

## **“Accreditation News” Issue 66**

### **Fourth Quarter 2013**

#### **ENAC’s General Assembly**

***The improvements we have made in the processes have enabled us to lower the 2014 rates to 2008 levels. This is especially significant in some areas with reductions ranging from 10% to 39%.***

***The accreditation drive as a support element for companies interested in breaking into foreign markets, as well as collaborating with the Government, are some of the strategic lines of action this year.***

ENAC's General Assembly was held on 18th December, 2013 when the new President, José Manuel Prieto and the General Director, Beatriz Rivera, presented the Budget and the Action Plan for 2014.

The budget sets out an activity scene similar to that of 2013 while based on the new reduced rates for some activities, mainly those associated with accreditation maintenance and extension, with very significant reductions ranging from 10% to 39%. According to the statement made by the Director General, this has been made possible thanks "to the constant integration of I.T., streamlining and the redesign of critical processes and, above all, the professionalism and commitment of ENAC staff".

Regarding the action plan, during his speech the Director General highlighted that one of ENAC's strategic lines of action for the new year was helping Spanish companies in their export goals, given that ENAC is a key collaborator as accreditation is one of the mechanisms recognized by both the World Trade Organization and the European Union for minimizing Technical Trade Barriers, which remain a major concern even within the European Union.

Therefore in 2014 an effort is going to be made to go more directly to companies and organizations in order to inform them of how much power the conformity assessment bodies can provide them in foreign markets.

In relation, also, to Spanish companies breaking into foreign markets, Beatriz Rivera made clear the importance of the Mutual Recognition Agreements signed with the EA, ILAC and IAF and stressed that in 2014 activity will noticeably come from reassessment audits for maintaining these agreements and for internationally establishing the Mutual Recognition Agreements in people certification activity. These agreements, once signed, will complement those who already exist at a European level and will mean that ENAC accreditation in this sector will be recognized in more than 54 countries around the world.

Regarding another issue, the Director also mentioned that ENAC is preparing a Guide for defining and evaluating technical expertise in conformity assessment activities in government procurement tenders directed at public procurement with the aim of promoting the added value that accreditation

provides when they need to directly contract companies providing conformity assessment services, such as, when they have to take the reports or certificates they emit into account.

## **Interview with D. Jose Manuel Prieto, new President of ENAC**

***"In recent years, the foundations have been laid in order to continue fulfilling our goal; helping to improve the competitiveness and aiding Spanish companies' exports, so I believe that we should and can face the future with hope and optimism."***

**How do you see ENAC's development going?**

Very positively. At the present time, Spain has a National Accreditation Body fully-integrated in its business and economic fabric which enjoys the highest prestige both within and beyond our borders. ENAC is present in virtually all sectors, constantly expanding the range of accredited services, working closely with the Government, involving business organisations, scientific societies and universities through an accreditation system which is rigorous, robust, reliable, and above all, which enjoys the utmost confidence and recognition of all sectors in the market.

In addition, during this time the accreditation resource has done no more than grow in the voluntary and the regulatory sectors nationally and internationally in Europe and worldwide.

Currently there are more than 1,300 accredited organizations operating in practically all economic sectors: industry, environment, health, food and agriculture, services, development, tourism, etc.; providing value both to the Government and businesses, with a significant impact on economic activity in general and particularly on the safety and quality of products and services.

In this way, ENAC has managed to combine a private enterprise approach by setting high standards for itself in relation to the quality of service offered as well as by having a conscience and commitment to public service that determines its operation principles.

**What milestones would highlight the work carried out to date?**

One of the key moments was the adoption of the Regulation which clarified the role of the National Accreditation Bodies and harmonized their operation throughout the Union, which was the (EC) N ° 765/2008 Regulation. It was a big support to ENAC's work of establishing an operation model that ENAC had been working on since the start and it has adapted to without having to modify any of its structure or operation, it is a support that was endorsed subsequently by the Royal Decree 1715/2010 which appointed ENAC as Accreditation Agency in Spain.

