

*WTO – World Trade Organization
Workshop on the different approaches to Conformity Assessment
Geneva, 16 – 17 March 2006*

**APPROACHES TO FACILITATE THE RECOGNITION OF RESULTS
“THE EXPERIENCE OF THE EUROPEAN
CO-OPERATION FOR ACCREDITATION”**

**The role of accreditation and of the European accreditation infrastructure
for the progress of the European economy and society**

by
Lorenzo Thione
EA Chairman

1. THE HISTORY AND PRESENTATION OF EA

Accreditation – as independent and authoritative attestation of the competence of conformity assessment operators – has a long history, dating back to the 70’, as regarding the assessment of the technical competence of calibration laboratories providing metrological support to the industrial production and to the 80’, as concerning the qualification of the main conformity assessment operators such as testing laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies.

The development of the accreditation practice in the European countries has been promoted, on the one hand, by the establishment of the single European market, and, on the other hand, by the development of the “third party quality approach”, where all operations of quality assurance (attestation of conformity to the applicable requirements) are carried out by specialized operators independent of the producers (first party) and users (second party) of the “object” of the assurance.



The success of this approach has been favoured, in turn, by the progress of standardization with the issuance of normative references commonly acknowledged and accepted by the interested parties and no longer “owned” by the first or second parties, and by other factors, such as the increasing necessity of specialization and the tendency towards the outsourcing of the quality assurance activities.

These factors have led to the need for an independent and authoritative attestation of the professional capabilities of the conformity assessment operators, to provide mutual confidence, which is represented indeed by the accreditation.

Accreditation – as an efficient and effective tool to assure the competence, impartiality and integrity of the conformity assessment operators and thus the value and credibility of the corresponding attestations of conformity – has been, spontaneously, acknowledged by the economies and societies of the major countries in the world.

The European accreditation infrastructure has developed in line with the advance of the accreditation principles and practices, outlined above.

It started with the establishment of WECC – Western European Calibration Cooperation, in 1976 and of WELAC – Western European Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, in 1987, and progressed with the merging of these two organizations into EAL – Laboratory Accreditation in 1994. Meanwhile, in 1991, EAC – Accreditation of Certification and Inspection Bodies was also established.

EA – European Cooperation for Accreditation was formed through the merging of EAL and EAC and became a legal entity – in form of a non-for-profit association registered in the Netherlands – in June 2000.



EA is the Association of the national European Accreditation Bodies providing accreditation of all conformity assessment activities (calibration, testing, inspection, management system certification, product certification, personnel certification, EMAS declarations).

It operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Commission and EFTA and its main purposes are to develop accreditation criteria and guidelines which will ensure effective and harmonized performance of national accreditation bodies in Europe and to contribute to the pursuance of similar achievements worldwide, through its active membership in ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and IAF (International Accreditation Forum).

This mission is pursued by a number of activities and, chiefly, by the management of the EA Multilateral Arrangement (EA MLA).

Currently, EA gathers 32 Full Members – among which 24 EA MLA signatories – and 2 Associate Members, representing 34 European countries; 16 contracts of cooperation have been signed with Accreditation Bodies representing 14 countries outside Europe.

The EA organizational structure consists of an Advisory Board, a General Assembly, an Executive Committee, a number of Technical Committees (among which the EA MAC Committee ruling the EA MLA) and of a permanent Secretariat with three full time staff.

The creation of EA has represented a noticeable step forwards in the political and technical process of consolidation of the European accreditation infrastructure as an efficient and effective tool contributing to the progress of the European economy and society.



Putting together the two basic different types of accreditation – accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories providing experimental services at the basis of many processes of quality realization and assurance and accreditation of certification and inspection bodies delivering full attestations of conformity to the requirements of voluntary standards and mandatory regulations – has meant, in particular:

- harmonization of the accreditation principles in two areas (the former more ancient and the latter more recent) historically characterized by different cultures and different accreditation standards (only recently unified into the new standard ISO/IEC 17011).
- synergic cross-fertilization between the technical and scientific aspects (typical of testing and metrological activities and, to an extent, of product certification and inspection activities) and the management aspects characteristic of management system certification.
- strengthening of the representation of the European accreditation community vis-à-vis the Public Authorities, the industry and all other stakeholders.

