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LIMITE

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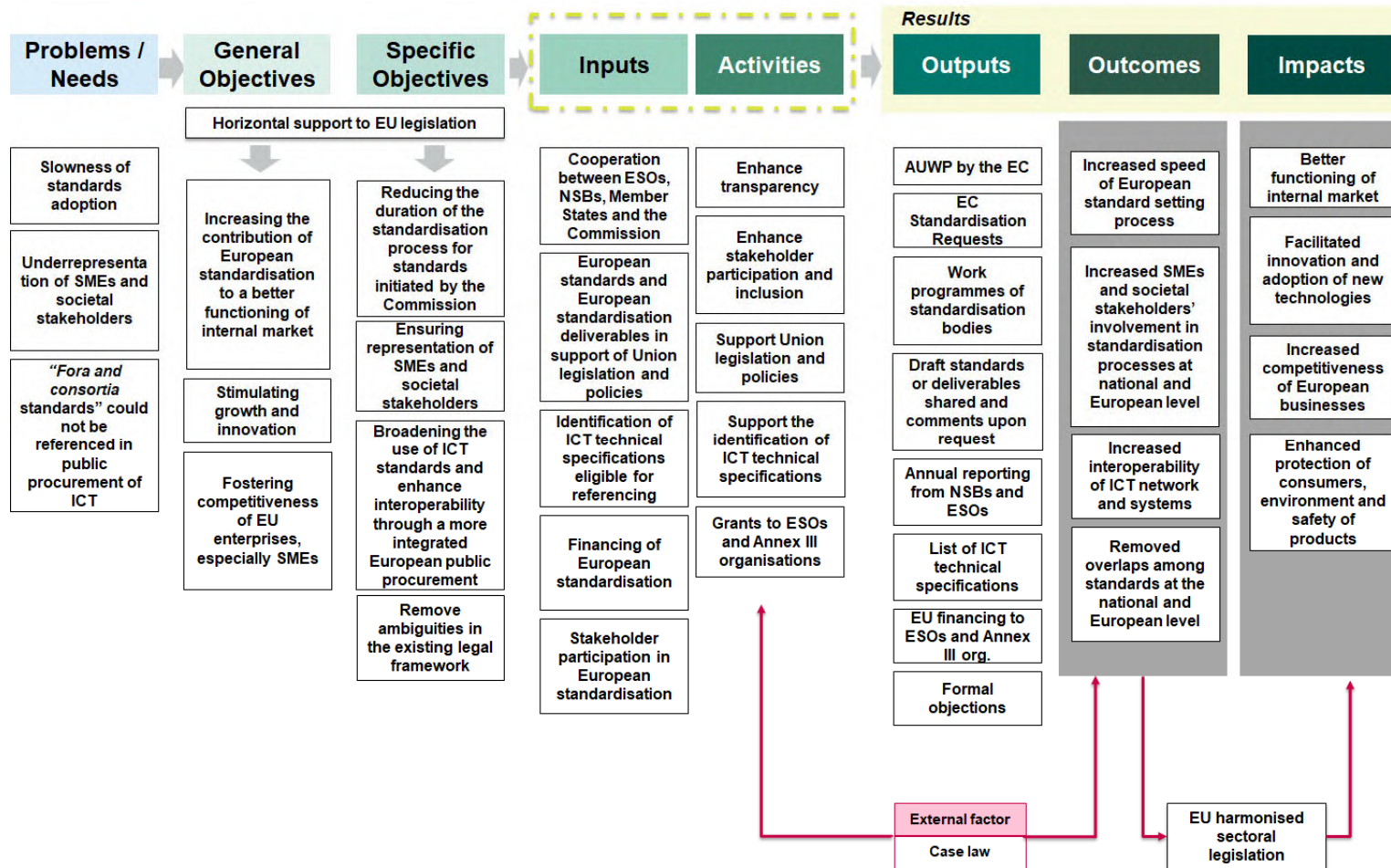
WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	Presidency
To:	Working Party on Technical Harmonisation (Attachés)
Subject:	Towards a future-proof EU Standardisation Regulation - Presentation at the Working Party on Technical Harmonisation on 24 June 2025

Towards a future-proof EU Standardisation Regulation

CWP Tech Harm June 2025

Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012: intervention logic



Evaluation criteria & results

- **Effectiveness:**
 - The Regulation was moderately effective in reducing the time it takes to develop harmonised standards in support of EU policies or legislation. However, with a total average duration of six years, the standardisation process is still considered **much too slow**, in particular in relation to legislative requirements, market needs and global competition.

