- VSL characteristics
- Why CIPM MRA is so important
- What’s next?
- Measures to optimize CIPM MRA
VSL characteristics

- Fundamental and industrial metrology
- Employees: 110 fte (40% PhD/MSc, 30% BSc)
- Turnover: 15 M€ (55% gov’t, 33% services, 12% EU)
- Services
  - Annually: 3500 certificates, 700 unique customers
  - Accredited for most services (but ‘special’ because NMI)
- R&D: 30-40% of budget (usually industrial participation)
- Characteristics
  - Relatively high technology/metrology level
  - Businesslike, externally oriented
  - Active, flexible

Beyond all doubt
Who needs metrology and why?

- Why do customers come to VSL?
  - High-tech, high-trade economy. High-trust society.
  - Proven and guaranteed intrinsic quality and international equivalence/acceptance
  - Economic/societal impact is significant
  - Quality in metrology is a differentiator
  - Nearby, language, fast turnaround, easy logistics, fit for purpose, track record, active participative mentality, independent
  - Level playing field

- The outside world is bigger than the inside (national) one

- How do they know VSL can deliver?
  - “open, transparent and comprehensive scheme that gives users reliable quantitative information on the comparability of national metrology services and that provides the technical basis for wider agreements negotiated for international trade, commerce and regulatory affairs” (BIPM website)
Why is CIPM MRA important?

- It provides us with
  - Open, transparent and comprehensive scheme that gives users reliable quantitative information on the comparability of national metrology services and that provides the technical basis for wider agreements negotiated for international trade, commerce and regulatory affairs
  - Proven and guaranteed intrinsic quality
  - International equivalence/acceptance
  - A recognized basis for accredited laboratories and special position for NMIs
- Especially important for “small” countries
  - The alternative (bilateral agreements) is ineffective, inefficient and doesn’t provide level playing field

Beyond all doubt
What’s next?

- “Cost/burden of maintaining CIPM MRA is becoming too high”
  - VSL: submitting/updating CMCs, participation/-
    coordination of KCs, KC- and CMC-related activities in
    TC/CCs => ~k€ 630/yr (7% of govt' budget)
  - Quality system & accreditation: ~k€ 350
  - So indeed, the costs are high…
  - But the alternative (no CIPM MRA) is very unattractive
  - Cost/burden should be optimized and preferably
    decreased

- “KCDB is hardly used”
  - .. But it’s there and open/available for everyone
  - NMI’s are main beneficiaries (and can be intermediaries to
    others (industry, regulators, etc))
Measures to optimize CIPM MRA

- Each CC should identify and agree on effective measures with significant reduction of workload and time
- Reduce KCs to cover only key parameters; optimize no. of SCs
- Limit number of KC participants (based on relevant criteria)
- Optimize KC-organization by better project management, standardized “Comparison toolkits” (protocol, templates, guidelines), etc
- Optimize inter-RMO review, guidelines based on objective criteria and evidence, focus on ‘critical CMCs’
- Reduce CMC/KCDB-effort /entries by using ‘matrices’ or other similar measures
- Recognize that chemical quantities might need special approach and guidelines, e.g. ‘GAWG strategy for comparisons and CMC claims’
- Better distribution of workload between NMIs
- Improved database and web-based interface (e.g. for submission and review of CMCs)
- Easier access to and better understandable information about available CMC- and KC-data
- Further optimize the integration of CIPM CMC review and ILAC CMC review processes to avoid duplication (for accredited NMIs)

Beyond all doubt