



European Federation  
for Welding,  
Joining and Cutting

**NEWS**

**Letter**

AUTUMN • 1997 • 5

### Editorial

In 1995 EWF, the European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting, started publication of Newsletters. The first Newsletter explained "what is EWF all about" and the EWF harmonised education system for welding in Europe in relation to CEN standards. The second Newsletter described in more detail the EWF education, training, qualification and certification system for welders. The third one was on the Agreement Group for Welding, Joining, Cutting and Surfacing and its relation to EOTC. The fourth Newsletter introduced EWF's scheme for manufacturer certification based on EN 729.

Since 1995 EWF has perfected its existing activities and broadened its scope. This is an ongoing process and from time to time a Newsletter is devoted to an overview of what has been achieved and which developments are under way. The present Newsletter serves this purpose: EWF opened full membership to organisations in European countries outside the EU and EFTA region and observer membership to organisations in countries outside Europe. World wide use of EWF's education and qualification scheme has been made possible through an agreement with IIW, the International Institute of Welding. Harmonized examination and personnel certification with surveillance are current developments in EWF.

All this and information on the next Eurojoin Conference in Switzerland in March 1998 will be found on the following pages.

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**. THE WORK WE DO**

**. EUROJOIN 3 - BERN, SWITZERLAND  
– 30th MARCH TO 1st APRIL 1998**

## THE WORK WE DO

EFW, the European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting is a non-profit cooperative organisation working with the key national welding institutes of 24 European countries. It has made great efforts in the updating and harmonisation of training and education in the field of welding and related technologies. It is a pioneering organisation in this field, developing the first truly harmonised scheme embracing most European countries for the training of personnel at all levels, from craft level people to professional engineers. This achievement has been recognised by the EU through the formation of an EOTC Agreement Group for Welding, Joining, Cutting and Surfacing.

The European Welding Federation was formally established on 1st January 1992, (to take over and develop the role previously undertaken by the European Council for Cooperation in Welding, founded in 1974). Its most important work started in the 1980's with an analysis of the existing levels of education in welding in the EU and EFTA countries and, from the results, it was possible to define common harmonised levels of education, training and qualification. The EWF Committee for Education and Training has prepared Guidelines for courses, giving the contents in terms of themes and keywords with minimum teaching times assigned to them. Access to the harmonised courses is allowed only to those who possess an appropriate general education, different for each country.

The harmonised courses which are now offered in most European countries, combine both underpinning knowledge and application experience, thereby providing close links with

industrial practice. After the main education, special courses for additional learning are

offered in many special areas, thus providing a specific education still closer to the job function.

EFW has always been aware that training and education are issues on which the future success of European Industry depends - a well qualified work force avoids costly mistakes and is essential for customers' confidence - and, on the other hand, the removal of technical barriers is a cornerstone in the building of the European market. Therefore, EWF keeps continuously in close contact with the development of Industry, conducting surveys and analysis which are used when updating the existing Guidelines or when implementing new ones.

Also aware of the importance of the mobility of labour within Europe, a lot of work has been put on the harmonisation of a standard examination system to ensure that welding personnel trained in EWF's system are examined in a uniform way - so that those gaining a certificate in any Member State will have achieved the same minimum standard. A project for developing an Examination Scheme, with the use of a common software system and databanks, is now almost completed.

EFW's work over the years has resulted in the implementation of the European Scheme for the Education and Qualification of Welding Personnel.

Furthermore, EWF's Personnel Certification Scheme, now being implemented, will be accreditable to EN 45013.

The established network of ANBs (Authorised National Bodies) comprises

**Austria**

ANB: Schweisstechnische  
Zentralanstalt  
Date of Authorisation: 2/12/93

**Belgium**

ANB: Association Beige du  
Soudage  
Date of Authorisation: 2/12/93

**Croatia**

ANB: Croatian Welding Society  
Date of Authorisation: 16/05/1997

**Denmark**

ANB: FORCE Dantest CERT  
Date of Authorisation: 19/05/94

**Finland**

ANB: The Welding Society of  
Finland  
Date of Authorisation: 19/05/94

**France**

ANB: Association Franyaise du  
Soudage Date of Authorisation:  
2/12/93

**Germany**

ANB: DVS Pers Zert  
Date of Authorisation: 11/05/95

**Italy**

ANB: Istituto Italiano della Saldatura  
Date of Authorisation: 19/05/94

**Norway**

ANB: Norwegian Welding Society  
Date of Authorisation: 17/11/94

**Poland**

ANB: Instytut Spawalnictwa  
Date of Authorisation: 15/11/96

**Portugal**

ANB: ISQ - Instituto de Soldadura e  
Qualidade  
Date of Authorisation: 2/12/93

**Romania**

ANB: ASR - Cert Pers  
Date of Authorisation: 25/11/97

**Slovakia**

ANB: Welding Research Institute  
Date of Authorisation: 15/11/96

**Slovenia**

ANB: Zveza Drustev Varilno  
Tehniko Siovenije  
Date of Authorisation: 25/11/97

**Spain**

ANB: CESOL - Asociacion  
Espanola de Soldadura y  
Tecnologias de Union  
Date of Authorisation: 2/12/93

**Sweden**

ANB: Swedish Welding Commission  
Date of Authorisation: 19/05/94

**Switzerland**

ANB: Schweizerischer Verein fur  
Schweisstechnik  
Date of Authorisation: 11/05/95

**The Netherlands**

ANB: Nederlands Instituut voor  
Lastechniek  
Date of Authorisation: 19/05/94

**United Kingdom**

ANB: TWI Certification Ltd  
Date of Authorisation: 2/12/93

organisations from 14 EU and EFTA countries and 5 ANBs are from European countries that are not from the EU/EFTA area.

