



## Forum: Metrology – Trade Facilitator Request for support



### GEORGIA

#### Core Problem:

Unsafe market - Participation of private enterprises in Legal Metrology

Georgia was separated from the standard basis of physical units (located in St.-Petersburg and Moscow).

At present, the reference standards of Georgia do not correspond to modern requirements, which creates certain limits in international trade and relations. This situation was caused by the inability of the state budget of Georgia to finance sufficiently the works aimed at developing standardization, legal metrology and the standard basis in the years 1992-2004.

Problems and difficulties which are expected in the process of reforms:

- Questions of institutional and organizational infrastructure, particularly concerning the ministries and institutions carrying out the functions of control and supervision. They consider reforms in the field of technical regulation as reducing the financing and sphere of their authority, particularly those which are directly connected to the control and supervision spheres. Georgian legislation does not recognize the withdrawal from market or destruction of products not corresponding to mandatory requirements.
- Unavailability of a uniform legislative basis for institutions authorised to carry out market supervision. Problems and difficulties which are expected in the process of reforms.

#### Significance of the problem:

On June 14, 2000 Georgia became the 137th member of the WTO. Together with joining the WTO the process of revising the country's legislative basis in the field of standards and technical rules has started according to modern requirements.

The obligation to improve the legislative basis derives from accession to the WTO and comprises the step-by-step harmonization of Georgian legislation with EC legislation, according to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed between Georgia and the EC and its Member States.

The first steps in this direction have already been taken. For instance, after making relevant amendments to the Georgian Law on Standardization, it now recognizes the concepts of voluntary standardization and technical rules.

The development of various fields such as energy (oil, gas), public health, industrial engineering, etc. in the country, as well as in export-import operations cannot be achieved without accurate measurements. It should be mentioned that such projects as *Baku-Tbilisi-Geikhan* also require adequate metrological support.

#### What is needed:

It is necessary to:

- Elaborate and specify strategic principles of the reforms of technical regulation;
- Prepare the basis for and finance the accession of Georgia to such international organization as ISO, IEC, OIML, etc.;
- Use OIML publications as a basis when developing national standards in metrology;
- Prepare practical suggestions to provide the normative basis for legislative documents, taking into consideration the fact that the incorporation and harmonization of EU legislation, particularly the new approaches directives, as well as the recognition of European standards as national ones will have to be done simultaneously;
- Establish uniform translations of official documents. The difference in translations made by various organizations causes inefficiency in their practical use.

Obviously the existing technical regulation system needs deep and thorough reform according to modern requirements. Enforcement of the new laws aims at the solution of problems such as:

- The accession of Georgia to international organizations and participation in their work;
- Improvement of metrology and measurement traceability infrastructure and technical equipment basis;
- Harmonization of the product and service conformity assessment system to international standards and rules;
- Improvement of calibration, verification and test laboratories' accreditation systems in accordance with the requirements of international documents;
- Intergovernmental and international accreditation of laboratories for mutual recognition of calibration and measurement results;
- Participation in the standardization process of interested organizations, small, middle and large enterprises. Certification of their quality systems in accordance with the requirements of standards;
- Improvement of the standard basis of physical units is of great importance to Georgia to ensure the traceability of measurements with the accuracy required by international standards.

Georgia requires considerable assistance from partner states in metrology to improve its measurement infrastructure.

#### Whom to address:

#### During and after the Forum:



Mr. Alex Mirianashvili  
Department of Science and Technologies of Georgia  
28, Gamsakhurdia ave.  
0160 Tbilisi  
Tel.: (995 32) 385 825  
Tel./Fax: (995 32) 386 098  
E-mail: tedodol@yahoo.com