



# **Implementation of the**

# **CETA Protocol on the mutual acceptance of the results of conformity assessment**

Dr Andreas Steinhorst  
EA Executive Secretary

# CONTENTS

1. About EA
2. Bilateral Cooperation Agreement (BCA)
3. Implementation of the BCA



# 1. About EA

## ABOUT EA

- EA is an association of national accreditation bodies (NABs) in Europe.
- EA is responsible for harmonising accreditation within Europe, with the aim of reducing barriers to trade and protecting health, safety and the environment.
- Appointed by the EC to manage the accreditation infrastructure within the EU, EFTA and candidate countries.
- 36 Full members
- 13 Associate members

# ABOUT EA – FULL MEMBERS

DPA, Albania



ESYD, Greece



NA, Norway



AA, Austria



NAH, Hungary



PCA, Poland



BELAC, Belgium



ISAC, Iceland



IPAC, Portugal



BAS, Bulgaria



INAB, Ireland



RENAR, Romania



HAA, Croatia



ACCREDIA, Italy



ATS, Serbia



CYS-CYSAB, Cyprus



LATAK, Latvia



SNAS, Slovakia



CAI, Czech Republic



LA, Lithuania



SA, Slovenia



DANAK, Denmark



OLAS, Luxemburg



ENAC, Spain



EAK, Estonia



IARM, Macedonia



SWEDAC, Sweden



FINAS, Finland



NAB-Malta, Malta



SAS, Switzerland



COFRAC, France



ATCG, Montenegro



TURKAK, Turkey



DAkks, Germany



RvA, Netherlands



UKAS, UK



# ABOUT EA – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

ALGERAC, Algeria



GAC, Georgia



SEMAC, Morocco



ARMNAB, Armenia



ISRAC, Israel



MOLDAC, Moldova



BSCA, Belarus



JAS-AU, Jordan



TUNAC, Tunisia



BATA, Bosnia &  
Herzegovina



DAK, Kosovo



NAAU, Ukraine



EGAC, Egypt



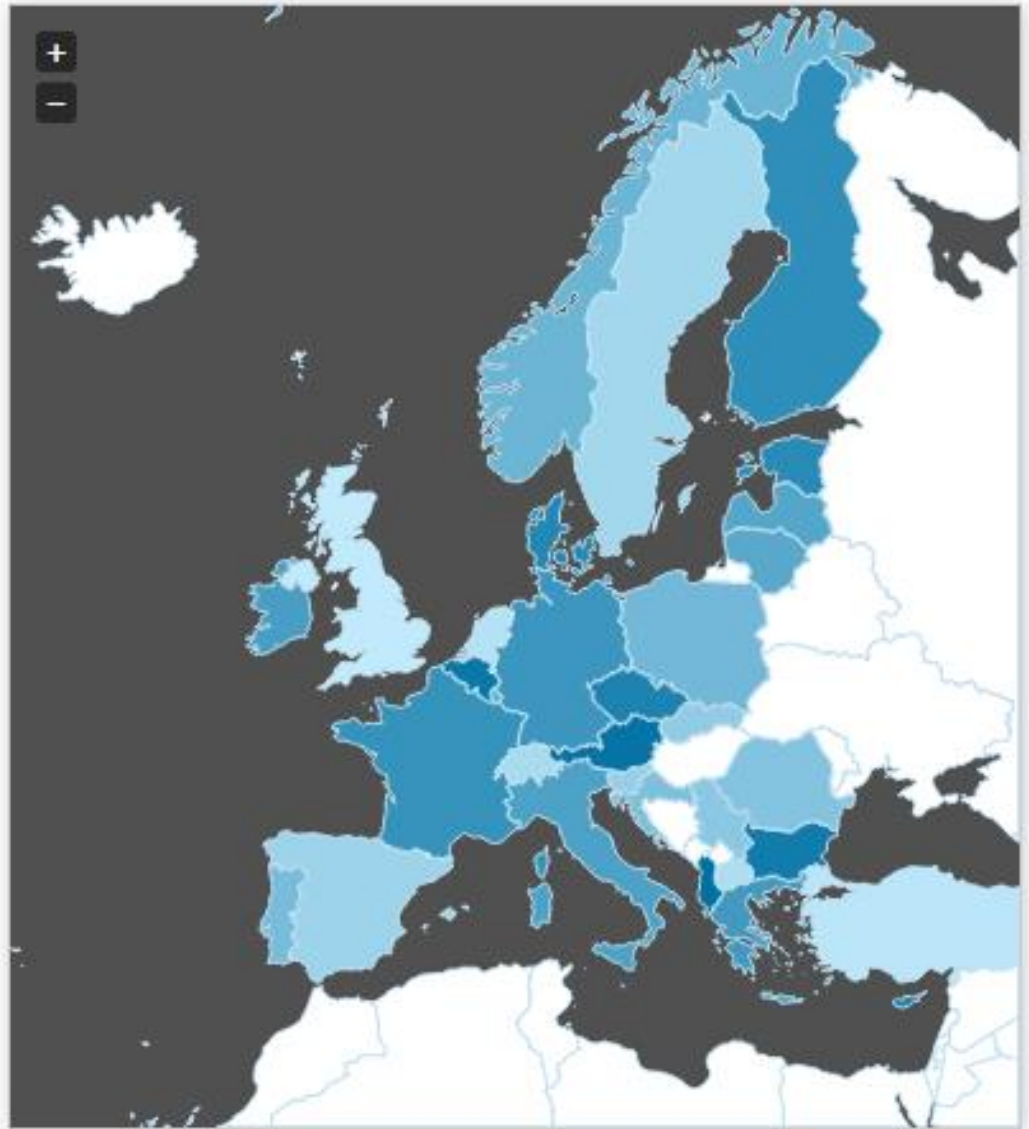
## EA MLA SIGNATORIES

- 34 EA MLA signatories
- 4 EA BLA signatories

(August 2016)

Full list of all MLA & BLA  
signatories and scopes  
on EA's website:

<http://www.european-accreditation.org/mla-and-bla-signatories>





2.

## Bilateral Cooperation Agreement

# CETA PROTOCOL CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

Differences may exist between the Parties' standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. Where such differences exist, the recognizing Party may seek to assure itself that a nominated accreditation body is competent to accredit conformity assessment bodies as competent to assess conformity with relevant technical regulations of the recognizing Party. The recognizing Party may assure itself based on:

(a) a cooperation arrangement between the European and Canadian accreditation systems;

Or, in the absence of such an arrangement;

(b) a cooperation arrangement between the nominated accreditation body and an accreditation body competent by the recognizing Party.

# BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

- Bilateral Cooperation Agreement (BCA) between EA and SCC was signed June 2016



## BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

- The BCA is the means to establish mutual confidence between EA and SCC.
- The aim is to allow recognition of European and Canadian Conformity Assessment Bodies for certain product categories.

## BCA PRINCIPLES

- The CA Protocol will allow for the acceptance by Canada and the EU of test results and product certifications by recognized bodies in the other party.