Another highlight is ENAC's gradual inclusion to the recognition agreements which have been established (we are usually among the first signatories) among international level accreditation agencies. We must not forget the importance of the signing of these agreements since it allows the certificates and reports accredited by ENAC to be recognized in more than 70 countries around the world.

Also, I think it should be noted that the current position of accreditation would not be possible without the constant and determined support from a group of institutions that have demonstrated the necessary future vision to understand the importance that accreditation would have in our society. In particular, the Ministry of Industry has constantly supported the development of an accreditation system for industry, and in this context I would like to bring your attention to and thank Antonio Muñoz, whose work for more than 20 years as President of ENAC has actively and permanently contributed to building and maintaining a robust accreditation system.

**You become President at an especially difficult economic time. What is the role of accreditation in the current situation? Do you think that ENAC and the Public Administration can help Spanish companies get out of this situation?**

In the current situation accreditation acquires a special importance as it is organized to effectively revitalize strategic aspects in order to overcome the crisis, such as, Spanish companies' access to foreign markets and simplifying paperwork, with the consequent lessening of unnecessary regulatory barriers and bureaucracy.

In regards to the promotion of export, accreditation is key by being one of the mechanisms recognized and fostered both by the World Trade Organization and by the European Union to minimize Technical Trade Barriers. The international recognition of ENAC-accredited certificates and reports that I mentioned before supports export to make Spanish products and services easily accepted in all world markets.

Accreditation is a fundamental component that provides, from the market and by means of a voluntary mechanism, a very high level of confidence in the assessor's competence. In this way, public authorities can support accreditation, not only to decrease their own need for regulation, but to establish alternative security and control strategies allowing them to focus efforts and resources on situations with greater risks, thereby increasing the efficiency of the Administration's work.

It is also an activity that affects transversely, providing services equally to different administrations (European, Central and Autonomous) in practically all economic sectors, making it easier to establish a fluid and unimpeded internal market.

**Since your work in the Ministry of Industry, you have promoted the importance of quality in the competitiveness of Spanish companies, but, do you think that ENAC and accreditation are supported sufficiently by the Spanish Government?**

Absolutely. The Government has always considered accreditation to be a fundamental tool because of the safety provided by the Conformity Assessors accrediting products and services used by citizens and, for this reason, the role of ENAC has been resolutely supported since its foundation more than 25 years ago.

It should not be forgotten that it was at the heart of this Ministry that the first embryo of accreditation appeared and where some years later an accreditation model and accreditation body were chosen virtually identical to the one that Europe adopted.

And, more specifically, in respect to my responsibilities at the Sub-Directorate General of Quality and Industrial Safety, in the Directorate General of industry and Small and Medium-sized Companies, I have to emphasize that accreditation is the inspection instrument of technical

competence that acts in many activities such as Industrial Safety Regulations, Technical Inspection of Vehicles, Tachograph Inspection Technical Centres, Mining Safety or notification of bodies in the European directive framework.

In this regard, I would highlight the support for accreditation by both the Spanish and European Governments which is regularly publishing guidelines and regulations with accreditation as a fundamental part. To give just one fact, but I think it represents the Spanish case, accreditation is referred to and taken into account in two laws of great importance in the legislature: the law 20/2013, of the 9th December, guaranteeing Market Unity, and the draft Law of Services and Professional Associations.

Still, one of our strategic lines for this year is to continue working and collaborating more intensely, if possible, with all public administrations.

**We have spoken of the past and the present, but how does the President of ENAC see its future and, above all, the future and role of accreditation?**

I think that thanks to the work done by all the ENAC team, it currently finds itself in an excellent position to continue its fundamental mission, which is none other than to "generate confidence", thereby contributing to achieving a competitive, stable and sustainable economy.

