



European Confederation of Control, Inspection and Prevention Organisations
Confédération Européenne des Organismes de Contrôle, d'Inspection et de Prévention
Europäische Vereinigung der Überwachungs-, Prüf- und Präventivorganisationen

ANNUAL REPORT
2001

This report was compiled and edited by the

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***CEOC – Promoting Safety
through Independent Inspection,
Testing and Certification***

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The Confederation

CEOC is a voluntary group of independent private, semi-private or governmental third party organizations, or associations of such organizations, for testing, technical inspection, certification of products and Quality Management Systems and risk prevention.

Created in Switzerland in 1961, the

Confederation became a Belgian international non-profit association (AISBL) in December 1996. At the end of December 2001 it comprised 30 Member Organisations from 20 European States and Japan. Many of these Member Organisations can trace their origins to the late 1800s.

Membership

The criteria for membership of CEOC are based upon European standards and procedures for accreditation, notification and certification.

Membership Criteria

Member organizations must employ experts and be:

- legally identifiable
 - financially independent
 - independent from industries
 - financially viable
- and must be a Body
- Notified by a National Authority under a EC Directive
 - or conforming to EN 45004 type A Annex A
 - or with a management system which conforms to a relevant ISO 9000 series standard

CEOC Members are recognized/authorized by the public regulatory authorities to provide inspection and other conformity assessment services for a large variety of equipment such as boilers, pressure vessels, lifts, machines, cranes, medical equipment, electrical and heating installations, industrial plants, nuclear power stations, buildings and toys.

Most are Notified Bodies within the framework of the EU New Approach Directives. Their collective experience and opinions contribute to effective implementation of European Directives.

CEOC is developing mutual understanding between conformity assessment bodies both within the European Union and the Central and Eastern European countries.

Through associate and observer membership or agreements with organizations outside Europe, CEOC is strengthening its international network to maintain an ongoing dialogue and the exchange of information.

The total number of employees of the member organizations is more than 60.000 (about 30.000 of which are graduate engineers & technicians).

Development of Membership

In 2001 no new member organization has been taken on board, but our former provisional member ISCIR, Romania, has become a full, permanent member.

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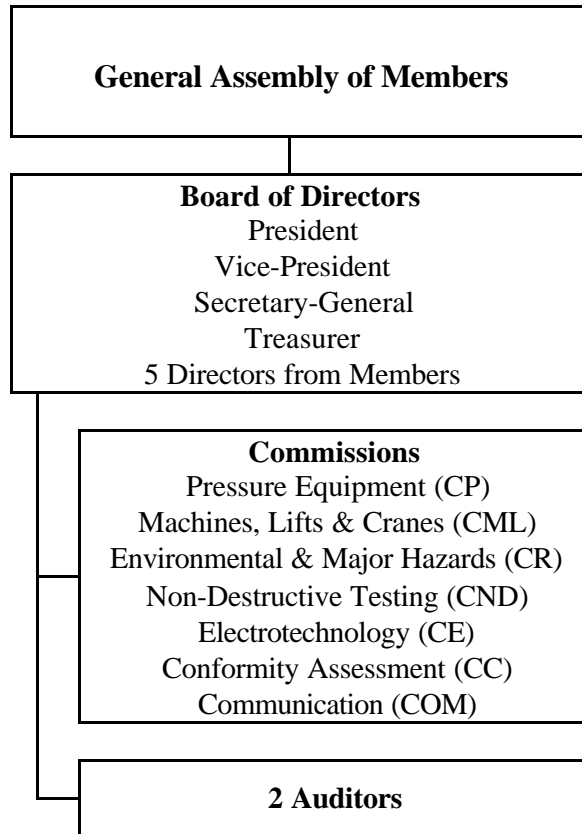
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- *TÜV UK Ltd*

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CEOC Structure



41st General Assembly

in Helsinki, Finland, on May 28, 2001

Steady participation in our annual events demonstrated how widespread our member organizations in Europe are. After Lisbon, our venue in 2000, we went to Helsinki, in the north-eastern opposite side of Europe. Our host Inspecta Oy used all connections to prepare a well-appreciated framework for our meetings, including a bright sky with temperatures that kept the mind clear for thinking.

The chairmen and convenors of our Technical Commissions reported about the work undertaken during the preceding 12 months. They also presented proposals for new activities, which were supported by members

and accepted by the large majority of the delegates.

A discussion on the realization of the Strategy 2000 had been launched in Lisbon and reached a good and satisfactory conclusion at that event. The results of the voting process showed a high degree of endorsement of the structure and work of our Technical Commissions and of the General Secretariat.

A code of conduct and ethics is in preparation and it is anticipated that it will be adopted at the next general assembly taking place in Budapest on May 28th, 2002.

Workshop on Conformity Assessment, Pressure Equipment

For the first time the General Assembly of CEOC included a technical workshop. The workshop, which was also aimed at the public, was on "**Conformity Assessment, Pressure Equipment**". Current topics were presented by speakers from the European Commission, from industry and from CEOC member organisations.

Mr. Timo Kekkonen from the Finnish Ministry of Trade and Industry opened the workshop. During the opening he emphasized the importance of free trade and competition on the European common market in improving the competitiveness of European enterprises on the global market. He also believed that Finland was one of the most advanced countries in applying the Global Approach.

The president of CEOC Dr. Hugo Eberhardt gave an overview of CEOC and its member organisations. He pointed out that most of members operate on a non-profit basis even if they collect fees for their services. Mr. Simo Hassi summarized the present conformity assessment procedures in Europe.

The Chairmen of CEOC's technical commissions on conformity assessment, Mr. Richard Morgan, and on pressure equipment, Dr. Roland Wutschig, dealt more with the substance of the work within CEOC.

