

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

REGIONAL STANDARDS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

1. At its meeting of 20-22 October 1981, the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade agreed that the secretariat should transmit a number of agreed questions to regional bodies (TBT/M/8, paragraph 55). A list of agreed questions was circulated informally to signatories on 15 January 1982.
 2. The following replies have been received from the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization.
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QUESTION 1:

Is it contemplated that the CENELEC system will ever be opened to direct participation by countries not members of CENELEC?

ANSWER:

No, there is no need for it since the IEC/Q System, which aims at the same objective and which follows similar rules, has been declared operational since 1 January 1982.

QUESTION 2:

What percentage of electronic components sold in the CENELEC participating Member States are certified through the CENELEC system?

ANSWER:

There are no statistical figures available.

QUESTION 3:

Is there an index or catalogue of standards developed by CENELEC?

ANSWER:

CENELEC produces a Catalogue annually which lists which IEC publications are endorsed by CENELEC as Harmonization Documents or European Standards and the very few European Standards produced by CENELEC. CECC has its document 00 300 containing the CECC specifications and their related national documents. The first document is available from the CENELEC General Secretariat, the latter document from the CECC General Secretariat.

QUESTION 4:

What is expected to be the relationship of the CENELEC system to the IEC/Q System that has now been voted to begin functioning on 1 January 1982?

ANSWER:

There is no relationship between the CENELEC system and the IEC/Q System. However, nearly all members of CECC are members of the CMC as well and actively contribute to the latter's work. Thanks to the CECC experience the IEC/Q System could get a faster start.

QUESTION 5:

How was CENELEC formed, and what has been the traditional relationship between CENELEC and its participating Member States, and the Commission of the European Communities?

ANSWER:

First of all it should be noted that no member states participate within CENELEC which is a private organization. The members of CENELEC are the relevant national electrotechnical committees of 17 European countries, i.e. the 10 member countries of the Common Market, 6 member countries of EFTA and Spain. The traditional relationship between CENELEC and the Commission of the European Communities as well as EFTA lies in the interest of both the CEC and EFTA in the

elimination of technical barriers to trade. Therefore it is the CENELEC role to harmonize national standards for electrical equipment mainly in the safety field in accordance with the CENELEC rules (see as well answer to question 6 below).

QUESTION 6:

In providing European standards for reference in European Communities' Directives and cooperating closely with EC Commission in selecting areas of highest priority for normalization, is CENELEC a standards developing organization of the Commission of the European Communities?

ANSWER:

Although CENELEC closely cooperates with the CEC in selected areas, CENELEC collaborates as well with EFTA with the same objective to harmonize (and not to standardize) national standards, as already indicated above. Consequently CENELEC is not a standard developing organization of the CEC. CENELEC was founded, as already indicated, by the electrotechnical committees of the 17 European countries.

QUESTION 7:

What is CENELEC's relationship to the IEC?

ANSWER:

Besides the fact that the CENELEC members are also members of IEC and that CENELEC bases its harmonization work to the utmost extent on IEC results, as already indicated above, there is no relationship between the two bodies as such.

QUESTION 8:

Does CENELEC undertake standardization work in an area where an IEC standard already exists?

ANSWER:

As already indicated CENELEC undertakes harmonization work based on IEC results.

QUESTION 9:

Does CENELEC have standards committees that parallel the IEC Technical Committee structure?

ANSWER:

Yes, in those few cases where CENELEC requires TC to harmonize the relevant national standards. This harmonization is based, as already indicated on IEC publications where available.

QUESTION 10:

When CENELEC determines a need for standardization in a specific field, does it contact IEC to determine if work is underway in this area?

ANSWER:

As it can be seen from the answer to Question 7, the CENELEC members are permanently aware of the activities of IEC which ensures constant alignment of the harmonization progress with the IEC work underway.

QUESTION 11:

Does CENELEC request IEC to undertake standardization work in specific areas?

ANSWER:

No.

QUESTION 12:

Are the representatives on CENELEC Committees the same representatives that serve on IEC TC/SC Committees?

ANSWER:

Perhaps, however it should be noted that the appointment of the delegations is the sole prerogative of the national electrotechnical committees.