I also think that in recent years the foundations have been laid to meet this objective, since in addition to the excellent quality and the creation of trust in Spanish products and services, we are helping to improve competitiveness and we continue to work to facilitate Spanish exports, so I believe that we should and we can face the future with hope and optimism.

### **Professional career**

Jose Manuel Prieto Barrio is an Aeronautical engineer from the Aeronautical Polytechnic University of Madrid. He began his professional career at the National Institute of Aerospace Technology (INTA) in 1992, developing duties such as a Test Flight Engineer onto, subsequently, occupying various positions of responsibility in the technical field. In 2003, he moved to a position of responsibility in the automobile regulation field in the Vehicle Experimentation and Certification Centre INTA, first in charge of the Vehicle Emission Test Area and, in 2005, in charge of Vehicle Safety Test Area.

In 2010, he joined the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism as Head of the Department of Regulation and Vehicle Status, in the Sub directorate-General of Quality and Industrial Safety, and was appointed Deputy Director General from 1st December, 2013.

His experience as a manager in the regulation field, in addition to his international experience, having participated in international groups since 1994: first in the Aeronautics field, he participated in various groups within the Eurofighter program until 2002, then in 2003 his career took a turn leading him to the automotive and quality world participating in the normative development of Brussels and United Nations groups, being the Spanish representative at the World Forum for the Vehicle Harmonisation Technique of the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations from 2010.

## **ENAC passes successfully the EA assessment for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Verifiers accreditation**

Greenhouse gas emissions inspection has recently been subject to peer evaluation in order to sign a new Multilateral Agreement of Recognition (MLA) in Europe.

The EA agreed to the launch of this process at its General Meeting 2012 as a result of the (EU) 600/2012 Regulation 21st June 2012(\*) coming into force on greenhouse gas emissions inspection reports. The Regulation established the obligation that National Accreditation Bodies, which accredit the inspection bodies within the European Trading Emissions System, must successfully pass the peer evaluation the EA should set up for that purpose. The purpose is to provide the Member States with confidence in the inspectors' competence and to ensure the circulation of the assessment services based on the mutual recognition of their equivalence.

The evaluations seek to determine that the National Accreditation Bodies meet the requirements demanded by the Regulation itself and are competent to assess the activity of the inspectors.

Some National Accreditation Bodies, including ENAC, had years ago already started the accreditation activity in the European Trading Emissions System, by making use of the criteria contained in the international EN 45011 standard, complemented by the EA 603 document for the specific system program.

ENAC's experience in the past gave us the possibility of requesting the EA evaluation as soon as it was possible. Therefore, throughout June and July 2013 a thorough assessment of all ENAC's documentation support, that was complied with the Regulation's requirements, was carried out and last September the on-site assessment was done, which included an inspection visit of an ENAC audit accompanied by the EA auditor.

The good results obtained in the evaluation meant that ENAC's record could be presented for decision at the Multilateral Agreement Council meeting just three weeks later, on the 1st and 2nd October. At that meeting the positive result of the assessment process was confirmed and ENAC was included in the multilateral agreement that the EA is going to sign for this activity.

The signing of the agreement will be held by the National Accreditation Bodies that will have been positively assessed by the EA by the end of 2014, upon completing the transitional period established by the Regulation itself.

(\*)Committee Regulation (EU) No. 600/2012 21st June 2012 concerning the inspection of greenhouse emission reports and data reports on tonne-kilometres and the accreditation of inspectors in accordance with the 2003/87/CE directive of the European Parliament and Council.

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## **The sensory analysis accreditation of virgin olive oil: a guarantee of technical competence**

***Tasting panels are responsible for classifying virgin olive oils by means of sensory analysis. Market confidence depends on the tasting being carried out with appropriate competence.***

***The accreditation of an olive oil tasting panel is the most complete tool to generate this confidence, serving both the competent authority and the market.***

Spain is the world's first producer of olives, and therefore, virgin olive oil, but it is primarily also a traditionally producing country. The roots of olive oil in our food culture made way for the oil sector, weighing strongly in the national economy and the image that we project abroad as a country.

