

CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL AND MARKING OF ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS METALS

PMC/SR 2/2018 (Draft 1)
2 Annexes
14 June 2018

STANDING COMMITTEE

Eighty-second Meeting

Stockholm (Sweden), 20 April 2018

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

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1. The eighty-second meeting of the Standing Committee (SC) is opened by the Chairperson, Ms. Dalia Yarom (Israel), who welcomes the representatives of 19 out of 20 Contracting States (Slovak Republic did not attend) and two out of four Applicant States (Italy and Serbia). The list of participants is attached at Annex I.

2. The Chairperson thanks the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SWEDAC) for the logistical assistance in organising the present meeting in Stockholm. She also extends her thanks to the Standing Technical Group (STG), the Working Group on Vision and Strategy (WGVS) and the Secretariat for their respective contribution to this SC meeting.

3. The Chairperson welcomes the representatives of Croatia, who attend the SC meeting for the first time as full Members, and sees Croatia's accession as a sign that the Convention is ready for new Members to join.

4. In her welcome speech, the Chairperson notes that on 19 April 2018 Israel celebrated 70 years of existence as a modern State. Since its independence Israel has produced twelve Nobel Prize winners and been at the forefront of innovation notably in the field of information technology and water treatment. Innovation has been key to the success of Israel and the same is also necessary for the Convention.

I GENERAL PART

Agenda

5. The Agenda is adopted (see Annex II).

Summary Records

6. The SC approves the Summary Record of the 81st SC meeting (PMC/SR 5/2017 (Draft 2)) held in Porto (Portugal) on 23 October 2017.

7. The SC notes the draft Summary Record of the 22nd STG meeting (PMC/SR°1/2018 (Draft 2)) held by teleconference on 14 February 2018.

Status of official documents

8. The SC notes that the Annexes and the Technical Decisions are in the revision process.

9. The Compilation of Acts (PMC/W 2/2003 (Rev. 16)) and RR Guidelines (PMC/W°3/2007 (Rev. 5)) were circulated on 20 December 2017 and came into force on 1 January 2018. During the 16th revision of the Compilation, the following changes were made: the Guidelines on CCM software and on XRF testing were added as well as a new

section on the “Standing Technical Group” (STG) with the STG’s Terms of Reference and the profile of STG Members / Corresponding Members.

10. The Compilation of Acts was amended again in early 2018 (PMC/W 1/2001 (Rev. 17)) to include the accession of Croatia and update information on Authorised Assay Offices, National Administrations and Assay Office Marks. The revised Compilation of Acts entered into force on 19 March 2018.

Revision of Annexes and Technical Decisions

11. The Chairperson says that the process of revising the Annexes and Technical Decisions, which started in 2015, is now coming to an end, with the current meeting representing the last round of discussions.

Revision of Annex I and Technical Decisions to Annex I

12. There are no outstanding issues.

Revision of Annex II and Technical Decisions to Annex II

Subcontracting of Testing

13. After the last meeting in Porto, the Norwegian Assay Office submitted a new proposal regarding the subcontracting of testing, which was discussed by the STG at its teleconference on 14 February 2018. All changes proposed by Norway were accepted except one, where an alternative solution was suggested by the STG (see PMC/W^o4/2018).

14. The STG Chairman, Mr. Thomas Brodmann (Swiss Assay Office), says that the STG has agreed to introduce a footnote acknowledging the specificity of Assay Offices in Contracting States, which have voluntary hallmarking and which have a reduced volume of activity. In these countries, if a proposal for the subcontracting of testing is made, the volume of activity of the organisation, to which the Assay Office belongs, will also be considered (and not only the turnover of the Assay Office alone).

15. Replying to a question from Slovenia, the STG Chairman says that if an organisation has several different activities, then the main activity will be considered.

16. Members support the Norwegian proposal, as amended by the STG and detailed in the revised paragraph 1.3 of Annex II and related Technical Decisions (PMC/W 2/2000 (Rev 3, Draft 11), PMC/W 2/2001 (Rev. 10, Draft 11)).

Shared Risk Approach

17. At the last meeting, the Danish Assay Office did not support the proposed definition of the shared risk approach and was invited to propose an alternative. Following an exchange of e-mails between the Danish Assay Office and the Chairperson,

an alternative definition was found and subsequently endorsed by the STG (PMC/W 8/2017 (Draft 3)). The shorter definition is based on OIML G 19:2017¹.

