

**INFORMATION PROVIDED BY OIML AT THE
TBT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 1 JULY 2004**

Agenda Item 6(b): Updating By Observers

The following document, dated 29 June 2004, is being circulated at the request of the OIML.

1. The OIML works for international harmonization in the field of legal metrology. The following developments in its work in the area of developing countries are of interest to the work of the TBT Committee.

I. PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

2. Following the 38th CIML Meeting in 2003, this Permanent Working Group was set up to replace the existig Development Council. It is intended to make the OIML's developing country activities more efficient and will act as an advisory group to the CIML and its President. The group is chaired by Eberhard Seiler of the PTB (Germany) and consists of around ten persons, so as to be able to concentrate on practical actions for developing countries.

II. FORUM: METROLOGY – TRADE FACILITATOR – WHAT IS NEEDED, WHAT IS OFFERED

3. This Forum for developing countries will be held in association with the OIML Conference and Committee Meetings in Berlin, Germany in October 2004. It will allow the presentation and discussion of needs and offers of technical assistance in legal metrology through the use of posters, keynote speakers and round table discussions.

III. EXPERT REPORTS

4. The OIML intends to publish a series of "Expert reports" which, while they do not necessarily represent the views of the OIML, present the views of a known expert in a particular field. They are intended to be of particular help to developing countries, and the two most recent publications concern the verification of commercial weights and the control of prepackages, both matters of concern in developing countries. The OIML will be hiring experts to produce papers on a range of subjects recommended by Members.

IV. OIML PUBLICATIONS

5. In order to better promote the use of OIML Recommendations and other publications, it is proposed that from the beginning of 2005 they shall all be available free of charge on the OIML website, except where they are jointly published with another organization. No paper copies will be produced from that date.

6. The OIML has also begun to produce a regular newsletter, as well as its quarterly Bulletin, so as to keep Members more up to date with the Organization's activities.
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