In spite of its relative young age, EA has achieved a remarkable success, as shown by the continuously increasing number of members, the quality and quantity of technical activities performed and the prestige acquired vis-à-vis its stakeholders and partners.

The Association has now grown up to a mature stage and it is ready to undertake a new, wider and more authoritative, role in Europe and worldwide.



2. THE EA MLA

At the level of single national economies, accreditation creates confidence in the accredited conformity assessment services and in the corresponding results (calibration and test reports, inspection reports, certifications of supplier management systems, certifications of products and services, certifications of personnel, etc.).

At the European level, the EA MLA confirms and enhances such confidence and eliminates (or limits) the so called “multiple assessments”, namely the need – for suppliers and corresponding products and services, as well as for individuals – to be re-evaluated in each country where the suppliers operate, the related products and services are marketed and the professional activities are performed.

To ensure the effectiveness of the EA MLA – as an objective and credible attestation of the compliance of signatories Accreditation Bodies with the applicable requirements and thus of their ability to properly exert their control function – each signatory is subject to rigorous routine evaluations by peer assessment teams, in order to verify continuous conformity to the provisions of the international standards and guides, as well as to ad-hoc EA application documents.



3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF EA

It is essentially related to the expected developments, in matter of conformity assessment, at the European level.

The European Commission is going, in fact, to present a proposal for a new horizontal legislative approach to technical harmonization (“revision” of the New Approach) with the following aims:

- to redefine the overall legislative framework for safety (and other issues of public interest protection, e.g. environmental impact) of products made available on the European Union market (industrial and non industrial).
- to provide a legal basis for a number of activities which do not yet have a Union legal base, such as accreditation and market surveillance.
- to set up all essential requirements relating to the common elements, including: essential requirements for the competence of conformity assessment bodies as well as for the designating and notifying authorities; requirements for the operation and organization of accreditation at the national level and the role of public authorities; requirements and rules of operation of accreditation at the European level and the role of public authorities.

This new legislation should represent the basis for the juridical recognition of the accreditation in Europe, by legally formalizing its function of service of general public interest, to be rendered, as such, on mandate of the governments of the Member States, in conditions of absolute independence and impartiality, with assumption of full responsibilities towards all stakeholders, by safeguarding all related social and economical interests, with no competition at the single national level.



Within such a scenario, EA will be, officially, called to serve as a co-operative network of all European nationally recognized accreditation bodies and systems, for the furtherance of equivalence, transparency, consistency and efficiency of accreditation operated throughout the EU, EFTA and beyond, in order to generate and maintain confidence in the conformity assessment services in both voluntary and regulated spheres, enabling fair market competition and appropriate protection of the fundamental needs of the European society.

To this purpose, it is expected that EA will be formally recognized by the European Institutions through the stipulation of suitable agreements with the European Commission and EFTA.

In order to properly perform such tasks, EA is called to:

- strengthen its corporate infrastructure and its administrative and technical organization, including a more effective and wider involvement of the European stakeholders.
- improve its peer evaluation system, consistent with the relevant international practice, to ever better ensure the adequacy and equivalence of the level of competence of its members and to facilitate mutual recognition and promote the overall acceptance of accreditation certificates and accredited attestations of conformity.
- invigorate its contribution to the consistent and coherent interpretation and application of the standards for accreditation, by providing optimized supplementary guidance.
- strengthen the cooperation with European and international standardization bodies and with organizations relying upon the use of standards.



- reinforce its cultural role, both in terms of contribution to the continuous improvement of the competence of its members and of support to the building up of conformity assessment infrastructures in developing European and non-European countries, having in mind that the function of EA is not only the one of “guardian” of the European accreditation but also that of facilitator of the cultural progress of accreditation practices.
- strengthen its capability of supplying technical expertise to the European Commission.
- reinforce its capacity of influencing the activities of international organizations IAF and ILAC and other regional organizations of Accreditation Bodies, in order to promote the diffusion of the “European way of accreditation”. In this respect, the key feature is represented by communication and EA shall do its best to communicate and promote its way of working.

European accreditation is looking towards a future of growing success and greater achievements, provided it will be capable to properly manage the outstanding challenges is called to face.

The key for winning such defiance is increasing co-operation among its members who should be firmly united in the pursuance of the common aim of ever better serving the progress of the European economy and the development of the well being of the European society.