18. The SC endorses the definition as well as the revised Note on the shared risk approach (PMC/W 8/2017 (Draft 3)), which will be added to the Compilation of Acts, as agreed at the last SC meeting.

Benchmarks for XRF Testing

19. At the last meeting, the Irish Assay Office requested a clarification on footnote 11 on benchmarks for XRF testing. With the assistance of STG Members and Corresponding Members the footnote was clarified (see PMC/W 1/2018 (Draft 4)).

20. The STG Chairman says that the benchmarks are based on past RR results and thus will evolve as results become more accurate. They correspond to current best practices and are relatively high for platinum and palladium. Replying to questions from the Czech Republic, he adds that the benchmarks are only applicable for XRF testing and not for XRF screening. The proposed ISO standard on XRF testing, which is currently in the drafting process, may not necessarily apply to the Convention, as the scope of the ISO standard will be broader (e.g. ingots for investment gold will be covered). In addition, the ISO standard will be applicable to refiners and producers.

21. The SC endorses the revised footnote 11 on benchmarks for XRF testing, as referred to in paragraph 3.2.5 of the Technical Decisions to Annex II (PMC/W 2/2001 (Rev. 10, Draft 11)), as well as the related Note on Benchmark for XRF Testing (PMC/W 1/2018 (Draft^o4)), which will be added to the Compilation of Acts.

Combined marks (minimum size and legibility)

22. During its teleconference on 14 February 2018, the STG discussed the need for consistency regarding the legibility and minimum size of all compulsory marks. While the minimum size of the CCM is determined in the Compilation of Technical Decisions (0.5mm), there are no similar requirements for other compulsory marks, which are defined in the national legislation of Contracting States. For combined marks, this can be an issue in terms of legibility.

23. The Birmingham Assay Office says that its marks e.g. for earrings can be as small as 0.42mm but are still legible. This is challenged by a number of Assay Offices, which note that UK marks below 0.5mm are very difficult to read with a 10x magnifying glass but cannot be refused under the current rules.

24. The STG Chairman says that the CCM is like a “certificate” applied on precious metal articles; it must be legible with a 10x magnifying glass. This is supported by Latvia, which adds that Type 2 of the CCM will contain less information than Type 1. It is thus important that the information regarding the fineness and the type of metal is clearly legible.

¹ “The role of measurement uncertainty in conformity assessment decisions in legal metrology”

25. The Chairperson says that the Convention's purpose is to facilitate the trade of precious metals articles while maintaining consumer protection. As a result, the minimum size for all compulsory marks, applied with the CCM, should be 0.5mm. This is supported by the SC, which endorses the revised paragraph 5.5.2 of Annex II and related Technical Decisions (PMC/W 2/2000 (Rev 3, Draft 11), PMC/W 2/2001 (Rev. 10, Draft^o11)).

New standardised CCM (Type 2)

26. The STG Chairman recalls that at the last meeting, the SC endorsed the STG's proposal for an octagonal shape for the new standardised CCM. The STG still needs to determine the exact dimensions of the new CCM, which will be discussed at the next STG meeting in Edinburgh based on a proposal by the Swiss Assay Office.

Adoption of the revised Annexes

Linguistic and other corrections

27. The SC endorses a number linguistic and other minor changes, made to the revised Annexes since the last meeting in Porto, which are summarised in document PMC/INF^o1/2018 (Rev 2). Two other minor corrections, proposed by Denmark and Switzerland, are also accepted.

French translation

28. Akin to the Convention, the Annexes are issued in both English and French. A French translation has been prepared by the Secretariat with the assistance of Switzerland.

Date for entry into force

29. The Chairperson recalls that amendments to the Technical Annexes should normally not be ratified by national parliaments. In most Contracting States, the Annexes are implemented by decree. There are, however, exceptions. The date for the entry into force can be provided in the amendment to the Annexes, in line with Article 11 (5) of the Convention.

30. The date for the entry into force of the Technical Decisions is decided by the SC and is normally aligned with that of the amended Annexes. The Compilation of Technical Decisions is circulated by the Depositary to Contracting States for information.

31. Austria confirms that the Annexes will be submitted to its national parliament; this can be achieved by the end of the year. The same is valid for Slovenia. Cyprus and Croatia indicate that they must check with their lawyers about the process. Finland says that the Annexes must be signed by the President. This should not take longer than six months.

