



# Newsletter

European Federation for Welding Joining and Cutting

Autumn • 1996 • 3

## Editorial

The European Welding Federation has been a pioneering organisation in education and qualification, developing the first truly harmonised scheme embracing all European countries for the training of personnel at all levels from crafts people to professional engineers. It has been an example to others and the outcome has been recognised by CEN through reference to the European Welding Engineer, Technologist and Specialist in EN 719: Welding Coordinator Tasks and Responsibilities.

EWF is, like many other European organisations, an unofficial group of specialist institution which has not hitherto had any official status within the EU. This position was seen to have serious disadvantage and the General Assembly of EWF decided that the most appropriate means of achieving the desired recognition would be through the newly formed European Organisation for Testing and Certification (EOTC).

EOTC was established by the EU to serve as its chosen mechanism for both promoting harmonisation in its field and, when appropriate, opening schemes developed amongst organisations in Member States, including EFT A Members. The harmonised educational scheme of EWF appeared to fit well with the objectives of EOTC.

Within EWF, minds were focused on the proposal for recognition through a special working Group and a detailed proposal was submitted to EOTC in 1994. The Group believed that it was a good proposal but it failed to satisfy the EOTC on several issues. A long period of negotiation followed and resulted in a document that would fully meet the very demanding rules and their interpretation for personnel qualification purposes.

In May this year the proposal was finally adopted and, subsequently, the approved arrangements were published in the EOTC Directory. This decision gives the EU's mark of approval to the EWF educational scheme and confirm the vision of the Federation in setting out many years ago to create harmonised education and training in welding for the benefit of European industry.

The new Agreement Group is independent and reports to the General Assembly of EOTC. However it will work in partnership with EWF in delivering and developing the harmonised educational scheme. The principal task of the Group will be to manage the implementation of the scheme according to established Rules and it will do this by taking over some responsibilities from Committee 3 (Authorisation and Qualification). EWF will remain firmly in technical charge, retaining control of the Rules for implementation and, through Committee 2, will continue to propose and update the educational Guideline.

The establishment of the Agreement Group is an important step forward for welding in Europe, and for EWF, and raises a flag for our technology within the official structure of the European Union.

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## European Organisation for Testing and Certification

- . Agreement Group for Welding, Joining, Cutting and Surfacing.
- . Mission Statement.
- . Added Value.

# The EOTC Agreement Group for Welding, Joining, Cutting and Surfacing

In the 1st of January 1997 a new Agreement Group for Welding, Joining, Cutting and Surfacing will start operating, under the authority of the European Organization for Testing and Certification (EOTC). It is the result of successful negotiations between the European Welding Federation and the General Assembly of EOTC.

## Scope

The scope of the EOTC Agreement Group for Welding, Joining, Cutting and Surfacing will, initially, cover the implementation of the established harmonised EWF guidelines for the training and qualification of European Welding Engineers, Technologists and Specialists which support the requirements for Welding Co-ordination personnel identified in EN 719: Welding Co-ordination; Tasks and Responsibilities. The objective will be to ensure that welding personnel at these levels in the EU and EFTA region are trained precisely according to the common guidelines and examined in a uniform way so that those gaining a certificate in any Member State will have achieved the same minimum standard.

The Agreement Group will work closely with the European Welding Federation in accordance with established rules for the assessment, audit, appointment and surveillance of an Authorised National Body (generally known as ANB) in each Member State which is authorised to undertake, under the management of the Agreement Group, the assessment of training courses, conduct of examinations, award of certificates and implementation of transition arrangements.

The existing signatories of the Agreement Group are:

### **Austria**

Schweisstechnische Zentral Anstalt

### **Belgium**

Institut Beige de la Soudure

### **Denmark**

The Force Institute

### **Finland**

Suomen Hitsausteknillinen Yhdistys

### **Germany**

Deutscher Verband für Schweißtechnik

### **Ireland**

Forbairt

### **Italy**

Istituto Italiano della Saldatura

### **Luxembourg**

Commission Nationale de la Soudure

### **Norway**

Norwegian Welding Society

### **Portugal**

Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade

### **Spain**

Asociación Española de Soldadura y Tecnologías de Unión

### **Sweden**

Svetskommissionen

### **Switzerland**

Schweizerischer Verein für Schweißtechnik

### **United Kingdom**

The Welding Institute

## Support of market needs

The manufacturing and construction industries depend critically on the correct application of welding and the related technologies, and safety in operation and cost-effective manufacture require competent management of welding activities. This situation is recognised by EN 719, which sets out the tasks and responsibilities of Welding Co-ordination Personnel who control welding and related activities in industry.