In his thorough report on the conformity assessment work in CEOC Mr. Morgan also expressed our concern about the lack of market surveillance, which is essential in assuring that the new conformity assessment structure in Europe yields a sufficient level of technical safety.

Dr. Wutschig reported that the previously very active work in CEOC in preparing numerous technical documents on conformity assessment of pressure equipment had fulfilled its task, and that similar information was now available from

several sources. Further activity may be necessary for the acceptance of materials.

The afternoon session started with the presentation of Mr. Christian Weinberger from the European Commission. In accordance with his title "EU Commission's expectations for CA-bodies" he first pointed out that for example the pressure equipment directive is already in force and should be applied even before the end of transition period. He encouraged notified bodies to leave behind the old national procedures and to concentrate on the essential safety requirements in the new directives. The lack of EN standards should not be seen as a major obstacle.

Mr. Weinberger expressed his view that today the work of conformity assessment bodies was more difficult than it used to be because they must now be able to offer alternative ways to assess the conformity of products. He also reminded that applying only one European directive instead of fifteen national regulations will reduce the inspection market in Europe remarkably within the next five years. In order to increase the challenge for CA-bodies Mr. Weinberger said that he assumed the present safety level of pressure equipment is sufficient and there would be no need to make it higher, maybe even the contrary.

Mr. Weinberger's recommendations for CA-bodies were:

- Standardize your procedures
- Adopt the CEOC technical papers in use more widely
- Consider making new CEOC papers instead of reducing that work
- Think European!

Representatives from the industry gave the next lessons. According to Mr. Alan Godwin from Unilever, the need for third party CA bodies is increasing because industry needs more risk-based inspection while their own

resources for that purpose are decreasing. This highlights the importance of the experience of 3rd parties, and their participation in the legislation work would be most desirable.

Mr. Esa Karru representing the boiler manufacturer Kvaerner Pulping stated that their products are continuously manufactured in several countries and delivered all over the world. They therefore very much welcomed all possible harmonisation of technical regulations both within and outside Europe. He also expected that notified bodies would form networks e.g. by mutual subcontracting. These needs stress, to a great extent, the expertise and the competence of notified bodies as well as their ability to advise manufacturers in fulfilling the requirements of directives.

Ms. Anja-Leena Tyry from the Federation of Finnish Metal, Engineering and Electrotechnical Industries gave an overview of the current situation of PED standards. She declared that about 50% of the work was ready, and reminded everyone to the fact that standards are only one alternative to follow the directive. This means that the PED can be implemented without recourse to standards.

In the closing discussion Mr. Weinberger confirmed the interpretation that NDT is part of manufacturing, and therefore the involved notified body should not take part in NDT. Finally, the question "whose task is to market the PED?" remained open before the participants moved to cocktails and more free-form discussion.

Board of Directors (CD)

The composition after the 41st General Assembly is as follows:

PRESIDENT

Hugo EBERHARDT
Managing Director,
TÜV Österreich
Austria

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jean DESCHESENE
Managing Director, Apave Groupe
France

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Michael VÖLZOW

TREASURER

Charles BEAURAIN
Financial Manager,
AIB-Vinçotte
Belgium

MEMBER

Richard MORGAN
Technical Director, SAFed
United Kingdom

MEMBER

Lutz K. WESSELY
Managing Director, VdTÜV
Germany

MEMBER

Simo HASSI
Managing Director,
Inspecta Oy
Finland

MEMBER

Marc VAN OVERMEIRE
General Manager,
AIB-Vinçotte International
Belgium

MEMBER

Bent LARSEN
Director FORCE-Dantest CERT
Force Technology
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Commission Chairmen

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT "CC"

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Technical Director, Safety Assessment
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NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING "CND"

Gracjan WISNIEWSKI
UDT, Poland

ENVIRONMENTAL & MAJOR HAZARDS "CR"

Jean-Rémi GOUZE
Managing Director
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France

PRESSURE EQUIPMENT "CP"

Roland WUTSCHIG (*provisionally*)
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MACHINES, LIFTS & CRANES "CML"

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Meetings in 2001

The Board of Directors (CD), which is responsible for directing the activities of CEOC, proposes the future policy and ensures the execution of the General Assembly decisions, met three times in 2001:

- March 21, Brussels
- May 28, Helsinki
- October 17, Brussels.

Remarks on Conformity Assessment

Dr. Hugo Eberhardt, CEOC President

Conformity Assessment, the main business of all CEOC members, is subject to permanent alterations. The new Standard ISO/IEC 9000:2000 has initiated a number of projects. On the one hand existing quality management systems based on and certified against the "old" ISO/IEC 9000 series of standards have to be amended. On the other hand the quality modules in the modular concept of the Global Approach still refer to the old ISO/IEC 9000 standards. As the new ISO 9000 standard is process oriented there is some tentativeness in this field of Conformity Assessment. ISO/IEC 9000:2000 has also caused an effect on the existing conformity assessment standards. The new ISO/IEC 17025 standard dealing with requirements for testing and calibration laboratories has a link to the ISO/IEC 9000:1994 in order to show clients of laboratories that there is a comparable quality management system laid down in this standard. As ISO/IEC 17025 was published before ISO/IEC 9000:2000 came into force, the cross reference had to be made to the old standard. An agreement was reached for a transition period till 31-12-2002 between the laboratory community and the accreditation community in order to give the laboratories the chance to change their quality system. Nevertheless, ISO/CASCO has decided to establish a working group with the task to bring ISO/IEC 17025 in line with the new ISO 9000. So the standard-makers started a leapfrogging between ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 9000 not having in mind that each change of a conformity assessment standard causes high costs to the conformity assessment bodies.