- Mutual acceptance will be based on the following principles:
  - According the CA Protocol Article 4, conformity assessment bodies should seek accreditation from an accreditation body that is in the territory in which the conformity assessment body is established.
  - If there is no accreditation body in the territory of a Party that is recognized, the conformity assessment body may seek accreditation by another recognized accreditation body that is not in the territory in which the conformity assessment body is established.

## BCA AREAS OF COOPERATION

- Exchange of relevant information on matters related to the CETA protocol, notably regarding the applicable standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.
- Exchange of information on application and interpretation of criteria for the assessment and accreditation of conformity assessment bodies seeking designation under the CETA protocol.
- Exchange of experts for on-site assessments or surveillance visits to conformity assessment bodies, in furtherance of the goal of establishing mutual confidence between EA and SCC in their respective accreditation processes.

## BCA AREAS OF COOPERATION

- Exchange of mutual information about progress of work related to activities of common interest.
- Informing their respective memberships/partners on developments in the Cooperation Agreement.
- Inviting representatives to each other's relevant (committee) meetings.
- Establishing and maintaining procedures regarding challenges to the Recognition of Accreditation Bodies (Article 14 of the CA protocol).

## BCA AREAS OF COOPERATION

- High level Steering Group, comprised of 3 persons each from EA and SCC, established with the following tasks:
  - To monitor the implementation of this agreement,
  - To cooperate with and support the European and Canadian authorities regarding all relevant issues pertaining to the CA protocol,
  - To cooperate with the recognized Accreditation Bodies,
  - To deal with challenges according Article 14 of the CETA protocol,
  - To establish Task Force Groups for specific issues relevant for the implementation of the CA protocol,
  - To report regularly to EA and SCC members/partners.



# 3. Implementation

# BCA IMPLEMENTATION

- Action plan has been agreed
- Communication activities are planned for spring/summer 2017
- Preparation of a first pilot project
  - Evaluating European and Canadian procedures and requirements for the assessment of CABs in certain product sectors
  - Mutual observations of assessments of CABs

# BCA IMPLEMENTATION

- ATEX / HAZLOC has been selected for the pilot project
- Expert team has been established for the evaluation of the ATEX / HAZLOC systems
- Assessment of CAB(s) (Notified Body), observed by SCC
- Assessment of CAB(s), observed by EA
- Pilot project should be concluded 2017

## CONTACT

# Thank you

### EA Secretariat

75 avenue Parmentier

FR - 75544 Paris Cedex 11, France

Phone: + 33 (0)1 40 21 24 -62

Email: [secretariat@european-accreditation.org](mailto:secretariat@european-accreditation.org)

[www.european-accreditation.org](http://www.european-accreditation.org)