The establishment of a single qualification scheme in all Member States has been recognised by CEN through the inclusion of a reference to the qualification of Welding Co-ordinators in which the exemplar is the harmonised qualifications referred to above.

## Objectives

The objective of the Agreement Group is to manage the implementation of the established EWF training Guidelines, in accordance with the current Rules (newsletter 1 and 2); this is achieved by:

- i) Establish/maintain in each EU and EFTA Member State, in accordance with the Rules, an Authorised National Body to be responsible for the implementation of the Guidelines within its own country
- ii) Maintain continuing surveillance of the ANBs to ensure long term uniformity of operating standards throughout the EU and EFTA regions
- iii) Operate in accordance with the appropriate European Standards
- iv) Report annually to the General Assembly of EOTC

### Structure

The Agreement Group will be directed by an independent Management Board appointed by the Signatories. The Management Board will, as required,

establish and maintain in each country that has a recognised signatory, a National Committee for the Agreement Group comprising all organisations in that country that are signatories to the Agreement.

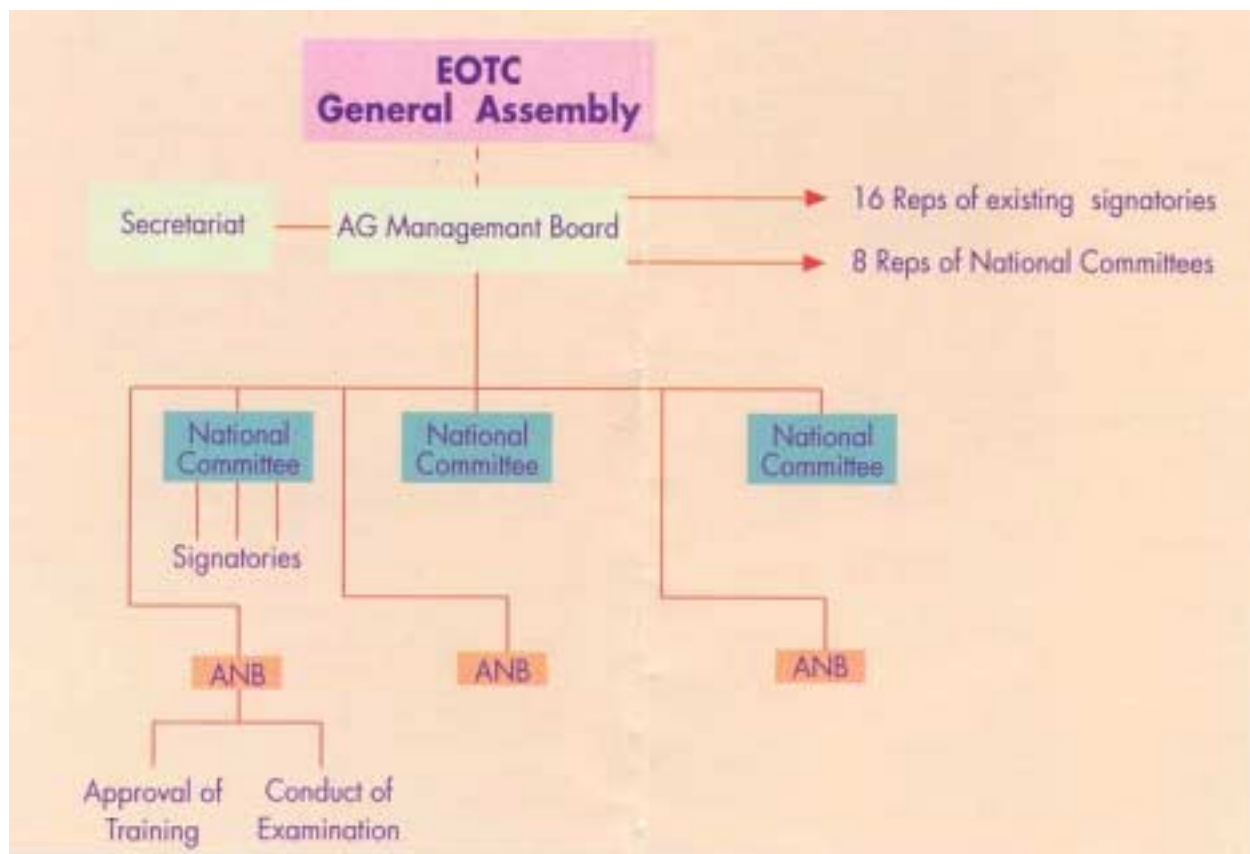
The Board will consist of a maximum of 24 members, of whom up to 16 will be appointed by the existing Signatories, and up to 8 will be elected by the National Committees.

