At no time one could ignore the mainstream of time; at present governments privatise tasks which may have been regarded as domain of the sovereign.

Requirements for certification of filter-systems of the exhaust of diesel engines in Switzerland had been such a domain of the government agency BAFU. Filter-systems which met them by passing the appropriate tests were published on its home-page, which drew the attention of environmental authorities all over the world. The Swiss evaluation method had been the result of the international project VERT, it had found recognition; many times it had been referred to as the “Swiss filter-list” or the “VERT-list”.

In an expertise for the State Governments of New York and of New Jersey, the world wide renowned inventor of the three way cat, hence one of the top experts on exhaust gas after treatment, Dr John J. Mooney, had compared the VERT evaluation method with two competing ones, those of CARB and of US-EPA. He arrived at the conclusion VERT to be the most favourable method, most rigorous with regard to requirements, however, least costly for the applicant.

In view of the general trend, a tendency that the public sector is privatising many tasks for instance in such a case resorting to certification societies. Therefore, in future, VERT-certification will be taken care of by such an organisation which has been founded formally on February 20th, 2009. Being not backed by the sovereign constitutes a serious disadvantage on one hand, on the other hand there is the advantage to act beyond state-boundaries by means of legally binding private contracts.

Following the pattern of the Steam-Boiler Associations of the nineteenth century, the VERT-certification will continue to exist.

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