EUROPEAN ACCREDITATION

ECE/WP.6/ SCTCS panel on basics of Quality Infrastructure

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28 June 2024

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What is conformity assessment?

- Conformity assessment is the process demonstrating whether specified requirements relating to a product, process, service, system, person or body have been fulfilled.
- Such requirements can include performance, safety, efficiency, effectiveness, reliability, durability, or environmental impacts such as pollution or noise.

EUROPEAN ACCREDITATION

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is the independent evaluation of conformity assessment bodies against harmonized standards to carry out specific activities to ensure in particular their integrity, impartiality and competence.

EUROPEAN ACCREDITATION

Accreditation

NABs
EN ISO/IEC 17011

Standards

- Testing — EN ISO/IEC 17025
- Calibration — EN ISO/IEC 17025
- Medical examination — EN ISO 15189
- Proficiency Testing — EN ISO/IEC 17043
- Reference Material Production — EN ISO 17034
- Biobanking — EN ISO 20837
- Inspektion — EN ISO/IEC 17020
- Product Certification — EN ISO/IEC 17065
- MS Certification — EN ISO/IEC 17021-1
- Validation & Verification — EN ISO/IEC 17029
- Persons Certification — EN ISO/IEC 17024

EUROPEAN ACCREDITATION

European co-operation for Accreditation

BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

THE EUROPEAN ACCREDITATION MODEL

- Accreditation is a service of public interest
- A NAB acts as Public Authority
- CABs shall apply for accreditation to its NAB, in voluntary or mandatory sectors
- NABs are non-profit organisations
- No competition between NABs
- Accreditation is the last level of control in the conformity assessment chain
- NABs are mandated by their government

BENEFITS FOR BUSINESSES

Accurate calibration, measurement, and testing, performed in accordance with best practice, can:

- limit errors and product failure;
- control production costs;
- and contribute to an innovative environment.

Essential tool for decision-making, risk management, and supplier selection.

Provides a **competitive advantage** in domestic markets through access to public sector contracts, and also overseas with greater acceptance in export markets.

BENEFITS FOR GOVERNMENTS AND REGULATORS

- **Enhanced Compliance:** Ensures that products, services, and systems meet regulatory and international standards.
- **Consumer Trust:** Builds public trust in safety and quality of products and services.
- **Sustainable Development:** Supports national and international goals for sustainable development through verified compliance.

EA Brochure – Accreditation, a tool to support regulators

How conformity assessment can also test against objectives of the SDGs

- **Quality Education (SDG 4) Educational Materials & Services:** Certifying educational materials and services to ensure they meet quality and accessibility standards.
- **Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) Water Quality Testing:** Ensuring water treatment processes and products meet safety and quality standards.
- **Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7) Renewable Energy Products:** Verifying the efficiency and safety of renewable energy products, like solar panels and wind turbines.

Accreditation can help. A few solutions:

Requiring use of accredited labs according to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard for analyses of specific microbiological and physico-chemical properties. Analyses of water may include Escherichia coli (E. coli), Streptococcus faecalis, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, color, smell, temperature, PH-value, nitrates, ammonia, Iron, Chlorides, residual chlorine etc.

Accreditation can help. A few solutions:

Use of accredited laboratories for testing and water analyses can help reduce the risk of unintended consequences. Accreditation therefore provides a reliable monitoring tool to support the work of food safety and water drinking agencies.

Accreditation can help. A few solutions:

Samples, products, services, management systems or personnel can be evaluated against specified requirements by accredited laboratories, certification bodies, and inspection bodies.

How conformity assessment can also test against objectives of the SDGs

- **Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8) Workplace Safety Standards:** Assessing compliance with occupational health and safety standards to promote safe working environments.
- **Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9) Infrastructure Quality:** Certifying the quality and durability of infrastructure projects, ensuring they meet sustainable construction practices.
- **Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11) Building Codes:** Ensuring buildings comply with environmental regulations and sustainable practices.