*WTO – World Trade Organization
Workshop on the different approaches to Conformity Assessment
Geneva, 16 – 17 March 2006*

**APPROACHES TO FACILITATE THE RECOGNITION OF RESULTS
“THE EXPERIENCE OF THE EUROPEAN
CO-OPERATION FOR ACCREDITATION”**

**The role of accreditation and of the European accreditation infrastructure
for the progress of the European economy and society**

by
Lorenzo Thione
EA Chairman

1. THE HISTORY AND PRESENTATION OF EA

Accreditation – as independent and authoritative attestation of the competence of conformity assessment operators – has a long history, dating back to the 70’, as regarding the assessment of the technical competence of calibration laboratories providing metrological support to the industrial production and to the 80’, as concerning the qualification of the main conformity assessment operators such as testing laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies.

The development of the accreditation practice in the European countries has been promoted, on the one hand, by the establishment of the single European market, and, on the other hand, by the development of the “third party quality approach”, where all operations of quality assurance (attestation of conformity to the applicable requirements) are carried out by specialized operators independent of the producers (first party) and users (second party) of the “object” of the assurance.



The success of this approach has been favoured, in turn, by the progress of standardization with the issuance of normative references commonly acknowledged and accepted by the interested parties and no longer “owned” by the first or second parties, and by other factors, such as the increasing necessity of specialization and the tendency towards the outsourcing of the quality assurance activities.

These factors have led to the need for an independent and authoritative attestation of the professional capabilities of the conformity assessment operators, to provide mutual confidence, which is represented indeed by the accreditation.

Accreditation – as an efficient and effective tool to assure the competence, impartiality and integrity of the conformity assessment operators and thus the value and credibility of the corresponding attestations of conformity – has been, spontaneously, acknowledged by the economies and societies of the major countries in the world.

The European accreditation infrastructure has developed in line with the advance of the accreditation principles and practices, outlined above.

It started with the establishment of WECC – Western European Calibration Cooperation, in 1976 and of WELAC – Western European Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, in 1987, and progressed with the merging of these two organizations into EAL – Laboratory Accreditation in 1994. Meanwhile, in 1991, EAC – Accreditation of Certification and Inspection Bodies was also established.

EA – European Cooperation for Accreditation was formed through the merging of EAL and EAC and became a legal entity – in form of a non-for-profit association registered in the Netherlands – in June 2000.



EA is the Association of the national European Accreditation Bodies providing accreditation of all conformity assessment activities (calibration, testing, inspection, management system certification, product certification, personnel certification, EMAS declarations).

It operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Commission and EFTA and its main purposes are to develop accreditation criteria and guidelines which will ensure effective and harmonized performance of national accreditation bodies in Europe and to contribute to the pursuance of similar achievements worldwide, through its active membership in ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and IAF (International Accreditation Forum).

This mission is pursued by a number of activities and, chiefly, by the management of the EA Multilateral Arrangement (EA MLA).

Currently, EA gathers 32 Full Members – among which 24 EA MLA signatories – and 2 Associate Members, representing 34 European countries; 16 contracts of cooperation have been signed with Accreditation Bodies representing 14 countries outside Europe.

The EA organizational structure consists of an Advisory Board, a General Assembly, an Executive Committee, a number of Technical Committees (among which the EA MAC Committee ruling the EA MLA) and of a permanent Secretariat with three full time staff.

The creation of EA has represented a noticeable step forwards in the political and technical process of consolidation of the European accreditation infrastructure as an efficient and effective tool contributing to the progress of the European economy and society.



Putting together the two basic different types of accreditation – accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories providing experimental services at the basis of many processes of quality realization and assurance and accreditation of certification and inspection bodies delivering full attestations of conformity to the requirements of voluntary standards and mandatory regulations – has meant, in particular:

- harmonization of the accreditation principles in two areas (the former more ancient and the latter more recent) historically characterized by different cultures and different accreditation standards (only recently unified into the new standard ISO/IEC 17011).
- synergic cross-fertilization between the technical and scientific aspects (typical of testing and metrological activities and, to an extent, of product certification and inspection activities) and the management aspects characteristic of management system certification.
- strengthening of the representation of the European accreditation community vis-à-vis the Public Authorities, the industry and all other stakeholders.