As soon as ISO 17025 has been brought in line with ISO 9000:2000 one can expect a new version of ISO 9000. It is quite clear that standards must be reviewed whether they are

up to date. But more often new standards were revised without a real necessity.

The European Standardisation Bodies CEN and CENELEC have lost their influence in the field of conformity assessment because ISO/CASCO has taken the lead and it is much more difficult to promote European culture and point of views.

The EU-Commission sent out a questionnaire concerning the New Approach because this document is not new anymore. Moreover, the Commission, Notified Bodies, authorities, manufacturers and consumers have gained some experience with this system over the last decade.

First of all there is a need for improving the current system regarding putting goods on the market. Therefore, it is appreciated that the Commission DG Enterprise is reviewing the existing system.

The modular concept has had some weaknesses from the very beginning because it is a mixture of different approaches saying that they are equal. For example a type test (Mod. B) has a different effect than a full quality system as it is in Module H.

A quality management system is a priori not a tool to make products safer but it is a tool to make sure that products have the same quality over a longer period.

Liberalisation of the testing, inspection and certification market have not improved the safety and quality of products, the opposite has happened.

The "normal rules" of the market namely what is the best quality of the service at the best price does not work because most of the clients are unable to evaluate the quality of the work of a conformity assessment body. Most of the clients make their decision just on the basis of the lowest price.

Market surveillance does not work in the EU. But market surveillance is one of the most important parameters of the whole system. As there are hardly any safeguard clause cases notified, in relation to the huge number of products on the market one can assume that many products not fulfilling the essential requirements of the directives are undetected on the market.

The meaning of CE-marking has not been made clear to the public. Some of the people

believe it is a quality mark, some believe it is a safety mark, but most of the people do not have any idea what is really meant.

CE-marking is just an information to the authorities and can be considered as a passport for products valid within the EEA (European Economic Area). Therefore, marks issued by an independent 3rd party conformity assessment body have a priori a different meaning. Such marks are distinct to the CE-marking because they are always issued by a 3rd party body, the CE-marking is the task of the supplier mostly based on suppliers declaration. It is a request of the market whether to have marks on the product or not. Despite assertions to the contrary by the European Commission these voluntary marks are not in any form a barrier to trade.

Co-operation and Agreements

A common technical environment created by the market operators in the fields of European standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology, is not only of importance to the proper functioning of the common internal market, but also constitutes one of the factors that contribute to the safety of users and the public.

For that reason, the European and other international Institutions welcome and endorse the initiatives undertaken by CEOC to improve this technical environment and make more visible the importance of quality assurance instruments and the promotion of mutual recognition agreements.



Contacts with the European Commission (EC)

Conformity assessment

Regular contacts were kept with those Directorates of the European Commission that are of high importance for the activities of our member organizations, but also for the further development of the New Approach. In negotiations with Mr. E. Vardakas, Director of the Directorate G (Single market: regulatory environment, standardisation & new approach)

in the European Commission DG Enterprise, we expressed our views on this issue.

Pressure equipment

Since almost all our member organizations are active in the field of conformity assessment of pressure equipment, Mr. C. Weinberger, European Commission DG Enterprise, Directorate G (Single market: regulatory environment, standardisation & new approach), Unit 4 (Pressure equipment, medical devices, metrology), is one of the very important contact partners with whom a regular contact has been

kept, leading to the invitation to talk at our workshop in Helsinki.

PECA

PECA stands for "Protocol to the Europe Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Products between the European Community and the Country". This protocol shall provide an equality basis for the applicant countries during the transition period, the mutual acceptance of specified industrial products, and the notification of bodies to assess conformity.

We were involved in the assessment of potential notified bodies under the PECA Agreement. The first PECA Agreements with the Czech Republic and Hungary came into force in the middle of 2001.

Other issues

Through contacts on a regular basis with relevant DGs of the European Commission, e.g. in the areas of machines, lifts and cranes, pressure equipment, transport of dangerous goods, environmental protection, industry policy, the interests of our members and the branch were represented and opinions were exchanged.

Standardization

About 250 experts from our member organizations are involved in the work of the different standardizing committees of CEN/CENELEC, e.g. also in the European Standardization on conformity assessment by participation in the pertinent technical committee (CEN/CLC TC 1) and the Joint Working Group (JWG) with ISO/CASCO.

EA – The European Co-operation for Accreditation

EAAB

The EA Advisory Board (EAAB) is made up as a balanced representation of the stakeholders of the EA. It consists of representatives from

- National Governments (5)
- Conformity Assessment Bodies (5)
- Industry and Business (5)
- Consumers (1)
- European Commission (1)
- EFTA (1)
- European Standardization Bodies (1)
- EOTC (1)

The basic guideline for the Board's work is a "standing paper" reflecting stakeholders' expectations towards accreditation. It serves for the board as a benchmark for EA's activities. Its requirements have been accepted by EA as a fundamental task guiding its activities. The EAAB monitors EA's activities in the light of these expectations and continuously develops the document for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Under the chairmanship of Günther Beer (Orgalime) the EAAB held two meetings in 2001, on May 3 and October 10. Each meeting has been prepared the day before in a preparatory meeting with the representatives of all major conformity assessment organisations interested (CA College) at the CEOC premises. For these college meetings Eurolab provided the secretariat support. In his capacity as EAAB Vice-Chairman, Herbert Egolf acted as the group's convener and as CEOC's representative in the EAAB.

By reviewing its work programme the EAAB felt that the initializing and constitutional phase for the establishment of the EAAB is more or less completed and decided for the future to concentrate on the discussion of one or two key issues for each meeting.

