

## COOMET PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear colleagues!

The 33<sup>rd</sup> COOMET Committee meeting is taking place in tough geopolitical conditions. The President's report should formally contain main outcomes of activities for year 2021 (a lot indeed was done!). The events of 2022 have erased many of our achievements and put the activities of all structural bodies and COOMET I general in difficult conditions.

Therefore, the **main thesis** of my statement is **the declaration of intent to keep functioning of COOMET as a regional metrology organization and regional legal metrology organization** despite all today's challenges.

We all expected that the Covid-19 pandemic would end in 2022, and COOMET and other regional organizations would be able to return to the conventional format of work. As you may recall, we planned to hold the COOMET Committee meeting offline in Kazakhstan in June this year, but instead, we have to meet online again and in a quite reduced composition.

Much to our regret, we received notifications of impossibility of participation in the meeting from the COOMET Committee members from Germany and Ukraine. Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Lithuania are also absent at our meeting, still the Secretariat has not received any notices of the reasons for non-participation.

In October 2021 the COOMET Committee recorded the decision on the withdrawal of the national metrology institutes of Romania and DPR of Korea from the organization. Currently the total number of COOMET members is 19.

I believe that the most significant loss of year 2022 is notification from the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine stating (1) the fact of suspending participation of Ukraine in COOMET structural bodies and (2) the intent to acquire full membership in EURAMET and transfer the spheres of activities related to the CIPM MRA from COOMET to EURAMET (without mentioning specific dates).

This statement partially blocks the operation of a number of COOMET structural bodies (TC 1.2, TC 1.5, TC 1.6, TC 2, TC 4) and subcommittees that function within these CSBs (SC 1.6.2, SC 1.6.3, SC 4.1), since they were headed by the representatives of Ukraine. The activities of the Ukrainian specialists who are field coordinators in TC 1.2, TC 1.3 and of a significant number of COOMET technical experts on CMC review and peer review of NMI/DI QMS also stop, and difficulties arise with the work of COOMET project coordinators and pilots of comparisons.

Negotiations are underway about clarification of a possible form of cooperation of Ukraine in COOMET, since the COOMET Memorandum of Understanding (document COOMET D1) does not provide for the status of "suspension of participation in CSB activities".

A national metrology institution that signed the Memorandum can either be a COOMET member (full or associated) or terminate its participation in COOMET in accordance with Section 10, clause 3 of COOMET D1.

I hope for constructive dialogue between the representatives of COOMET and Ukraine in order to elaborate optimal decisions in this situation and as the COOMET President sincerely regret that political decisions interfere with the activities on scientific and technical cooperation.

On behalf of COOMET I would like to express gratitude for the considerable work performed by the Chairs of TC 1.2 (Aleksandr Kosterov), TC 1.5 (Aleksandr Kostrikov), TC 1.6 (Irina Kolozinskaya),

TC 2 (Yuriry Kuzmenko), TC 4 (Pavel Neyezhmakov) during their offices. I also extend my appreciation to all former and current representatives of Ukraine in CSBs for their contribution to COOMET activities for 30 years of our organization's existence.

The Presidential Council appointed Acting Chairs of the mentioned structural bodies (it was reported under item 1 of the agenda) and continues to elaborate additional recommendations on further actions to avoid suspension of the scientific and technical activities of our organization.

Given the force majeure conditions of our work in 2022 four online meetings of the Presidential Council were held, where we were discussing the current situation and seeking the ways out and ways to stabilize COOMET activities.

Unfortunately, there are no transparent solutions; however, we believe that we should all strive to maintain technical cooperation to a maximum possible extent. This is exactly why it is important that all structural bodies continue implementing projects of the Program of Comparisons and other COOMET projects (as far as possible).

Almost all structural bodies organize their meetings in 2022 (except for TC 1.2 and TC 1.8 that will take place in early 2023). It is planned to hold the TC 1.5 meeting in a combined format (the TC 1.12 meeting was held in the same mode in September), other meetings will be held online using the Zoom platform, provided for by the COOMET Secretariat.

