

# Eurachem General Assembly, 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting

## Minutes

The GA meeting took place on 20 and 21 May 2021 from 10:00 to 14:00 (CET) online hosted by Eurachem Czech Republic

These GA minutes will be placed in the member area of the Eurachem website.

For login details, contact [secretariat@eurachem.org](mailto:secretariat@eurachem.org).

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## **1 Welcome and roll call**

David Milde [DM] welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed thanks that Prague had been selected to host the GA. DM explained that the meeting would be recorded and requested microphones to be switched off. Vicki Barwick [VB] thanked DM for hosting the meeting.

The roll call of the participants followed. There were apologies from Armenia, Bulgaria, Iceland and Norway. See sections 17 and 18 for the full lists of participants and apologies.

## **2 Agenda approval**

The agenda was approved with no changes.

## **3 Minutes from the previous meeting (GA-37-03-01)**

The minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> GA meeting hosted online by Eurachem Romania (GA-37-03-01), previously circulated and amended according to comments received, were approved without further changes.

## **4 Secretariat business**

### **4.1 Secretariat Report (GA-37-04-01)**

Elena Sanchez [ES] presented the Secretariat report (GA-37-04-01) highlighting the number of consultations from stakeholders that had been circulated to the membership and responded to. No comments were received.

### **4.2 Treasurer Report (GA-37-04-02)**

ES presented the Treasurer Report (GA-37-04-02), from June 2020 to May 2021. Steve Ellison [SE] queried what would happen to the surplus funds as Eurachem's financial rules allow the Secretariat to retain any surplus. VB stated that the current Secretariat was following the procedure of recent Secretariats and intended to transfer the surplus to the next Secretariat.

### **4.3 Audit Report (GA-37-04-03)**

Hugh Fay [HF] carried out the financial audit (GA-37-04-03) for the same period. No problems had been encountered. The GA delegates raised no questions and approved the audit report. VB thanked HF for completing the audit.

### **4.4 Membership update**

ES explained that one country had not paid the membership fees for 2020 and therefore their membership was in a dormant state. VB explained that efforts would be made after the GA to re-establish the connection with the country.

## **5 Elections and appointments**

The Secretariat had previously circulated to all GA members the nominations for the positions available (three Ordinary Executive Committee Members, Treasurer and Financial Auditor) and a request for electronic voting. Brian Brookman [BB] and Mike Ramsey [MR] acted as election officers.

### **Ordinary EC Members – three positions available.**

Two EC members had completed their three-year mandate (Kyriacos Tsimillis [KT] and Wolfhard Wegscheider [WW]), and one member had stepped down a year early (Bertil Magnusson [BM]).

BB informed the GA members about the outcome of the elections/appointments. 26 members had cast votes. KT and WW were both re-elected with 14 and 18 votes respectively. Helen Cantwell [HC] was also elected to the EC with 15 votes. WW had expressed a preference for a one-year term (to replace BM). HC and KT will therefore serve for three years and WW for one year.

## **Treasurer**

ES was re-elected for another year with 26 votes.

## **Financial Auditor**

Oktay Cankur [OC], Turkey national delegate, had kindly agreed to carry out this role. OC was confirmed as Financial Auditor with 25 votes.

VB thanked all the candidates for standing for election and expressed hope that they will stand again even if not successful at this time. She congratulated KT, WW on their re-election, HC on her election, and ES and OC on their confirmation for the Treasurer and Financial Auditor roles. VB also expressed thanks to BM for his contribution to the EC throughout the years.

## **6 Update on revised Eurachem policies**

### **6.1 Revised policy on “Appointment of Officers and Executive Committee Members” (result of voting) (GA-37-06-01)**

VB presented the policy and highlighted the changes from the previous version. This document had previously been circulated to GA members. VB addressed comments that had been received from Italy and Switzerland and clarified the procedure for tied ballots. Ernst Halder [EH] agreed with the proposed procedure. The policy was approved.

### **6.2 Revised policy on “Eurachem Honours and Awards” (result of voting) (GA-37-06-02)**

VB presented the policy, which had a small number of changes compared to the previous version. This document had previously been circulated to GA members. VB had addressed the editorial comments that had been received from Italy. The policy was approved.

### **6.3 New procedural guidance on “Responding to Consultations from Eurachem Liaison Bodies” (GA-37-06-03)**

SE explained the rationale for the guidance, which describes the procedure for collating comments and responding to stakeholder organisations. SE explained that the ideal procedure of gaining a consensus from members was not always practical, and therefore this guidance also described a procedure for providing collated comments instead of a consensus view. EH asked about feedback mechanisms to members who had contributed to the comments. There is no formal mechanism for feedback to Eurachem members, but as the list of responses is included in the Secretariat report, if there is interest in any specific response this can be requested from the Secretariat. The guidance had been approved by the Executive Committee in April 2021 and will be published in the policies area of the Eurachem website.