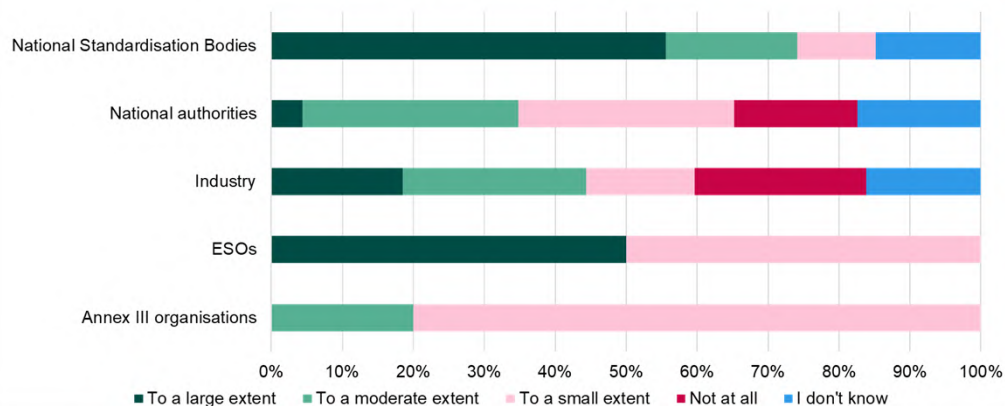
Phase	Subphase	Baseline (before Regulation (EU) 2012/1025)		After the Regulation (evaluated in 2024)
		<i>Low estimate</i>	<i>High estimate</i>	
Phase A: Adoption & notification of standardisation request	Standardisation requests adopted by the Commission	0.8 year	1 year	1.7 years
Phase B: Delivery of the standard	Acceptance of the standardisation request by the ESOs	0.4 years (5 months)	0.4 years (5 months)	0.1 year (1 month)
	Drafting stage	2.9 years	5 years	3.1 years
Phase C: Submission and publication	ESO submission time to EC after standard reference adoption	5.4 years	5.4 years	0.3 years (3 months)
	Citation time in the OJEU	Not available	Not available	0.9 years (11 months)
Total		9.5 years	11.8 years	6.1 years

Evaluation criteria & results

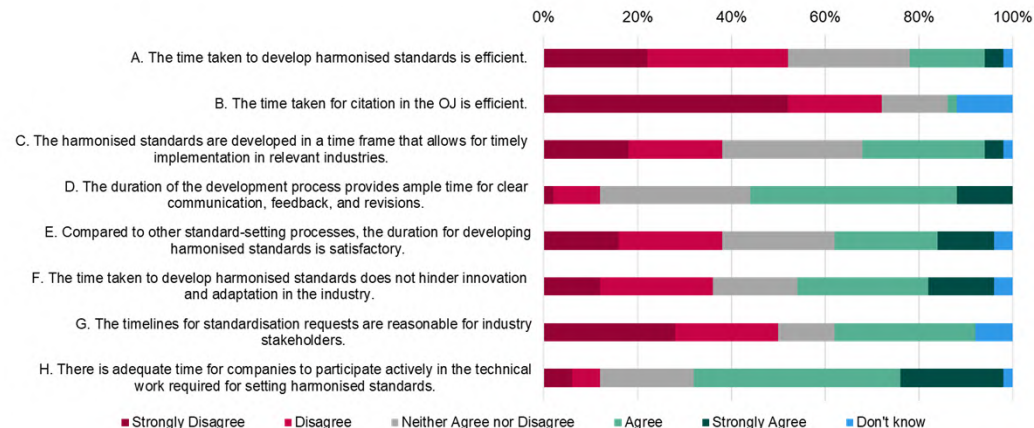
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Q9: To what extent has the Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 achieved its general objectives?
Reduce the time taken by the standardisation process for standards developed at the request of the Commission



Q9: To what extent are you satisfied with the time needed to develop harmonised standards?



