



35th Year

Newsletter n°99

Editorial

One « farewell » and one « welcome »...

Jean-Max ROUYER joined the Bipea board nearly 6 years ago and has now decided to leave the association in order to pursue other avenues in his career. **Jean-Max ROUYER** and his staff, with the support of the board of directors, worked extremely hard to equip Bipea with the right tools as it developed.

As well as setting up a web-based communication system for members, the computerization of data management and other investment also helped with international development, confirmation of **ISO 9001 certification**, and most importantly, gaining **COFRAC accreditation** for Bipea in many fields. Existing P.T. Schemes had to undergo many changes in order to meet Bipea's members' needs, with many new testing schemes also being developed. The Bipea team drew motivation from this work for the future, completing these development tasks with the success you have witnessed throughout the year.

Backed by this new knowledge, it was thus logical for **Bruno BERKEN** to take over the management of Bipea. Many of you will already know him as, since graduating from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, he went on to become Scientific Chargé d'Affaires for **COLIPA** (The European Cosmetic Industry Federation) then General Delegate for the **C.A.S.** (Union Of Organic Fertilizer And Culture Support Manufacturers).

Bruno BERKEN has extensive experience in managing inter-professional bodies and is already highly familiar with standardization. He will thus continue in the same style as past and currently developing projects, bringing a personal touch with respect to standards monitoring to members and powerful investment for European recognition of Bipea's skills as an Organiser for Inter-laboratory Comparison.

All Bipea staff, along with the Board of Directors and I would like to welcome **Bruno BERKEN**, and ensure that Bipea continues to meet the needs of all its members. We are also relying on everyone for support in the challenges awaiting our new Director. We know that Bipea can count on its members to respond better than ever to these needs. We would like to thank you for the confidence you have shown in us, for while history is made from change and new challenges, it is you, our valued Bipea members, that are the assets for the future.

François Gatel
Bipea Chairman

Independence: more than an evidence, a strength for better service

The pillars of our independence .

- Bipea is financed exclusively by its active members. Thus, its decisions cannot be influenced by the wishes of those outside this group.
- Its high skill level comes directly from the many volunteers involved with its bodies. Volunteers with a variety of backgrounds and training, bringing technical expertise and knowledge of the territory.
- Thanks to its diversity, Bipea does not rely on the development of a single market.
- Bipea has no organizational or personal links to the companies directly involved in the current highly unsettled world of laboratories.

These pillars ensure that Bipea is an independent association, capable of managing market developments whilst respecting the interests of its members. Let's look at this more closely!

The solid reality behind the words: an "association loi 1901" (registered charity) serving laboratories .

Although the Bureau Inter Professionnel d'Etude Analytiques (BIPEA) was originally funded by certain major cereal growers, its only income today comes from the following activities:

- Organisation of laboratory comparative testing (largest proportion)
- Sales of reference material gained from testing
- Organisation of Customs Works
- Joining and membership fees (smallest proportion)

Furthermore, the general operating principles governing not-for-profit associations clearly stipulates that any profits made from the activities of an association must be reinvested in its operation, or reasonably invested to provide a contingency fund. These funds enable the organisation to manage fluctuations in its business over time or to make more significant investment, as Bipea did with its computerisation in 2003.

Joining and membership fees are also a normal and essential activity for an association.

This mode of operation and the inherent restrictions make Bipea statutorily obliged to put the needs of its members above its own concerns. Clearly this does not mean it must meet every demand, but it has to manage these requests technically and financially in the general interest.

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Independence: more than an evidence, a strength for better service

Diversification supports independence

A distinctive feature of Bipea is the wide range of fields in which it is involved. Unlike other members of the Organisation for Aptitude Testing, Bipea has been able to extend the scope of its skills beyond its original centre of interest. It is currently established in the following sectors:

- ✓ Cereals
- ✓ Animal feed
- ✓ Environmental (water and sludge)
- ✓ Agro-foods contaminant detection
- ✓ Beverages and other agro-foods products
- ✓ Soil enrichers
- ✓ And so one...

