection of this equipment.

2. To deal more with the Use of Work Equipment Directive within CML and to create CEOC recommendations for inspection of lifting equipment, in particular for

- working baskets on cranes or fork lift trucks under MD (on the basis of NOBO Rec. for Use 09/201 and 09/205)
- lifts for passengers under LD (proposal from EMI-TÜV)

Task: To enforce CEOC members’ inspection competence by CEOC recommendations

Life cycle assessment: For lifting – hoists loadcycles are registered by some manufacturers (black box) and residual lifetime calculated (FEM-standard). Requirements are laid down in German regulations (BGV). Opinion of participants: This method is not sufficiently reliable and comprehensive for the whole equipment, many more parameters are to be considered (wear, tear, maintenance, environment etc.)

3. Modifications of machinery – old and new (CE) machinery:

Risk assessment is necessary to decide whether it becomes a new machinery (CE-marking under MD) or to be considered under the Use of Work Equipment Directive (89/655/EEC). Some ideas for assessment criteria are given in NOBO Coordination papers CNB/M/00.109, 00.111, 00.220 and 03.009 (partly not approved) – to be sent to WG1 convenor (see ACTIONS).

Recommendation was given to prefer the route under the Use of Work Equipment Directive, as far as possible, for practical reasons (availability of documentation – in particular for old machines!)

Task: To promote experience of CEOC-inspectors for assessing modifications, in particular for lifting machinery.

4. Training of inspection personnel

Requirements for competence and further education of inspection personnel are not regulated in detail for lifting equipment and machinery. For CEOC members it should be compulsory to define a minimum level of competence, e.g. for

- degree of education
- knowledge of Directives, laws, standards, etc.
- practical experience
- follow up examinations
- monitoring of personnel
- etc.

A training programme shall be established, taking into consideration information from the Conformity Assessment Commission (CEOC-CC), ISO/CASCO, ISO/TC178/WG 4 and the costs of such a programme be estimated. Task: CEOC Recommendation for education of inspection personnel for acceptance by Accreditation Bodies.

ACTIONS needed by all CML-members:

ad 1. CEOC Position Paper LD/MD to be presented to MD-Council WG on 18/19 June 2002:

- German document (already prepared) sent to all CML members for comments
- Comments to send back to CML-Chairman until 14 June for preparation for Austrian Delegate and

Council Lifting WG

ad 2. CEOC-Recommendations for inspection

- Lift inspection: to check/amend the proposal from EMI-TÜV (as discussed at the meeting) and to return the amended papers to the Chairman by end of June 2002.

- Working baskets on cranes / fork lift trucks: to amend Rec. f. Use 09.201 and 09.205 with your national requirements (for controls, emergency descending, stabilisers communication etc.) for tower cranes on building sites, loader cranes on trucks, overhead travelling cranes, fork lift trucks and to return amended papers to the Chairman by end of September 2002.

ad 3. WG 1 – Convenor to establish a Working Group preparing a guideline for assessment of modifications within lifting machinery: to send invitations for a meeting – describing the task of this WG, to all former WG 1 and WG 2 members

ad 4. New Working Item: Manchester paper for the new work item “Training of Inspection Personnel” to be confirmed by CEOC-CD and to collect information from CEOC-CC, ISO/CASCO and ISO/TC 178/WG 4 and to give a first proposal to CML-Members end of October 2002

Conformity Assessment (CC) Chairman Richard Morgan

The Conformity Assessment Commission continues to be an active part of the CEOC infrastructure and has managed to retain the interests of a large number of the member companies by way of representation on the Commission.

Throughout the past 12 months the Commission has continued to concentrate its work activities within the same 5 general topic areas as covered in previous years namely:

- **Monitoring developments and maintaining contacts within the European Commission** – Contacts within the European Commission have been maintained and in particular CEOC has endeavoured to influence, wherever possible, issues relating to conformity assessment which could or may directly impinge upon the activities of member

companies.

