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Directorate General Enterprise and Industry

# *OVERVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK ON STANDARDISATION*

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## **LEGAL AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORK**

- \* Directive 98/34/EC laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations and of rules on information society services ([OJ L 217, 05.08.1998](#))
- \* General guidelines for the co-operation between CEN, CENELEC and ETSI and European Commission and the European Free Trade Organisation – April 2003 ([OJ C 91, 16.04.2003](#))
- \* Partnership framework agreement between Commission/EFTA and ESOS



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## ***DIRECTIVE 98/34/EC***

- \* **Adopted** in 1983
- \* **Objectives** :
  - \* to eliminate technical barriers to trade between EU Member States
  - \* to support the EU-wide harmonisation of standards and technical regulations with the aim of creating a single European market



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## **DIRECTIVE 98/34/EC – STANDARDS PART**

- \* Provides for an information procedure for national standardisation projects.  
**Goal** : transparency of national standardisation activities
- \* Gives recognition to the European standards bodies CEN, CENELEC and ETSI (ESOs) as autonomous and independent bodies



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## **DIRECTIVE 98/34/EC – STANDARDS PARTS**

- \* Empowers the European Commission to address requests for the elaboration of European standards to the ESOs (« mandates »)
- \* Obliges the Member States to observe a stand-still for the elaboration of national standards in the case of a Commission mandate
- \* Provides for a framework between Member States, European Commission and standards bodies to co-ordinate standardisation policy matters



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## STANDARDISATION MATTERS

Standardisation mandates from the European Commission to the European standards bodies :

- \* policy instrument aiming at inviting the ESOs to elaborate European standards or standardisation deliverables in support of European legislation or policies for a given area (e.g. on safety of toys)
- \* mandates determine the terms of reference for the elaboration of European standards and provide for a political endorsement of relevant standardisation activities



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## STANDARDISATION MANDATES

- \* European standards elaborated under a mandate **do not become mandatory**
- \* A mandate does not preclude the elaboration of relevant standards at international level
- \* **Important to note** : mandated work represents only 20-25% of European standards; overwhelming part of European standards is being initiated by stakeholders



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## GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE COOPERATION BETWEEN CEN, CENELEC, ETSI AND THE EU AND EFTA

- \* Agreement signed between the parties in 2003
- \* European standardisation organisations are independent partners to the EU and EFTA
- \* Commitment to common policy objectives :
  - = role of European standards in support of the Internal market and of New Approach legislation
  - = promotion of sustainable development
  - = support of international standardisation



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## *GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE COOPERATION BETWEEN CEN, CENELEC, ETSI AND THE EU AND EFTA*

- \* ESO remains accountable to all interested parties and take into account the broadest possible range of views in drawing up standards
- \* The principles of transparency, access, openness, efficiency, coherence and voluntary work should be followed
- \* Public interests, in particular safety and health, the protection of workers, consumers and environment will be taken into account



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## **EUROPEAN STANDARDISATION POLICY**

- \* Commission Communication on the role of European standardisation in the framework of European policies and legislation – **COM(2004) 674 final of 18.10.2004**
- \* Commission Communication on the integration of environmental aspects into European standardisation – **COM(2004) 130 final of 25.02.2004**
- \* Forthcoming Commission Communication : Towards an increased contribution from standardisation to innovation in Europe – **March 2008**



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## CONCLUSIONS

- \* Due to the generally favourable framework the European standardisation bodies CEN, CENELEC and ETSI were able to make a substantial contribution to the Internal Market and the economic integration in Europe
- \* There has been a shift from national to European and international standardisation to the extent that now about 85% of standards needed in Europe are covered by international and European standardisation
- \* Voluntary standardisation has increasingly become a recognised and successful means in support of European legislation and EU policies



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## CONCLUSIONS

- \* The level of European commitment to and involvement in international standardisation has continuously been strengthened throughout the evolution of the system



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## **MORE INFORMATION**

- \* **Vademecum on European standardisation :**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards\\_policy/vademecum/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards_policy/vademecum/index.htm)
  
- \* **European standardisation action plan :**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards\\_policy/action\\_plan/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards_policy/action_plan/index.htm)
  
- \* **Mandate database :**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards\\_policy/mandates/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards_policy/mandates/index.htm)



## IMPORTANT INTERNET SITES TO REMEMBER

DG Enterprise <http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enterprise/regulation/index.htm>

Harmonised standards <http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enterprise/newapproach/standardization/harmstds/index.html>

New Approach ..... <http://www.newapproach.org>



[www.cenorm.be](http://www.cenorm.be)



[www.cenelec.org](http://www.cenelec.org)



[www.etsi.org](http://www.etsi.org)



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