## **7 Eurachem Guides**

### **7.1 Revision of the Guide “Quality Assurance for Research and Development and Non-routine Analysis”**

Marina Patriarca [MP] reported that at a previous meeting there had been discussion highlighting that the requirements for R&D and non-routine laboratories are different from routine testing laboratories and therefore the guidance would likely be different. Requirements are clear when considering testing laboratories looking for accreditation or seeking to work in the spirit of the accreditation standard, but it is more difficult for laboratories in the R&D area. The task group had wanted to get comments from laboratories using a survey mechanism. MP reported that they were still working on this issue.

### **7.2 Revision of the Guide “Terminology in Analytical Measurement”**

VB reported that there had been no progress on this guide. She explained that it had been discussed at the EC meeting whether it might not be worth progressing at this time as it might clash with revision of VIM4. However,

VB and SE had reviewed the progress of VIM4 and concluded that the VIM4 revision would not have a significant impact and therefore it was worth working to finalise and publish the latest edition in the short term. When VIM4 is published the guide can be evaluated again.

### **7.3 Revision of the Guide “Accreditation for Microbiological Laboratories” (GA-37-07-AML)**

KT reported that the editorial group had met in the weeks prior to the GA, during which gaps in information on uncertainty and traceability were identified and task groups created to deal with these issues. KT invited new members to join the task group and emphasised that contributions are very much welcomed.

Lorens Sibbesen [LS] reported that the Method Validation Working Group [MVWG] had discussed method validation for microbiological laboratories, and had been considering producing a new supplement to support this area. This initiative had been paused while the impact of the revised version of ISO 16140 is assessed but LS emphasised that it is an issue of which the working group is very aware.

KT was appreciative of the overlap between the MVWG and the microbiology area and was keen to establish a connection. He reiterated a call for volunteers with experience in method validation for microbiological laboratories.

### **7.4 Revision of the “Guide to Quality in Analytical Chemistry: An Aid to Accreditation”**

KT explained that progress on this guide was to be reported under the Education and Training Working Group [ETWG] report.

### **7.5 Status of the Guide “Setting and Using Target Uncertainty in Chemical Measurement”**

SE reported that this guide had been reviewed and had been confirmed, with a list of comments and errata published on the website.

### **7.6 Revision of the Guide “The Fitness for Purpose of Analytical Methods”**

LS explained that the work on revising the guide had started in 2019 but had been slowed by the pandemic. The revision is being carried out by 16 task groups (with overlapping members) each covering a different section of the guide. Comments have been compiled over 3-4 years through a number of tools. All task groups had submitted inputs for the first draft of the revision which will be reviewed by the MVWG by the end of May 2021. A second draft is expected in summer 2021, with final publication planned for summer 2022.

Some issues highlighted were:

- There is some confusion about the extent of work required for validation vs verification. The group was trying to address this by promoting a risk-based approach.
- Issues related to method validation and sampling had been considered but it was decided that it is an extensive topic so a supplement will be developed.
- Aspects relating to validation of qualitative tests have also been removed. It is planned to address the issues in a new guide or supplement in cooperation with the Qualitative Analysis Working Group [QAWG].
- The section on measurement range and calibration function would be substantially revised and there would be an additional supplement. There is also a new annex on test kits.

Aristos Loucaides [AL] from Cyprus asked a question about flexible scope and whether there has been any collaboration with EA regarding a possible conflict between the need to be very competent in obtaining measurement results and the premise of “Flexible scope”. LS replied that there should not be a conflict as laboratories are only accredited on a flexible scope schedule when they have shown sufficient expertise.

Piotr Robouch [PR] remarked that the removal of guidance on the validation of qualitative tests was disappointing as there is little provision of guidance in this area. LS explained that the rationale was that the guide was not addressing the problems in qualitative analysis adequately and therefore it was decided to remove it for this version. LS agreed that there is a gap in this area and hoped to develop more guidance in collaboration with other

groups for qualitative analysis. SE asked whether the information could be removed and produced as a supplement alongside the guide. LS wondered whether there is enough information in the guide to create a supplement. LS would take this back to the working group. Ricardo Da Silva [RS] agreed with PR that work is needed in this area. RS confirmed that the QAWG could work with the MVWG in this area.

## **7.7 Status of the Guide on “Assessment of the Performance and Uncertainty in Qualitative Chemical Analysis”**

RS reported that the guide had been circulated to the GA for comment and approval with a deadline of 5 July. VB encouraged all members to review the guide. Elections for the working group Chair were also planned, which might mean a new direction in the work of the group. PR commented that it is good to see that there is guidance being produced in this area which is bridging the gap between method validation and qualitative analysis.

## **7.8 Revision of the Guide “Selection and Use of Reference Materials”**

MP reported that there had been no progress in this area. The group had found it difficult to meet but would try to do so soon. Further information is included in the Reference Materials Working Group [RMWG] report.

## **7.9 Development of guidance on “Evaluation of Measurement Uncertainty from In-House Precision and Trueness tests”**

SE reported that progress on this guide had been delayed, partly because bias is a difficult topic to deal with and it had taken some time to decide on the best option on how to deal with it. However, in recent weeks there had been good progress and SE hoped that a draft would be available in the following few months. RS confirmed this update. VB noted that RB had covered this topic in his workshop presentation which will be available on the Eurachem website.

