



**Memorandum of Understanding**  
between  
**the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI)**  
and  
**the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA)**

ENFSI and EA,

recognizing that:

- ENFSI has been established with the purpose of sharing knowledge, exchanging experiences and coming to mutual agreements in the field of forensic science.
  - ENFSI is recognized as an expert group in the field of forensic sciences.
  - The aim of ENFSI is to ensure that the quality of development and delivery of forensic science throughout Europe is at the forefront of the world.
  - ENFSI encourages all its members to comply with best practice and international standards for the assurance of the quality of forensic science activities.
  - ENFSI wishes to increase the reliability and comparability of results between its members, to promote effective and equivalent decision making throughout Europe.
  - ENFSI acknowledges that the optimal use of accreditation in the area of forensic science may contribute to the achievement of the above objectives.
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- EA is responsible for the harmonization and continuous improvement of the accreditation practices in Europe with the ultimate goal to ensure sound technical competence of accredited bodies and the value and credibility of their results.
  - EA Multilateral Agreement (MLA) is established and maintained on the basis of the ISO/IEC 17011 standard and EA guidance documents through regular peer evaluations and it is the tool by which EA ensures the equal reliability of the conformity assessment services delivered by conformity assessment bodies accredited by the MLA signatories, so contributing to the elimination of technical barriers to trade and to promoting the free circulation of the corresponding attestations of conformity.
  - EA is aware that, among its members, different approaches exist to accreditation in the forensic area in general and to accreditation of forensic institutes performing the scene of crime investigations, in particular, and is ready and willing to contribute to the establishment of harmonized and effective practices, throughout Europe.

have agreed:

- To cooperate in establishing uniform criteria for the selection of the relevant accreditation standards to be applied to the conformity assessment activities in the different stages of the forensic process.
- To work together to develop guidelines to harmonize and optimize the application of the above selected standards.

The working modalities for developing the above activities will be defined through separate specific projects.

Moreover – as a general cooperation frame supportive to the above specific technical activities – ENFSI and EA will:

- Nominate contact persons for permanent communication between the two organizations.
- Identify opportunities for mutual representation in selected committees and working groups.
- Ensure the timely exchange of information on strategic and technical subjects of common interest, being committed to the setting and implementation of harmonized policies on such matters.
- Meet bilaterally, at least once a year, to discuss matters arising under this MoU.
- Make sure that the body of knowledge represented by ENFSI and EA respectively is used to the best of the forensic process as a whole.
- Regularly inform their members on the development of the cooperation.

Date: October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Dr. Albert Koeleman

Chairman of ENFSI

Dr. Lorenzo Thione

Chairman of EA