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A strategic vision for European standards: the « Standardisation Package » proposals

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Why reforming standardisation now

In the next decade and beyond, European standardisation will play a crucial role in a wide variety of areas (from supporting European industrial policy and innovation, the interoperability of networks and systems in a fast developing digital society, protecting consumers / users' safety, improving accessibility of disabled and elderly people to tackling climate change)

→ the European standardisation system needs to be flexible, comprehensive, inclusive, efficient and technically up-to-date.

The European context

- **European Standardisation is a success story**
- **European standards are voluntary documents** and well distinct from regulations
- The **European standardisation system** is managed by three independent organisations:
CEN, CENELEC and ETSI
- **Standardisation** is an important and effective tool **to support European policy and legislation**

Policy context

- **Europe 2020 Flagships:**
 - Industrial Policy
 - Innovation Union
 - Digital Agenda
 - Resource Efficiency
 - Trade
- Standardisation is one of the twelve key actions of the **2011 Single Market Act** (a comprehensive set of policy and legislative initiatives to strengthen the EU Single Market)
- **Disability Strategy** (equal opportunities for people with disabilities)

Developed after wide consultation

- Public consultations
- Express Report (Issued in Feb 2010 - Expert Panel for the Review of the European Standardisation System)
- Own initiative report European Parliament
- Previous Council conclusions

What is in the Standardisation Package?

Adopted by the Commission on
1st June 2011

It comprises:

- Political **communication with a strategic vision** on standardisation [COM(2011) 311 final]
- Proposal for a **Regulation** [COM(2011) 315 final]
- Impact assessment

1. **Political communication with a strategic vision on standardisation**
2. Proposal for a Regulation

Communication

- Contains a list of **29 legislative and non-legislative actions**
- **Major fields of action:**
 - Industrial policy & innovation
 - Key societal challenges
 - Inclusive standard-setting process
 - Standards for services
 - ICT standards and interoperability
 - European standards in the global market

Industrial Policy and Innovation

- Clarifying and strengthening the relationship between **standardisation, innovation and research**
- **EC planning process will be revamped** (annual work programme to be established after stakeholder consultation)
- **Standard-setting** should be accelerated and simplified (esp. for innovative products and services):
 - Target: reduction of average time by 50% in 2020
 - Financial support to help European Standard Organisations reach this target but linked to performance

Industrial Policy and Innovation (Actions)

1. **PLANNING**: the Commission will establish annual work programme
2. **SPEED**: the Commission will demand quick elaboration of ENs for innovative products and services
3. **FUNDING**: – funding of ESOs conditional on performance criteria and objectives
4. **RESEARCH**: impartial, sound and balanced scientific evidence for standards with a scientific component
5. **EDUCATION**: awareness and education about standardisation and potential links with research

Key Societal Challenges

- **Consumer protection**
- Improved **accessibility** of disabled and elderly people
- **Climate change**
- **Resource efficiency**
- **Security and civil protection**
- **Protection of personal data and individuals' privacy**

Key Societal Challenges (Actions)

6. **GPSD (General Product Safety Directive)**: revision of the GPSD by the Commission in 2012
7. **STRATEGIC USE** of standards in support of environmental and accessibility legislation and in the field of civil security and protection
8. **INVOLVEMENT**: ensuring the effective involvement of stakeholders, environmental NGOs and representatives of disabled and elderly people in standardisation at national level
9. **RELEVANT CONTENT**: standards should take full account of consumer, environmental and accessibility

factors.

Inclusive Standards Development Process

- Not all **SMEs and societal stakeholders** are **sufficiently represented** in the standardisation process yet
- The Commission will continue to **support financially the participation of SMEs/societal stakeholders** to European standardisation
- the Commission invites the **Member States, the ESOs and the national standards bodies** to try to **accommodate the needs of all stakeholders**

Inclusive Standards Development Process (Actions)

10. **INCLUSION**: more inclusive process, the so-called 'ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTION LINE', esp. for items of particular public interest
11. **WTO TBT PRINCIPLES**: to ensure that National Standard Bodies comply with them and are monitored
12. **PEER REVIEW**: to check, inter alia, on the participation of all stakeholders
13. **NATIONAL SUPPORT**: support to participation of national SME representative organisations and national societal stakeholders
14. **SALES POLICY**: special rates and bundles of standards at reduced price for SME and societal stakeholders
15. **EUROPEAN SUPPORT**: financial support to European associations of SME and societal stakeholders

Single Market for Services

- Although the **European economy** is relying more and more on **services**, European standardisation has not followed
- Standards have a great potential to improve interoperability and quality of services → the wish is to **use standardisation in order to support a single market for services**, in the same way it is supporting the single market on goods
- **Standards for services** are included in the **scope of the draft Regulation on standardisation**

Single Market for Services (Actions)

16. **SERVICES**: standards for services included in the scope of the draft Regulation
17. **SERVICES MANDATES**: the Commission will request the development of relevant voluntary standards for the service sector
18. **HIGH LEVEL GROUP**: the Commission will set up a High Level Group on Business Services which will also examine standards issues

