



WTO TBT Committee  
Thematic Session on Standards  
Geneva, 14 June 2016

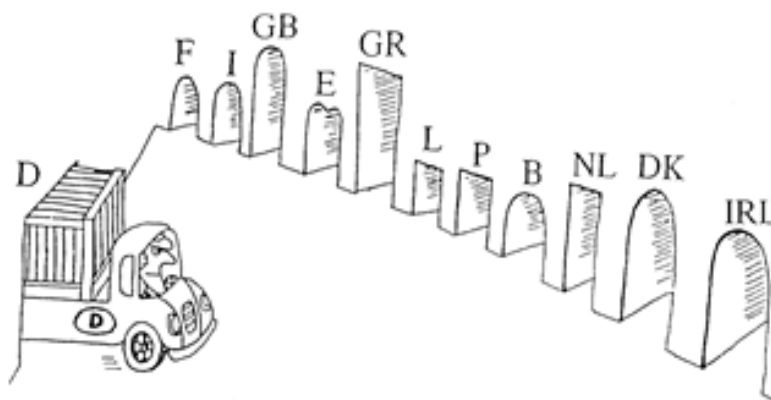
## Referencing of standards in support of regulation – The importance of a transparent, open and predictable process

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DG GROW



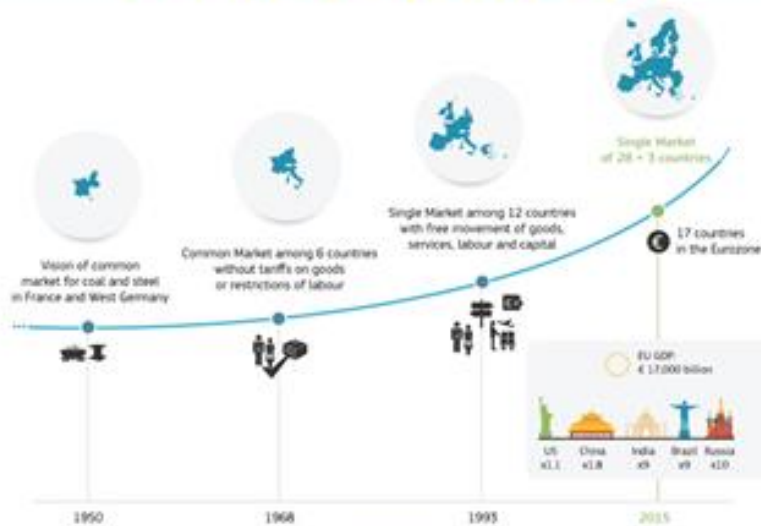
### Where we come from:

Trade barriers hindered the European economy

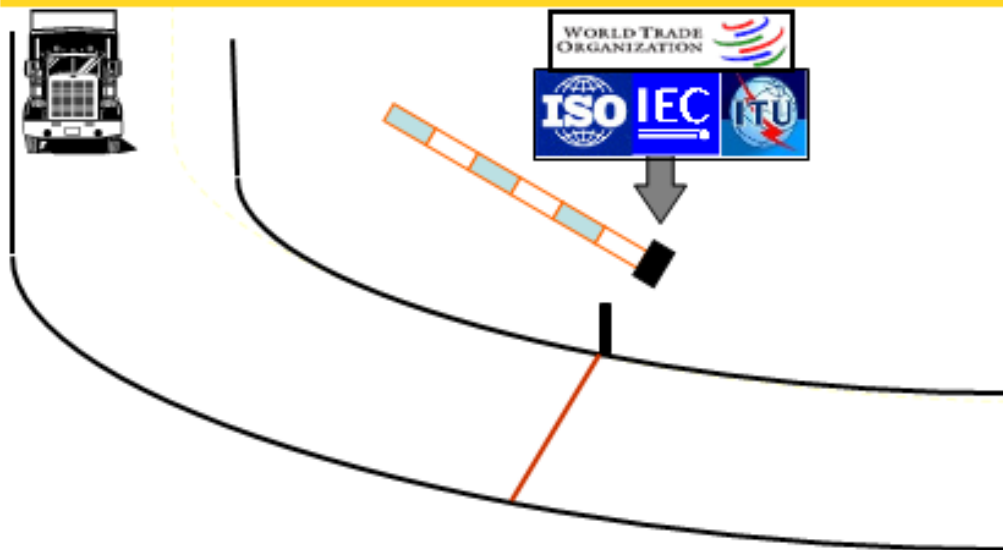




## The EU Single Market today and yesterday



## 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



"Dresden Agreement" with



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



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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***

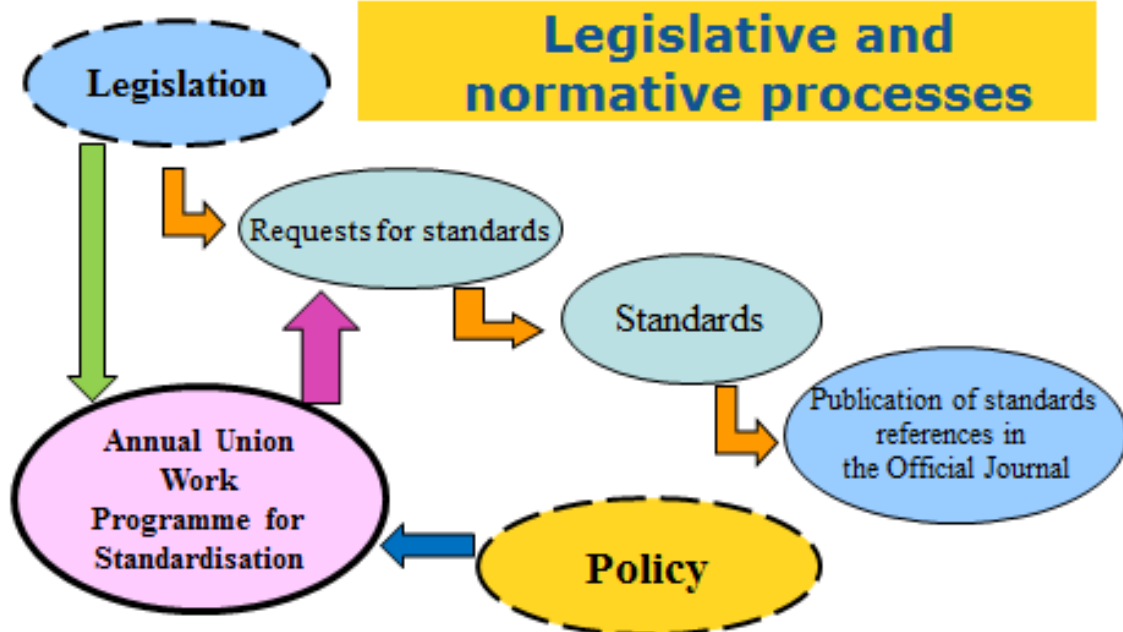
***How? By task sharing:***

- ***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***





## 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



**DO NOT FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITES :**

- [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/european-standards/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/european-standards/index_en.htm)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/european-standards/harmonised-standards/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/european-standards/harmonised-standards/index_en.htm)

**Thank you  
for your attention!  
Any questions?**