How conformity assessment can also test against objectives of the SDGs

- **Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) Product Certification:** Certifying products for eco-friendliness, recyclability, and minimal environmental impact.
- **Climate Action (SDG 13) Environmental Impact Assessments:** Assessing and certifying initiatives aimed at reducing carbon footprints and promoting climate resilience (EU ETS).
- **Life Below Water (SDG 14) and Life on Land (SDG 15) Biodiversity Protection:** Certifying practices that protect marine and terrestrial ecosystems from harmful activities.

EA'S ROLE IN EUROPE

EA's role in **supporting** the effective operation of the **Single Market** is recognised by:

- **Regulation (EC) No 765/2008,**
- the **General Guidelines** for cooperation between EC, EFTA and EA ,
- The **Framework Partnership Agreement** signed with the European Commission and EFTA.

Regulation (EC) No 765/2008

- Provides the legal framework of accreditation in Europe (EEA)
- Strenghtens EA‘s role in both the voluntary and regulated sectors
- Places an obligation on EU/EFTA Member States to accept results issued by Conformity Assessment Bodies accredited by (EU/EFTA) NABs signatories to the EA MLA

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When accreditation can make a difference

The European Commission has adopted the implementing regulation concerning the EU **Cybersecurity Certification Scheme** on Common Criteria (EUCC). It is the first approved scheme under Regulation (EU) 2019/881 (Cybersecurity Act).

The implementing regulation refers to documents known as State-of-the-Art. There will be – inter alia – three SoA documents regarding:

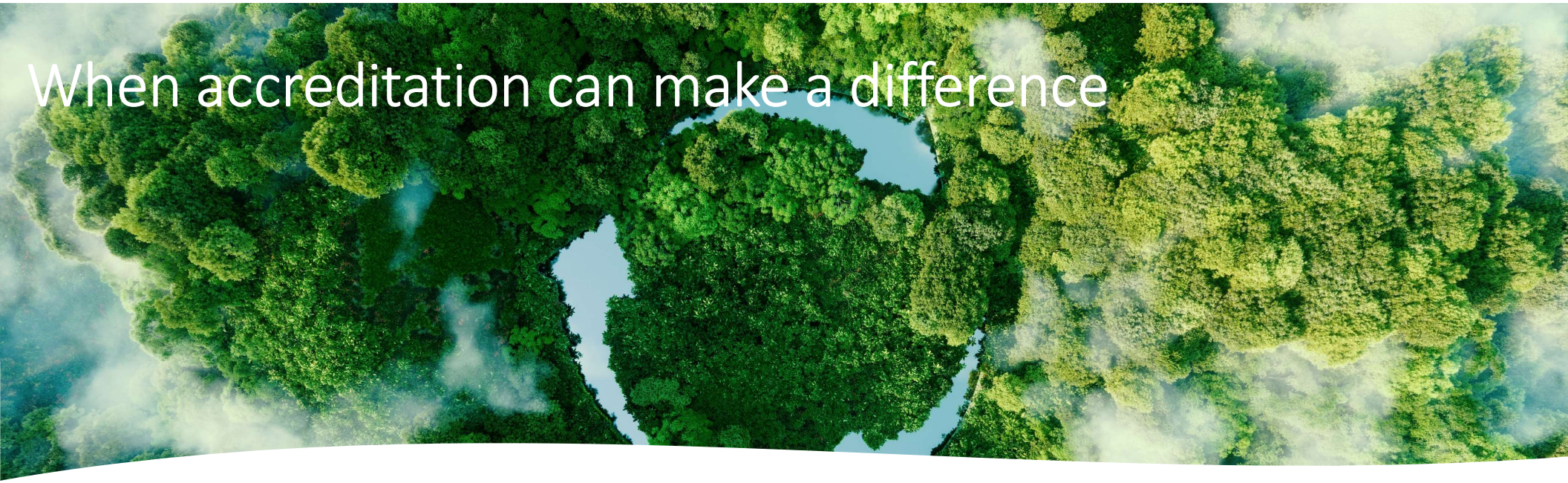
- Accreditation of ITSEFs (Information Technology Security Evaluation Facility),
- Accreditation of Certification Bodies (CBs), and
- Authorisation of CBs and ITSEFs.