32. The SC decides that the date of entry into force of the amended Annexes and Technical Decisions will be 1 January 2019. The Secretariat will circulate the finalised text of the amended Annexes after the meeting and send it to the Depositary for

notification. Contracting States, which are not in a position to adopt the amended Annexes by the end of the year, must inform the Depositary.

Adoption of the proposal to amend the Annexes

33. The SC formally adopts the proposal for the amendment of the Convention's Annexes and Technical Decisions, as contained in documents PMC/W 2/2000 (Rev. 3) and PMC/W 2/2001 (Rev. 10).

Review of the operation of the Convention

Statistics

34. The Chairperson reports a decline of 8.2%# in the total number of articles marked with CCM in 2017 (PMC/INF 25/2010 (Rev. 15#), during which 5,050,386# CCM articles were marked.

35. The Chairperson reports on a 37%# increase in the proportion of articles marked offsite with the CCM in 2017 (in comparison to 2016). This is mainly due to the fact that for the UK offsite marking has increased from 53% to 94% in 2017 (PMC/INF 15/2008 (Rev. 9#). The number of articles, offsite marked with the CCM, totalled 3,384,356#, representing 67%# of all articles marked with the CCM.

36. The Chairperson also reports on the consultation by the Israeli Assay Office made under Article 9(1) of the Convention (PMC/INF 1/2009 (Rev. 11)). Israel is satisfied with the explanation provided by the Swiss Assay Office on the CCM applied to closure/butterfly of earrings and the case has been closed.

Working Group on the Vision and Strategy (WGVS)

37. The Chairperson of the Working Group on Vision and Strategy (WGVS), Ms. Valentina Valestany (Sweden), reports on the previous two meeting of the Working Group, which took place in Porto (Portugal) on 24 October 2017 (PMC/SR 6/2017 (Draft 1)) and Stockholm (Sweden) on 19 March 2018. The SWOT Analysis (Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats) is complete and the results have been circulated to the SC (PMC/W 3/2018).

38. Ms Valentina Valestany (SWEDAC) presents the new vision for the Convention and six related strategies developed by the Working Group. For the presentation, see PMC/INF 18/2018.

39. The six strategies presented are:

- Strategy 1: Modernising the Convention;
- Strategy 2: Ensuring optimum representation in the SC;
- Strategy 3: Expanding the geographical scope of the Convention;

Document and figures to be corrected and re-circulated by the Secretariat

- Strategy 4: Enhancing conformity and best practice;
- Strategy 5: Becoming the ultimate reference / benchmark for the technical harmonisation of precious metals articles; and
- Strategy 6: Guaranteeing the compliance of technically competent authorised Assay Offices.

40. The vision consists of two parts:

- the first part is based on the preamble of the Convention: “To facilitate the international trade in articles of precious metals while at the same time maintaining consumer protection justified by the particular nature of these articles”; and
- the second part is a new component: “To lead the international development of harmonised standards and good practices for the control and marking of articles of precious metals.”

41. Members discuss the strategies, their importance and the challenges in implementation. Generally, Members support the vision and strategies proposed by the WGVS and commend it for its excellent work, in particular for the realistic assessment of the challenges faced by the Convention as well as for the ambitious and visionary approach. There are no objections – neither to the vision nor to the goals.

Strategy 1 (Modernising the Convention)

42. This is one of the most important strategies, which will introduce substantial changes, notably by replacing unanimity with majority voting and by introducing a dispute settlement procedure. The endorsement of Ministries is particularly important for this strategy, which will require the consent of Contracting States. Further discussions will be required.

Strategy 2 (Ensuring optimum representation in the SC)

43. This strategy seems to be unanimously supported. There are no comments.

Strategy 3 (Expanding the geographical scope of the Convention)

44. The SC discusses the following issues:

- Having different types of membership is a good idea; however, the issue whether Members without a laboratory should be able to vote e.g. on technical matters will require further discussion.
- There is a challenge to make membership appealing to countries such as China and India, which have both attended several SC meetings but not taken any steps to accede. At the same time, Members must consider the implications of expanding the geographical scope of the Convention. China proposed some time ago hosting an SC meeting but this offer was rejected due to the cost of attendance.
- Rules about the number of Convention meetings that guests can attend should be changed as soon as possible.