The board will be responsible for the network of Authorised National Bodies established throughout the EU and EFTA areas, and for their reappointment and surveillance.

Countries that do not have a signatory organisation may participate in the harmonised scheme but will not have representation on the Management Board.

## EOTC Mission Statement

The customer base of the European Organisation for Testing and Certification is composed of suppliers, purchasers and users of goods and services, and conformity assessment practitioners, who will benefit from the development, promotion and use of conformity assessment procedures. EOTC has the goal of establishing mutual confidence between all parties concerned with conformity assessment issues, so as to facilitate the free circulation, throughout Europe, of goods and services that have demonstrated conformity with technical specifications. To this end EOTC will promote and implement agreed criteria and procedures for the technical capabilities, operational performance and maintenance of competence of operators.



## The signatories

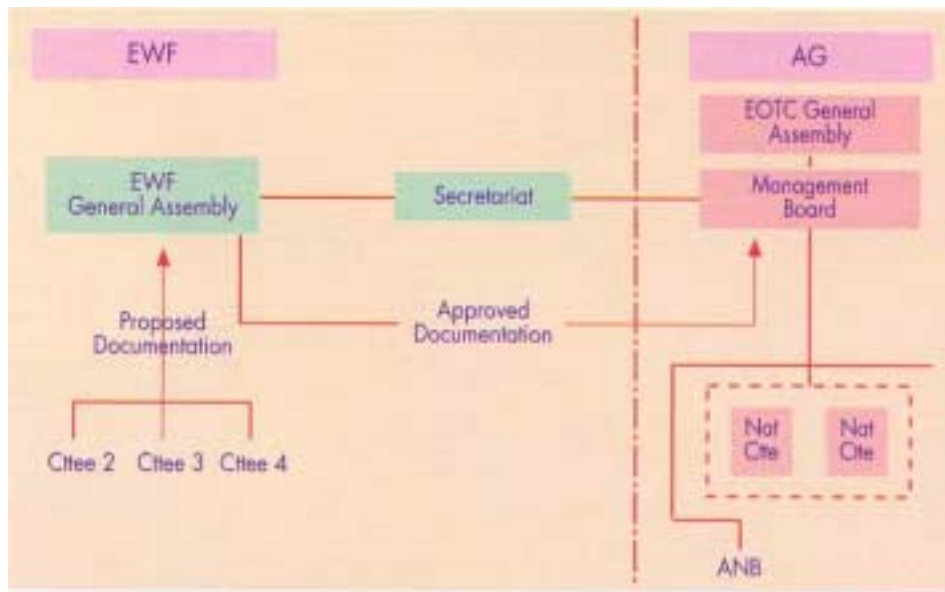
The Agreement Group will be founded by Member Organisations of EWF (designated Existing Signatories), and membership of the Group will be open also to other Signatories which meet the criteria given below.

Requirements for signatories:

- . Welding-related organization. Governed in open manner
- . Reflects Views of industry
- . Supports objectives
- . Positive contribution to promotion
- . Shares costs of National participation

## The objective

EOTC's objective is to constitute a focal point for the relationship of conformity assessment related activities in Europe and thereby to contribute to the free circulation of products and services by providing the conditions under which all interests in the market can have confidence in those products, services and processes, once tested or certified will not need repeat testing or certification for the results to be accepted by different parties or in different European countries.



