

PRESS RELEASE

ACCREDIA: signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with ESMA, the United Arab Emirates Authority for standardization and metrology

It will become easier to export certified products to the UAE market

In 2014 commerce between Italy and the UAE totalled 5.9 billion euro

Milano, 20 October 2015 – at the UAE's pavilion in EXPO Milano, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ACCREDIA, the sole Italian Accreditation Body, and ESMA, the UAE Authority for standardization and metrology, for the accreditation of Bodies providing certification of products made in Italy in conformity with Islamic Halal regulations with the recognition of the Emirates Authorities.

A broad range of sectors are involved, from agrifood to cosmetics to the pharmaceutical industry, finance and insurance.

The MoU will enable the reduction of technical barriers to trade and it will facilitate exchanges between Italy and the UAE with the aim of developing cooperation in the certified sector regarding especially Halal products, in accordance with the applicable regulations of the two states, with those of the WTO and the international network of EA and IAF Accreditation Bodies.

Product certifications in conformity with the Emirates standard UAE.S. 2055-2, issued by Bodies with ACCREDIA accreditation, will make it easier to export Italian products to the Emirates and, more generally, to the markets where there is a strong Islamic component.

ESMA shall provide training for ACCREDIA personnel and shall verify on a continuous basis that ACCREDIA respects the criteria established for Bodies operating in this sector.

The agreement shall last 5 years and shall be renewed automatically for a further 5 year period if neither of the two parties decides to withdraw.

The signing of the MoU is a part of the bilateral collaboration meetings between the Italian and UAE governments currently taking place in Milano.

Commerce between the two states in 2014 reached 5.9 billion euro with an export value of 5.3 billion and an import value of 628 million euro, showing a trade balance clearly in Italy's favor, with a surplus of 4.7 billion euro.

ACCREDIA President Giuseppe Rossi said, "The agreement will enable Italian enterprises to increase their exports by means of improved and easier access to a market of the importance of the UAE. This collaboration constitutes further proof of the growth of ACCREDIA's international activities also in the light of the IAF and ILAC Annual World Meetings in Milan at the end of October for all Accreditation Bodies which are signatory to the IAF ILAC agreements, hosting over 300 delegates representing about 40 countries".

ACCREDIA is the sole national Accreditation Body designated by the Italian government. Its remit is to attest the competence, impartiality and independence of laboratories and bodies which verify the conformity of products, processes and persons to the reference normative standards, facilitating their movement on an international level.

ACCREDIA is a non-profit-distributing private association operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Economic Development, undertaking its activities in the public interest, guaranteeing institutions, businesses and consumer protection.

In 2014 there were 1,572 accredited bodies and laboratories, of which 291 are bodies of certification, inspection and verification. There were 1,111 accredited testing laboratories and 170 calibration laboratories. There were over 87,000 organizations with management systems certified by accredited bodies and about



141,000 productive sites, as well as 100,000 products and services and 145,000 professional persons, all with accredited certification. Accredited laboratories analysed 5 million products of which 3.5 million were in the food sector. The revenue of accredited certification and inspection bodies accredited in 2013 exceeded 344 million euro, a growth of 12% with respect to 2012.

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