Following is some data from various sources, illustrating the relevance of this activity: 5% of Spanish agri-food companies are dedicated to olive oil, the sector accounts for 9% of its exports and olive groves occupy 14% of Spanish agrarian soil. In Spain there are also 29 Protected Designations of Origin (PDO) of virgin olive oil, which implies the recognition of different qualities, because of their characteristics.

Regarding its regulation, European regulations establish not only the specifications that this product must comply with but also the methods of analysis.

One of the most decisive features for classification required for sales (extra virgin, virgin lampante) is its organoleptic profile, which is established by using a sensory assessment test by a panel of selected and trained tasters.

The tasting panels contribute to controlling and ensuring that virgin olive oils meet the sensory parameters defined in the regulations and that its organoleptic quality is known.

The accreditation of an olive oil tasting panel is the most complete tool to generate the necessary confidence in their performance, serving both the competent authority and the market. The international recognition of ENAC's accreditation along with the boom in this product's exports, of which Spain is the largest producer and exporter worldwide, means that accreditation of these panels continue to grow.

There are currently 18 panels accredited in Spain for these tests. Of these, 11 are Governmental, developing the activities of official control by competent authorities and 5 are private sector, providing service to the operators (oil mills, bottlers, intermediaries and so on), to the Designations of Origin or as internal control laboratories of large industries in the sector. These accredited laboratories are located in the main production areas.

### **Assessment criteria for panel accreditation**

In the assessment, the virgin olive oil tasting panel must demonstrate that it meets the requirements set out in European legislation regulating these products, and in particular the (EC) 640/2008 Regulation which establishes the procedure for assessing its organoleptic characteristics and classifying the oils in relation to the characteristics adopting the method recommended by the International Olive Oil Committee, IOC.

Recently the EU has approved a revision of the Regulation of these products, which will come into effect on the 1st March 2014, it requires the tasting panel work procedures to be adapted to the latest versions of the IOC rules.

When ENAC is assessing, together with the UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025 criteria and the EA - 4/09 "Accreditation for sensory testing" Guide applicable to any type of sensory laboratory, developed by EA, ENAC also takes into account the IOC "Guidelines for the accreditation of olive oil sensory analysis laboratories" document that addresses the key aspects of the tasting panel competence: competence, selection and performance monitoring of the tasting team and the panel Head, the specifications of the facilities where the tastings are carried out, the test method and the calculation of the result and the sensory assessment quality control activities.

Each year the IOC, the International Olive Oil Committee, which represents practically all olive oil producer or consumer countries, awards recognition to tasting panels which show their competence in periodic control tests. Spain, with 12 laboratories, of which 11 have ENAC accreditation, is the country with largest number of IOC-recognized laboratories, leading the main producer countries inside and outside the EU, such as Italy (10), Greece (1), Portugal (3), Tunisia (1), Morocco (5).

In Spain ENAC maintains a close technical working arrangement with the Arbitral Agri-food Laboratory, a subsidiary of the Sub Directive General of Control and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment's Food Laboratories, responsible for the System of Coordination and Control of the Tasting Panels, which covers relevant aspects of the virgin olive oil tasting panels activity, such as, training the heads of tasting panels and carrying out annual inter-comparison exercises to inspect the validity of the sensory assessments of the panels.

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## **EA and the European Commission Collaboration on Organic Production**

Spain is the leading country in the European Union both in land acreage and for producers and other operators of organic produce. Organic produce in our country has gained great importance due to the continuing growth in this sector over the past few years, for both the large acreage of land and for the volume of this type of production generated by processing industries. Especially relevant is also the large volume of raw material exports and processed organic produce.