This diversity conveys two major advantages:

- It enables us to increase our skills across a highly varied range.
- It makes us able to cope better with future economic conditions.

Market concentration: reorganisation of member bodies.

As you know, all laboratories can be affected by two major modifications:

- Mergers/takeovers cause high concentration and the appearance of global – or at least European – groups
- The economic withdrawal of some official bodies such as local and regional authorities, leading to reduced budget or outsourcing for some laboratories .

Against this difficult background, Bipea is not economically involved in this upheaval (either directly or indirectly) unlike some in the industry .

Conversely, it is essential to act upon these developments and prepare for internal changes that will include these modifications. One way to do this is obviously to highlight our strength: our diversity. Bipea is the only body able to offer these groups a **complete service** with **International knowledge** (Bipea is already established in around 50 countries). Naturally, this would not be to the detriment of other organisations, as we are obliged to respect the general interest .

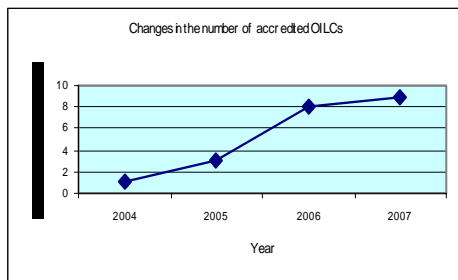
Gérard Roine
IT and Communication Manager

Cofrac Accreditation: Update on Organisers of Interlaboratory Comparisons

Interlaboratory comparisons organizers:

On 1st April 2004, Bipea was the first organizer of interlaboratory comparisons (OILC) to be accredited by COFRAC and remained the only one for over a year. The following year, two new OILCs were accredited. On 1st August 2007, nine OILCs were accredited (see list below, source: cofrac.fr).

An area listing existing ILC schemes and a list of organisers is also available on COFRAC's site (Lab Inf 09 document).



Reference work :

In September 2007, revision n° 02 of ILC Lab ref 02 was published. It covered calibration and took into account requirements of the quality management system for standard NF EN ISO/CEI 17025 2005 version.

International work:

Revision of guides 43-1 and 43-2 were undertaken as part of the work on ISO CASCO/WG 28 using the ILAC G13 guide as the basis for the work. The resulting future standard ISO/CEI 17043 will be aimed initially at organizers of interlaboratory comparisons, participating laboratories and users of

interlaboratory comparative testing (accreditation bodies, "regulatory" or non-regulatory prescribers).

Accredited OILCs and fields of accreditation: (source: COFRAC as at 1st August 2007)

- 1) BIPEA — for physico-chemical and microbiological analysis of soft wheat, wine, water, sludge and sediments.
- 2) INRS Pollutant Measurement Department – VANDOEUVRE LES NANCY — for analysis of chemical substances in the atmosphere (BTX, metals, silica).
- 3) AGLAE - for physico-chemical and microbiological analysis of water, sludge and sediments.
- 4) CECALAIT— for physico-chemical and microbiological analysis of dairy products.
- 5 and 6) TOTAL, GONFREVILLE and SOLAIZE sites - for physico-chemical analysis of petroleum products.
- 7) HUTCHINSON Research Centre – for physical and mechanical testing of rubbers and plastics.
- 8) IRSN/DEI/STEMME - LE VESINET— for the analysis of environmental radionuclides (water, milk, soil, sediments, sand, sludge, flora and fauna, aerosols).
- 9) ASA - ANIMAL SOCIETE ALIMENT— for microbiological analysis of milk-based food matrix.

Cofrac Accreditation: Recognition of a Bipea technical skill

In 2001, COFRAC set up the technical accreditation commission for interlaboratory comparisons (CTA CIL), then in July 2002 published the LAB CIL REF 02 reference work with the title:

ORGANISERS OF INTERLABORATORY COMPARISONS (OILC) ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

This reference work is a combination in the same way as the ILAC G13 guide, to standard **NF EN ISO/CEI 17025** and the **ISO/CEI 43-1 guide**. At the same time the ISO was preparing a draft on statistical methods, as a complement to guide ISO 43, which, in December 2005, would become standard NF ISO 13528 "Statistical methods used in aptitude testing by interlaboratory comparisons".