# **8 Communication within Eurachem**

## **8.1 Communications Task Group (CTG) report (GA-37-08-01)**

VB presented the report on the activities of the CTG. She explained that this group had formed after the General Assembly in 2020 and described some of the upcoming activities, such as developing templates for quick deployment on Twitter and LinkedIn. VB also remarked on the new LinkedIn channel and the focus on ‘World Days’ as a means for promoting Eurachem activities. VB mentioned that a review of the website will be a priority in the next months, starting with a survey on the current website which would be circulated to all GA members.

## **8.2 Eurachem website and social media report (GA-37-08-02, GA-37-08-02b, GA-37-08-02c and GA-37-08-02d)**

SE reported on the activities related to social media and the website. The website has had over 234000 page views in the past year. The main addition to the website has been a blog feature. SE reported that downloads of translated guides were greater than for the original English versions, which highlighted the importance of the translations. SE also showed the number of leaflet downloads, which also indicated that translations were downloaded more than the original English versions.

SE reported on the blog, which is used for longer articles on topical issues. One of the most popular articles, published in 2017, covered changes to ISO/IEC 17025. The blog helped to further promote Eurachem activities in between the publication of guides.

SE described the available channels, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn. LinkedIn is proving successful so far. SE described the number of referrals from different channels to the website. SE also showed a timeline of activities and impact and remarked that Twitter activity increased significantly as a direct consequence of the video produced for the International Day of Women and Girls in science.

### **8.3 Eurachem e-news mailing list (GA-37-08-03)**

SE described the evolution of the e-newsletter, which had at the time 342 subscribers. SE highlighted that this number had mainly been achieved from workshop registrations who agreed to be contacted but that it has also grown organically. There had also been some traffic on the website from links in the e-newsletter.

### **8.4 Eurachem presentation – update**

DM explained that there is a presentation on Eurachem website with standard information and a blank template for presentations at other events. The presentation is updated twice a year.

### **8.5 Eurachem poster – update**

RS reported that there had been no recent changes. VB explained that the poster and presentations are available from the members area under the “About Eurachem” section.

## **9 Discussion Forum: Use of uncertainty information for compliance assessment**

VB introduced the session and explained that the topic had been selected from a list circulated to the GA members in survey form.

SE introduced the format of the session, which would include a brief explanation of the recently published revised guide, “Use of uncertainty information for compliance assessment”. SE explained that polls would be used during the session.

BM asked for feedback on several scenarios. The scenarios were based around the interpretation of compliance limits depending on the application. BM remarked that ISO/IEC 17025 specifies conformity, rather than compliance. There was a discussion about these terms which concluded that ultimately the difference between compliance and conformity is not necessarily an issue in many European languages, where there is one word for both.

BM asked about the level of awareness of the different available guides. There was less awareness about the latest guide but it had only been published recently. A question about which guidance was used prompted discussion about the merits of some of them.

A question on decision making showed that these need to be based on criteria that are explicit enough to be able to apply them. BM showed examples collated during a breakout session at the workshop earlier in the week, of when compliance needs to be assessed and talked about the different criteria used for acceptance.

SE followed with more scenarios. There was discussion about available process information which can lead to different assessments. SE explained the difference between specific risk and global risk. Specific risk is the chance of a false decision for a particular test item whilst global risk looks at probability of a false decision for all possible test items. This can inform the chance of false acceptance when designing a process. SE explained that the revised guide includes an annex with information about global and specific risks.

### ***END OF DAY ONE***

*VB thanked all for their participation and closed the meeting for the day with a reminder to join on the following day (21 May) at 10:00 CET.*

### **DAY TWO – 21 May 2021**

VB opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

## **10 Working Group reports**

### **10.1 Education and Training (David Milde) (GA-37-10-ETWG)**

DM explained that he had taken over the position of Chair from VB in 2020. The group had not met since 2019 and the next meeting was planned for September 2021. A workshop (online) had been organised by Eurachem-

Romania in July 2020 on “Quality assurance elements for analytical laboratories in the university curriculum”, and several members of Eurachem had contributed to the programme. Other work in progress was the revision of the Eurachem/CITAC ‘Guide to Quality in Analytical Chemistry’ led by KT. This revision was a priority after the publication of ISO/IEC 17025:2017. A web-meeting of the Task Force had been planned for the end of May. The WG were planning to carry out the annual review of the reading list, and the revision of the Eurachem Guide ‘Terminology in Analytical Measurement: Introduction to VIM 3’ led by VB was in the final steps of addressing collected comments.

## **10.2 Measurement Uncertainty & Traceability (Steve Ellison) (GA-37-10-MUTWG)**

SE provided some highlights from the report submitted. He explained that there are 31 members from 21 countries in the working group. They met five times during the year and have two active liaisons (joint working group with CITAC and a formal liaison with ISO TC69).

He provided a summary of the status of the guides produced by the working group (also covered under the Guides section). The Guide on “Use of uncertainty in compliance assessment” and accompanying leaflet had been revised and published. The guide “Setting target measurement uncertainty” had been reviewed and confirmed and a new guide on “Measurement uncertainty from in-house precision and trueness tests” was under development. SE mentioned that the working group were considering the topics of asymmetry in uncertainty and linearity of the calibration function. The guide “Quantifying uncertainty in analytical measurement” will be reviewed in 2022. SE acknowledged the contribution of all members.