Countries of various regions cooperate within COOMET, which unfortunately imposes some restrictions on a simultaneous participation of all COOMET members in online meetings owing to the difference in time zones. For this reason I warmly welcome the members of the delegations of China and Cuba, COOMET countries located farthest away from each other.

I am also pleased to welcome at our meeting the recently appointed Committee members from Azerbaijan (Mr. Azer Gurbanov), China (Dr. Yuning Duan), Kyrgyzstan (Mr. Almazbek Bayaliev), Tajikistan (Mr. Mansur Safarzoda).

In 2022 a new COOMET Committee member from Moldova was also appointed (Mr. Alexei Pianih), who is regretfully not present at our meeting.

Further in my statement I am going to sum up briefly the outcomes of COOMET activities since the 31<sup>st</sup> COOMET Committee meeting and highlight some decisions that we submit to the COOMET Committee for adoption.

Detailed information about COOMET activities in all main areas and subject fields of cooperation in 2021-2022 is given in the Annual Report on the COOMET activities and will be presented by the Secretariat under item 4 of the meeting agenda.

## **1) Suspension of activities of the WG for COOMET Strategy and putting of the issue of the institutional status of COOMET on hold**

Two tasks of the WG for Strategy, which was established in 2019, were successfully fulfilled –at the 30<sup>th</sup> COOMET Committee meeting in 2020 the Mission and Vision of COOMET were approved, along with the COOMET Strategy for 2020-2025 and Roadmap for its implementation. Throughout the three years, actions provided for in the COOMET Development Program for 2020-2022 (specifying the Strategy requirements) were implemented rather efficiently. The WG tasks that were not resolved include:

1.2.3 Making proposals on the organizational and legal form of COOMET, including financing mechanisms;

1.2.4 Identification of COOMET assets.

In June 2022 the Presidential Council had to make a decision on the need to suspend the activities of the COOMET WG for Strategy **owing to the lack of consensus among WG members regarding the ways to implement task 1.2.3 and due to the force majeure situation in the COOMET region that blocks the decisions on reforming COOMET activities.**

We discussed this issue in detail under item 3 of the agenda of the Working session.

In order to partially compensate for these forced decisions, the COOMET Secretariat was requested to organize a survey among COOMET Committee members to define their vision of possible options to enhance cooperation without changing the organizational and legal form of COOMET (in case of maintaining the status quo).

The survey was conducted in August-September 2022 and its results discussed during the Working session.

The proposals from countries and final results should further be elaborated. We will try to implement all the instructions of the COOMET Committee.

Certainly the idea of giving the **status of an "international conference" to official COOMET events** (meetings of the COOMET Committee, Presidential Council, COOMET structural bodies (JCMS, TC, Quality Forum)) is worth considering, so that countries' participants could pay a registration fee to the account of the economic entity that acts as a host (reimbursement of the organizer's costs).

Such practice exists in other regional organizations. Probably, this is the main option for the organization of official COOMET events in the future.

A part of the survey conclusions is already under implementation. For instance, most respondents supported the idea of:

**2) making amendments and additions to the Memorandum of Understanding.**

The idea was initially proposed within the WG for Strategy. The Presidential Council supported it, and the proposals were submitted for approval to the Committee concerning the refinement of the preamble, objectives, tasks and fields of cooperation in the Memorandum of Understanding. A new provision on the establishment of task groups was also submitted to the Committee for approval.

**3) During the reporting period work was carried out on the optimizations of the COOMET organizational structure.**

(1) At the initiative of the COOMET Vice-President E. Lazarenko (Russia) the Presidential Council recommends to the COOMET Committee to reactivate TC 5 "Innovative research in metrology" (with the TC title refined).

The TC 5 membership was formed based on the proposals of member countries.

