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WORKING DOCUMENT


From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations

Subject:	EU Standardisation Update - Presentation at the Working Party on Technical Harmonisation on 19 March 2025
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EU Standardisation Update

*Technical Harmonisation Council Working Party meeting
19 March 2025*


*Acting Head of Unit, GROW H3
Standards Policy
DG GROW*



Debrief on the High-Level Forum (HLF) meeting of 29/01

- **EVP Stéphane Séjourné** joined the 3rd meeting of the High-Level Forum on European Standardisation, where around 50 high-level representatives discussed the future of standardisation in the EU.
- **EVP called for** speed, ambition, and cooperation in standardisation, linked to initiatives such as the Clean Industrial Deal and Single Market Strategy, highlighting the importance of a flexible regulatory environment and skills development.
- The **Polish Presidency priorities** were presented by the **Under-State Secretary** of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology emphasising the importance of:
 - a robust standardisation to sustain industrial strength and economic security;
 - the EC High-Level Forum's efforts to bolster the EU standardisation system and regain leadership in setting global standards, crucial for competitiveness and to reflect EU values in products and services;
 - removing technical trade barriers and creating a level playing field, particularly benefiting SMEs.

Main forum meeting outcomes

- **Importance of Standards** for EU competitiveness and the green and digital transitions, supporting the Single Market and innovation in sectors like clean tech, defence, cybersecurity, digital product passports and AI.
- A **faster and more flexible standardisation system** is essential to meet the demands of European regulators and businesses effectively.
- The **revision of the Standardisation Regulation** is a key action in the Competitiveness Compass, aiming to align standards with EU interests and values in a dynamic geopolitical context.
- **Proposal for a New Agency:** Some participants supported the proposal of establishing a *Standardisation and Technology Europe* agency to bridge the gap between research and standard development.
- Unanimous appreciation for the **Forum's role**, wishing to extend its **mandate** that ends this year and to use the Forum for more strategic and political purposes.
- Big thanks to all stakeholders in making this Forum a success.

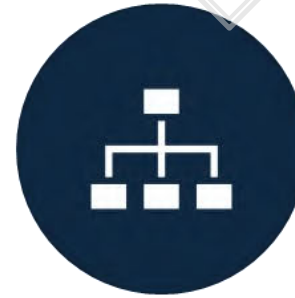


The international standardisation information exchange platform



Purpose:

Monitoring & EU participation in international standardisation (ISO, IEC, ITU-T)



Scope:

52 Technical Committees covered



Access:

172 experts (Ministries 73 NSB 99)



Functionalities:

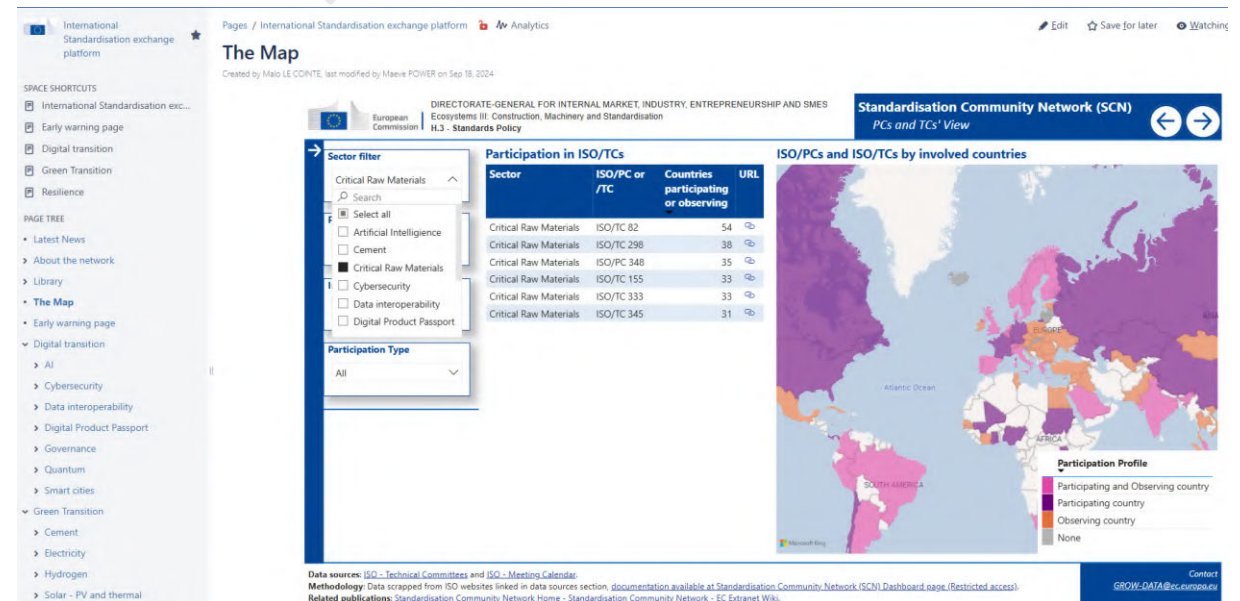
Early warning alerts.
Data visualisation tools.
Data scraping to identify participation gaps

The international standardisation information exchange platform

- Early Wins

- Successfully mobilised Member States through early-warning alerts.
- Facilitated swift EU coordination, protecting strategic EU interests.