LS was interested in whether BM will continue being the representative in TC69. SE confirmed that there would be no change. LS also asked about the work on linearity, as the method validation guide addresses linearity as well. There was some further technical discussion on this topic and it was agreed to take it further outside the meeting.

## **10.3 Method validation (Lorens Sibbesen) (GA-37-10-MVWG)**

LS reported on the activities of the working group. There are 28 members in the group from 14 different countries. LS has seen some benefit in having online meetings, as it allows greater participation. The working group held two meetings in the last year. LS had already covered progress on the revision of the guide “Fitness for purpose for analytical methods” under the update on guides. The working group is also working on producing examples of validation protocols with the aim of publishing them on the website. A supplement on “Evaluation of bias” is under development but work has been paused pending the outcome of the revision of the fitness for purpose guide. A new leaflet, “The importance of Method Validation” had been approved and published. LS also updated on a number of translations of supplements and leaflets, and the impact of the “Fitness for purpose of analytical methods” guide which has been cited in training events, webinars and a podcast.

## **10.4 Qualitative Analysis (Ricardo da Silva) (GA-37-10-QAWG)**

RS reported that the working group had completed the development of the guide on “Assessment of the performance and uncertainty in qualitative chemical analysis” which was at the time being circulated to the GA for comments. The working group had met twice in the last year. Elections for a new chair were planned for July 2021. The working group is also looking to collaborate with the MVWG.

## **10.5 Proficiency Testing (Brian Brookman) (GA-37-10-PTWG)**

BB reported that the PTWG met online twice in the last year. They have produced a state-of-the-art paper on current practices for performance evaluation in quantitative and qualitative PT schemes to be submitted to ACQUAL. The working group was planning to start a review of all existing PT leaflets (8 published leaflets to date). A new leaflet was being finalised on “Do you speak PT?” and further leaflets were being considered (including leaflets on PT statistics). BB reported that the leaflets had been translated into 16 different languages. The PT workshop had been rescheduled for September 2022.

## **10.6 Reference Materials (Marina Patriarca) (GA-37-10-RMWG)**

MP reported that the work of this group has been hindered by the pandemic, but outlined the steps agreed to try to restart work. A new email address has been set up that can be used by the Chair and Vice chair. Membership had been revised (including IUPAC and EC representatives), group members had been confirmed and where appropriate new members had been found. Online meetings were planned to discuss the election of a new Chair and Vice-chair, revise the working group work programme and define a new timetable for activities.

## **10.7 Sampling uncertainty (Mike H Ramsey) (GA-37-10-UfSWG)**

MR mentioned that the working group had been meeting online; the last meeting had been in February. The working group had published a leaflet (What is the uncertainty factor) and co-authored a Technical Brief (How reliable is my uncertainty estimate?) with the Analytical Methods Committee (Royal Society of Chemistry). A working group member had carried out a survey of National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) which showed that the awareness of sampling uncertainty is not very high, prompting a discussion on how to increase awareness of this topic in this sector. The working group also submitted comments to Codex on documents related to sampling, which might lead to some collaboration with Codex in this area.

PR congratulated MR on the survey work as this had already helped raise awareness and provided evidence of this. AL remarked on the challenges of ensuring that customers are aware of sampling issues, because the laboratories do not have knowledge of what the customers are doing in terms of sampling and are not sure what perfect sampling would be. MR remarked that perfect sampling is illusory and that there is variability in how sampling is done even when protocols are supplied. MR mentioned that participation in sampling PT schemes helps laboratories identify where to improve. PR reminded MR about previous collaborative work done in electronic sampling proficiency testing, and wondered whether it could have been adapted to address current challenges. MR agreed that it would be useful, especially in current times when remote work is preferable. The PT schemes only included the planning stage but were still useful (and cheap).

## **11 National reports**

The delegates reported on their national Eurachem activities since the previous GA.

Presentations were given by representatives from Austria (Wolfhard Wegscheider), Belgium (Isabelle Vercruysse), Cyprus (Kyriacos Tsimillis), Czech Republic (David Milde), Denmark (Lorens Sibbesen), Estonia (Riin Rebane), Finland (Anna-Liisa Pikkariainen), France (Caroline Laurent), Georgia (Nino Manvelidze), Germany (Jan Sunderkoetter), Greece (Georgios Theodoridis), Hungary (Csilla Belavari), Ireland (Hugh Fay), Italy (Francesca Rolle), Lithuania (Evaldas Naujalis), Poland (Andrzej Brzyski), Portugal (Ricardo Bettencourt da Silva), Romania (Eugenia Eftimie Totu), Russia (Vasilisa Baranovskaia), Serbia (Jelena Bebic), Spain (Pedro Pablo Morillas Bravo), Sweden (Bertil Magnusson), Switzerland (Ernst Halder), Turkey (Oktay Cankur), Ukraine (Ovsiy Levbarg) and United Kingdom (Chris Harrington).

VB thanked all for their reports and praised the breadth of activities. VB requested that outstanding reports are sent to Secretariat. She also encouraged members to participate in working group activities. The national reports are available in the GA members' area of the website.