Some of these main topics that have been treated at the two 2001 EAAB meetings are listed below and comprise

- **Impartiality of accreditation bodies**
The board confirmed and recalled its passed decision to strongly recommend that an accreditation Body (AB) must not offer any service that conformity assessment bodies (CAB) perform.
- **EA membership criteria and Cross border accreditation**
The provisional attitude of the board is that membership in the EA has to be restricted to national accreditation bodies or systems. In the proposed framework competition between the EA members and unnecessary duplication of accreditation services shall be avoided. Competition between accreditors at local, national and European levels shall not take place since this can lead to undermining the independence and credibility of the members.
EA members shall not market their activities in other countries. However, EA members may need to accredit CABs in countries without viable accreditation systems to provide them with access to the international market. EA members should provide such services in co-operation with the national accreditation body of the country in question whenever feasible.
- **EA policy for sector schemes**
The board is currently evaluating how accreditation services may support and respond to the needs in the various sectors (e.g. healthcare etc.)
- **Evaluation of the satisfaction of the direct and of the indirect customers of the members of EA**
The board underlined the need for EA to organise a feedback mechanism from the accredited bodies e.g. about potential inconsistencies between different accreditation bodies. The EAAB insisted that there is a need to get factual evidence about efficiency of accreditation and its impact on the marketplace not only from the perspective of accredited bodies but

also from the final users of conformity assessment services.

- **Liability questions concerning accreditation (and notification)**
- **Role of accreditation in the notification process**

It was recognised that there are ongoing discussions about relations between notification in the frame of the New Approach and accreditation, especially concerning the legal basis of accreditation, competition etc.

The board will invite the different stakeholder groups, and especially the representatives from the governments, to introduce their views to this issue in order to support developments that are constructively considering the accreditation process in the notification procedures, so that trust and confidence in the notification can continue to grow.

EA General Assembly

CEOC's representatives attended the 7th General Assembly meeting of EA in Stockholm on 11-12 June 2001, and the 8th General Assembly meeting in Budapest on 21-22 November 2001.

EA Permanent Liaison Group of Inspection

Testing, inspection and certification bodies increasingly get accredited in order to emphasize their competence on the market and also vis-à-vis the authorities. The major objective of EA is to guarantee the competence of these bodies according to uniform approaches in the framework of accreditations, and through multilateral agreements to achieve mutual acceptance of testing and inspection reports and certificates following the motto "Once tested, inspected or certified – everywhere accepted".

To achieve a most possible harmonized accreditation procedure, EA develops guidelines for the use of standards in force at international level for testing, inspection and certification bodies (Series ISO/IEC 17000/EN 45000). These guidelines are increasingly harmonized worldwide within IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation).

EA Bodies: CEOC is represented in the most important EA bodies, which ensures that the experiences and concerns of CEOC members are taken into account in the debates on guidelines. The EA Bodies in which CEOC participates are the following:

- EA Advisory Board (EAAB), which ensures the necessary feedback between EA and the stakeholders and bodies interested in accreditation. Presently the Vice-Chairman of EAAB is Dr. Egolf, from the CEOC member organization SVTI.
- EA General Assembly (EAGA), which usually meets twice a year and makes all the basic decisions, e.g. the adoption of EA guidelines.
- EA Inspection Committee (EAIC)
- EA Certification Committee (EACC)
- EA Laboratory Committee (EALC)

A further EA body is the EA Multilateral Agreement Committee (MAC). Only EA members are represented in MAC. EAAB is entitled to send an observer.

CEOC activities in EA Bodies: The collaboration between CEOC and the EA Bodies is co-ordinated within the CEOC Technical Commission "Conformity Assessment". In the EA Inspection Committee, which is the most important to CEOC members, CEOC is represented by two observers. The EAIC met twice in 2001. The most important result was the elaboration of a new version of the EA Guidance for inspection bodies, of which the August 2001 version was adopted by the EA General Assembly with the reference EA-5/01.

The approved EA-5/01 was submitted to IAF/ILAC Joint Working Group for Inspection to serve as a starting point for the work towards an international agreement on mutual recognition in the area of inspection.

A task force set up to, in co-operation with CITA and other stakeholders, draft an application document for the use of EN 45004 in the field of motor vehicle inspection, will present a draft to the Committee in the beginning of 2002.

The **EA Certification Committee (EACC)** had two meetings in 2001, in which CEOC was also represented.

In this year, EACC brought to a conclusion the revision of the Guidance documents on ISO/IEC Guides 61, 62 and 66 for accreditation bodies, Quality Management Systems (QMS) Certification Bodies and Environmental Management System (EMS) Certification Bodies respectively. These three documents were issued by EA in December 2001 as the new editions of EA 3/08 EA Guidelines on the Application of EN 45010 (Guide 61), EA 7/01 EA Guidelines on the Application of EN 45012 (Guide 62) and EA 7/02 EA Guidelines on the Application of ISO/IEC Guide 66. A significant aspect of the revision has been to improve the consistency between the three documents, introducing the same or equivalent guidance wherever possible.

EACC anticipates contributing to work in the coming year on revising the current Guidance on ISO/IEC Guide 65 for product certification (EN 45011), to the project on certification body personnel competence, and to a project that is considering the accreditation of certification bodies with branch offices in different countries.

The **EA Laboratory Committee (EALC)** is competent for a series of EA Guidelines in the field of "Testing and Calibration" and co-ordinates the implementation of interlaboratory comparisons. In 2001 the EALC had, as the

other committees, two meetings in which CEOC was represented. The participation of CEOC in EALC is especially important because it provides a positive collaboration between laboratories on the one part, and inspection and product certification bodies on the other part, complying with clear delimitation criteria.

