The European model of standardisation: from national to regional

Silvia Vaccaro
European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry
Policy Officer "Standards for boosting competitiveness"
Standardisation is a form of self regulation

Interested parties come together and agree voluntarily on technical matters

Compete more efficiently by ensuring the interoperability of their products
Who is paying for standardisation?

European standardisation is financed primarily by industry 93-95% followed by:

National Governments 3-5%
European Commission/EFTA 2%
Who makes European standards?

**CEN**
(European Committee for Standardization)

**CENELEC**
(European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization)

**ETSI**
(European Telecommunications Standards Institute)
Why European standards are special?

European standards (ENs) support the functioning of the internal market

- One EN replaces 33 different national standards: one product-one standard, priority to international ones
- National Standards Bodies are obliged to adopt ENs as national standard and withdraw any conflicting one
- The system is transparent, stable and predictable
Where we come from:
Trade barriers hindered the European economy
Where we are going: European/international Standards – a tool for free trade
and how: by integrating the national standardisation with the regional and ultimately with the international one

“Vienna Agreement” with

“Dresden Agreement” with

MoU for telecommunications sector (ITU-T)
Agreement on radio-communication sector (ITU-R)
Standards vs Legislation

**Standards:**
1. Voluntary
2. Consensual
3. Developed by independent organisations
4. Revised every 5 years
5. Provide specifications and test methods (interoperability, safety, quality, etc.)

**Legislation:**
1. Mandatory
2. Imposed by Law
3. Established by public authorities
4. Revised when legislators decide
5. Gives requirements to protect public interests
What the European Commission has to do with standardisation?

• *Coordinates the standardisation policy* in the EU and cooperate with the different stakeholders

• *Promotes the use of European standards* to support EU legislation and policies to enhance the competitiveness of European industry

• *Formulates the standardisation requests* to CEN/CENELEC/ETSI

• **Funds** CEN/CENELEC/ETSI *(operating and action grants)*
European Standardisation is a success story

The European context

- European standards are voluntary
- Standards support European policy and legislation
- European Standardisation is a success story
The revolutionary idea: the New Approach (1985)

Facilitate **free movement of goods** in the Internal Market whilst ensuring a **high level of protection for consumers**

Elimination of **barriers to trade** through **technical harmonisation**
Legislative and normative processes

NA Legislation → Request for standards → Standards → Title publication in the Official Journal
New Approach concept

Conformity Assessment

Harmonised standards (alternative standards can be used)

Essential Requirements
What are the European goals for standardisation at the global level?

1. Enhance the **competitiveness** of European businesses
2. Improve the **general convergence** to international standards in order to reduce TBTs
3. Boost the **use of voluntary standards** in regulations as well as the **use of alternative conformity assessment procedures**
Why reforming European standardisation now

In the next decade, European standardisation will play a crucial role in a wide variety of areas (from supporting European competitiveness, protecting the consumer, improving accessibility of disabled and elderly people to tackling climate change)

the European standardisation system needs to be flexible, comprehensive, inclusive, efficient and up-to-date.
What is in the Standardisation Package?
Adopted by the Commission on 1st June 2011

Political communication with a strategic vision on standardisation [COM(2011) 311 final]

Regulation (EU) N. 1025/2012

Impact assessment
Most important steps (1)

Enhancement of cooperation with the European standardisation organisations (CEN-CENELEC-ETSI)

Increased participation of consumers, small businesses (SMEs), environmental and social organisations, in the European standardisation process
Most important steps (2)

The recognition of existing global ICT technical specifications to ensure interoperability in support of at least public procurement in the EU

The possibility of requesting European standards for services if there is a demand from stakeholders
Standardisation is a core interest of the Europe 2020 Flagships

It is quoted in the:

- **Innovation Union** [COM(2010)546]
- **Digital Agenda for Europe** [COM(2010)245]
- **Trade, Growth and World Affairs** [COM(2010)612]
Standardisation is one of the twelve key actions of the Single Market Act [COM(2011)206]

European standardisation supports European policies in many areas including:

- Competitiveness
- ICT
- Innovation
- Interoperability
- Accessibility
- Environment
- Transport
- Energy
- Consumer protection
- SMEs
DO NOT FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITES...

- http://www.newapproach.org/

...and thank you for your attention!