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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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RECENT ACTIVITIES IN OIML

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF LEGAL METROLOGY (OIML)

This document contains information provided by the OIML at the TBT Committee meeting of 10-11 November 2016 under Agenda Item 4 (Updating by Observers).

The following recent activities of the OIML are of particular interest to the TBT Committee:

1 THE 15th CONFERENCE ON LEGAL METROLOGY AND THE 51st MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF LEGAL METROLOGY (CIML)

1.1. The four-yearly OIML Conference took place in Strasbourg in October 2016. The Conference approved the budget for the new financial period which maintained membership fees at their current levels. This means that the minimum annual contribution for a Member State is €14,000.

1.2. In conjunction with the OIML Conference, the 51st annual CIML Meeting was also held in Strasbourg. A number of important decisions were taken concerning the OIML's work:

1.1 Activities for Countries and Economies with Emerging Metrology Systems

1.3. The CIML decided that the existing Advisory Group on CEEMS matters should continue to be the focus of the OIML's work in this area. It reconfirmed the allocation of the chair of this group to Mr Pu Changcheng (P.R. China). Formalised terms of reference will be developed during the coming year and published as an OIML Basic Publication.

1.2 OIML certification systems

1.4. Throughout 2016, a Certificate System Project Group has worked to develop a modernised and simplified OIML system for the certification of measuring instruments. Following the completion of this group's work, the CIML approved a new Basic Publication Framework for the OIML Certification System (OIML-CS). A provisional management committee for the new system was also put in place, chaired by the CIML First Vice-President, Roman Schwartz (Germany). The intention is for the new system to come into operation from 1 January 2018, replacing the existing OIML Basic Certificate System and Mutual Acceptance Arrangement.

1.3 New and revised OIML Recommendations

1.5. The CIML approves all new and revised OIML Recommendations. Of particular interest to the TBT Committee are the following Recommendations which are of great importance to international trade:

- New Recommendation Protein measuring instruments for cereal grains and oilseeds
- Revision of R 59 Moisture meters for cereal grains and oilseeds
- Revision of R 87 Quantity of product in prepackages

1.6. Members are reminded that OIML Recommendations are intended as models for national or regional technical legislation, and are considered as appropriate international standards in the field of metrology regulation. Under the OIML Convention, OIML Member States have a moral obligation to implement these Recommendations as far as possible.

1.4 OIML Award for Excellent Achievements in Legal Metrology in Developing Countries

1.7. The 2016 award was made to the Institute of Trade Standards Administration, Kenya for its contribution to the development of reliable legal metrology systems in East Africa. This body is the professional body for legal metrologists in Kenya. It also administers, in conjunction with the Department of Weights and Measures, the curriculum and training for Kenyan legal metrology officers. The Institute has also organised short training courses for Burundi, Rwanda and Ethiopia. All this work is conducted without permanent management staff or an office, and is run by an Executive Council elected by its members at its Annual General Meetings. The elected members of the ITSA Executive Council also happen to be serving Legal Metrology Officers in the Department of Weights and Measures, Kenya.

2 DEVELOPMENT OF AN E-LEARNING PLATFORM FOR LEGAL METROLOGY

2.1. The OIML is working closely with the ACP EU TBT Programme on the development of an e-learning platform focussing on legal metrology. Since the Programme is due to conclude its work this year, the system will be hosted on the OIML's web servers to ensure its long-term sustainability. Although the scope of the material available on launch will be limited by the Programme's time-constraints, the OIML will also be working to expand the courses available in the future.

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