The main role of each ANB is to manage and assure an equal quality level of the EWF training and qualification scheme at the national level. The courses conducted in each country are defined in the ANB's scope of authorisation referring to the Guidelines. The following Guidelines are currently in place:

**EWE** - European Welding Engineer

**EWT** - European Welding Technologist

**EWS** - European Welding Specialist

**EWP** - European Welding Practitioner

**EWIP** - European Welding Inspection Personnel

**EW** - European Welders:

MMA Welder

MIG/MAG Welder

Gas Welder

TIG Welder

**ETSS** - European Thermal Spraying Specialist

**ETS** - European Thermal Sprayer

Another Scheme has recently been

created: the EWF Certification Scheme for Manufacturers in accordance with EN 729. For this Scheme, there will be a network of ANBCCs (Authorised National Bodies for Company Certification) and the following documents have now been published:

"Rules for the Implementation of EWF Guidelines for the Certification of Manufacturers in Accordance with EN 729"

"Interpretations for Fabricators intending to comply with EWF Certification Scheme for EN 729"

"Procedure for Evaluation and Registration of EWF Manufacture Certification Scheme Assessors"

"Manufacturer Assessment Procedure"

"Questionnaire on the Quality Requirements for Welding EN 729-2"

"Questionnaire on the Quality Requirements for Welding EN 729-3"

"Questionnaire on the Quality Requirements for Welding EN 729-4"

## **EWI GOES INTERNATIONAL**

Recently, the EWF General Assembly defined the conditions under which European Organisations, which were Observer Members of EWF, may become full Members.

Observer Members from Slovakia, Poland, Croatia, Slovenia and Romania have already become Full Members and the Federation has opened the possibility of accepting non-European countries as Observer Members. At present, a Recognition Agreement with the Korean Welding Society is being negotiated and it is possible that South Korea will be the first non-European country to gain the EWF Observer Member status.

A formal Agreement was signed in August between the EWF and the IIW - International Institute of Welding, which provides for the development of an international scheme based on the EWF Educational Guidelines and Qualification procedures.

# ETCETERA

## **EFW TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

The cooperative activities of EWF are carried out by Technical Committees and Working Groups with experts from the Member organisations, from industry and from other technical and scientific organisations. Each Committee has defined Terms of Reference and reports to the EWF General Assembly. The main activities of the three existing EWF Committees are as follows.

### **EFW Committee 2 Education & Training**

EFW Committee 2 prepares the Guidelines for education, training and qualification of welding personnel in Europe and defines the special examination procedures for each type of course. It is also responsible for the annual review of the existing Guidelines and for the discussion and formulation of all factors which can improve and maintain the harmonisation of the European education in welding technology. It keeps contact with Commission XIV of IIW for information and cooperation.

It currently has 4 dependent Sub-Committees:

Adhesive Bonding  
Thermal Spraying  
Plastics Welding  
Laser Technology

### **EFW Committee 3 - Authorisation & Qualification - and EOTC Agreement Group for Welding, Joining, Cutting and Surfacing**

Committee 3 develops and maintains a Quality Management System which provides the rules for the consistent implementation of the approved Guidelines, and for the operation of a Company Certification Scheme, according to EN 729, within Europe. The Agreement Group manages the assessment of applicant Authorised National Bodies and their subsequent surveillance in accordance with the approved rules.

### **EFW Committee 4 Harmonisation of the Assessment and Certification of Companies according to EN729 Quality Requirements**

Committee 4 produces the Guidelines for the interpretation of the EN 729 standards in relation to the manufacturers' products and processes used in production. The Committee also defines the requirements for ANB Assessors and assessments.

## **THE EUROJOIN CONFERENCES**

EFW has organised a number of European Conferences on Joining Technology, generally known as the EUROJOIN Conferences, the first being in 1991 in Strasbourg, organised by Institut de Soudure (France). It was felt that the Conference contributed to a better knowledge of the work of ECCW (European Council for Co-Operation in Welding, predecessor of EWF) and therefore it was decided that further Conferences such as this one should be organised in the future. Therefore, from the 15th to the 18th of May 1994, EUROJOIN 2 took place in Florence, Italy, organised by the Italian Institute of Welding, on behalf of EWF. About 300 people attended the Conference. Participants were offered 3 parallel sessions dealing with the themes of Materials, Applications and Quality, covering the 91 papers the Organising Committee had selected from the 140 papers submitted. There was also a poster presentation comprising 27 papers and a Technical and Trading Exhibition of products and services in welding and joining technology. From the 30th of March to the 1st of April 1998, EUROJOIN 3 will be held in Bern, Switzerland, organised by the Swiss Welding Association on behalf of EWF. The Technical Program includes Design, Economics in production processes, handling, materials, and Quality.