Strategy 4 (Enhancing conformity and best practice)

45. Some Members express doubts on whether the scope of the Convention should be extended to other fields such as product safety, gemmology, market surveillance, internet sale or investment gold. They also consider that it is not the role of Ministries to look after the business of Assay Offices or to remediate to the decline in hallmarking.

46. Most Members, however, support the extension of the scope: a number of Assay Office are already competent in these fields today. It is thus only sensible to expand the scope of the Convention to reflect the current activities of Assay Offices. There is a danger in underestimating the platform that the Convention represents and in continuing the same way as in the past. As the Convention may become obsolete, it is important to reconsider the scope of the Convention to ensure it is relevant in the future.

47. The Chairperson and the STG Chairman underline that it is in the direct interest of Ministries to have an effective Convention and to extend its scope in order to ensure both product safety and consumer protection while overcoming non-tariff barriers to the trade of precious metal articles, which is the original goal of the Convention. There is an expectation from Trade that Assay Offices must deliver better and broader services. The Convention is the right place to harmonise these services. The expansion of the fields of expertise of Assay Offices will also be to the benefits of Ministries.

Strategy 5 (Becoming the ultimate reference / benchmark for the technical harmonisation of precious metals articles)

48. Some Members argue that it may be difficult to establish more working groups as it is already difficult to get volunteers to participate in existing groups. Moreover, other organisations such as ISO already discuss issues related to the technical harmonisation of precious metals articles. The Convention already contributes to the work of e.g. ISO TC 174.

49. Other Members point out that while there are areas in which the SC does not have expertise, this gap could be closed by making a call to Assay Offices, which have experts amongst staff, and by establishing Working Groups to advise the SC. Regarding the involvement in ISO, this is exclusively due to Switzerland's involvement in the TC 174 and is not related to the Convention. Moreover, ISO has more stakeholders than the Convention and its interests are not the same.

Strategy 6 (Guaranteeing the compliance of technically competent authorised Assay Offices)

50. The issue of assessment and re-assessment of the competence of Members and their on-going fulfilment of the Convention's requirements must be further discussed, in particular the related costs.

Next steps

51. The Chairperson thanks WGVS Members for their excellent work and summarises the discussions:

- Document PMC/W 3/2018 is a very comprehensive and stimulating paper, which represents an important step forward for the Convention. It is a major challenge to plan for the next decades.
- The implementation of some strategies will require the prior endorsement of Ministries, as they have major consequences for the scope and functioning of the Convention, which will have to be revised.
- The implementation of other strategies are within the powers of the SC and could be implemented as soon as possible (e.g. e.g. increasing the number of meetings which non-Members can attend).

52. The SC agrees that the WG has fulfilled its mandate and that it is necessary for Ministries to endorse the vision and strategies before any work on implementation can take place.

53. The SC agrees that the vision and strategies proposed by the WGVS will be circulated to all Contracting States by written procedure. Comments received in writing will then be reviewed by the SC.

Suspected Fakes and Forgeries of the CCM

54. There are no reports of suspected fakes and forgery of the CCM.

Communications from Members and the Depositary

Croatia

55. The SC notes that on 27 October 2017 the Parliament of Croatia ratified the Convention. On 19^oDecember 2017, Croatia submitted its instrument of ratification to the Depositary (PMC/INF^o11/2018), which was circulated to Contracting States via diplomatic channels on 15 February 2018 (PMC/INF^o12/2018). On 19 March 2018, Croatia officially acceded to the Convention.

56. The Chairperson welcomes Croatia as the 20th Convention's Contracting State.

57. Croatia thanks the SC and Secretariat for their assistance during the accession process. Croatia is committed to comply with the obligations under the Convention.

Israel

58. The Chairperson informs the SC that her position in The Standards Institution of Israel has changed. Since 1 January 2018 she is the Director of the Standardisation Division. She is now responsible for the Assay Office from a legal perspective, as standards are law in Israel.

Switzerland

59. Switzerland informs the SC that the Precious Metals Control Division of the Federal Customs Administration has been restructured. There have been several changes including the centralisation of all federal laboratory services in Brügg, where a new laboratory was constructed. Since 2017, staff has been reduced by 15% and further reductions will occur in 2018. In addition:

- The Zurich Assay Office has closed and services related to market surveillance and import controls are now provided by the Zurich Airport Assay Office. However, no hallmarking takes place at the Zurich Airport.
- The Geneva Assay Office will be closed and its services moved to the Geneva Airport Assay Office.
- The Chiasso Assay Office has been scaled down.
- There are no changes to La Chaux-de-Fonds, as this is a cantonal Assay Office and thus not affected by the changes.