In spite of its relative young age, EA has achieved a remarkable success, as shown by the continuously increasing number of members, the quality and quantity of technical activities performed and the prestige acquired vis-à-vis its stakeholders and partners.

The Association has now grown up to a mature stage and it is ready to undertake a new, wider and more authoritative, role in Europe and worldwide.



2. THE EA MLA

At the level of single national economies, accreditation creates confidence in the accredited conformity assessment services and in the corresponding results (calibration and test reports, inspection reports, certifications of supplier management systems, certifications of products and services, certifications of personnel, etc.).

At the European level, the EA MLA confirms and enhances such confidence and eliminates (or limits) the so called “multiple assessments”, namely the need – for suppliers and corresponding products and services, as well as for individuals – to be re-evaluated in each country where the suppliers operate, the related products and services are marketed and the professional activities are performed.

To ensure the effectiveness of the EA MLA – as an objective and credible attestation of the compliance of signatories Accreditation Bodies with the applicable requirements and thus of their ability to properly exert their control function – each signatory is subject to rigorous routine evaluations by peer assessment teams, in order to verify continuous conformity to the provisions of the international standards and guides, as well as to ad-hoc EA application documents.



3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF EA

It is essentially related to the expected developments, in matter of conformity assessment, at the European level.

The European Commission is going, in fact, to present a proposal for a new horizontal legislative approach to technical harmonization (“revision” of the New Approach) with the following aims:

- to redefine the overall legislative framework for safety (and other issues of public interest protection, e.g. environmental impact) of products made available on the European Union market (industrial and non industrial).
- to provide a legal basis for a number of activities which do not yet have a Union legal base, such as accreditation and market surveillance.
- to set up all essential requirements relating to the common elements, including: essential requirements for the competence of conformity assessment bodies as well as for the designating and notifying authorities; requirements for the operation and organization of accreditation at the national level and the role of public authorities; requirements and rules of operation of accreditation at the European level and the role of public authorities.

This new legislation should represent the basis for the juridical recognition of the accreditation in Europe, by legally formalizing its function of service of general public interest, to be rendered, as such, on mandate of the governments of the Member States, in conditions of absolute independence and impartiality, with assumption of full responsibilities towards all stakeholders, by safeguarding all related social and economical interests, with no competition at the single national level.



Within such a scenario, EA will be, officially, called to serve as a co-operative network of all European nationally recognized accreditation bodies and systems, for the furtherance of equivalence, transparency, consistency and efficiency of accreditation operated throughout the EU, EFTA and beyond, in order to generate and maintain confidence in the conformity assessment services in both voluntary and regulated spheres, enabling fair market competition and appropriate protection of the fundamental needs of the European society.

To this purpose, it is expected that EA will be formally recognized by the European Institutions through the stipulation of suitable agreements with the European Commission and EFTA.

In order to properly perform such tasks, EA is called to:

- strengthen its corporate infrastructure and its administrative and technical organization, including a more effective and wider involvement of the European stakeholders.
- improve its peer evaluation system, consistent with the relevant international practice, to ever better ensure the adequacy and equivalence of the level of competence of its members and to facilitate mutual recognition and promote the overall acceptance of accreditation certificates and accredited attestations of conformity.
- invigorate its contribution to the consistent and coherent interpretation and application of the standards for accreditation, by providing optimized supplementary guidance.
- strengthen the cooperation with European and international standardization bodies and with organizations relying upon the use of standards.



- reinforce its cultural role, both in terms of contribution to the continuous improvement of the competence of its members and of support to the building up of conformity assessment infrastructures in developing European and non-European countries, having in mind that the function of EA is not only the one of “guardian” of the European accreditation but also that of facilitator of the cultural progress of accreditation practices.
- strengthen its capability of supplying technical expertise to the European Commission.
- reinforce its capacity of influencing the activities of international organizations IAF and ILAC and other regional organizations of Accreditation Bodies, in order to promote the diffusion of the “European way of accreditation”. In this respect, the key feature is represented by communication and EA shall do its best to communicate and promote its way of working.

European accreditation is looking towards a future of growing success and greater achievements, provided it will be capable to properly manage the outstanding challenges is called to face.

The key for winning such defiance is increasing co-operation among its members who should be firmly united in the pursuance of the common aim of ever better serving the progress of the European economy and the development of the well being of the European society.

