Council of the European Union

COVER NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	HLF recommendations on funding for standardisation activities
	- Presentation at the Working Party on Technical Harmonisation on 14 November 2024

This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.

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Milda Basiulyte, DIGITALEUROPE

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Senior Director for Cyber,
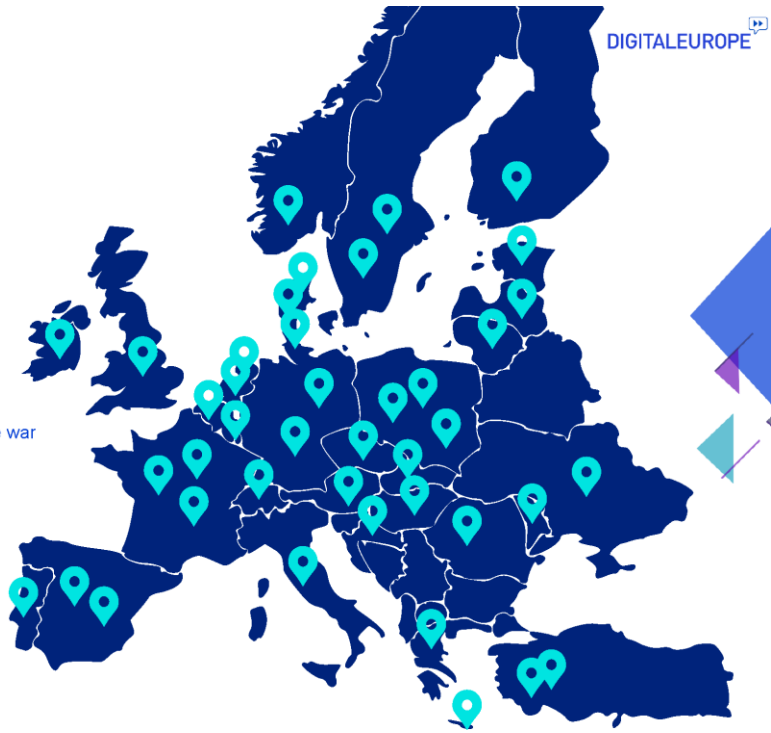Infrastructure,
Competitiveness & Digital
Transformation

Our members

45,000
**companies
represented**

Cybersecurity

AI software & hardware

Data analytics

Telecoms

Semiconductors

Cloud technology

International trade

Resilience and the Ukraine war

Healthcare

Manufacturing

Finance

Buildings

Mobility

DIGITALEUROPE

Impactful in Europe through strong 41 NTA collaboration

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🤝 **CEO Network**: Built strong community of NTA CEOs

🇪🇺 **DE Presidency Summits**

📞 **Bi-Monthly Calls**: Community-centric intelligence sharing

🤝 **Joint Campaigns**: Skills, AI, data, Single market, Ukraine

🎯 **Council Outreach**: In Brussels and the capitals

🏛️ **Project Involvement**: Key EU projects

🗂️ **NTA Chairmanship**: NTA Chairing >2/3 of our Policy & Working Groups & 90% under our new structure!

🦄👑 **Future Unicorn award**: Europe's winning scale-ups

Shaping EU's Digital Future

EUROPE 2030: A DIGITAL POWERHOUSE

20 solutions to boost European tech leadership and resilience

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THE SINGLE MARKET LOVE STORY

10 digital actions to save the 30-year marriage

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EUROPE, A SECURE & DIGITAL POWERHOUSE

Recommendations for the digital defence

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EU'S CRITICAL TECH GAP

Rethinking economic security to put Europe back on the map

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Feb'24   June   June

Policy and projects hand in hand

Laptops for Ukraine

Future Unicorn Award

CIRPASS Digital Product Passport

chaise blockchain skills for Europe

essa. European Software Skills Alliance

Digital Health Uptake

Digital Skills & Jobs Platform
THE HOME OF DIGITAL SKILLS IN EUROPE

EDITH

DS4Skills Data Space for Skills

arisa

digital sk://up

WOMEN4IT

XpanDH

to be a technology leader

EU'S CRITICAL TECH GAP

Rethinking economic security to put Europe back on the map

- **Lack of scalability in the EU**
  - Fragmentation of the single market and a lack of a unified strategy

- **Investment shortfall**
  - EU has no common capital market
  - Public funding for R&D is nationally fragmented, and inefficient
  - Innovations are not commercialised enough

- **Tough playing field for European business**
  - Stringent regulations have no equivalent in other geographies

Standardisation in our focus

Internal

▸▸ Policy: Standardisation & Compliance Working Group: **300+ members**

▸▸ Technical: Standardisation issue groups: AI Act, Digital Product Passport, Cyber Resilience Act. **100+ member in each**

External

▸▸ Members of the EU High-Level Forum on Standardisation **(HLF)**

▸▸ Members of Multistakeholder Platform on ICT Standardisation **(MSP)**

▸▸ Members of the **Rolling Plan on ICT Standardisation**

▸▸ Chair **MSP** Task Force **Research & Innovation**

▸▸ Members of Commission Expert Group **Radio Equipment Directive**, Working party on **Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive**

HLF priorities

▸▸ AI & Data

▸▸ Digital Product Passport

▸▸ Quantum Technologies

▸▸ Education and skills

▸▸ EU & international standards

▸▸ Funding

The High-Level Forum
Deep Dive on funding

- **The idea**
  - To address the lack of funding as one root cause of the insufficient EU participation and influence in international standardisation

- **Partners**
  - **Coordinator**: DIGITALEUROPE

  - **EU and EEA Countries**: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia

  - **Type C organisations**: AIOTI, CEN, CENELEC, European DIGITAL SME Alliance, Small Business Standards (SBS), T&D Europe

Challenges identified in the deep-dive

▸▸ **No harmonised priorities** across the different funding programmes

▸▸ **No** or little **influence** on **standards development** (no clear link between pre-standardisation work and input for technical committees)

▸▸ **Lack of coordination** with industrial areas and applications, leading to weak links with industry priorities

▸▸ **Lack of strategic** foresight in support of EU legislative acts and strategic industrial policy areas

▸▸ Discrepancy among **Member States'** standardisation activities

▸▸ **Skills shortages** in critical technologies

▸▸ **Administrative burdens**

▸▸ **Untapped potential** in many EU funding programmes and partnerships on industrial innovation, development and deployment, which do not foresee standardisation

Key recommendations

To the Commission

▸▸ Optimise **existing standardisation funding** projects at EU level

▸▸ Set up an **incentive mechanism** for Member States with lower participation

▸▸ Fund activities that generate standards more systematically to ensure translating **innovation into commercialisation**

▸▸ Develop a **horizontal approach** to incorporate standards into research and innovation to accelerate market deployment – *COMPET Council conclusions (24 May 2024)*

To the Member States

▸▸ Evaluate the opportunity of **funding mechanisms** that foster participation in standardisation processes (e.g. Germany)

▸▸ Provide **economic incentives for companies** taking part in standardisation activities (e.g. tax rebates in Denmark & France)

What's next?

▶▶ High-level debate on a way forward at the **HLF Forum**, in January 2025

▶▶ Follow up on the recommendations
  - A possible follow-up to identify gaps in existing funding schemes

▶▶ Promotion activities
  - Dissemination through our **NTA network** and **HLF members**

▶▶ Sharing with the EC Multi Stakeholder Platform (**MSP**) Task Force on Research & Innovation

Can we count on Member States action and support?

Thank you!

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