EA Guidelines: The most important EA Guidelines for CEOC members are:

- EA-5/01 (August 2001): Guidance on the application of EN 45004 (Inspection Bodies)
- EA-6/01 (June 1999): Guidelines on the application of EN 45011 (Product Certification Bodies)
- EA-6/02 (April 2000): Guidelines on the use of EN 45011 and EN 45012 for certification to EN 729 (NDT)
- EA-7/01 (December 2001): Guidelines on the application of EN 45012 (Certification Bodies for quality management systems)
- EA-7/02 (December 2001): Guidelines for the accreditation of certification bodies for environmental management systems - ISO/IEC Guide 66

The EA Guidelines are available on Internet free of charge under: www.european-accreditation.org.

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

The Agency, based in Bilbao, was established by Regulation 2062/94 and became operational in September 1996. It is a so-called satellite of the European Union institutions. This means that the Agency is not a part of the European Commission nor is it a political institution which controls or issues legislation. It is an independent health and safety institution with its own Administrative Board, on which all EU Member States, national and European social partners and the European Commission are represented.

The Agency's objective, as stated in its regulation, is to provide the Community bodies, Member States and those involved in safety and health at work with the technical, scientific and economic information of use in the field of health and safety.

The Agency's aim is to improve the lives of people at work by stimulating the flow of information to and from national and international organisations and directly to the people affected by health and safety issues – workers, employers, safety representatives and occupational safety and health practitioners.

Special attention is paid to three main issues. Firstly, to providing practical and effective solutions in the workplace, secondly, how best to communicate safety and health messages to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and thirdly, how to ensure those messages reach people in different employment situations as work patterns change.

Co-operation with EUROLAB

On the basis of the renewed MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) the co-operation between the two organizations has been successful in

- the EA Advisory Board
- the joint EUROLAB and CEOC Technical Committee on Product Testing and Certification (JTCPTC).

EUROLAB and CEOC have demonstrated a good co-operation in their joint Committee on Product Testing and Certification under the Co-chairmen Lorenzo Thione from EUROLAB and Alfred Nagel from CEOC. In November 2001 the technical part of the Secretariat was shifted to the EUROLAB Technical Secretariat.

In 2001 meetings were held in Paris on 30 May and in Berlin on 9 November. Major items within the field of product testing and certification were connected to the European Commission and their approach to product testing and product marks. Obviously the Commission wants to promote CE marking and to suppress private marks. The JTCPTC is concerned about this attitude, because of the different meanings of CE marking and private quality marks. The committee also followed the issue of product marks in the new revision of the Machinery Directive and in this matter addressed a letter to Mr. Wieland, the rapporteur of the European Parliament for the new Directive for Machinery.

DG Enterprise prepared a Consultation Document on the "Review of the New Approach" that was commented in a letter to Ms. Colette Cotter of DG Enterprise. The final version of this document on the New Approach was published in January 2002 and included a questionnaire to the parties involved. The JTCPTC discussed intensively the proposals and submitted its comments.

Furthermore, the JTCPTC followed the accreditation activities within the EA Certification Committee and the developments in standardisation concerning certification at ISO CASCO. Standards discussed were e.g. ISO 17011 and 17021, ISO Guide 67 and Guide 68. It was of great support to the JTCPTC that A. Pederneschi and H. Schaub, who are members of many CASCO working groups, could provide their expertise and information on current developments and bring in JTCPTC's point of view.

EPERC – European Pressure Equipment Research Council

CEOC is a member of the European Pressure Equipment Research Council (EPERC). The general objective is to set up a European network for the dissemination of information

and for the co-ordination of expertise and resources in the assessment and validation of R-D work needed for pressure equipment and safety in the non-nuclear industry, as required by manufacturers, users, inspection, standardization and regulatory bodies. Delegates from CEOC member organizations are active in all of the 7 Technical Task Forces. The Secretary-General participates as a member of the Steering Committee, most of its meetings, and the General Assemblies.

In 2001, the 6th General Assembly meeting took place in Otaniemi, Finland, on 26-27 November. The 12th and 13th Steering Committee meetings were held in Brussels on 11 June and in Otaniemi on 27 November respectively.

MoU with the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors, USA and Canada

New Executive Director Donald Tanner

A Letter of Understanding was signed with the National Board in order to establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue over the many commonly shared goals and objectives with respect to health and safety issues that arise in the design, construction, inspection and testing of pressure equipment.

End of March 2001, Mr. Albert J. Justin, Executive Director of the National Board, retired and was succeeded by Mr. Donald Tanner, former Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

On 31 October / 1 November 2001, the Secretary-General of CEOC attended the National Board Members' Technical Program in Columbus, Ohio, where he gave a talk on the Qualification and Notification of Notified Bodies and the situation of the European Boiler and Pressure Vessel legislation and regulation in Europe.



**National Association of
Testing Authorities - NATA**

With a similar purpose to that of the National Board, a Letter of Understanding with NATA, the National Association of Testing Authorities, was signed on July 14, 2000, to

establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue over the many commonly shared goals and objectives with respect to health and safety issues that arise in the design, construction, inspection and testing of pressure equipment and plants.

The Technical Commissions and Working Groups

Technical Branches and Fields of Activity

CEOC Member Organisations work in our different Technical Commissions and Working Groups dealing with the following fields of activities:

- Conformity Assessment and Quality Assurance (CC)
- Non-Destructive Examinations (CND)
- Environmental and Major Hazards (CR)
- Pressure Equipment, e.g. Boilers, Pressure Vessels, Pipework Systems, Gas Cylinders,

Tanks, Transport of Dangerous Goods (CP)

- Machines, Lifts and Cranes (CML)
- Electrotechnology including Medical Equipment (CE)

These Commissions and Working Groups publish documents which to date include 110 trilingual (English, French, German) recommendations, inspection and approval certificates and trilingual (English, French, German) glossaries of technical expressions. Many of these have been incorporated into national and international regulations & standards.