In 2022 – 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2023 preparation of a draft concept of innovative COOMET research and its discussion with TC 5 members should be envisaged, as well as assessment of possible funding sources and requirements of internal/external donors (taking into account the requirements of the COOMET Development Strategy for 2020-2022).

Reactivation of TC 5 will facilitate resolving task F "Organization of innovative scientific research in the field of metrology" of the COOMET Strategy.

(2) At the initiative of TC 1.7 "Photometry and Radiometry" and TC 1.8 "Physical Chemistry" two new subcommittees are established in these CSBs.

(3) In addition to the previous optimization of the structure one more field is identified within TC 2 "Legal Metrology": "General principles of metrological control and supervision".

(4) During the reporting period the following appointments took place along with the appointment of the Acting Chairs of TC 1.2, TC 1.6, TC 2, TC 4:

- Vice-President, Quality Forum Chair Nino Mikanadze (Georgia) was appointed the Acting Chair of TC 3.1 "Quality Forum Technical Committee" instead of Natalia Muravskaya (VNIIOFI, Russia) who terminated her employment in COOMET;
- Roman Korneev (Russia) was appointed the Acting Chair of TC 1.4 "Flow Measurement" (instead of Viktor Fafurin, Russia).

During this meeting a formal transfer of authority will take place based on the results of the election among the TC members from the Chair of TC 1.10 "Thermometry and Thermal Physics" Anatoliy Pokhodun (Russia) to Petr Krivonos (Belarus); Konstantin Chekirda (Russia) will become a new Chair of TC 1.5 "Length and Angle" instead of Aleksandr Kostrikov (Ukraine); Roman Korneev (Russia) will become the Acting Chair of TC 1.4 "Flow Measurement".

It is also suggested that Evgeny Lazarenko (Russia) be appointed the Chair of TC 5 "Innovative Research in Metrology" as the Vice-President coordinating the issues of research within COOMET.

I hope that the COOMET Committee will support all the above appointments.

Following the COOMET Committee meeting, elections of new Chairs of TC 1.2, TC 1.6, TC 1.11, TC 2, TC 3.1, TC 4 will be held.

(5) According to the resolutions of the 31st COOMET Committee meeting, the COOMET Secretariat conducted online surveys to assess the effectiveness of CSBs (respondents – COOMET Committee members (level 1) and CSB members (level 2)). The summary results were discussed by Presidential Council members; recommendations for CSBs were made to improve their work in view of the expectations of countries and cooperation participants. The survey results (level 1) were sent to COOMET Committee members. The survey results of levels 1 and 2, as well as recommendations of the Presidential Council were sent specifically to each TC Chair to be analyzed and used in work.

**4) Development of cooperation with countries with emerging metrology systems** (CEEMS) is a prospective issue of COOMET (it is provided for in the COOMET Strategy and Development Program).

By the decision of the 31<sup>st</sup> COOMET Committee meeting (15 to 17 June 2021) criteria were defined for COOMET member countries to be classified as CEEMS. Four countries decided to be classified as CEEMS (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2022 a survey was conducted to identify the needs of CEEMS in terms of carrying out comparisons and calibrations of measurement standards, holding of training seminars and traineeships. In October 2022 a survey was initiated among other COOMET member countries to identify their possibilities of providing assistance to CEEMS (in view of their needs); possible external sources of funding for working programs and projects for CEEMS countries will also be sought.

Until the end of year 2022 preparation of a COOMET Work Program on the issues of CEEMS is suggested with an indication of specific actions and timeframes for their implementation.

Taking into account the survey results on possible options to enhance cooperation (see clause 1), the Presidential Council recommended establishing a Task Group on CEEMS support. We will be able to discuss the results of this TG activities at the meeting in 2023.

**5) Participation in the activities of the Metre Convention** is without doubt one of the priorities of metrologists of any country.

