

# Standards to support for the Digital Single Market

Brussels, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

In May this year, the European Commission published its strategy for the creation of a Digital Single Market (DSM). The communication consists of a roadmap of 16 actions that will be put in place in order to achieve the DSM. Among these actions, key elements are interoperability and ICT standards.

Standards are essential for interoperability of new technologies within the Digital Single Market. Furthermore, standardisation can support the progress of new technologies such as 5G wireless communications, digitisation of manufacturing (Industry 4.0) and construction processes, data driven services, cloud services, cybersecurity, e-health, e-transport, and mobile payments.

While standards are developed by industry and stakeholders in a “bottom-up” approach, Europe needs to make sure that the right standards are established in support of new emerging technologies. The long-term competitiveness of EU economy is at stake if Europe is unable to take the leadership in important segments of the digital value chain.

With this in mind the European Commission is now seeking input from the industry and stakeholders in order to develop an integrated standardisation plan with key priorities and a focus on the technologies and domains that are deemed to be critical to the Digital Single Market. A [public consultation](#) was launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and will be open until 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

Simultaneously, the Commission continues to ensure financing of CEN-CENELEC and ETSI, the European Standardisation Organisations recognised in Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012. While the ESOs are private organisations governed by their members and stakeholders, the Commission has the capacity to request the development of standards in specific areas where deemed necessary. Examples of standards developed following an EC request are: [Intelligent Transport Systems](#) and [Radio Equipment](#).

The European Commission has additional tools that can be used to steer the standardisation process. In particular, the Annual Union Work Program (whereby the EC identifies strategic priorities for European standardisation on the basis of set policy objectives) and the ICT standardisation Rolling Plan (a roadmap inclusive of standardisation projects in all ICT related domains, each of them associated with the relevant policy objectives). Both instruments, the [Annual Union Work Program](#) and the [ICT standardisation Rolling Plan](#), are publicly available for consultation.