United Kingdom

60. The UK presents information on the changes to the UK's policy on offshore marking. The British Hallmarking Council has decided that offshore marks must now be distinguishable from marks applied in the UK.

61. The Assay Office London announces that a leak in the laboratory in the Goldsmith's Hall has caused significant damage to the building. Laboratory services have been moved to a temporary location. It is not known when normal services will resume.

62. The Assay Office provides additional information on activities related to the 700-year anniversary of the Goldsmiths' Company Royal Charter. Several projects and activities are underway including a research project by Cambridge University on new alloys for jewellery.

Membership Applications

Serbia

63. The Chairperson recalls that at the last meeting the SC was informed that the submission of the Law on the Recognition of the Precious Metals Convention, which was to be proposed to the National Assembly at the end of May 2017, had been postponed (PMC/INF 46/2017).

64. Serbia informs the SC that the reason for the suspension of the ratification process was that the Minister of Economy wished to better acquaint himself with the Convention and to then decide if Serbia's economy would benefit from joining the Convention. The Minister recently announced his resignation and must now be replaced.

65. The SC discusses the delays facing Serbia and supports the Chairperson's proposal to write to the new Minister once he / she has been nominated.

Italy

66. The Chairperson recalls that the Czech Republic has blocked the accession of Italy to the Convention for several years. At the last SC in Porto, the Czech Republic and Italy provided an update on the informal visit to the laboratory in Vicenza by Czech experts and the decision in principle by the Czech Ministry of Trade and Industry to lift its objection to Italy's Accession. The Czech Republic requested assistance from the SC regarding the exact formalities and it was agreed that the Secretariat would consult the Depositary. On 21 November 2017, the Secretariat informed Members (PMC/INF°14/2018) that according to the Depositary the Czech Authority, which had communicated the objection on behalf of the Czech Republic, should also communicate the withdrawal of the objection to the Depositary.

67. On 5 January 2018, the Czech Assay Office informed the Chairperson (PMC/INF°14/2018) that there was still no new Government in the Czech Republic and that legal experts from the Czech Ministries of Trade & Industry and of Foreign Affairs were of the opinion that the accession process of Italy had ended in 2012 following the Czech objection. Therefore, Italy would need to re-apply in order to join the Convention. On 19°January 2018, Italy wrote to the Secretariat requesting the formal withdrawal of the Czech objection (PMC/INF°3/2018).

68. The Czech Republic says that in the absence of a Government, no formal removal of the objection is currently possible. Two alternative options are suggested:

- Option 1: the SC waits for a formal decision by the Government to withdraw the Czech objection. This has a low probability of success due to the lack of majority in the Czech Parliament.
- Option 2: the SC invites, once again, Italy to join the Convention in line with Article 12. The Depositary re-circulates the invitation and if there is no objection, Italy can join the Convention.

69. Italy, through the voice of its Ambassador in Stockholm, emphasises its compliance with all articles of the Convention and urges the SC to resolve the deadlock as soon as possible. It is important that States apply treaties (“pacta sunt servanda”). Italy considers that the technical Government, which is in place in the Czech Republic, could lift the objection. Italy, however, considers Option 2 as a valid option.

70. Hungary supports Option 2 and adds that the Czech Government cannot be forced to lift its objection. Hopefully Italy will be invited to accede to the Convention after the consultation of the Depositary.

71. The Chairperson emphasises the importance of finding the best and most rapid solution, particularly given the interest by Members to expand membership of the Convention.

72. The SC unanimously agrees to renew the invitation previously extended to Italy on 26 October 2011 to accede to the Convention. The Secretariat will ask the Depositary to circulate to Contracting States the SC's proposal to re-invite Italy in line with Article 12 of the Convention. If there are no objections, Italy will be officially invited to accede.

Sri Lanka

73. The SC notes that Sri Lanka is not attending and that there are on-going efforts to organise the follow-up visit by Mr. Peters Brangulis (Assay Office of Latvia).

74. The Second Deputy Chairperson says that staff from the Sri Lanka Assay Office will come to the Regional Assay Office of Warsaw for training in September for one month.