## **12 European stakeholder/liaison organisations reports**

### **12.1 EA/LC presented by Brian Brookman (GA-37-12-EA LC)**

BB is the Eurachem representative to the EA Laboratory Committee. The EA LC is a forum to discuss issues on assessment and accreditation of laboratories. Each accreditation body has a representative in the EA LC. There are also representatives of the stakeholders, such as Eurachem. The EA LC consists of Working Groups, Joint Working Groups, Technical Networks (TN) and Task Force Groups (TFG). They meet twice a year (online in the last year).



BB highlighted the work of the technical networks. The TN for Food and Feed had been reviewing guidance on accreditation of pesticide residue analysis and accreditation for sensory testing. The TN for Forensics had conducted a survey on experience of remote assessments.

BB also mentioned the work of TFGs for accreditation of sensory testing and on expression of uncertainty in calibration.

### **12.2 EA LC HEALTHCARE presented by Kyriacos Tsimillis (GA-37-12-EA LC HC)**

KT reported that the last meeting was held in February 2021. A number of issues were discussed, including the setting up of a task force group to draft a paper on generic testing. They also considered whether sampling would need to be included in the accreditation scope, but this was not clear, aside for agreeing that it was up to the laboratory to decide. KT updated on changes to regulation related to in-vitro diagnostics, and updates to EA and LC documentation. The committee have carried out surveys on a number of topics related to Covid-19 testing. The revision of ISO 15189 had been postponed to mid-2021. KT suggested that if anyone had any interest in the healthcare committee activities, they could contact the Eurachem Secretariat or him directly in between meetings to obtain more information.

### **12.3 EEE-PT Working Group presented by Brian Brookman (GA-37-12-EEE PT)**

BB explained that this is a joint group between Eurachem, Eurolab and EA (with the European Committee for External Quality Assurance Programmes in Laboratory Medicine (EQALM) as an affiliated member), focussed on the topic of PT provider accreditation. The working group had completed a leaflet on PT schemes for sampling, published by Eurachem and available in a number of languages. Another substantial task had been the revision of the PT guide, which had been published shortly before the GA. The working group had undertaken a revision of the EA document on the frequency of PT participation and provided input into the ILAC AIC 17043 working group. SE asked about the status of the EEE group apart from the PT group. BB explained that only the EEE PTWG is currently active.

### **12.4 EUROPEAN COMMISSION JRC presented by Hendrik Emons (GA-37-12-JRC)**

VB clarified that the EC is a full member of Eurachem and not a liaison. Therefore in the future, this report will be placed under that National Reports section. HE reported on selected activities. There had been work in the allergens area, where there is no comparability between methods because of differences in measurand definition. A number of publications, documents and standards are in progress, including one on a LC-MS method for the detection of food allergens, and an additional published paper from an interlaboratory comparison which established a reference value for protein in cookies. HE explained that PT schemes had been significantly affected by the pandemic the number of PT schemes organised had been reduced. One PT round on GM in maize flour and one on urea in PT feed had been organised but a number of others had been delayed. There had been a number of successful guides and standards published, including a guide on measurement uncertainty for GMO testing laboratories. HE summarised the number of reference materials issued by JRC. He highlighted EURM-020 which is a qualitative reference material (Atlantic halibut certified for identity) used for food fraud testing. HE also explained that the JRC have been developing quality control materials for Covid PCR tests and antibody testing. They had also updated the European database for in-vitro COVID-19 diagnostic devices and test methods which showed that the number of test methods had increased significantly. HE advised that it was the last time he would be reporting at the GA, and Piotr Robouch would be taking over as the EC representative in the future. VB thanked HE for his contribution over the years.

### **12.5 EUROLAB presented by Ewa Bulska (GA-37-12-EUROLAB)**

Ewa Bulska [EB] reported that Eurolab is now 31. As they had not been able to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020 they were hoping to celebrate this anniversary in the future. EW reported that Eurolab collaborates with a number of associations and organisations including Eurachem. Eurolab prepared a list of priorities for the next year, which includes cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, metrology calibration and the laboratory of the future. EB updated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Eurolab and Eurachem was under revision

and was at the stage of being considered by Eurolab board members. Eurolab had also held elections for a number of positions, including President, vice presidents, and new board members. VB confirmed that there had been progress on the MoU which would be discussed at the Eurachem EC meeting after the GA meeting.

## **12.6 EURAMET/TC-MC presented by Sophie Vaslin-Reimann – (GA-37-12-EURAMET TC-MC)**

Sophie Vaslin-Reimann [SV-R] presented the changes in the membership of the Euramet TC-MC which included a new Chairperson, as well as JRC becoming a new member. There were a good number of activities during the year, helped by the ability of people to attend the meetings virtually. The annual meeting took place in February. SV-R mentioned the Joint Research calls for 2021, and explained that since they have been using the BIPM-KCDB 2.0 it is much easier to submit CMCs and the review process is quicker. A total of 404 CMCs had been submitted (152 by Euramet). A number of European Metrology Networks (EMNs) had been approved and there are a number being considered in 2021 and 2022. SV-R described the aim to establish a multidisciplinary and sustainable EMN on environmental monitoring (POLMO). She also reported on an EDC-WFD project (Endocrine Disrupting Compounds under the Water Framework Directive) to develop metrology for endocrine disrupting chemical monitoring in waters since there are no standardised methods for this yet. SV-R described the objectives of this method and explained that there will be a training workshop in 2022 hopefully face to face. An interlaboratory comparison will also be organised. SV-R invited all to attend the training.