*WTO – World Trade Organization
Workshop on the different approaches to Conformity Assessment
Geneva, 16 – 17 March 2006*

**APPROACHES TO FACILITATE THE RECOGNITION OF RESULTS
“THE EXPERIENCE OF THE EUROPEAN
CO-OPERATION FOR ACCREDITATION”**

**The role of accreditation and of the European accreditation infrastructure
for the progress of the European economy and society**

by
Lorenzo Thione
EA Chairman

1. THE HISTORY AND PRESENTATION OF EA

Accreditation – as independent and authoritative attestation of the competence of conformity assessment operators – has a long history, dating back to the 70’, as regarding the assessment of the technical competence of calibration laboratories providing metrological support to the industrial production and to the 80’, as concerning the qualification of the main conformity assessment operators such as testing laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies.

The development of the accreditation practice in the European countries has been promoted, on the one hand, by the establishment of the single European market, and, on the other hand, by the development of the “third party quality approach”, where all operations of quality assurance (attestation of conformity to the applicable requirements) are carried out by specialized operators independent of the producers (first party) and users (second party) of the “object” of the assurance.



The success of this approach has been favoured, in turn, by the progress of standardization with the issuance of normative references commonly acknowledged and accepted by the interested parties and no longer “owned” by the first or second parties, and by other factors, such as the increasing necessity of specialization and the tendency towards the outsourcing of the quality assurance activities.


These factors have led to the need for an independent and authoritative attestation of the professional capabilities of the conformity assessment operators, to provide mutual confidence, which is represented indeed by the accreditation.

Accreditation – as an efficient and effective tool to assure the competence, impartiality and integrity of the conformity assessment operators and thus the value and credibility of the corresponding attestations of conformity – has been, spontaneously, acknowledged by the economies and societies of the major countries in the world.

The European accreditation infrastructure has developed in line with the advance of the accreditation principles and practices, outlined above.

It started with the establishment of WECC – Western European Calibration Cooperation, in 1976 and of WELAC – Western European Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, in 1987, and progressed with the merging of these two organizations into EAL – Laboratory Accreditation in 1994. Meanwhile, in 1991, EAC – Accreditation of Certification and Inspection Bodies was also established.

EA – European Cooperation for Accreditation was formed through the merging of EAL and EAC and became a legal entity – in form of a non-for-profit association registered in the Netherlands – in June 2000.



EA is the Association of the national European Accreditation Bodies providing accreditation of all conformity assessment activities (calibration, testing, inspection, management system certification, product certification, personnel certification, EMAS declarations).


It operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Commission and EFTA and its main purposes are to develop accreditation criteria and guidelines which will ensure effective and harmonized performance of national accreditation bodies in Europe and to contribute to the pursuance of similar achievements worldwide, through its active membership in ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and IAF (International Accreditation Forum).

This mission is pursued by a number of activities and, chiefly, by the management of the EA Multilateral Arrangement (EA MLA).

Currently, EA gathers 32 Full Members – among which 24 EA MLA signatories – and 2 Associate Members, representing 34 European countries; 16 contracts of cooperation have been signed with Accreditation Bodies representing 14 countries outside Europe.

The EA organizational structure consists of an Advisory Board, a General Assembly, an Executive Committee, a number of Technical Committees (among which the EA MAC Committee ruling the EA MLA) and of a permanent Secretariat with three full time staff.

The creation of EA has represented a noticeable step forwards in the political and technical process of consolidation of the European accreditation infrastructure as an efficient and effective tool contributing to the progress of the European economy and society.



Putting together the two basic different types of accreditation – accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories providing experimental services at the basis of many processes of quality realization and assurance and accreditation of certification and inspection bodies delivering full attestations of conformity to the requirements of voluntary standards and mandatory regulations – has meant, in particular:

- harmonization of the accreditation principles in two areas (the former more ancient and the latter more recent) historically characterized by different cultures and different accreditation standards (only recently unified into the new standard ISO/IEC 17011).
- synergic cross-fertilization between the technical and scientific aspects (typical of testing and metrological activities and, to an extent, of product certification and inspection activities) and the management aspects characteristic of management system certification.
- strengthening of the representation of the European accreditation community vis-à-vis the Public Authorities, the industry and all other stakeholders.