10 COOMET member countries are members of the Metre Convention, 5 countries are associate CGPM members.

NMIs of 15 COOMET member countries are signatories to the CIPM MRA, of them NMIs/DIs of 8 countries currently take part in its implementation through COOMET (total number of NMIs/DIs - 13).

Cuba was a CGPM Associate and participated in the implementation of the CIPM MRA since 2000, however Cuban NMIs/DIs have temporarily lost (from 01.01.2022) the status of signatories to those Arrangements, hence the CMCs of Cuban NMIs/DIs were greyed out. I hope that our colleagues will be able to resolve this issue and get back to participation in the CGPM and CIPM MRA.

In case of transfer of the spheres of activities of Ukraine related to the CIPM MRA from COOMET to EURAMET, the number of NMIs/DIs that are signatories to the CIPM MRA will decrease to 9.

There is still room for improvement, since there are states among COOMET member countries, which do not yet use the potential opportunities from participation in the Metre Convention. Thus, for instance, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are neither members of the Metre Convention, nor associate CGPM members and therefore cannot take part in the implementation of the CIPM MRA. I appeal to the representatives of these states to trigger the activities on joining the Meter Convention. The Presidential Council is prepared to provide maximum assistance within our authority.

**6) Traditionally considerable work on the implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangements (CIPM MRA) was performed both in NMIs/DIs of COOMET member-countries and directly in COOMET structural bodies.**

I am not going to provide a detailed statistics on the implementation of the Arrangements, this will be done in the Annual report about COOMET activities and JCMS report. I would just like to mention the following significant activities and challenges:

(1) Translation of the revised CIPM MRA documents of P and G series by the JCMS, based on which all COOMET recommendations on CMC review and comparisons were updated in 2021.

(2) Monitoring of the state of work on comparisons, registered in the KCDB and lasting over 5 years, by JCMS in conjunction with TC 1.2 – TC 1.11 and COOMET Secretariat, and facilitation of their completion.

(3) COOMET faced a refusal of EURAMET to carry out a review of CMCs, submitted for the interregional review. Eventually the review was carried out by other RMOs, however such force majeure hinders the implementation of the CIPM MRA.

(4) Discussion of the optimization of the process of completing long-lasting COOMET comparisons among JCMS members and with the Presidential Council. This work is still in progress. In JCMS's opinion, a Council's official decision is required on the algorithm of actions regarding long-lasting comparisons to be guided by CSBs (JCRB should also be informed about this decision and requested to further forward the COOMET's position to the Working Groups on comparisons of the CIPM Consultative Committees that review COOMET key comparisons reports).

Dealing with the issues of completing all comparisons, where the Ukrainian NMIs are pilots and/or participants, is an extremely tough task.

The discussion has just begun and I hope for the most effective resolution of all issues, since I believe that COOMET should try to fulfil its obligations to Ukraine in terms of supporting activities on the implementation of the CIPM MRA during the transition period (before the activities on the CIPM MRA are transferred to EURAMET).

Once again I would like to request COOMET Committee members and Heads of NMIs/DIs of COOMET member countries to provide maximum assistance in conducting comparisons of measurement standards and contribute to the completion of COOMET comparisons, piloted by their institutes (especially those, which started over 5 years ago), since the issue related to the completion of comparisons cannot be oftentimes resolved at the level of the Heads of COOMET structural bodies. In 2021 some questions were resolved, still there are comparisons that are not formally completed in the KCDB owing to the lack of the final versions of comparison reports.

(5) Organization and conduct of peer reviews in the situation of the pandemic for the QMS of those COOMET NMIs/DIs, the periods of validity of the COOMET Confirmations of Recognition of which expired. For the NMIs of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine new Confirmations of Recognition for compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and ISO17034:2016 have been drawn up based on the peer reviews.

Currently a peer review of the QMS of KazStandard is underway to extend the period of validity of the Confirmations.

Owing to the force majeure international situation the period of validity of the Confirmation of Recognition for SE "NDI "Systema" (Ukraine) was extended until 01.06.2023 by the decision of the Presidential Council (the previous period of validity was until 15.02.2022). Further COOMET actions on this issue are not clear yet in the light of the notification received from the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine.