## **12.7 A report by EuChemS was provided but not presented at the meeting (GA-37-12-EuChemS).**

## **12.8 METROFOOD RI presented by Claudia Zoani (GA-37-12-Metrofood)**

Claudia Zoani [CZ] explained that Metrofood RI aims to promote metrology in food and nutrition. The consortium includes 48 organisations from 14 countries with a mandate to provide excellent support and services to users. The main categories of users are research academics, policy makers, food business operators, consumers and citizens. Currently they are at a preparatory stage supported by an Horizon 2020 project with the objective to bring the organisation to the level of a legally financially and technically mature European infrastructure, that is ready to be implemented and operational. The progress has been affected by the pandemic and while users do have virtual access to the infrastructure, the physical access will take longer. CZ announced a training activity in collaboration with the University of Parma on “Traceability and comparability of results in food measurements” taking place in September 2021. This course will take place online but also face-to-face. Metrofood-RI is taking part in the Euramet EMN for food safety. CZ also provided an overview of other ongoing projects.

## **12.9 NMKL – Nordic methods committee on food analysis presented by Eystein Overland (GA-37-12-NMKL)**

Eystein Overland [EO] explained that NMKL (established in 1947) is now hosted by the Institute of Marine Research in Bergen and represents various institutions in the Nordic countries. NMKL and Eurachem were working on finalising an MoU. NMKL works on producing reliable analytical methods, and organising international events and networks. EO described the new methods they are working on, such as a method on total folate in food by LC-ESI-MS/MS of 6 vitamers. They were also working on the interpretation of the EU control regulation for NRL and official laboratories. They had tried to organise a workshop but this has been difficult due to the pandemic. EO thanked NMKL because the MUWG were able to access procedures which was very useful.

# **13 International stakeholder/liason organisations reports**

## **13.1 BIPM JCTLM presented by Elvar Theodorsson (GA-37-13-BIPM JCTLM)**

Elvar Theodorsson [ET] reported on the structure on the JCTLM groups, members in the group and the work on new standards. ET stated that the main purpose of the group was to increase the knowledge and understanding of traceability in laboratory medicine through organising conferences and workshops, and providing information on

their website. They are working on publishing a book on traceability, which will include information on the new ISO standards (ISO 17511 and ISO 21151). Traceability is ensured by different mechanisms and there is not always common understanding about what is required. ET explained that an understanding of a harmonised approach is very much desired. The committee were organising a conference on 6-10 December which aims to bring together manufactures, regulators and laboratories. Chris Harrington [CH] explained that he was involved in NEQAS (EQA provider) and asked whether EQA and PT providers are involved in the conference as this topic is important. ET confirmed that they are, and extended an invitation to the event to everyone. He explained that a further event in 2023 will also take place on this topic. VB asked for the information on the event to be forwarded to the Secretariat so it can be disseminated.

### **13.2 CITAC presented by Michela Segal (GA-37-13-CITAC)**

Michela Segal [MS] gave an overview of the CITAC organisation and structure. The membership is international but has a significant presence from Europe. MS explained that there is substantial collaboration with Eurachem on a number of guides. There is also fruitful collaboration with IUPAC. IUPAC/CITAC published a number of guides and organised a webinar that was attended by 200 participants and had presenters from all over the world. All CITAC meeting activities took place online during the past year. MS explained that at the annual CITAC meeting a best paper award ceremony is usually held. This year the ceremony took place online on 7 May. The papers awarded were for authors from across the globe.

### **13.3 CCQM presented by Michela Segal (GA-37-13-CCQM)**

MS summarised the activities for CCQM since their last meeting in 2019. This had been a key year as it marked 25 years of CCQM. A specific workshop was held and it was followed by new appointments, including a new president and new chairs and deputy chairs for the different working groups. During 2020 CCQM activities progressed electronically – more than 70 videoconferences were held. Over 40 CCQM comparisons were organised. MS explained that the Mission and Vision for CCQM were also approved in 2020 with seven strategic aims. A key activity that underpins the strategic aims is the organisation of coordinated key comparisons. Task groups have been created to look at specific issues. Two webinars were organised by BIPM online looking at responses to the Pandemic. An important topic for CCQM was the establishment of reliable protocols for Covid-19 testing, related to RNA copy number quantification (nucleic acid analysis) and monoclonal antibody quantification (protein).