Meetings in 2001

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 4 | Think Tank |
| January 9 | Pressure Equipment: Transport of Dangerous Goods (CP 6) |
| February 15 | Non-Destructive Testing (CND) |
| March 5 | Electrotechnology (CE) |
| March 19 | Machines, Lifts & Cranes (CML) |
| March 19 | Pressure Equipment: Production Inspection and Certification (CP 4) |
| March 20 | Pressure Equipment: Transport of Dangerous Goods (CP 6) |
| March 22 | Conformity Assessment (CC) |
| May 9 | Pressure Equipment: Transport of Dangerous Goods (CP 6) |
| May 28 | Annual Plenary Meetings, Helsinki |
| June 8 | Pressure Equipment: Transport of Dangerous Goods (CP 6) |
| July 5 | Conformity Assessment (CC) |
| July 18 | Communication (COM) |
| October 5 | Pressure Equipment: Transport of Dangerous Goods (CP 6) |
| October 18 | Conformity Assessment (CC) |
| December 3 | Electrotechnology (CE) |

All meetings with the exception of the Annual Plenary Meetings and the General Assembly took place in Brussels.

Annual Reports of the Technical Commissions

Pressure Equipment (CP)

*Temporary Chairman Dr. Roland
Wutschig*

Due to the transposition of the Pressure Equipment Directive no special activity is to be mentioned except in the Working Group "Transport of Dangerous Goods" (CP 6) and in the Working Group "Production Inspection and Certification" (CP 4).

The European Pressure Equipment Directive (PED) was adopted by the Parliament on 29 May 1997. The transition period will end on 29 May 2002. A lot of expertise was given and lobbying work was done by CEOC during the 10 years needed for establishing this directive.

CP has worked for four years under a new structure presented to and adopted by CEOC General assembly in Brussels in 1997:

Steering Group, Chairman Dr. Wutschig, Germany.

WG CP 1 "Materials", Convenor: Dr. Fromm, Germany (retired in May 2001)

WG CP 3 "Manufacturing", Convenor: Dr. Gnirß, Germany (retired in April 2001)

WG CP 4 "Production Inspection and Certification", Convenor: Mr. Wischin, Austria

WG CP 5 "Commissioning and Operation", Convenor: H. Loosli, Switzerland

WG CP 6 "Transport of Dangerous Goods", Convenor: Mr. Leclerc, France

The Working Group CP 2 "Design" –Convenor Prof. Zeman, Austria – and the sub-group "Creep" – Convenor Prof. Hermansson, Sweden – have already been dormant for years.

The chairmanship of CP and of its steering group have been held by VdTÜV from the very beginning.

This working structure has proved successful in principle as long as the experience exchange was a main topic and supported by the CEOC members. But now the situation has changed. The essential draft European standards for pressure vessels, steam boilers and piping have been published. The works of the European Commission Working Group "Pressure" (WGP), the Working Party "Guidelines" (WPG) and the Notified Bodies Forum for facilitating the PED use are followed by national mirror groups. The implementation of the technical aspects of the PED is followed by the Notified Bodies Forum.

The need to formulate and lobby common interests of CEOC members in the pressure equipment field seems to be reduced to some rare cases. Since the last General Assembly no one of the permanent participants of the Steering Group or of the other CEOC members asked for a meeting or wanted to discuss common aspects.

CP 1 "Materials"

was involved, for European materials, in the procedure for the European Approval of Materials EAM. The practical implementation takes place through European Material Data Sheets, whose content was determined by the WG. Models were established. In future these models could be extended to many national materials. Problems have arisen because in both the Commission's and some Member States' opinions, such approval of materials have to be established without restrictions for manufacturers. For the time being several EAM projects have been submitted by Notified Bodies in Germany, France and the United Kingdom. The Commission installed a Working Group Materials (WPM) to deal with all materials aspects. CEOC will have to wait and see to identify which procedure will prevail.

CP 3 "Manufacturing"

Following the adoption of a "proposal for a new activity" paper concerning a CEOC training

programme on the PED, the content of the training was determined. Models of certificates were developed. In principle only a few members have been interested in this work and the elaboration of the training programme is practically stopped at the moment.

CP 4 "Production Inspection and Certification"

The work on 3 publications was finalized in March 2001. The documents on assessing certified QMS to PED (Annex 2 to R 106), hazard analysis (Annex E to R 108) and subcontracted pressure equipment parts respectively tasks are ready and will probably published soon.

CP 5 "Commissioning and Operation"

In 1999 CP 5 submitted the Recommendation "Analysis on defects and accidents of pressure equipment" (R 109). Consequently all CEOC organizations which are active in the field of periodic inspections are requested yearly to draw up and transmit reports. A first collection of the received answers was elaborated and published for internal use. Not too many members are supporting this work. Nevertheless the convenor has proposed to continue with the item also in future.

A survey on inspection periods currently in force in the different countries was answered by some CEOC members. This survey was published as Annex to R 109.

The elaboration of a recommendation on "Final assessment and periodic inspections of pressure equipment taking into account risk analysis" is proposed by the CP 5 convenor as a future work.

CP 6 "Transport of Dangerous Goods"

CP 6 is observing the transposition of the Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive (TPED). Only few active participants have continued with their work and had 5 meetings. A European Commission DG Transport representative, Mr. Eduardo Morere Molinero, participated in one of the meetings. Under the

new convenor this working group has become very active.

Outlook

Presently, no major issues broadly supported by member organizations are in sight, especially as most members are notified bodies in competition with each other. The participation in the notified bodies' forum is another opportunity for the exchange of opinions, but also another burden due to time and costs.