75. The Assay Office London says that several Assay Office staff from Sri Lanka have received training in London.

Ukraine

76. The Chairperson recalls that Ukraine applied for membership on 1°December°2004 and an inspection was carried out on 10-11 March 2005. Ukraine was invited to accede to the Convention on 24 October 2005. Due to Government instability and the abolishment of the State Assay Office of Ukraine, the accession to the Convention has been significantly delayed. Since 2015, Switzerland, on behalf of the Convention, has discussed the matter at the highest political level. On 19°February 2018, Switzerland provided an update on its exchanges with Ukraine, which highlighted internal delays in adopting the law needed for Ukraine to ratify the Convention (PMC/INF 10/2018). During a side meeting on 25°January 2018 at the World Economic Forum in Davos (Switzerland), the President of Switzerland brought up the issue of Ukraine's accession to the Convention in a meeting with the President of Ukraine.

77. Switzerland confirms that the law has still not been adopted to date.

78. Members raise their concerns that the standards and technical competence in Ukraine may have declined and question the validity of the inspection report after so many years.

79. The Second Deputy Chairperson says that the Regional Assay Office of Warsaw maintains ties with Ms Rezvan, the head of the laboratory at the Kiev Regional Assay Office. For Ukrainian exporters, the Convention would be very important. A visit to Kiev by e.g. the Chair or Secretary could possibly unlock the problem.

80. In response to queries from SC Members, the Secretariat says that Ukraine has not paid Convention or IAAO fees for several years and does not participated in RR any longer.

81. The Chairperson states that if Ukraine ratifies the Convention, then there will need to be a clear procedure as to how to move forward. It is now necessary for Ukraine to demonstrate interest in the Convention at governmental level.

82. The SC endorses a proposal for the Chairperson to write to Ukraine and warn its Government that in the absence of any commitment, Ukraine will be invited to reapply and the current application process terminated . The possibility of an official visit should be considered in the future. The SC also thanks Switzerland for its efforts.

Non-Members

83. The Second Deputy Chairperson informs the SC that Mongolia conducted a visit to Assay Offices in Poland. The Mongolian Assay Office tests mined goods and ingots rather than precious metal articles. For this reason, Mongolia is not interested in joining the Convention but the Assay Office wishes to follow the work of the SC. For Mongolia to continue to attend Convention meetings the rules on the number of meetings a guest can participate would also need to be changed, as discussed in the WGVS.

Communication from other Organisations

84. The IAAO Secretariat (Assay Office of London) informs Members that the last IAAO meeting was held in Porto held on 24 October 2017. The meeting addressed concerns on membership by introducing rules relating to the payment of fees and the participation in Round Robins and meetings. The meeting also returned to a more technical agenda with several presentations from IAAO members and a speaker from Fischer Instruments.

Secretariat

85. The Secretariat presents a paper (PMC/W 5/2018) outlining proposals to replace the current Convention's website. The new website aims at developing a visual identity and considering a new logo; introducing increased security and confidentiality; improving content management through a personalised Content Management System; and enhancing the website structure and content.

86. One issue for consideration is whether the RR Portal, which is currently part of the IAAO website, should come under the Convention's new website. As the RR Portal has some bugs, the new Convention website represents an opportunity to update the RR Portal.

87. The Secretariat outlines the next steps, which include contacting different companies for cost estimates. The new website will be developed in parallel with the old website. The Secretariat will conduct a consultation by written procedure.

88. Responding to queries from Members, the Secretariat outlines that the project aims to be completed by mid-2019, funds are available and there is the intention for the website to serve as a centralised platform for information on hallmarking and precious metals requirements. Relevant cross-references to existing websites are planned.

II TECHNICAL PART

Standing Technical Group (STG)

22nd STG Meeting

89. The STG Chairman reports on the 22nd STG meeting held by teleconference on 14 February 2018. The meeting focused on the revision of the Convention's Annexes and the Compilation of Technical Decisions. Most issues have already been discussed by the SC. For the draft Summary Record, see PMC/SR°1/2018 (Draft 2).

90. The STG Chairman notes that due to the short nature of the teleconference call many issues have been postponed to the next STG meeting, which will take place in Edinburgh (UK) on 18 June 2018.

Re-election of STG Chairman and Deputy Chairman

91. The SC notes that the STG re-elected Mr. Thomas Brodmann (Swiss Assay Office) as Chairman and Mr. Peters Brangulis (Assay Office of Latvia) as Deputy Chairman for a period of two years.