Source: Public consultation. N=253

Source: Targeted industry consultation. N=50



Evaluation criteria & results

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 - *Drivers: procedural hurdles, recurrent quality issues (combined with the safeguards and control mechanisms put in place as a result of jurisprudence), increasing pressure from legislation and market needs, communication and coordination problems, and insufficient deployment of digital technologies, lack of alternatives*
- The Regulation was moderately effective in increasing the participation of SMEs and civil society stakeholders in the standards-development, but their real impact is still considered limited and they often **lack resources, capacity and skills** to participate effectively in complex and time-consuming standardisation processes.
- **Limited use of identification of ICT specifications** (Articles 13/14) yet an increasing range of digital legislation relying on harmonised standards



Evaluation criteria & results

- **Efficiency:**
 - Significant challenges in obtaining cost-benefit data
 - Systemic benefits brought by the presumption of conformity linked to harmonised standards
 - Framework relatively cost-effective for the Commission, yet expert participation costs for businesses remain significant due to the long/complex standard-development processes
 - Administrative burden resulting from legal/procedural developments
- **Coherence:**
 - Regulation resulted in increased coherence on the use of harmonised standards across the acquis
 - In certain cases, different pathways for standards-development foreseen by co-legislators for justified reasons
- **EU added value**
 - Major added value by avoiding/removing conflicting national standards
- **Relevance**
 - Initial objectives remain broadly relevant but do not fully reflect current priorities
 - Insufficient reflection of accelerated technology cycles (green/digital), geo-economic developments & challenges to EU's role as global standard-setter, CJEU case law
 - Alternative routes to standardisation are increasingly considered and may be needed more broadly to meet future needs

Evaluation: summary of 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



EU Single Market Strategy

EU Single Market Strategy (22 May 2025)

*“our standardisation framework struggles to meet market and policy needs, in particular on timeliness, inclusiveness and access to standards. Businesses are faced with the absence or late availability of harmonised standards, generating costs and uncertainty, hampering their competitiveness and slowing down the uptake of new technologies in the Single Market. **The Commission will seek to make the EU framework for harmonised standards futureproof by reviewing the Standardisation Regulation. This will enhance the speed and flexibility of the standardisation process, ensure a stakeholder-driven process with balanced stakeholder participation, in particular for startups, SMEs, civil society and academia, improve access to standards and reinforce the EU's role as the global standard-setter.**”*



Revision of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012

An **impact assessment** will be launched to evaluate potential policy options (*to be determined*).

This can include potential measures to:

- **accelerate standard-development and improve inclusiveness**, e.g. procedural improvements, digitisation measures, improved foresight, review of Annex I, etc.
- introduce more **flexible pathways and alternative options** to obtain harmonised standards and specifications, e.g. procuring standards or expanding the current possibility to identify technical specifications beyond public procurement & beyond the ICT field
- ensure free **accessibility** of legally relevant content of harmonised standards
- **maximise international impact**, while avoiding constraints on EU standardisation
- ensure appropriate **governance, oversight and funding mechanisms**

Close coordination with parallel revision of the NLF

Next steps:

- Launch of the impact assessment & Call for Evidence – June 2025
- Public consultation & targeted consultations – Q3 2025
- Proposal – May/June 2026

Discussion questions (raised at the previous CWP)

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

We welcome concrete proposals, including:

(1) possible amendments to existing procedures,

(2) new measures/pathways to obtain standards in a timely and inclusive manner, and

(3) governance implications.

Please consider the full lifecycle, from prenormative research to drafting, citation and uptake of standards.