CEOC has established a good position being a competent partner, but it is difficult to raise the interest of and the support by its member organizations as soon as a directive is implemented.

Environmental & Major Hazards (CR)

Chairman Jean-Rémi Gouze

The former TC CR chairman Mr. Poli retired by the end of 2000. A new chairman, Jean-Rémi Gouze, from APAVE GROUPE, was nominated at the last General Assembly in Helsinki. Due to this change of chairman, the TC did not meet during the year 2001.

In 2001 there were many developments in the field of Environment & Major Hazards, especially regarding the implementation of the SEVESO II Directive in all Member States. In France, a major accident happened in Toulouse at the AZF plant, which will certainly lead to new rules about technological hazard. This accident showed in particular the relationship between many disciplines involving CEOC members.

The TC CR has started again with a meeting in the beginning of 2002. During this meeting the topics to be part of the TC CR working programme were determined, and we are looking forward to the involvement of the CEOC members. It was decided that :

- 5 immediate actions will be started by the members participating in the first meeting;
- a new meeting of the TC CR will take place on May 27th, at 8 h 30, in Budapest. All interested members of CEOC are invited to attend this meeting and bring their contributions.

The 5 actions that have been decided are :

SEVESO 2

- **Clarify the responsibilities:** Define the responsibility in case of difficulty between the various actors: the Commission, the Member State (or local authority), the industrial company, the inspection body, the body in charge of establishing the safety study, the third party paid by the local authority to evaluate the study. Although this is more legal than technical, it will have an impact on our action and on our legal and financial risk.
- **Update CEOC guidelines for safety study:** Guidelines were elaborated in 1988. It is time to update these guidelines, taking into account new items: new types of accidents, better management of safety, people and buildings outside the installations. These guidelines will represent a minimum checklist for CEOC members.
- **Quantifying risk assessment:** New approaches may enable us to improve our services in this field, by using quantitative methods such as: QRA (quantified risk assessment), Assessment of the Quality System Management in the companies through a quantitative evaluation of the factors due to a deficient level, in relation to the overall risk, RBA (risk based inspection), etc. These methods meet other topics like human failure or causes of accidents.
- **Lobbying on the projects for the SEVESO 3 Directive:** It is important for CEOC to be involved in the discussions about a new SEVESO 3 Directive, which will take into account the evaluation of the implementation of the SEVESO 2 Directive

and the most recent accidents such as the AZF accident in Toulouse (September 2001). The TC CR will gather information on this project originating from the Commission or from the European Parliament, or from some States (France, Spain).

IPPC

- **Guidelines for the content of periodical report:** The IPPC Directive (96/61/CE) sets up an important obligation of regular reporting. It is necessary to define the minimum contents of these reports for CEOC members. It will also be useful to define the recommendations about how to use BREFS (Best Reference Evaluations).

Non-Destructive Testing (CND)

Chairman Gracjan Wisniewski

succeeding **Bent Larsen**

In 2001 the Technical Commission on Non-Destructive Testing (CND) held a meeting in Brussels on February 15.

The technical items of common interest that were discussed still included:

- **the new EN 473 Standard for qualification and certification of NDT personnel.** The Commission identified changes from the old version and discussed in which way these changes would influence the daily work within inspection organisations.
- **the new standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 for laboratories** has been approved. This means that all accredited NDT laboratories and inspection organisations accredited according to this standard must change their quality system to be in accordance with this standard. All accreditations in accordance with the former standard EN 45001 must be changed to comply with the standard before 2002-12-31. When is it

necessary to validate NDT methods -
When is it necessary to state uncertainty in
connection with reporting NDT results -
are two of many items discussed in the
Commission.

- **EN 473 and the Pressure Equipment Directive.** Which qualification should a recognised third party organisation according to the Pressure Equipment Directive accept as necessary and sufficient for NDT personnel?

The CEOC CND Commission nominated a member to participate in a working group within the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA). The working group deals with the revision of the guidance document EA-4/08 Accreditation for Non-destructive Testing Laboratories (former EAL-G15). This guidance document shall be revised to comply with EN ISO/IEC 17025 as well as EN ISO/IEC 17020 (EN 45004).

CND Members also exchanged information regarding other European organisations relevant for the non-destructive testing and inspection area.

At the General Assembly in May 2001 Mr. Larsen was appointed Member 3 of the Board of Directors and was succeeded in his capacity of CND Chairman by Mr. Gracjan Wisniewski, UDT, Poland.

Electrotechnology (CE)
Chairman Eduardo Goulão Ferreira
succeeding **Philippe Aupetit**

In 2001 two meetings took place in Brussels: on March 5 and December 3.

At the General Assembly in May 2001 Mr. Eduardo Goulão Ferreira, ISQ, Portugal was appointed new Chairman of the Electrotechnology Commission, succeeding Mr. Philippe Aupetit.

At the meeting on December 3, the following topics were addressed:

- **Risk catalogue:** There are large differences on the way installations and installers are classified and approved within the member countries. The normal practice in each country shall be described, answering the questions of
 - what is the national code/regulation
 - who are the "approved persons/organizations"
 - what is the system to approve those persons/organizations
 - what are the requirements for the first and for the periodical inspections for each type of installation
- **Inspection in explosive atmospheres:** The Electrotechnology Commission shall prepare a document taking into account the situation in Belgium, as an aim to be achieved by other countries. The Belgian delegates will make a description of the general methodology used for inspections as well as for the training and qualification of personnel, possibly as a step-by-step flow chart.
- **Electromedical equipment in operation** The situation in each member country was described. There is apparently a German regulation on the subject and the German delegate will translate it and make it available to the Commission.