ICT and Interoperability

- **ICT** accounts for **5% of European GDP**
- The **majority of technical specifications** are **not prepared by the ESOs**, but by fora and consortia
- The Commission's main concern is to **ensure interoperability** so that Europe reaps the full benefits of **ICT**
- Proposal to **allow referencing of ICT technical specifications**, responding to certain criteria, **in public procurement**
- **Stronger cooperation between the ESOs and fora/consortia**

ICT and Interoperability (Actions)

19. **PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**: referencing of ICT standards
20. **INTEROPERABILITY**: increased use of selected ICT standards in EU policies to ensure it
21. **MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM**: the EC will create it to implement the standardisation policy in the ICT field
22. **NATIONAL COMMITMENT**: increased use of ICT standards in national public procurement for ICT
23. **INTEGRATION** of ICT standards into the European standardisation system

European Standards in the global market

- **Standards increase global exchanges**
- **Primacy of international standards**
- **European standards should be identical to international ones** as much as possible, and home-grown ENs should be prepared only when the international ones are lacking
- **European proactive and leading role** in the international standards bodies
- **Standardisation experts in the countries with a strategic trade dimension** for the EU

Standards to increase EU competitiveness (Actions)

24. **INTERNATIONAL CONVERGENCE**: promotion of international standards in the context of regulatory dialogues and trade negotiations
25. **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**: to involve more countries in developing international standards
26. **STANDARDISATION EXPERTS**: in countries with a strategic trade dimension
27. **EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP**: at international standardisation level in areas where Europe is a global leader
28. **ONE VOICE FOR EUROPE**: the 3 ESOs should increasingly act jointly in international matters

Independent Review

- At the latest by **2013**
- To measure and assess whether the **strategic objectives of the strategy are being achieved**
- **Main objective:** to assess if, in a longer term perspective, the **European standardisation system is able to adapt** to the quickly evolving environment and **to contribute to Europe's strategic** internal and external objectives

1. Political communication with a strategic vision on standardisation
2. **Proposal for a Regulation**

Proposal for Regulation (1)

Consolidated legal basis for European standardisation which:

Replaces Decisions 1673/2006/EC and 87/95/EC, and part of Directive 98/34/EC

Amends several Directives (re: procedure for objections to harmonised standards)

Proposal for Regulation (2)

- **Extend** definitions and scope to **services**
- Ensure **cooperation between NSBs** on draft standards and work programmes (Articles 3-4)
- **Increase Stakeholder participation:**
 - An obligation for ESOs (Article 5)
 - For stakeholder organisations qualifying criteria in Annex III (one each for **SMEs, consumers, environmental and social interests**)

Proposal for Regulation (3)

Planning, mandates and objections

- **European standardisation work programme** adopted by the Commission: **list of future mandates** (Article 6)
- **Mandates (= standardisation requests)** – deadlines for ESOs to accept and Commission to make funding available (Article 7)
- **Objections to harmonised standards** (Article 8): always applicable unless specific procedure in other Union acts (Article 22)

Proposal for Regulation (4)

Recognition of ICT standards for public procurement (Articles 9 and 10)

- Based on **proposals** from Member States or Commission
- **Multi-stakeholder platform** will give advice: **expert working group following call for expressions of interest** (see communication)
- **Qualifying Criteria: Annex II** (openness, consensus, transparency, maintenance, availability, IPR FRAND (fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory) licensing policy, relevance, neutrality and stability, quality)

Proposal for Regulation (5)

Financing:

- ESOs:
 - **Eligible activities** for financing (Article 11)
 - **Operating grants** (Article 13(2)(b))
 - **Lump sums** for standards (Article 13(4))
- Stakeholder organisations:
 - **Eligible activities** for financing (Article 12)
 - **Operating grants** (Article 13(2)(b) + Annex III)
 - **Action grants** (Article 13(2)(a))

Proposal for Regulation (6)

- **Delegated acts** (to be adopted by the Commission): amendments of the annexes (Articles 16-17)
- **New committee** (Article 18)
 - **Formal role: objections** to harmonised standards
 - **Informal role: input and advice** on standardisation issues (e.g. work programme)

Proposal for Regulation (7)

- Proposal to be adopted by European Parliament and Council, following advice of European Economic and Social Committee and national Parliaments (**ordinary legislative procedure**)
- Entry into force in **2013?**

Conclusions

- **General objectives:**
 - **Partnership with ESOs** of essential importance for the EU
 - Processes should be **accelerated and simplified** while ensuring **inclusiveness**
 - **Legal framework** for **services** standardisation
 - **Accept reality of ICT Fora & Consortia standards** if they meet quality criteria
- **Questions?**

WEB ADDRESSES

More information can be found at:

European Standardisation Policy:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/standardisation-policy/index_en.htm

Thank you for your attention !