The relation between EWF and the Agreement Group at the General Assembly level

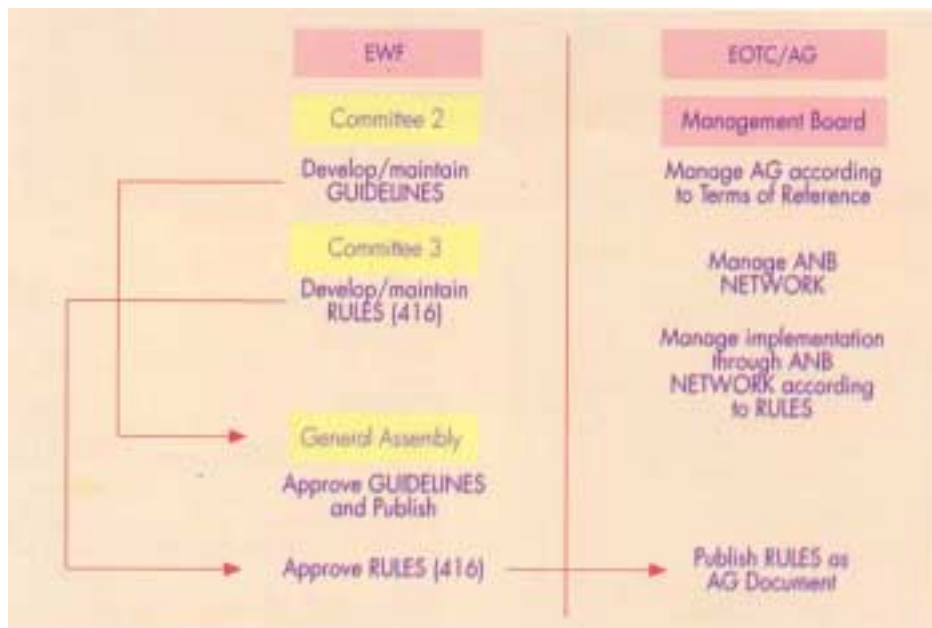
## EOTC's Added Value

The signing of the Articles of Association in December 1992 by 22 founder members, increased to 30 members as at September 29, 1993, including representatives of 16 national conformity assessment communities and 14 European organisations of which 4 are Sectoral Committees, is evidence that EOTC's' added value is already perceived. Furthermore, 10 mutual recognition arrangements (EOTC Agreement Groups) have been recognised and more are under review.

The market is thus already seeing the benefits of EOTC which include:

- . Stimulation of those providing testing and certification services in Europe to enter mutual recognition arrangements product by product.

- . Increasing availability to industry of a single European level service for the testing or certification of products and services
- . Reducing the need for repeat testing or certification
- . Assurance that the mutual recognition behind the agreements is technically sound
- . Assurance that the mutual recognition arrangements are market responsive and are not anti-competitive in structure
- . Provision of a decentralised testing and certification service where centre of expertise, at present nationally based, will be able to sell a European service to their clients.



The relation between Agreement Group and EWF at the Committees level

# ETCETERA



## **EUROJOIN 3** **Welding Technology at work!**

The conference EUROJOIN 3 will take place in Bern - Switzerland from 30th March to 1st April 1998 and SVS - Swiss Welding Association, hosting the event, has just started the "Call for Papers",  
Scope of the conference:

1. Design  
Consideration of welding factors, calculations, expert systems,
2. Economics in production Processes, handling, materials.
3. Quality Standards, in particular EN 729 (in relation to this: application codes, cases of successful application, subcontracting, customer requirements), test methods, fitness for purpose, personnel training and certification.

Anyone who can contribute within this scope to the advanced education of the welding community in Europe is invited to present a paper. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is 30th April 1997.

For more information please contact:  
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## **EFW approved the following documents in November 1996:**

- . Rules for the Implementation of EWF Guidelines for the Certification of Manufacturers in Accordance with EN 729.
- . Procedures for the Certification of Manufacturers According to the EWF Manufacturer Certification Scheme.
- . Interpretations for Fabricators intending to Comply with EWF Certification Scheme for EN 729.
- . Manufacturer Assessment Procedure.
- . Procedure for Evaluation and Registration of EWF Manufacturer Certification Scheme Assessors.
- . Questionnaire on the Quality Requirements for Welding - EN 729-2/3/4.

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