Machines, Lifts & Cranes (CML)
Chairman Adolf Rußold

There were few activities in 2001. At a meeting on 19 March 2001 in Brussels, the following topics were addressed:

- **Machinery Directive** (Working Group CML 1): a CEOC Position Paper on the proposal for a new Machinery Directive

COM (2000) 899final was sent to the European Council in April 2001. Meanwhile, the revision of the Machinery Directive is going on in a very controversial and time-consuming way. No final results are available for the moment.

- **Use of Work Equipment Directive** (Working Group CML 2): Following the target of CEOC to become THE voice of independent third party inspection and certification organizations, more mutual information about national regulations were requested and will be discussed during 2002.
- **Incident/Accident Reports** (Working Group CML 3): the 2001 reports will be discussed during 2002.
- **Lifts Directive** (Working Group CML 4): Some activities are expected for 2002 as this Group is also concerned by the revision of the Machinery Directive.

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Conformity Assessment (CC) Chairmen Herbert Egolf/Richard Morgan |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The Conformity Assessment Commission held 3 meetings during 2001 and throughout the year. Member Company interest, as identified by representation at the meetings, continued to be very encouraging. The interest shown by a relatively large number of CEOC members is not surprising when one considers how important the range of conformity assessment issues considered by the Commission are to the well being and prosperity of member companies.

The Commission has, throughout 2001, continued to concentrate its work activities within the same 5 general topic areas covered in previous years namely:

- **Monitoring developments within the European Commission** – Through the good offices of the CEOC Secretariat and member company contacts, the Conformity Assessment Commission has endeavoured to maintain a close ear with respect to the activities of the European Commission. Yet again, due to further staff changes within the European Commission, it has been to some extent frustratingly difficult to build up working relationships with key individuals within the Enterprise Directorate. Some stability on this front is now expected and it is hoped that the much needed working relationships can now be grown and nurtured.

One of the major initiatives undertaken by the Conformity Assessment Commission was the development of CEOCs response to the European Commission Consultation Document detailing a review of the New Approach. The Consultation Document, which was the culmination of work that had been underway for some time within the Senior Officials Group for Standardisation and Conformity Assessment Policy (SOGS), covered a wide range of conformity assessment issues of which the main ones affecting CEOC members were:

- Procedures for assessing potential notified bodies
- The notification process
- Market surveillance and safeguard action
- CE Marking

The likely actions arising from the consultation will not be known for some time. It can only be hoped that CEOCs views will be duly taken account of by the European Commission when they decide upon what actions, if indeed any, to implement.

- **Issues having an impact on Accreditation** - The Conformity Assessment Commission has continued,

through CEOC representation on the European Accreditation Advisory Board (EAAB) and the EA Inspection and Certification Committees, to ensure that wherever possible, the views of members have been taken forward. The same 2 issues as identified in last years report continue to be the ones most not worthy of being identified, they are:

- Endeavouring to ensure that stakeholders expectations for accreditation bodies to operate in an independent and impartial way are complied with, in particular, that they do not offer the same services as the clients they accredit
 - Ensuring that the new EA 5/01 guidance on the application of the inspection accreditation standard ISO/IEC17020:1998 is drafted in such a way that it is, as far as is practicably possible, acceptable to CEOC members.
- **Standards supporting Conformity Assessment** – Most of the years activities have been with both monitoring developments and with commenting upon draft International Standards. Of particular

note is the proposed new assessment and accreditation standard ISO/IEC 17011. CEOC has been in the enviable position of being able to have a strong influence on the development of this Standard through the activities of Mr H Schaub (VdTÜV).

- **Relations with external bodies** – The Joint EUROLAB – CEOC Technical Committee on Product Testing and Certification (JTCPTC) continues to flourish and is considered to bring added value to both participating organisations.
- **Position Papers – 2 position papers were completed during the year namely:**
 - Independence Characteristics of a 3rd Party Conformity Assessment Body
 - Accreditation as a Tool for Notification

Arrangements were put in place for a further position paper, aimed at identifying the Benefits of using a 3rd Party Conformity Assessment Body, to be drafted early in 2002.

CEOC Publications

Position Papers

In addition to our previous Position Paper on the Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive (TPED), on Market Surveillance within the EU and on Marks and Markings on Products, CEOC produced three Position Papers in 2001:

- Independence characteristics of a third party conformity assessment body
- Accreditation as a tool for notification
- Safety of products – Proof or declaration – Prevention or intervention

Bulletin

CEOC publishes Bulletins regularly in order to keep external contact partners informed.

Recommendations

The long list of 110 trilingual (English, German, French) recommendations and glossaries of technical expressions established in the past by our Technical Commissions and Working Groups is available from the General Secretariat or from the CEOC website.

CEOC Homepage

CEOC's Homepage is available under: www.ceoc.com. It offers information on the member organizations, publications and events. A members' section and forum for the exchange of opinions and experience was installed in 2001.

Aims and Objectives

- Ensure the safety of plant, personnel and the public
- Remove technical barriers to trade
- Implement conformity assessment Mutual Recognition Agreements
- Promote the understanding of technical safety matters
- Establish practical procedures for safety inspection of plant, equipment and machinery
- Exchange experience and information related to independent technical inspection and certification
- Represent independent third party conformity assessment bodies and the interests of its Members to appropriate European and especially international bodies – including European Commission and Parliament, European Accreditors (EA), the Standards-making organizations CEN and CENELEC, ETSI, ISO
- Influence decision-makers in the European Commission, Parliament, national governmental bodies with regard to technical safety
- Make the safety issues transparent to the public

Mission Statement

CEOC - Promoting safety in Europe and world-wide through independent inspection, testing and certification for the protection of people: users, manufacturers, employers, consumers, but also for the protection of the environment.