Continued engagement will amplify impact



The international standardisation information exchange platform

- Next Steps:

- **Upcoming technical expert meeting** to clarify use & **increase participation.**
- **Regular meetings with Member States** to discuss **flagged/alert issues** and coordinate response.
- **Platform enhancements** (new UI, monthly newsletter) scheduled soon.
- **Facilitate further nominations** from Member States critical to maximise platform effectiveness.

- Actions for Member States:

- **Nominate sectoral experts** to expand coverage and influence (GROW-H3@ec.europa.eu)
- **Participate** in upcoming meetings; submit timely **reports from Technical Committees.**
- **Share critical information** proactively to strengthen EU coordination.

State of play of the implementation of the Judgement of the European Court of Justice (Case C-588/21 P)

- The Grand chamber of the European Court of Justice ruled on 5 March 2024 that the Commission erred in not disclosing access to four harmonised standards under the Access to Documents Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 and invoked the overriding public interest as prevailing over the copyright of a standard.
- Following the ruling, Commission has the obligation to disclose harmonised standards under Regulation (EC) 1049/2001.
- Access to eligible standards is provided via:
 1. NSB readability platforms
 2. Commission readability portal
- Number of Access to Documents requests received by COM (March 2025):
 - Around 350 requests
 - Around 500 eligible standards requested

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Next steps of the Evaluation and Revision of the Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 on European standardisation

Towards a future-proof EU Standardisation Regulation

March 2025

Evaluation of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012

Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 establishes the regulatory framework for the development and delivery of harmonised standards (hEN), requested by the Commission, in support of EU policies and legislation

Evaluation criteria

1. Effectiveness
2. Efficiency
3. Coherence
4. Relevance
5. EU added value

Context

- Legislative needs
 - Competitiveness needs
 - Societal relevance
 - Geopolitical context
- as outlined in the 2022 EU Standardisation Strategy*

Data collection

- Supporting study
- Public consultation
- Targeted surveys
- Interviews
- Case studies
- Workshops

Timelines

Public consultation and targeted surveys



May – August 2024

Interviews



August – October 2024

Validation workshop
by the study team



November 2024

Commission review & regulatory scrutiny board



January-March 2025

Publication of the evaluation
(Commission Staff Working Document)



Planned for Q2 2025

Key issues

- **Speed & flexibility:** Markets, technology cycles & EU policy priorities require faster standards-development
- **Inclusiveness:** Importance of tackling barriers for involvement of SMEs/startups, civil society & academia in standardisation
- **Access & transparency:** Need to find solutions to improve access to legally relevant content
- **EU position as a global standard-setter:** Increased geo-economic competition; EU impact on international standardisation to be fostered & strengthened

EU competitiveness is at stake:

- Cost of delays/unavailability of harmonised standards
- Legal uncertainty for businesses in the absence of harmonised standards
- Barriers to entry for innovative SMEs & startups
- Risk of slowing down take-up of new technologies
- Affecting our ability to promote and protect EU interests globally

Evaluation & revision: next steps

EU Competitiveness Compass (29 January 2025)

“The Commission will take the opportunity for making standard-setting processes faster and more accessible, in particular for SMEs and startups.

The current European standardisation system lacks responsiveness to faster innovation cycles in emerging technologies.

Engaging systematically in global standard setting processes is very important to influence outcomes aligned with EU interests, helping industry to maintain competitive positions in key technology markets [...]

Alternative options must be sought to give businesses legal security on compliance with the EU rules, in situations where harmonised standards do not exist, are not available or there is an urgent need.”

→ Revision of the Standardisation Regulation in 2026

Next steps:

- Launch of the impact assessment & Call for Evidence – planned for June 2025
- Public consultation – planned for Q3 2025

Discussion questions

- How have issues related to the speed and inclusiveness affected businesses (in particular SMEs) in your Member State?
- Which issues in EU standardisation are the most pressing for businesses in your Member State?
- How can a revision of the Regulation:
 - accelerate the delivery of harmonised standards, in particular in areas where there is an urgent need (e.g. strategic technologies)?
 - increase the agility and flexibility of EU standardisation?
 - strengthen the involvement of EU SMEs, startups, civil society and academia in standardisation?
 - improve the access to & simplify the use of harmonised standards for businesses, in particular SMEs?
 - strengthen the EU's role as a global standard-setter?