

**Third - meeting of Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure
for Cooperation in Standardization, Conformity Assessment
& Product Safety**

(New Delhi, 14-15 January, 2016)

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distributions hosted the third meeting of Indo German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure at New Delhi during 14-15 Jan 2016. The Indo German Working Group has been established based on the declaration signed between Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution of the Republic of India and German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (now Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy) of the Federal Republic of Germany in April 2013 for cooperation in Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Product Safety.

From Indian side, the meeting was chaired by Mr. C. Viswanath, Secretary (Consumer Affairs), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, GOI and co-chaired by Mr. Ministerialdirigent Stefan Schnorr, Directorate-General VI Digital and Innovation Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) from German side.

The delegates from Indian and German sides comprised of the members from the Ministry, National Standards Body, representatives from trade and association. In his opening remarks, Secretary (Consumer Affairs) highlighted the objectives of advancing bilateral economic and technical cooperation in order to facilitate bilateral trade.

The session on inputs for the work plan for 2016 was co-chaired by Ms Alka Panda, Director General, BIS. Ms Panda highlighted the recent initiatives and developmental changes brought in the country on Smart cities, Smart Grid/Micro Grid, Low voltage Direct Current (LVDC), Solid waste management for collaboration in the these areas. She also mentioned about the need to address the concerns of Indian exporters by organizing workshops and awareness programmes for compliance on EU regulations & REACH regulations.

During the two days working group meeting, presentations were made by both sides on different topics with a view to appreciate each other's expectations and to device a future strategy of cooperation for 2016. After mutual consultations, a work plan for 2016 was signed based on the exchange of information, experiences and priorities of both sides. The work plan outlines various activities for the next years' cooperation which include amongst others, cooperation in the area of Solid Waste Management, smart grids/ micro grid, LVDC, food safety, leather & leather products, air and water quality, product safety, toy safety, digital technologies and IT security.