### **13.4 CCMAS presented by Marina Patriarca (GA-37-13-CCMAS)**

MP covered the remit of CCMAS (Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling). Eurachem is an observer. Observers are invited to support the Codex mandate based on collaboration, inclusiveness, consensus building and transparency. There are 239 observers. The main meeting in 2020 was cancelled, so there has been a gap until 2021. MP reported on the main topics covered at the meeting, which included the guidelines on measurement uncertainty (CX-GL 54) and general guidelines on sampling (CX GL 50). She noted that there is reluctance to include sampling uncertainty although New Zealand is very keen to implement a statistical approach to sampling uncertainty. MR confirmed that the UfSWG would be discussing this issue at the next meeting. MP remarked that the Eurachem/CITAC guide on Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement is referenced in both documents, as well as other guides on traceability and compliance. MP also reported on the work of the Inter Agency Meeting, IAM, which met early in May 2021. MP presented on recent Eurachem activities to this meeting. MP provided an update on the work revising ISO 5725, highlighting main changes and status of the revision.

### **13.5 ILAC/AIC and LC presented by Brian Brookman (GA-37-13-ILAC LC\_AIC)**

BB presented on the Accreditation Issues Committee (AIC) and Laboratory Committee (LC) within ILAC. A key update for the AIC committee was a new survey looking at harmonisation and consistency of accreditation as a follow up to the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017. A subcommittee was looking at bylaws for the formulation of the ILAC stakeholder forum. Finally, issues about consistency of assessment during the pandemic

were being reviewed. The AIC was involved in producing technical documents related to ILAC work. The work had been hindered as people from different time zones needed to meet which can be challenging online. BB described the organisation of the working groups within the committee. BB listed some of the documents that have been circulated to GA members for comments and reiterated how important the contributions from the Eurachem membership were for ILAC. BB summarised the work of the 17025, 15189, 17034 and 17043 working groups.

### **13.6 IUPAC presented by Steve Ellison (GA-37-13-IUPAC)**

SE reported on the projects in progress, such as revision of the Analytical Chemistry Nomenclature Book (Orange Book) which was due to be published in August 2021 and a review of the status of analytical chemistry education. There had also been two new awards, Emerging Innovator Award for emerging/early career, and the IUPAC Analytical Chemistry Medal for significant lifetime contribution.

### **13.7 ISO-REMCO presented by Steve Ellison (GA-37-13-REMCO)**

SE reported that ISO REMCO had been disbanded and reconstituted as a technical committee under the name ISO TC334, which has the ability to issue standards rather than just guidance. The Eurachem liaison is now at working group level. The work in progress included a number of guides, ISO Guide 30 (Reference materials – selected terms and definitions), which was under revision, ISO Guide 85 (production of qualitative materials and the assignment of nominal properties) at working draft stage, ISO Guide 86 (pure reference materials for small organic molecules) at working draft stage and ISO Guide 87 (pure reference materials for metal and metalloids).

### **13.8 ISO/TC 69/SC 6/WG 7 presented by Bertil Magnusson (GA-37-13- TC 69 SC6)**

Since some of the work under this working group was recorded in the report for the MUTWG, BM did not add further comments under this section and provided a list of documents and their status under the remit of WG1 and WG7 of ISO/TC/SC 6.

## **14 Future Eurachem workshops & meetings**

### **14.1 10th PT workshop, 26-29 September 2022 (GA-37-14-01)**

BB reported that the workshop had been postponed to the following year (September 2022). A leaflet with all the information had been produced and would be made available through the Eurachem website.

### **14.2 Planning and arrangements for GA and WS 2022, 16- 20 May 2022, Tbilisi, Georgia**

Nino Manvelidze (NM) presented on the planning of the 2022 Eurachem week in May. The GA meeting will be organised by the Georgian Laboratory Association (GeLab) in Tbilisi during the week of 16-20 May 2022. The venue suggested is the Georgia Technical University. NM suggested that the workshop topics would cover the challenges of measurement in food safety and nutrition from field to laboratory. GeLab can engage potential stakeholders in food labs and consumer associations. NM mentioned that translation facilities would be included to enable participants from Georgia and neighbouring countries to fully participate. NM also provided logistical information about travelling and staying in Tbilisi. NM invited all GA members to go to Georgia in 2022.

### **14.3 Venue GA 2023 – proposals (GA-37-14-03-CH, GA37-14-03-PT and GA-37-14-03-TR)**

Switzerland, Portugal and Turkey had submitted proposals for hosting the 2023 Eurachem week. The national representatives from each country provided a brief overview of their proposals. All proposals have been published on the Eurachem website.

VB explained that voting would take place electronically after the meeting. GA members would receive an email with a link for the voting form and all the information related to the different proposals.

## **15 Any other business**

No points were raised.

## **16 Closing of the meeting**

VB thanked DM and colleagues for organising a successful workshop and GA meeting. VB reflected on the resilience of Eurachem through challenging times. VB hoped that next GA can be face-to-face and wished everyone well.

Comments were expressed in the chat thanking DM and Eurachem-Czech Republic for a well-run meeting.