When accreditation can make a difference

The Artificial Intelligence Act is a European regulation on AI – the first comprehensive regulation on AI by a major regulator anywhere.

The proposed regulation introduces a requirement for conformity assessment bodies to apply for notification to the relevant national authority. The application must include accreditation details, the AI systems they evaluate, and documentation proving compliance.

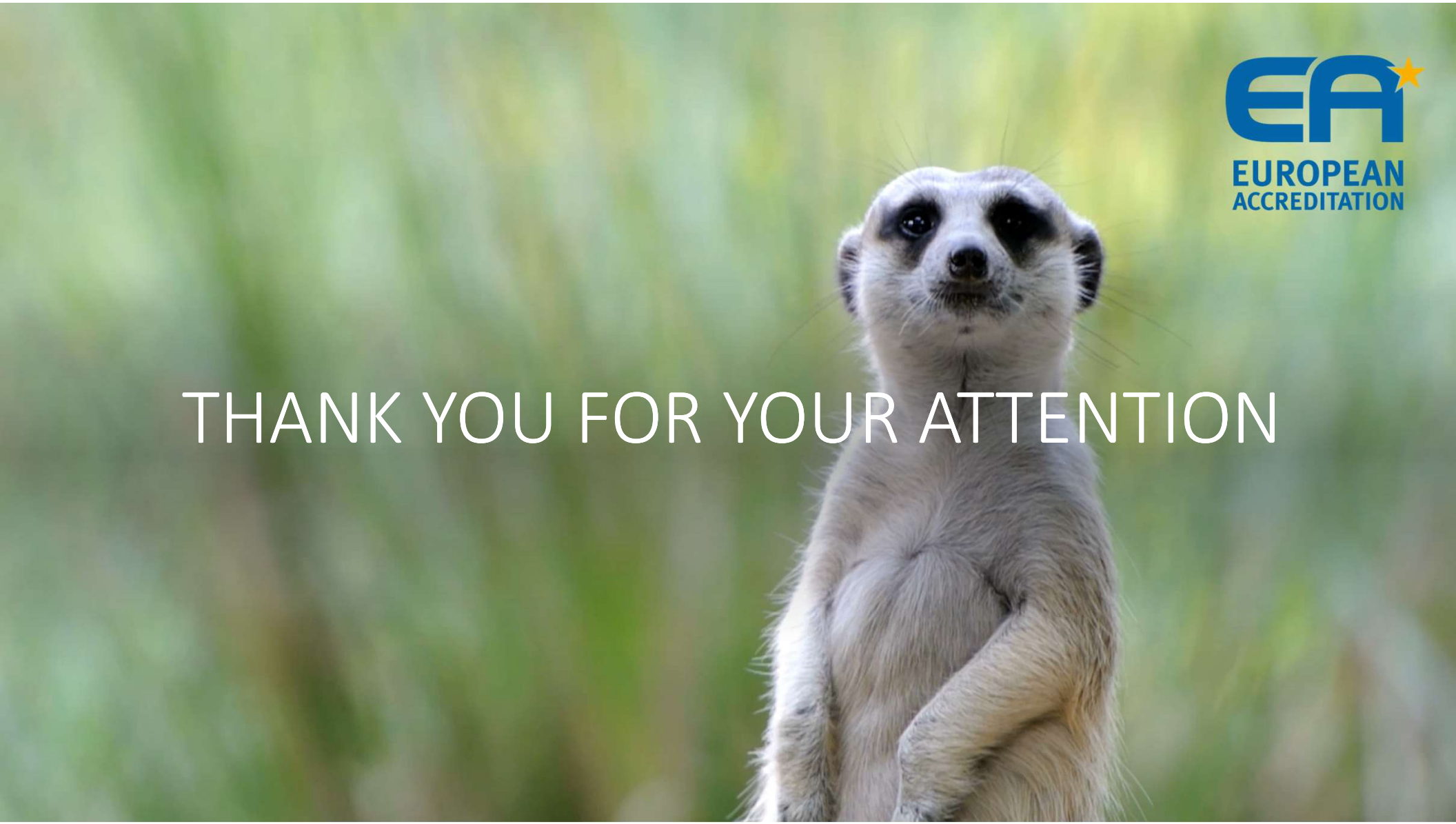
When accreditation can make a difference



