Referencing of standards in support of regulation – The importance of a transparent, open and predictable process

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Where we come from:
Trade barriers hindered the European economy
The EU Single Market today and yesterday

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 ISO

“Dresden Agreement” with IEC

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

The European Commission does not draft European standards!
CEN, CENELEC and ETSI do

CEN .........................
(European Committee for Standardization)

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

ETSI ......................
(European Telecommunications Standards Institute)
EU legislation makes reference to Standards

**Direct reference:** mandatory standard – Revision of legislation every revision of the standard

**Indirect reference**

⇒ « New Approach »

"New Approach" reference to standards

**Objective:** remove barriers to trade in the EU Single Market

**How? By task sharing:**

- **Legislation:** mandatory, stable, predictable and safeguarding public interest (via listing the essential requirements)

- **Standards:** voluntary, constantly updated to the state-of-the-art, predictable, harmonising the technical specifications

**Areas:** Protection of health, safety, environment and consumers
Legislative and normative processes

- Annual Union Work Programme for Standardisation
- Requests for standards
- Standards
- Publication of standards references in the Official Journal

Why a request for standards?

- **Ensure level playing field** in the internal market: **ONE product, ONE standard** (but alternatives are welcome, as standards are VOLUNTARY)
- **Predictability** – stakeholders are informed and involved well in advance, also via the **ANNUAL UNION WORK PROGRAMME**
- **Ensure coherence of standards** in the internal market and with the international (ISO-IEC) level
Why European standards are special?

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

- One EN replaces 34 different national standards: one product-one standard, priority to international ones
- National Standards Bodies are obliged to adopt ENs as national standards and withdraw any conflicting ones
- The system is transparent, stable and predictable

Who is paying for standardisation?

European standardisation is financed primarily by industry → 93-95%

followed by:

National Governments → 3-5%
European Commission/EFTA → 2%
CONCLUSION

- European standards are voluntary
- Standards support European policy and legislation
- European Standardisation is a success story

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Thank you for your attention! Any questions?