Appointment of new STG Member

92. The SC appoints Mr. Sipke van der Meulen (Edelmetaal Waarborg Nederland) as new Member of the STG (PMC/INF 17/2018). For the updated List of STG Members and STG Corresponding Members, see PMC/INF 40/2017 (Rev 1).

STG Work Programme

93. The SC notes that the STG's work programme (PMC/W 3/2015 (Rev. 5)) will be reviewed at the next STG meeting.

Round Robins on Testing

Results for RR 39, 40 & 41

94. The STG Chairman says that the z-score investigation reports for RR39, 40 & 41 will be discussed at the next STG meeting.

RR 42 & 43

95. The SC notes that the Round Robin (RR) in 2018 is on gold (RR 42) and silver (RR 43). XRF samples were sent to participants on 23 February 2018 and chemical samples will be circulated at the end of April.

Round Robin on Marking

96. The SC notes that the RR on Marking will be discussed at the next STG Meeting.

Co-ordination of Assaying and Marking Practices (AMP)

97. There are no AMP cases.

III CLOSING OF THE MEETING

Farewell

98. On behalf of the SC, the Chairperson bids farewell to Mr. Kazem Rezwan (Austria), who has been Member of the SC since 2002. A certificate of appreciation will be sent to him after the meeting.

Next meetings of the Standing Committee

99. The SC agrees to reconvene in Riga (Latvia) on 5 September 2018.

100. Members note that the Spring 2019 meeting will be held in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 14 March 2019 and that the Autumn 2019 SC & IAAO meetings are scheduled for 11-12 September 2019.

101. Speaking as a Polish Representative, the Second Deputy Chairperson invites the SC to Gdańsk (Poland) in Spring 2020. The Chairperson thanks Poland for the invitation, which is accepted by the SC.

102. The Chairperson thanks all those involved in the preparation of the meeting and officially closes the meeting.

* * * * *

STANDING COMMITTEE**Eighty-first Meeting****List of Participants**

| MEMBERS | |
|-----------------------|---|
| AUSTRIA | |
| D.I. Gerhard Wilimek | Kompetenzzentrum Punzierungskontrolle |
| D.I. Kazem Rezwan | Kompetenzzentrum Punzierungskontrolle |
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| Ms. Josipa Aleric | State Office for Metrology Division for Precious Metals Articles |
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| LATVIA | |
| Ms. Jana Salmina | Ministry of Finance |
| Mr. Peters Brangulis | Assay Office of Latvia |
| Mr. Kaspars Klints | Assay Office of Latvia |
| LITHUANIA | |
| Mr. Gintautas Bagotyrius | Lithuanian Assay Office |
| Mr. Vaidas Cerebiejus | Lithuanian Assay Office |
| THE NETHERLANDS | |
| Mr. Foppe de Vries | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy |
| Mr. Sipke van der Meulen | Edelmetaal Waarborg Nederland B.V. |
| Mr. Marc Breitsma | Edelmetaal Waarborg Nederland B.V. |
| NORWAY | |
| Mr. Nils Magnar Thomassen | Justervesenet (Norwegian Metrology Service) |
| Ms. Ayse M. Hagelia Bulak | Justervesenet (Norwegian Metrology Service) |
| POLAND | |
| Ms. Ewelina Kosowska | Ministry of Economic Development |
| Ms. Maria Magdalena Ulaczyk (Second Deputy Chairperson) | Regional Assay Office, Warsaw |
| Ms. Aleksandra Górkiewicz-Malina | Regional Assay Office, Krakow |
| PORTUGAL | |
| Ms. Susana Martins | Portuguese Assay Offices |
| SLOVENIA | |
| Ms. Nataša Mejak-Vukovic | Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Metrology Institute of Republic of Slovenia |