In late 2003, following training for quality, statistical and technical assessors, COFRAC was ready to carry out the first assessment of an organiser of interlaboratory comparisons.

Beginning on **1st April 2004**, Bipea took the role of pioneer and thus became the first organizer of interlaboratory comparisons to be accredited by COFRAC with 4 accredited P.T.S (**Accreditation n° 1-1495**), covering the areas of activity of agro-foods, agronomy and environment.

This marked the start of a long process for the association of progressive accreditation for all its, taking account of the wide range of services it offers. Recognition of its competence as an organization of interlaboratory comparisons is detailed in the scope of its accreditation, which is identified by business sector, product type, field and tests.

This accreditation scope, grafted onto those for laboratory testing, does not grant us global recognition as an organiser of interlaboratory comparisons and requires us to prove our competence for each requested parameter and each type of matrix. This is a further difficulty for Bipea, which works with over a hundred different matrices, unlike other organizers, which only offer two or three different ones.

On **1st April 2007**, for its third assessment covering monitoring and extension, 26% of Bipea's interlaboratory comparisons schemes are now within the accreditation framework.

Accredited schemes:

- 01-Common wheat
- 15-Soil analysis
- 17-Wines
- 31-Mycotoxins
- 34-Feed water: physico-chemical analysis
- **35-Water: microbiological analysis (except legionella)***
- 37-Feed water: micropollutants
- **38-Activated sludge and sediments***
- **48-Water: AOX and hydrocarbons***
- **50-Water: microbiological analysis of legionella***
- 52-Waste water: physico-chemical analysis
- 53- Waste water: micropollutants

**bold: Circuits accredited on 1st April 2007.*

At this time, as you can see "Water: microbiological analysis" was accredited. The result of continual efforts to improve the reliability of these schemes for which Bipea had taken the gamble of always working with live, rather than dehydrated, matter. This extension now means that all our "environmental" schemes are covered by the accreditation .

In the environmental field it is also a response to the order by the Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development that requires laboratories applying for approval, to participate in interlaboratory comparisons, to be carried out by accredited organizers of interlaboratory comparisons, where these exist.

The upholding of accreditation and its progressive extension are for us the reward of our efforts, and for you the confidence of a continuous Quality

Accreditation n° 1-1495

Date of initial approval: 01st April 2004

Date of current confirmation: 01st April 2007

Date of expiry: 31st December 2008

Scope of accreditation issued on request to: Marie Philippe Seiller (mpseiller@bipea.org) Bipea Quality Manager.

Bipea scope of accreditation and reference work LAB CIL REF 02 "Organizers of interlaboratory comparisons — Requirements for accreditation — Version 02 of September 2007 are available at <http://www.cofrac.fr>.

Marie-Philippe Seiller
Qualité Manager

Bipea: New for 2007 / 2008

The 2007-2008 annual campaign will see confirmation of the three experimental schemes from 2006-2007, including :

- 54 : Water: microbiological analysis of Salmonella
- 55 : Contaminants in wines
- 56 : Flour Sanitary Quality

These three schemes received highly favourable feedback from members affected by these studies and they strengthen the Bipea range to 49 Proficiency Testing Schemes.

In early 2008, Bipea will launch a **new experimental scheme** which will also mark its entry to the field of food microbiology:

- **51: Microbiology on food stuffs.**

This PTS offers laboratories the opportunity to carry out traditional microbiological analysis on a real matrix. This is unlike any current service offered. It is another advantage, enabling laboratories to work on a minced meat sample in virtually-normal conditions.

The final item is confirmation is the **Supply of Accuracy Monitoring Charts**. This is a service whose success has already been confirmed by a tripling of orders for 2007-2008 over those for 2006-2007 .

Bipea : Partenaire de votre Qualité

You're a member, but how well do you really know your association?

Founded in 1970, at the instigation of the cereals industry, the **Bureau Inter Professionnel d'Études Analytiques** has extended its expertise to fields and industries far beyond its original activity.

