



BIML Proposal to render the OIML Bulletin free of charge

Following the change in printing company (see CIML Item on BIML activities), the average annual Bulletin printing and delivery costs have been reduced and will be stabilized at approximately 25–35 K€ from 2011 onwards.

While this is already considerably less than the 2009–2012 budgeted amount, the final actual costs for 2011 and 2012 will depend on the number of pages each issue comprises, but as a cost-saving measure a decision of principle has been taken by the BIML to limit the number of pages to an average 44–56.

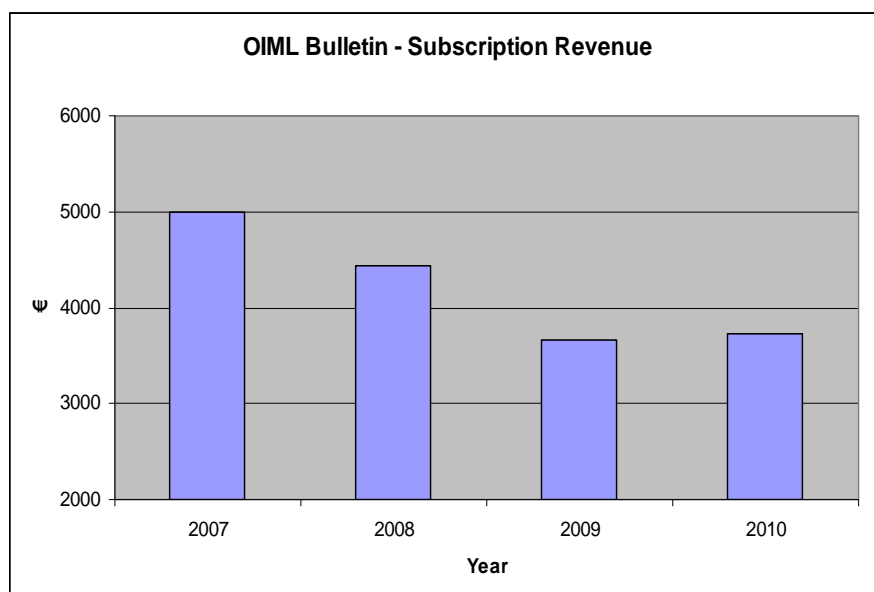
A conscious effort is therefore now being made, for the first time, to monitor, control and reduce the cost of producing the Bulletin.

Hard copy Bulletins are currently sent out free of charge to all CIML Members, Representatives of OIML Corresponding Members, RLMOs, Members of Honor, past Authors, etc. The print run is 1100.

A nominal subscription charge is invoiced to manufacturers (60 € per year for the current budgetary period). The Bulletin is also available online: the four most recent issues are password protected; prior to that, they are freely accessible.

Our accounts show that the number of paid subscribers (and hence revenue) has diminished over recent years (see graph below):

2007	5 000 €(estimate)	2008	4 436 €(actual)
2009	3 671 €(actual)	2010	3 824 €(actual)



In 2010, subscriptions therefore only covered approximately 12 % of the gross cost of producing 4 issues of the Bulletin. From this must be deducted certain handling charges for invoicing, postage and follow-up:

Approximately 20 minutes per year (at 20 €/hour) per invoice × 120 invoices	720 €
Postage charges (120 invoices + 60 reminders + envelopes)	200 €
Accountancy (5 minutes per invoice at 40 €/hour)	400 €
Total approximate cost of invoicing:	1320 €
Net revenue for 2010 = 3824 €– 1320 €=	2504 €

The net revenue therefore currently only covers approximately 8.4 % of the cost of producing the Bulletin.

It is therefore proposed to the CIML to consider, for the budgetary period 2013–2016:

- rendering the Bulletin free of charge (as is the case for all other publications) in view of the negligible revenue it produces and the proportionately high administrative cost of invoicing subscribers,
- removing the password protection for the four most recent issues,
- only providing hard (printed) copy to OIML Member States and Corresponding Members, to further reduce the cost.

This would enable the BIML to continue providing a quality service to our Members, who would exclusively receive hard copy, but would also allow us to further our goal of circulating the Bulletin to as wide an audience as possible whilst eliminating redundant and/or time-consuming administrative tasks at the BIML.