Last June, the EA approved its "policy for the certification of organic production accreditation" (document EA-3/12 M: 2013). It is a document prepared by the EA and the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission, with ENAC's participation, which is in charge of this certification scheme, and is mandatory for all EA accreditation bodies.

This document sets out the guidelines that accreditation bodies must follow to assess, both bodies that certify organic production in the Member States of the EU, and those that certify produce in third countries.

ENAC has developed a specific Technical Note for it to be correctly implemented the "Organic Produce Certification: particular requirements for the accreditation of Bodies operating in the organic farming framework", which includes in its annexes the translation of the EA document (to see: go to the [Documents](#) section of our webpage).

In addition, it has become necessary to develop the accreditation process of bodies which certify this production in third countries, to assess the equivalence with the European Regulation of the applicable normative documents.

Implementing this EA document will help harmonize the assessments that the national accreditation bodies carry out throughout Europe.

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## **Accreditation, a fundamental base in the Protocol of Sewage Spills Inspection**

The state and quality of the inland water mass is determined by the existence of spills, which can negatively affect or degrade the public water and contaminate inland waters. Therefore, it is essential to act at the origin point of the contamination source, to minimize the impact caused on aquatic ecosystems.

The Royal Decree legislative 1/2001, of the 20th July, which approved the Revised Text of the Water Law (TRLA), established the administrative authorization's obligation over all activities likely to cause pollution or degradation of the public water domain, and in particular, the spillage of water and sewage that could contaminate inland waters.

The powers of the Basin Agencies, listed in the aforementioned Royal Decree, include inspection work and compliance monitoring with the conditions of concessions and authorizations relating to the public water domain. In fact, authorisation of spillage has become one of the main tools available to the Administration in managing water pollution.

To support the Water Authority's activities the Water Authority Collaboration Body (ECAH) has been developed in the field of control and surveillance of water quality and spillage management to the public water domain, upon obtaining the corresponding title, regulated by the order MAM9852006 of the 23rd March.

The ECAHs may perform the work of checking that the Basin Agencies are deemed suitable to inspect the spillage and performance characteristics of the treatment and disposal installations and may well intervene by direct request of the Basin Agency, or indirect request through a requirement to the spillage holder, or pursuant to a condition imposed in the spillage authorization.

In order to guarantee the technical competence of the ECAH when they act as agencies accrediting spillage conditions, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment has considered it essential to establish procedures that allow such bodies to act in a uniform way, and allow ENAC's assessment and accreditation.

Therefore, on the 23rd October 2013, the "Waste Water Spillage Inspection Protocol for Water Authority Collaboration Bodies" was adopted which established that the only way of demonstrating an ECAH's technical competence in implementing the spillage inspection protocol is through accreditation according to standard UNE-EN ISOIEC 17020 granted by the National Accreditation Body (ENAC). For this reason, so the inspection body can act within the scope of the spillage inspection protocol, it must be explicitly included within its scope of accreditation.

The Protocol establishes six types of inspection or work that an ECAH may develop, so-called "inspection objects":

- Conformity assessment for the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the spillage.
- Conformity assessment with respect to the effective control of the volume of waste water spillage.



- Conformity assessment with respect to the concentration of contaminants in the receiving environment.
- Inspection of the state of treatment and disposal facilities.
- Compliance inspection with respect to the project of treatment and disposal of wastewater facilities.
- Compliance inspection with the system requirements and the discharge control elements.

Currently environmental inspection bodies are accredited to find spillage (sewage) and middle recipient (inland waters) conformity depending on the concentration of pollutants. The inspection bodies already accredited in these areas of inspection, include in their accreditation scope activities referred to in articles 1 and 3 of the Protocol, must demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Protocol in terms of personnel and procedures for the carrying out of inspections.

The rest of the articles of Protocol (2, 4, 5 and 6) will entail the inclusion of new accreditation areas in the scope of environmental inspection bodies, and therefore new lines of action and opportunities for companies in the sector.

ENAC currently is already available to assess and accredit inspection bodies according to the requirements laid down in the Protocol of spillage inspection.

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## **New services accredited for spillage control**

The first accreditation of the punctual measurement of flow per Parshall canal according to ASTM-D1941: 2001, essential parameter at the time of determining the total volume of spillage and so quantifying the damage to the environment.

The flow measurement is a parameter that is essential when determining the total spillage volume and therefore quantify the damage to the environment. This parameter is particularly important, since both the pollutants and estimated damage to the public water domain are related and calculated according to the Royal Decree 670/2013 directly proportional to spillage flow.

The challenge to address is having reliable and traceable data of the measures of flow that once they have reached the analytical limits of quantification established in the environmental reference legislation. To do this it is necessary to have reliable flow measurement systems, whose measurement is easily achievable in the field, and those which conform better to these requirements are open channel flow measurement systems. One of the most used in disposal and purification of waste facilities is the "Parshall canal". This type of canal is a fixed hydraulic structure, whose dimensional and installation characteristics must be adjusted to reference standards, such as ASTM-D 1941:2001 or ISO 9826:92, because if the construction, design and installations are correct and conform to the characteristics listed in the normative reference documents, with a simple dimensional measurement (height of water depth), and applying the reference standard, true and reliable results of flow will be obtained.

This system, for its seemingly trivial simplicity of measurement, entails enormous difficulty to be correctly implemented, since it is not usually under permanent laboratory control to perform the measurement, so periodic, or prior to measurement, dimensional checks must be made to ensure that it meets the characteristics established in the normative reference document, as failure to

comply will invalidate the canal for performing the flow determination. Moreover, it is necessary to assess the state of the bottom of the canal, flow systems, as well as the presence of possible interferences at the entrance and exit of the canal.

ENAC has recently credited the Laboratory of Control of Environmental Quality at the Junta de Andalucía for punctual measurements of flow through Parshall Canal, according to ASTM-D 1941:2001.

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## **First accreditation for testing of software equipped measuring instruments, according to WELMEC 7.2**

In the daily economic activity citizens, consumers, taxpayers and companies must, on a regular basis, rely on the correct operation of instruments and measuring systems, such as, different types of counters, scales, dispensers, etc. Therefore, to ensure that these instruments provide a reliable measurement, they are subjected to a series of control activities referred to as Metrological Control.

In Europe, the measurement of instruments (MID) 2004/22/CE Directive sets out different requirements that the measuring instruments must meet subject to metrological control before their sale or they are put in service, including some relating to the measurement activity control and its protection against the intentional modification of the measurement results.

When the measuring instruments are equipped with a software, it is necessary to conduct an assessment.

To guide manufacturers and the notified bodies responsible for the measuring instrument conformity assessment, WELMEC, the European Legal Metrology Cooperation Organization, has published a series of guidelines, among them is the WELMEC 7.2 Guide, relating to software, recommended for creating, reviewing and validating the measuring instrument software subject to metrological control.

LGAI Technological Centre is the first laboratory accredited by ENAC, for tests of the software assessment of electric energy meters and machine counters according to the Guide WELMEC 7. 2.

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## **Clinical analysis laboratories: revised accreditation standard**

In 2013 a new revision of the international ISO 15189 standard (UNE - EN ISO 15189:2013) has been published establishing requirements for clinical laboratories. This standard covers all stages of activity, pre-analytical, analytical and post-analytical, specifically focused on the end-use of these laboratories' reports: clinical decision-making and patient care.

The changes in this new version are an improvement on the structure of the requirements, which will make it easier for all users to understand and especially for those who are starting their accreditation process. These changes will not mean an additional effort for accredited Spanish laboratories since many of the new aspects were already looked at in ENAC's document, published in 2008, CGA-ENAC-LCL made with the collaboration of the scientific societies from different specialities in clinical laboratories.

Among the new aspects, it is worth noting the incorporation of a new requirement for risk management focused on patient safety. In this regard, it is worth highlighting the role played by the scientific societies from the different specialities who in recent years have been working on this subject and preparing documents and recommendations that will be useful to set up in the laboratories.

### **Transition**

ENAC has issued the Plan which is to be applied to make the transition to the new standard. The Plan conforms to the period established by ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation) and is available in section documents on our web page.

According to this plan all accredited clinical laboratories must have demonstrated compliance with the requirements of the UNE - EN ISO 15189:2013 standard before the 1st March, 2016. To do so, from the 1st October, 2013 only requests are accepted in accordance with the new standard and starting on 1st January, 2014 all audits will be carried out according to the new version.

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## **Information workshops "Accreditation, an overview of the process"**

To make access to accreditation easier to all possible interested parties, ENAC is developing a programme of informative workshops aimed at those organizations - laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies, inspectors, and so on - who provide these services and who wish to access accreditation as a way of differentiating themselves for their technical competence.

Throughout each workshop, we will analyse the different aspects of the process followed by ENAC in granting accreditation as well as the objectives of each of the assessment phases, providing attendees with the understanding of the requirements and the technical and organizational implications as well as accreditation management.

It will address key aspects such as commitments, obligations and accreditation rights, the applicable documentation and the exchange of information on the process, the definition of the Accreditation Scope, the deadlines for the process or its economic aspects.

The four sessions planned for this year are held in Madrid on the 24th March, 16th June, 22nd September and 15th December.

## **Collaboration with Costa Rican and Belarussian accreditation bodies**

### **Costa Rica**

ENAC welcomed representatives of the Costa Rican Accreditation Agency (ECA). Marisa Madrid, General Manager, and Alejandra Guevara, Coordinator of the Secretariat of Laboratories, have participated throughout the week in various activities in order to familiarize themselves with the ENAC accreditation system, in particular with the managerial aspects, the accreditation of laboratories and suppliers of inter-comparison programs.

Activities included interviews with technical personnel, attending a laboratory audit and attending to the Accreditation Committee as observers.

### **Belarussia**

IENAC received a delegation of 5 representatives of the Belarusian State Centre for Accreditation (BSCA): Tatyana Nikolaeva, Director; Volha Shabanava, Head of the Laboratory Accreditation Department; Vera Naidzenava, head of the Science and Technical Department; Tatyana Osipava, Accreditation of Certification Bodies Department, and Ema Malhina, head of the International Cooperation Department.

This visit is part of the EuropeAid/131438/C/SER/BY project "Support for the Quality Infrastructure in the Republic of Belarus - Food Safety", between the European Commission and AFNOR, French Agency for Standardization. The purpose of the visit to ENAC was to gather information on how the Spanish accreditation system operated and to harmonize the Belarusian methodology with practices in Europe in order to eliminate trade barriers.

In addition to interviews with ENAC's technical personnel, the activities included attending audits, as observers, of a clinical laboratory, an environmental laboratory and a quality systems certification body.

## **General Meetings of EA, IAF and ILAC**

***The EA General Meeting approved requesting that the IAF incorporates the Certification of persons into the Multilateral Recognition Agreement recently launched globally.***

Last November, the EA General Meeting was held in Oslo and ILAC and IAF's were held in Seoul.

The main decision in the case of the EA was to urge the Executive Committee to request, on behalf of the EA, its inclusion of the Personnel Certification in the multilateral recognition agreement which recently has been launched globally by IAF.

Therefore, next year the EA assessment process will begin leading, once completed, to the recognition of the EA accreditation in the activity of certification of persons expanded in Europe to the rest of the world.

On another matter, the General Assembly has been informed that the process carried out by the Executive Committee to hire a Secretary General is practically finished so that in 2014 the EA will have a person to assume a relevant position within the Association and that, no doubt, will mark a before and an after point in the activity of EA.