One particular issue of great interest will be the European Commission Communication on the results of the recent review of the New Approach. The Conformity Assessment Commission believes that the Communication will contain a recommendation to consolidate the requirements that notified bodies have to fulfil in some form of legal text with the aim of removing what they believe is a divergent approach by the different designating authorities. The legal text would also take account of the differences that have occurred within a number of directives regarding the requirements for notified bodies. On the basis of wishing to be pro-active, the Conformity Assessment Commission has put in place plans to produce a CEOC Position Paper highlighting the level and range of requirements for notified bodies that it believes should be contained in such a legal text.

Other areas where the Conformity Assessment Commission will be very interested to see the Commissions recommendations are in relation to:

- ◆ Market surveillance and safeguard action
- ◆ CE Marking and other marks
- ◆ The use of module H or a variant in future New Approach directives

CEOC views on these latter 3 and any other issues will be developed once the contents of the European Commission Communication are known.

- **Issues having an impact on Accreditation** - The Conformity Assessment Commission has continued, through CEOC representation on the European Accreditation Advisory Board (EAAB) and the EA Inspection, Certification and Laboratory Committees, to ensure that wherever possible, that the

views of members have been taken forward. The same 2 issues as identified in last years report continue to be the ones most not worthy of being identified, they are:

- ◆ Endeavouring to ensure that stakeholders expectations for accreditation bodies to operate in an independent and impartial way are complied with, in particular, that they do not offer the same services as the clients they accredit
- ◆ Ensuring that the proposed international guidance on the application of the inspection accreditation standard ISO/IEC17020:1998 is drafted in such a way that it is, as far as is practicably possible, acceptable to CEOC members.
- **Standards supporting Conformity Assessment** – The activities of the Conformity Assessment Commission have once again been associated with both monitoring developments and with commenting upon draft International Standards.
- **Relations with external bodies** – The Joint EUROLAB – CEOC Technical Committee on Product Testing and Certification (JTCPTC) continues to flourish and the possibility of CEOC and Eurolab working together on conformity assessment issues of mutual interest is being carefully investigated.

Dialogue with the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA) with respect to a possible merger is scheduled to recommence in May 2003.

- **Position Papers**

One Position Paper, highlighting that in the opinion of CEOC module H is insufficient to ensure product conformity, was completed during the year.

CEOC Publications

Position Papers

In addition to our previous Position Paper on the Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive (TPED), on Market Surveillance within the EU and on Marks and Markings on Products, CEOC produced these Position Papers since 2001:

- Independence characteristics of a third party conformity assessment body
- Accreditation as a tool for notification
- Safety of Products – Proof or declaration – Prevention or intervention
- Comments on the Review of the New Approach
- The need for independent 3rd party CA bodies
- The principles of cross border accreditation
- Is Module H sufficient to ensure the conformity of products?

Bulletin

CEOC publishes Bulletins regularly in order to keep external contact partners informed.

Recommendations

The long list of 111 trilingual (English, German, French) recommendations and glossaries of technical expressions established in the past by our Technical Commissions and Working Groups is available from the General Secretariat or from the CEOC website.

CEOC Homepage

CEOC's Homepage is available under: www.ceoc.com. It offers information on the member organizations, publications and events. A members' section and forum for the exchange of opinions and experience was already installed in 2001.

Aims and Objectives

- Ensure the safety of plant, personnel and the public
- Remove technical barriers to trade
- Implement conformity assessment Mutual Recognition Agreements
- Promote the understanding of technical safety matters
- Establish practical procedures for safety inspection of plant, equipment and machinery
- Exchange experience and information related to independent technical inspection and certification
- Represent independent third party conformity assessment bodies and the interests of its Members to appropriate European and especially international bodies – including European Commission and Parliament, European Accreditors (EA), the Standards-making organizations CEN and CENELEC, ETSI, ISO
- Influence decision-makers in the European Commission, Parliament, national governmental bodies with regard to technical safety
- Make the safety issues transparent to the public

Mission Statement

CEOC - Promoting safety in Europe and world-wide through independent inspection, testing and certification for the protection of people: users, manufacturers, employers, consumers, but also for the protection of the environment.