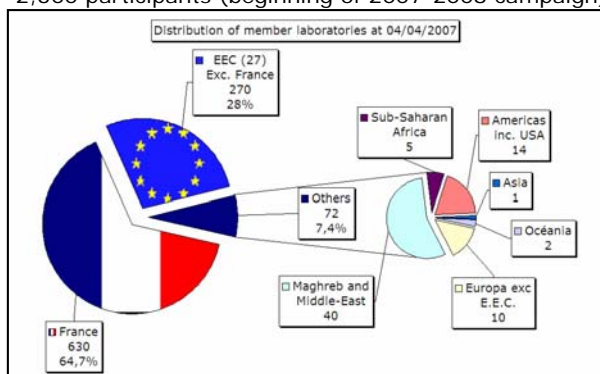
A gradually extending range: a few key dates

Early 1970s: founding of main cereals schemes.
 1977: Animal Feed Scheme.
 1983: Soil Scheme.
 1990: "Wine" Scheme, first major diversification.
 1998: Creation of "Water and environmental" schemes.
 2000: Genetically-Modified Organisms Scheme.

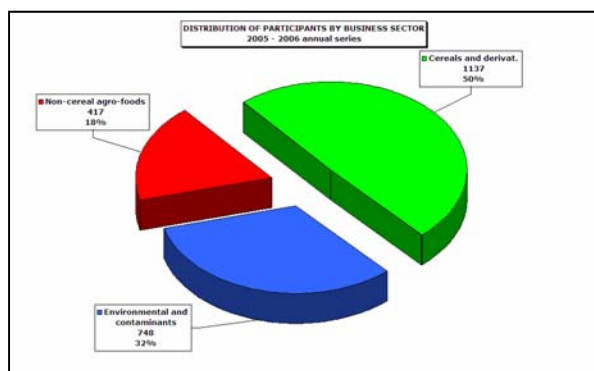
Today

→ Around 1,000 member laboratories, established in 55 countries (see distribution below).

→ 2,300 participants (beginning of 2007-2008 campaign).



→ 49 schemes and 1 experimental scheme.



→ 5,000 parcels sent per month.

→ 60,000 data items processed each month on average.

Beyond this, Bipea is also a team of 18 professionals at your service working at facilities in Gennevilliers within a semoulerie of one of our historical partners.

Your Bipea contacts

To get suitable responses to your requests and expectations, here is a reminder of who to speak to on which issues :

For information on **External Reference Materials (ERM)** supply contracts

→ Bruno Berken : direction@bipea.org
 Bipea Manager

For commercial information on schemes and the purchase of **External Reference Materials (ERM)**

→ Sales assistant : commercial@bipea.org

For technical and scientific information on the content and organisation of our schemes:

→ Gilliane Platero : gplatero@bipea.org
 Scientific and Technical Manager

→ Remy Autran : rautran@bipea.org
 Scientific and Technical Adviser

For technical and administrative information on Technical Inspections

→ Remy Autran : rautran@bipea.org
 Scientific and Technical Adviser

On the content of Interlaboratory Comparisons Reports (and statistical processing of the data)

→ Anne Tirard : atirard@bipea.org
 Statistical Treatment Manager

→ Nahaouend Cuchet : ncuchet@bipea.org
 Statistical studies responsible

On sending out Interlaboratory Comparisons Reports (ILCR)

→ Florence Penelet : fpenelet@bipea.org
 Manager Assistant

→ Nathalie Badoul : nbadoul@bipea.org
 Technical Secretary

On the production, the sending and the reference of the samples

→ Ludovic Pirot : lpirot@bipea.org
 Manufacture Manager

On Bipea's Quality scheme and the scope of our Cofrac accreditation.

→ Marie Philippe Seiller : mpeiller@bipea.org
 Quality Manager

On website operation and Extranet access

→ Gérard Roine : groine@bipea.org
 IT and Communication Manager

And of course you can always send your enquiries to our general e-mail address: contact@bipea.org

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.bipea.org>

Gérard Roine
Data Processing & Communication Manager