I would also like to express gratitude to the COOMET Vice-President, Chair of the Quality Forum, Ms. N. Mikanadze (Georgia), for the prompt and efficient organization of the peer reviews of the NMI/DI QMS in 2021 in the situation of the pandemic and to all COOMET Auditors and Technical experts on peer review of the QMS of NMIs/DIs for conducting those peer reviews.

All peer reviews were conducted in a hybrid format, during which a COOMET auditor and one or two technical experts visited the institutes under review; other technical experts took part in the peer reviews by evaluating the submitted documents and working with the laboratories of the institutes under review online using video broadcasting (this algorithm has been implemented in a new COOMET recommendation R/AQ/34:2021 "Temporary rules and procedure for peer reviews of quality management systems of National metrology institutes/Designated institutes (QMS of NMIs/DIs) during the COVID-19 pandemic").

#### 7) I believe that COOMET should actively develop **activities on the issues of digitalization**.

The Presidential Council suggests changing the status of the Working Group for project 825/RU-a/21 "Development of a COOMET concept for digitalization in metrology" and establishing a **COOMET Task Group on the issues of digital transformation in metrology** (the proposal was submitted for approval to the COOMET Committee during the Working Session).

A draft COOMET Concept For The Issues Of Digital Transformation In Metrology is under discussion within the TG, along with the Roadmap for the concept implementation.

The COOMET Concept and Roadmap will be submitted by the TG Chair (A.Pankov, VNIIM, Russia) to the Presidential Council in February 2023. Further review and approval of these documents by the COOMET Committee in 2023 is assumed.

8) **The activities of COOMET in the field of legal metrology** are traditionally geared toward the implementation of the projects given in the Work Program of TC2 "Legal Metrology" (see the Annual report of TC2), as well as holding of seminars.

In April 2021 a COOMET webinar "Role of measurement uncertainty in conformity assessment decisions in legal metrology" was held (number of participants – over 120). Due to the force majeure international situation, other training events did not take place in either 2021 or 2022.

A number of OIML publications were translated into Russian, and current TC 2 projects were implemented.

I believe that translation of OIML publications should remain the most important task of TC 2, since prepared COOMET translations can be further used for the development of COOMET recommendations and/or introduced into the working practice of COOMET countries by issuing national normative legal acts or national standards.

I would also like to encourage all interested countries to discuss the format of their participation in the OIML Certification System (together with the existing problems) at the meetings of COOMET TC2.

**9) COOMET activities in the field of information and training** are traditionally performed within two branches: through the activities of the COOMET Secretariat and TC4 "Information and Training".

A detailed report on the activities of the Secretariat in this field is given in the COOMET Annual Report. I would just like to highlight the following:

- extensive preparatory work was carried out and the thematic issue of the journal "Measurement Techniques", dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the COOMET establishment (№7-2021) was issued. I would like to thank all the authors who took part in writing the articles;
- an official YouTube channel of COOMET was created. Unfortunately, despite the calls on countries, the Secretariat has received no proposals on the content of the channel;
- the CIPM MRA Brochures, prepared and issued by the BIPM, were translated into Russian; the translation is available on the COOMET information resources and will be sent to COOMET countries.

I would like to address special thanks to the specialists of NSC "Institute of Metrology" (Ukraine) in connection with the preparation of a COOMET poster to the World Metrology Day 2022 (tagline: "Metrology in the digital era").

In early 2022 a Practical Arrangement between the BIPM and COOMET was signed on cooperation in delivering capacity building and knowledge transfer activities using the BIPM e-learning platform.

A COOMET page has been launched on the BIPM e-learning platform (<https://e-learning.bipm.org/>) since June 2022, where COOMET courses are made available.