In spite of its relative young age, EA has achieved a remarkable success, as shown by the continuously increasing number of members, the quality and quantity of technical activities performed and the prestige acquired vis-à-vis its stakeholders and partners.

The Association has now grown up to a mature stage and it is ready to undertake a new, wider and more authoritative, role in Europe and worldwide.



2. THE EA MLA

At the level of single national economies, accreditation creates confidence in the accredited conformity assessment services and in the corresponding results (calibration and test reports, inspection reports, certifications of supplier management systems, certifications of products and services, certifications of personnel, etc.).

At the European level, the EA MLA confirms and enhances such confidence and eliminates (or limits) the so called “multiple assessments”, namely the need – for suppliers and corresponding products and services, as well as for individuals – to be re-evaluated in each country where the suppliers operate, the related products and services are marketed and the professional activities are performed.

To ensure the effectiveness of the EA MLA – as an objective and credible attestation of the compliance of signatories Accreditation Bodies with the applicable requirements and thus of their ability to properly exert their control function – each signatory is subject to rigorous routine evaluations by peer assessment teams, in order to verify continuous conformity to the provisions of the international standards and guides, as well as to ad-hoc EA application documents.



3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF EA

It is essentially related to the expected developments, in matter of conformity assessment, at the European level.

The European Commission is going, in fact, to present a proposal for a new horizontal legislative approach to technical harmonization (“revision” of the New Approach) with the following aims:

- to redefine the overall legislative framework for safety (and other issues of public interest protection, e.g. environmental impact) of products made available on the European Union market (industrial and non industrial).
- to provide a legal basis for a number of activities which do not yet have a Union legal base, such as accreditation and market surveillance.
- to set up all essential requirements relating to the common elements, including: essential requirements for the competence of conformity assessment bodies as well as for the designating and notifying authorities; requirements for the operation and organization of accreditation at the national level and the role of public authorities; requirements and rules of operation of accreditation at the European level and the role of public authorities.

This new legislation should represent the basis for the juridical recognition of the accreditation in Europe, by legally formalizing its function of service of general public interest, to be rendered, as such, on mandate of the governments of the Member States, in conditions of absolute independence and impartiality, with assumption of full responsibilities towards all stakeholders, by safeguarding all related social and economical interests, with no competition at the single national level.



Within such a scenario, EA will be, officially, called to serve as a co-operative network of all European nationally recognized accreditation bodies and systems, for the furtherance of equivalence, transparency, consistency and efficiency of accreditation operated throughout the EU, EFTA and beyond, in order to generate and maintain confidence in the conformity assessment services in both voluntary and regulated spheres, enabling fair market competition and appropriate protection of the fundamental needs of the European society.

To this purpose, it is expected that EA will be formally recognized by the European Institutions through the stipulation of suitable agreements with the European Commission and EFTA.

In order to properly perform such tasks, EA is called to:

- strengthen its corporate infrastructure and its administrative and technical organization, including a more effective and wider involvement of the European stakeholders.
- improve its peer evaluation system, consistent with the relevant international practice, to ever better ensure the adequacy and equivalence of the level of competence of its members and to facilitate mutual recognition and promote the overall acceptance of accreditation certificates and accredited attestations of conformity.
- invigorate its contribution to the consistent and coherent interpretation and application of the standards for accreditation, by providing optimized supplementary guidance.
- strengthen the cooperation with European and international standardization bodies and with organizations relying upon the use of standards.



- reinforce its cultural role, both in terms of contribution to the continuous improvement of the competence of its members and of support to the building up of conformity assessment infrastructures in developing European and non-European countries, having in mind that the function of EA is not only the one of “guardian” of the European accreditation but also that of facilitator of the cultural progress of accreditation practices.
- strengthen its capability of supplying technical expertise to the European Commission.
- reinforce its capacity of influencing the activities of international organizations IAF and ILAC and other regional organizations of Accreditation Bodies, in order to promote the diffusion of the “European way of accreditation”. In this respect, the key feature is represented by communication and EA shall do its best to communicate and promote its way of working.

European accreditation is looking towards a future of growing success and greater achievements, provided it will be capable to properly manage the outstanding challenges is called to face.

The key for winning such defiance is increasing co-operation among its members who should be firmly united in the pursuance of the common aim of ever better serving the progress of the European economy and the development of the well being of the European society.