| SWEDEN | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Ms. Valentina Valestany | SWEDAC |
| Mr. Magnus Danielsson | SWEDAC |
| Ms. Olga Caratier | SWEDAC |
| Ms. Britt-Louise Eriksson Åberg | RISE Research Institutes of Sweden AB |
| SWITZERLAND | |
| Ms. Flaminia Bridy | State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) |
| Mr. Thomas Brodmann | Central Office for Precious Metals Control |
| UNITED KINGDOM | |
| Mr. Richard Sanders | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy |
| Ms. Marion Wilson | Birmingham Assay Office |
| Mr. Scott Walter | Edinburgh Assay Office |
| Dr. Robert Organ | London Assay Office |
| SECRETARIAT | |
| Mr. Daniel Brunner | Convention Secretariat |
| Ms. Josephine Langley | Convention Secretariat |
| OBSERVERS | |
| THE DEPOSITARY (SWEDEN) | |
| Ms. Dominika Szalankiewicz * | Ministry for Foreign Affairs |
| Ms. Anna Sevansson* | Ministry for Foreign Affairs |
| SERBIA | |
| Ms. Danka Pavlović | Directorate of Measures and Precious Metals (DMDM) |
| ITALY | |
| Ms. Antonella Tomassi | Ministry of Economic Development |
| Mr. Mario Cospito * | Italian Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden |
| Dr. Elio Poma | Laboratorio Metalli Preziosi, Vicenza |

* Part of the meeting only

STANDING COMMITTEE

82nd Meeting Stockholm (Sweden), 20 April 2018

Time: Beginning at 9 a.m. and finishing at 5 p.m.

Venue: Stockholm Waterfront Congress Centre
Nils Ericsons Plan 4, Stockholm, Sweden

Agenda

- I - GENERAL PART

1. **Agenda** (PMC/AG 1/2018 (Draft 1))
2. **Summary Records**
 - 2.1 Standing Committee (PMC/SR 5/2017 (Draft 2))
 - 2.2 Standing Technical Group (PMC/SR 1/2018 (Draft 2))
3. **Status of official documents**
4. **Amendment to the Annexes and Technical Decisions** (PMC/W 2/2000 (Rev 3, Draft 11), PMC/W 2/2001 (Rev. 10, Draft 11))
 - 4.1 Revision of Annex I and Technical Decisions to Annex I
 - 4.2 Revision of Annex II and Technical Decisions to Annex II
 - 1 **General**
 - A Subcontracting (PMC/W 4/2018)
 - 2 **Testing**
 - 3 **Test Methods and Methods of Analysis**
 - A Shared Risk Approach (PMC/W 8/2017 (Draft 3))
 - B Benchmarks for XRF Testing (PMC/W 1/2018 (Draft 4))
 - 4 **Marking**
 - A Combined marks (minimum size and legibility)
 - B New standardised CCM (Type 2)
 - 4.3 Outstanding issues related to the revision
 - 4.4 Summary of discussions and next steps

- 5. Review of the operation of the Convention**
 - 5.1 CCM Statistics
(PMC/INF 25/2010 (Rev. 15), PMC/INF 15/2008 (Rev. 9), PMC/INF°1/2009 (Rev. 11))
 - 5.2 Working Group on the Vision and Strategy
(PMC/SR 6/2017 (Draft 1), PMC/W 3/2018)
 - 5.3 Suspected Fakes & Forgery of the CCM

- 6. Communications from Members**
 - 6.1 Croatia (PMC/INF 11/2018; PMC/INF 12/2018)
 - 6.2 Communication from other Members

- 7. Membership Applications**
 - 7.1 Serbia (PMC/L 4/2017)
 - 7.2 Italy (PMC/INF 3/2018, PMC/INF 14/2018)
 - 7.3 Sri Lanka
 - 7.4 Ukraine (PMC/INF 10/2018)

- 8. Non-Members**
 - 8.1 Communication from non-Members
 - 8.2 Information on other non-Members

- 9. Co-operation with other organisations**
 - 9.1 International Association of Assay Offices (IAAO)
 - 9.2 Co-operation with other organisations

- 10. Secretariat** (PMC/W 5/2018)

- 11. Other matters**

- II - TECHNICAL PART**

- 12. Standing Technical Group (STG)**
 - 12.1 21st STG meeting in Bern
 - 12.2 Re-appointment of STG Chairman and Deputy Chairman
 - 12.3 Appointment of new STG Member (PMC/INF 40/2017 (Rev 1), PMC/INF 17/2018)
 - 12.4 STG Work Programme

- 13. Round Robins on Testing**

14. Round Robin on Marking

15. Co-ordination of Assaying and Marking Practices (AMP)

16. Other technical matters

III CLOSING OF THE MEETING

17. Next meetings of the Standing Committee

17.1 2018 autumn meeting

17.2 2019 spring meeting

17.3 2019 autumn meeting