The European Commission is working on improving the **Ecodesign Directive** 2009/125/EC.

The aim is to make products on the EU market increasingly sustainable, by enabling far-reaching performance and information requirements – known as 'ecodesign requirements' – to be set on a wide range of them to **improve their circularity, energy performance, and other environmental sustainability aspects.**

The aim is also to align the regulation with the new legislative framework, and include accreditation according to Regulation 765/2008, notified bodies, conformity assessment procedures, and CE marking. Conformity assessment activities shall be related to product safety and sustainable criteria such as durability, reliability, and carbon footprint of the products.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Basics of Quality Infrastructure for Trade

Gender Considerations

Caitlin Kraft-Buchman
Women at the Table

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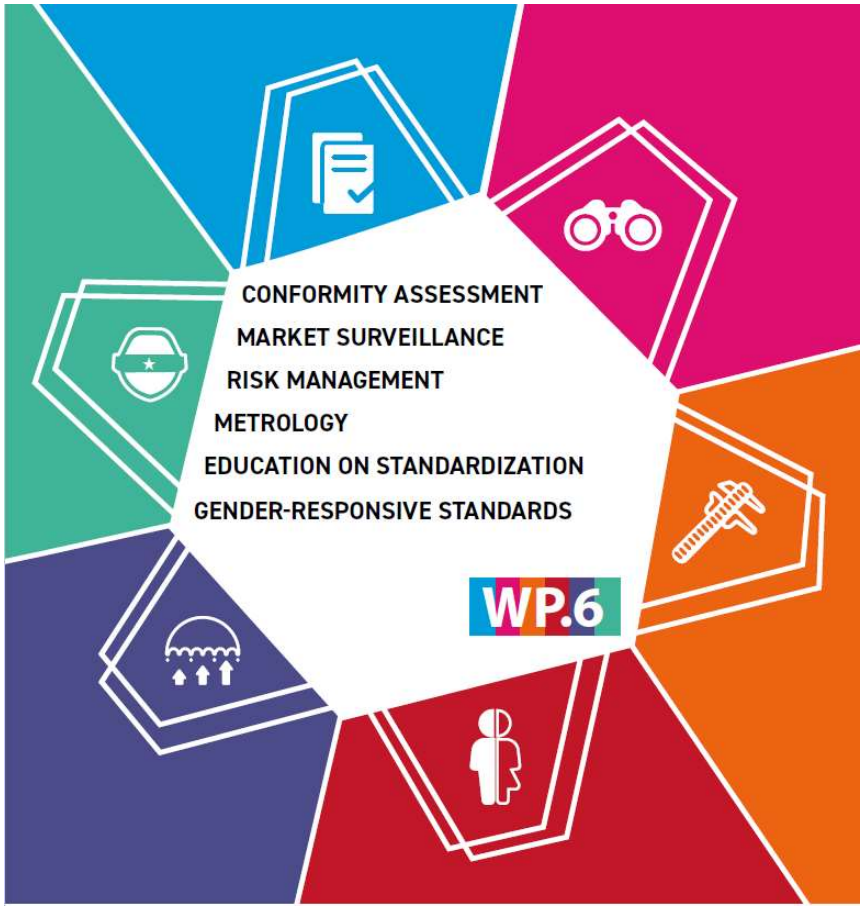
28/06/2024, Geneva

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies