

Letter from Europe

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EUROLAB in 2014

This *Letter from Europe* gives a concise actual overview of EUROLAB, starting with a brief introductory reflection of its evolution and objectives.

EUROLAB Evolution

- Set up in Brussels April 1990 in connection with the formation of the European Union (EU), since 1998 Legal Entity under Belgian Law.
- Composed of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories all over Europe and International Affiliates.
- Grouping more than 2,400 Conformity Assessment Bodies representing about 250,000 technical experts and laboratory practitioners.

EUROLAB Objectives

- **Representation** by formulating and voicing the opinion of European laboratories.
- **Coordination** by interfacing with partner organisations of interest to the laboratory community.
- **Action** by providing adequate means for exchange of information and experience.
- **Promotion** of cost-effective measurement, testing, calibration and analytical services.



EUROLAB Organization

EUROLAB is organized as follows: the General Assembly (GA) is the central body. It consists of two representatives from every National Member Association (one from the public and one from the private sector) and one representative from every International Affiliate. The General Assembly elects the Board of Administrators (BoA) and confirms the Technical Secretariat nominated by the BoA.

The 2013 EUROLAB General Assembly (GA) took place in Woerden, The Netherlands, April 2013. During the General Assembly, the electoral body of EUROLAB – consisting of 25

National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories – re-elected the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer for the next two years term. Mrs. Ewa Bulska (Poland) joined the Board as a new member and Mr. José Luis Sánchez (Spain) was re-elected for a new term.

EUROLAB Objectives

- **President:** Jiri Sobola, Technical and Test Institute for Construction (TZUS) Prague, Czech Republic
- **Vice-President:** Jeff Llewellyn, The British Measurement and Testing Association (BMTA), UK
- **Treasurer:** Jan Basten, TÜV Rheinland Quality, The Netherlands



President
Jiri SOBOLA
Czech Rep.



Vice-President
Jeff Llewellyn
UK



Treasurer
Jan Basten
Netherlands

EUROLAB General
Assembly April 2013,
Woerden, the
Netherlands

EUROLAB is pleased to welcome a new member, MAKLAB, the National Association of Laboratories of MACEDONIA. On accession of CROATIA to the European Union (1st July, 2013), CROLAB, EUROLAB's Croatian member has upgraded its membership from Associated Member to an Active Member. With the new memberships, EUROLAB is successfully fulfilling its goal to extend the European Laboratory Community.

New National Members

- EUROLAB welcomes as new member, MAKLAB, Macedonian Association of Laboratories.
- EUROLAB's Croatian member CROLAB upgrades – on accession to the European Union in July 2013 – its membership from Associated Member to an Active Member.

MACEDONIAN ASSOCIATION OF
LABORATORIES

MAKLAB



Štefica Stefanovid, CROLAB President and
Jiri Sobola, EUROLAB President

EUROLAB Working Structure

The working structure of EUROLAB consists of two groups (see charts to the right):

A. Measurement, Testing, and Analytical Laboratories

The largest member group is composed of materials/production test labs, followed by environmental labs, calibration labs and clinical/medical labs. Almost all laboratories are accredited.

B. Certification and Inspection Bodies

Here, membership is equally distributed between (i) Product certification bodies and (ii) Inspection bodies.

EUROLAB Activities and Services

The EUROLAB activities are performed by Working Groups, Cooperation Committees, and Sectorial Networks. An overview of the activities and services of EUROLAB is given in the two boxes to the right.

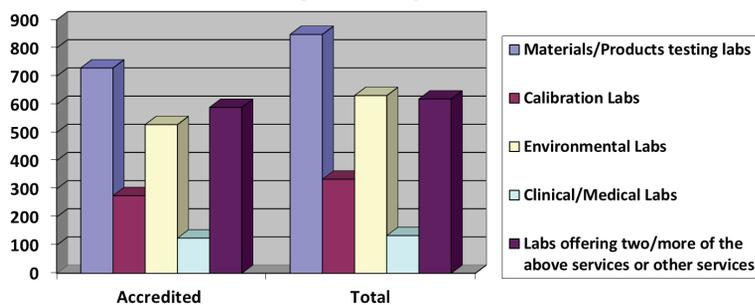
The results of the work of EUROLAB – information, communication, data, reports – are distributed to all EUROLAB parties by the central EUROLAB Secretariat in Brussels and the National Member Secretariats. Documents of general importance are available via the internet: www.eurolab.org.

Acknowledgement

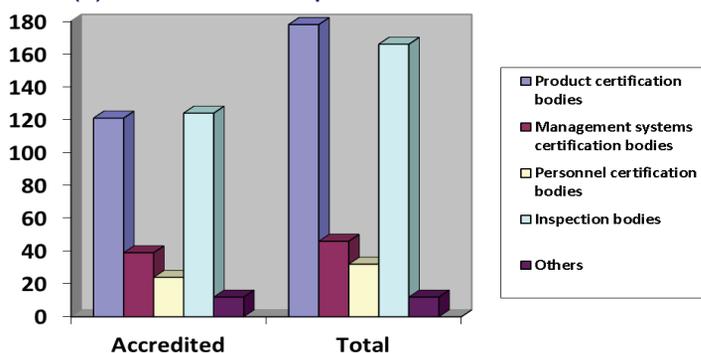
I thank Dr. Manfred Golze, Chairman of EUROLABs *Technical Committee on Quality Assurance in Testing and Calibration* (TCQA) for his support to compile this Letter.

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**EUROLAB Working Structure
(A) Measurement, Testing, and Analytical Laboratories**



**EUROLAB Working Structure:
(B) Certification and Inspection bodies**



Box 1

EUROLAB Activities: Working Groups - Cooperation - Representation

EUROLAB Working Groups

- **TCQA** EUROLAB Technical Committee on Quality Assurance in Testing and Calibration (TCQA)
- **JTCPTC** Joint Technical Committee on Product Testing and Certification with CEOC, the International Confederation of Inspection and Certification Organisations
- **EEECE** Permanent Liaison Group between the Boards of EUROLAB-EURAMET-EURACHEM-CEOC, and EA, the European Accreditation Cooperation

EUROLAB Cooperation with Standardization Bodies

- **CEN, European Committee for Standardization**
Certification Board (CEN CCB) Standardization and Research (CEN-STAR)
- **ISO: Conformity Assessment Committee (ISO-CASCO)**

EUROLAB Representation within Accreditation Organizations

- **ILAC** Laboratory Committee, Inspection Committee, Arrangements Committee, Accreditation Issues Committee
- **EA** Laboratory Committee, Certification Committee, Inspection Committee
- **EAAB** European Accreditation Advisory Board

Box 2

Services provided by EUROLAB

Representation in the EU Institutions



Monitoring selected EU Legislation

EUROLAB DISCUSSION PAPER on
ILAC Policy on the Traceability of Measurement Results

Organising Workshops and Meetings



Discussion and Position Papers, e. g.

- EUROLAB DISCUSSION PAPER on
ILAC Policy on the Traceability of Measurement Results
- EUROLAB POSITION PAPER on
Opinions and Interpretations in Test Reports

→ see METROLOGIST, July 2013:

EUROLAB POSITION PAPER on
Opinions and Interpretations in Test Reports

Promotion of laboratories, e. g.

- EUROLAB COOK BOOK
- see www.eurolab.org



The EUROLAB "Cook Book"

A compilation of short documents on Quality issues for laboratory practitioners