In another matter, the Assembly of the EA Multilateral Agreement Council (MAC), informed about its decisions to admit new members to the multilateral agreements as well as to maintain the existing ones. This time it include the favourable decision after having successfully passed the assessment process in accordance with the ISO 14065 standard and the European 600/2012 regulation, so it will be included directly into the MLA once this is signed by the following accreditation bodies:

- ENAC (Spain), DANAK (Denmark), FINAS (Finland), UKAS (UK), SWEDAC (Sweden), CAI (Czech Republic) AA (Austria), COFRAC (France), y RENAR (Romanía).

In regards to the General Meetings of ILAC and IAF, which brought together all accreditation bodies and other interested parties, they approved the 2014 budgets and the 2013 accounts and adopted resolutions of a technical nature that affect the certification bodies, inspection and laboratory accreditation. Different periods of transition for different certification standards were approved and new signatories were accepted by the respective multilateral agreements:

#### ILAC:

- Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ), Australia/New Zealand, for inspection.
- Belgian Accreditation Structure (BELAC), Belgium, for extension of scope to include inspection
- Institute for Accreditation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BATA), Bosnia and Herzegovina, for calibration, testing (ISO/IEC 17025), and inspection
- General Coordination for Accreditation (CGCRE), Brazil, for extension of scope to include inspection
- Quality Management Program - Laboratory Services (QMP-LS), Canada, for testing (ISO 15189)
- Cyprus Organisation for the Promotion of Quality (CYS) Cyprus Accreditation Body (CYSAB), Cyprus, for extension of scope to include inspection

#### IAF:

- INDECOPI Peru (IAAC) - Main scope ISO/IEC Guide 65/17065 Product;
- BoA Vietnam (PAC) - Main scope ISO/IEC Guide 65/17065 Product;
- NABCB India (PAC) - Main scope ISO/IEC Guide 65/17065 Product;
- DAC United Arab Emirates (PAC) - Sub-scope ISO 9001 and ISO 14001;
- IAJapan Japan (PAC) - Main Scope ISO/IEC Guide 65/17065 Product;
- PNAC Pakistan (PAC) - Sub-Scope ISO 9001 & ISO 14001; and
- ECA Costa Rica (IAAC) - Sub-scope ISO 14001.

# Agenda

## National meetings

### **INFORMATION DAY ON "ACCREDITATION: A TOUR OF THE KEY ASPECTS OF THE PROCESS"**

24th March 2014 in Madrid

Organized by ENAC

### **XXXI CONGRESS OF QUALITY CONTROL IN CYTOLOGY**

2nd April 2014 in Barcelona

Representing ENAC: I. De la Villa

### **XVIII CONGRESS OF THE SPANISH SOCIETY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY (SEIMC)**

From 9th to 11th April 2014 in Valencia

Representing ENAC: I. De la Villa

### **V INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ABOUT MEDICAL LABORATORY AND QUALITY**

From 3th to 4th June 2014 in Barcelona

Representing ENAC: I. De la Villa

## International meetings

### **EA LABORATORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Malta

Representing ENAC: R. Porres

### **EA HORIZONTAL HARMONIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Brussels

Representing ENAC: I. Pina

### **EA INTER-COMPARISONS WORKING GROUP MEETING**

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Bucarest

Representing ENAC: E. González

### **EA CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Oslo

Representing ENAC: E. Gago

### **EA INSPECTION COMMITTEE MEETING**

27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Oslo

Representing ENAC: C. de la Calle

### **EA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1 and 2 April 2014 in Brussels

Representing ENAC: I. Pina

### **GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICE WORKING GROUP MEETING (OCDE)**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in Las Vegas

Representing ENAC: E. Gredilla

### **EA MAC MEETING**

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in Warsaw

Representing ENAC: B. Rivera

**EA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

26<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in Prague

Representing ENAC: I. Pina

**EA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in Prague

Representing ENAC: B. Rivera