COOMET Secretariat has published a training course, containing information about COOMET activities (in Russian and in English) and a training course "Mutual Recognition Arrangement (CIPM MRA) (in Russian)".

In view of the capabilities of the BIPM e-learning platform regarding knowledge testing, discussion has currently started within TC 4 on the procedure for issuing COOMET certificates for the courses in the e-learning format.

The COOMET team is actively working on the creation of other training courses under the auspices of our RMO. I encourage all CSBs to be actively involved in filling the COOMET page with useful and relevant training content. In my opinion, this will promote more active cooperation within COOMET.

I would also like to mention a coordinating role of TC 4 in organizing the participation of specialists from COOMET NMIs/DIs in training seminars and traineeships under the BIPM Program on capacity building and knowledge transfer (CBKT). Thus, with support of TC 4 COOMET

representatives were able to participate in a number of webinars on KCDB 2.0 concerning the issues of CMCs and comparisons in 2020-2021 (at least 10 training events).

Preparations have started for the International competition "Best Young Metrologist of COOMET" that is proposed by the COOMET Vice-President E.Lazarenko to be held in Russia in June 2023.

The Working Group WG-Web was reactivated under the new Chair (A.Kuzin, VNIIMS, Russia). The task of the WG-Web is to create a single information resource of COOMET that combines the capabilities of the web portal and website in order to fully represent the relevant information about COOMET activities and to ensure the exchange of information among the participants of cooperation within the organization.

In 2022 discussion of a concept for the creation of a new single information resource of COOMET took place. Currently draft terms of reference for the creation of a single resource are under discussion. The draft documents will be presented by the WG Chair to the Presidential Council in February 2023.

I hope that despite the lack of COOMET's own funds we will be able to complete work on the creation of the resource.

Prospective tasks for TC 4 "Information and Training" (taking into account the events in the Development Program) include:

- finalization of the preparation of an internal procedure for the assessment of training needs and planning of training activities within COOMET;
- drawing up of a list of fundamental documents on metrology of international metrology organizations, for which translation into Russian and preparation of a Plan (schedule) for their translations are required and their further publication on the COOMET information resources etc.

#### **10) A traditional aspect of COOMET activities is strengthening of relationships with international and regional metrology organizations.**

In 2021-2022 official COOMET representatives took part in the activities of the JCRB, Round Table of Regional Legal Metrology Organizations, meetings of EASC and STCMetr of EASC and a range of regional metrology organizations (more detailed information is provided in the Annual Report).

This year representatives of the AFRIMETS and GULFMET take part in the COOMET Committee meeting for the first time.

An Action Plan for Cooperation between COOMET and EASC was prepared and signed for 2022-2023. The possibility to implement technical issues of cooperation, provided for in the Plan, was discussed within the JCMS.

In accordance with the COOMET Development Program, in 2021 negotiations began with the representatives of regional metrology organizations to discuss the plans for cooperation and possibility of signing Memorandums of Understanding with due account for mutual benefits. The work has currently been suspended, however.

**11) I believe that we should pay more attention to promoting COOMET activities and showing the significance of COOMET at the national and international levels.** Some work is performed (newsfeed on the information resources, creation of a YouTube channel, maintenance of the Facebook page, preparation of articles to the journals, giving of the distinguished title "Honorary Metrologist of COOMET"), but evidently it is not enough.

We strongly hoped that dealing with the issues related to the institutional status and funding of COOMET activities would allow us to implement this task more effectively in the future. However, since this work within COOMET has been suspended, we can currently rely only on internal reserves.

I would like to conclude my speech by expressing my gratitude all participants of cooperation – we all had to work in difficult circumstances.

Let me end my statement with the same thesis as was expressed at the beginning of my report:

**I call on all of us to make every effort to preserve the activities of COOMET as a regional metrology organization and regional legal metrology organization!**

I wish us all to stay optimistic, maintain scientific and friendly relations and professional attitude to work despite any external circumstances and political decisions.

Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Valery Hurevich,  
COOMET President