



**European
co-operation for
Accreditation**

**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between
the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and
the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA)**

INTRODUCTION

- Considering that cooperation between IAAC and EA is of mutual benefit for the development of accreditation in the American region and in Europe;
- Considering that IAAC and EA have constituencies that include those from developing economies; and
- Considering the need to foster national, regional, interregional and global schemes for the operation and recognition of reliable accreditation programs.

The Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA) agree to the following:

1. PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

1.1 The parties to this MoU are:

- (a) the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation, as represented by its Chair;
and
- (b) the European cooperation for Accreditation, as represented by its Chair.

2. PURPOSE AND APPLICATION OF THE MOU

- 2.1 The purpose of this MoU is to record an understanding between the parties on their working relationship so as to achieve the scope of the MoU.
- 2.2 This MoU is a general understanding between the parties and provides a basis for other more specific agreements between the parties at operational levels.
- 2.3 This MoU does not make any legal or otherwise enforceable commitments on behalf of either of the parties.

3. SCOPE OF THE MOU

- 3.1 The scope of this MoU covers the relationship between IAAC and EA on matters of accreditation and conformity assessment.
- 3.2 The scope of this MoU sits beside the roles and responsibilities that the parties already have towards each other arising from their memberships in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

4. AREAS OF COOPERATION

4.1 Training and development

- 4.1.1 The parties will foster participation in training activities organised jointly or by either party, when deemed suitable.
- 4.1.2 The parties will consider exchange of personnel through internships and consultancies among its staff and with the other's member accreditation bodies, as appropriate.

4.2 Peer evaluation

- 4.2.1 The parties will foster participation in peer evaluations organised jointly or by either party, when deemed suitable.

4.3 Information exchange

- 4.3.1 The parties will exchange information on the development of regional accreditation cooperations and other relevant topics.

4.4 Support on technical matters

- 4.4.1 The parties will support common efforts on matters of a technical nature related to accreditation programs.

4.5 Adoption of common positions

- 4.5.1 The parties will seek common positions on issues of mutual interest.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 The above named areas of cooperation will be implemented through the following mechanisms:
 - (a) involvement of representatives from each, in each other's technical work, when mutually beneficial. As such, the normal liaison and observer rules and procedures for input shall apply;
 - (b) the IAAC Executive Committee and the EA Executive Committee managing the MoU and coordinating issues arising from it;
 - (c) attendance of each party's representative(s) at their respective General Assemblies and related technical meetings, as deemed possible.

6. **COMMENCEMENT, TERMINATION AND PERIOD OF OPERATION**

- 6.1 This MoU will commence on the date of its signing and will remain in effect until terminated or amended. Any of the parties may, upon giving three (3) calendar months notice in writing of its intention to do so, terminate this MoU.
- 6.2 This MoU will be reviewed upon request by either party.
- 6.3 This MoU may be amended (including changes to the scope) if mutually agreed. Such changes will be incorporated as a written change to the MoU, and the MoU will be reissued in full as a new version. Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MoU will be settled amicably by consultation between the parties.
- 6.4 This MoU is signed on behalf of:



The Inter American
Accreditation Cooperation, by
Eng. Beatriz L. García
Chair

August 16, 2012
Date



The European cooperation for
Accreditation, by
Mr Graham Talbot
Chair

12th September 2012
Date