## 17 List of participants

<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>FUNCTION</b>
<b>Kandler</b>	Wolfgang	Austria	National delegate
<b>Wegscheider</b>	Wolfhard	Austria	National delegate, EC Elected Member
<b>Vercruysse</b>	Isabelle	Belgium	National delegate, Vice-Chair
<b>Maesen</b>	Philippe	Belgium	Invited guest
<b>Loucaides</b>	Aristos	Cyprus	Invited guest
<b>Tsimillis</b>	Kyriacos	Cyprus	National delegate, EC Elected Member
<b>Milde</b>	David	Czech Republic	ETWG Chair, National delegate
<b>Sibbesen</b>	Lorens	Denmark	MVWG Chair, National delegate
<b>Emons</b>	Hendrik	EC	EC-JRC representative
<b>Robouch</b>	Piotr	EC	EC-JRC representative
<b>Rebane</b>	Riin	Estonia	National delegate, EC elected member
<b>Vaslin-Reimann</b>	Sophie	France, EURAMET TC-MC	Euramet TC-MC liaison representative
<b>Pikkarainen</b>	Anna-Liisa	Finland	National delegate
<b>Laurent</b>	Caroline	France	National delegate
<b>Manvelidze</b>	Nino	Georgia	National delegate
<b>Michael</b>	Koch	Germany	National delegate, EC Elected member
<b>Sunderkoetter</b>	Jan	Germany	National delegate
<b>Theodoridis</b>	Georgios	Greece	National delegate
<b>Belavari</b>	Csilla	Hungary	National delegate
<b>Cantwell</b>	Helen	Ireland	National delegate, EC elected member
<b>Fay</b>	Hugh	Ireland	National delegate
<b>Walsh</b>	Maire	Ireland	Honorary life member
<b>Patriarca</b>	Marina	Italy	Past Chair, RMWG Chair
<b>Gregori</b>	Emanuela	Italy	National representative
<b>Rolle</b>	Francesca	Italy	National representative
<b>Sega</b>	Michela	Italy	CITAC and CCQM Liaison
<b>Viksna</b>	Arturs	Latvia	National delegate
<b>Naujalis</b>	Evaldas	Lithuania	National delegate
<b>Zoani</b>	Claudia	Italy, METROFOOD-RI	METROFOOD-RI liaison
<b>Overland</b>	Eystein	Norway, NMKL	NMKL Liaison
<b>Brzyski</b>	Andrzej	Poland	National delegate
<b>Bulska</b>	Ewa	Poland	National delegate, Eurolab Liaison

<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>FUNCTION</b>
<b>Bettencourt da Silva</b>	Ricardo	Portugal	National delegate, QAWG Chair
<b>Totu Eftimie</b>	Eugenia	Romania	National delegate, EC Elected Member
<b>Baranovskaya</b>	Vasilisa	Russia	National delegate
<b>Bebic</b>	Jelena	Serbia	National delegate
<b>Morillas Bravo</b>	Pedro Pablo	Spain	National delegate
<b>Magnusson</b>	Bertil	Sweden	National delegate, EC Elected Member, ISO TC/SC representative
<b>Theodorsson</b>	Elvar	Sweden	National delegate, JCTLM Liaison
<b>Halder</b>	Ernst	Switzerland	National delegate
<b>Andres</b>	Hanspeter	Switzerland	National delegate
<b>Cankur</b>	Oktay	Turkey	National delegate
<b>Levbarg</b>	Ovsiy	Ukraine	National delegate
<b>Barwick</b>	Vicki	United Kingdom	Chair
<b>Brookman</b>	Brian	United Kingdom	PTWG Chair, EEE-PT WG Chair, EA LC, ILAC LC, ILAC AIC Liaison
<b>Ellison</b>	Stephen	United Kingdom	National delegate, MUTWG Chair, IUPAC, ISO-REMCO Liaison
<b>Harrington</b>	Chris	United Kingdom	National delegate
<b>Ramsey</b>	Michael H.	United Kingdom	UfSWG Chair
<b>Sanchez</b>	Elena	United Kingdom	Secretary, Treasurer
<b>Williams</b>	Alex	United Kingdom	Honorary life member

## 18 Apologies

<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>FUNCTION</b>
<b>Melikyan</b>	Levon	Armenia	National delegate
<b>Ivanova</b>	Dimka	Bulgaria	National delegate
<b>Ilchev</b>	Paun	Bulgaria	National delegate
<b>Charalambous</b>	Despina	Cyprus	National delegate
<b>Cervený</b>	Vaclav	Czech Republic	National delegate
<b>Leito</b>	Ivo	Estonia	National delegate
<b>Jajanidze</b>	Tinatin	Georgia	National delegate
<b>Sólbergdóttir</b>	Elísabet	Iceland	National delegate
<b>Petraitis</b>	Julijonas	Lithuania	National delegate
<b>Gjengedal</b>	Elin	Norway	National delegate
<b>Trancoso</b>	Maria Ascensão	Portugal	National delegate
<b>Radu</b>	Gabriel Lucian	Romania	National delegate

<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>FUNCTION</b>
<b>Medvedevskikh</b>	Maria	Russia	National delegate
<b>Kordík</b>	Dušan	Slovakia	National delegate
<b>Májek</b>	Pavel	Slovakia	National delegate
<b>Hrastelj Majcen</b>	Nineta	Slovenia	National delegate, EuChemS Liaison
<b>Gonzalez del Rey Estevez</b>	Alfonso	Spain	National delegate
<b>Marjol</b>	Mariam	The Netherlands	National delegate
<b>Akçadağ</b>	Fatma	Turkey	National delegate
<b>Rozhnov</b>	Mykhailo	Ukraine	National delegate