

Committee on Standards, 4th meeting - 4 March 2014

On 4th March, SBS participated in the 4th meeting of the Committee on Standards, chaired by the European Commission. During the meeting, a draft of the annual Union work programme for European standardisation for 2015 was presented by the Commission, together with the work programmes of the ESOs and NSBs under Article 3(1) of the Regulation 1025/2012. Furthermore, [Ernst & Young](#) presented the approach, methodology and planned activities for the Independent Review. The Commission also informed the participants on the current state of play of standardisation in the field of services.

ESOS – Stakeholders meeting with EC - 27 March 2014

On 27th March, DG Enterprise's standards unit organised the first "Coordination Meeting with Stakeholders Representation in European Standardisation", chaired by Mr Hein Bollens – Acting Head of the standards unit. One of the main goals of this first meeting was to get the standardisation stakeholders to know each other better and to find common ground for cooperation and exchange of experiences and best practices.

Committee on Standards, 5th meeting – 20 June 2014

On 20th June, SBS participated as observer in the 5th meeting of the Committee on Standards. This committee was set up pursuant to Article 22(1) of Regulation No 1025/2012 on European Standardisation. During the meeting, mandates were presented to Member States for voting, including those previously circulated for comments to SBS and the other Stakeholder Annex III Organisations. The EC also informed Member States on other forthcoming draft mandates on e-Invoicing, textile fibre names and labelling, privacy management of security technologies, on laser products, on alternative fuels infrastructure.

The meeting was also a unique opportunity as the European Commission provided information on the Revision of the Vademecum on European Standardisation. The handbook is a very important document that focuses on mandates and mandating processes. Finally, [Ernst & Young](#) presented the approach, methodology, time schedule and planned activities for the Independent Review – to be carried out in two phases.

Joint coordination meetings between EC, ESOS, EFTA AND THE ANNEX III ORGANISATIONS – 8 July 2014

Hosted by [EFTA](#), the first coordination meeting between the Annex III organisations ([SBS](#), [ANEC](#), [ECOS](#), [ETUI](#)) and the ESOs ([CEN](#), [CENELEC](#), [ETSI](#)) was organised by the European Commission on 8th July.

EC Acting Head of Unit Hein Bollens opened the session and presented the next steps to be taken by the European Commission which led to the adoption of the annual Union work programme for European standardisation. The work programme included a policy letter to be sent in advance to the relevant stakeholders in order to launch a written consultation. SBS called on the ESOs to recognise Annex III organisations as having a specific status, given the role that Regulation 1025 has attributed to them and also asked to establish a clear and substantial distinction in rights between Annex III organisations and other stakeholders in the standard-making process. SBS reminded the spirit of Regulation 1025, enforcing the ESOs to actively engage and facilitate the participation of Annex III organisations. SBS suggested elaborating a joint document to be the background of a [joint Annex III organisations' reply](#) to the written consultation on the policy letter.

Working Group on the draft Vademecum on European Standardisation – 14 October 2014

SBS took part in the Working Group of the Vademecum on European standardisation on 14th October. All Members and observers from the Committee of Standards were invited to actively contribute to the discussion, initiated by the European Commission. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the text of the current drafts of the Vademecum in detail.

In 2014, the European Commission undertook a revision process of the [Vademecum](#) in which SBS was invited to take part. The Vademecum addresses the general role, preparation and adoption process of the standardisation requests (mandates), as well as the common requirements for drafting harmonised standards. It serves as a guide for Commission officials, Member States and standardisation stakeholders, providing a clear picture of both the Commission policies and processes in this field. However, this Vademecum does not have a binding status.

In its reply to the consultation, SBS published a Position paper, on two important principle to be kept in mind:

- Market relevance's principle in proposing draft standardisation requests (mandates). Indeed, these should take into account concrete demands of the economy. This will ensure the consistency of standardisation with what society really needs and will put SMEs at the core of the debate.
- Integration of SBS in pre consultation with similar period of time as the ESOS - a minimum of 30 days to participate in an EC consultation on the drafting of standardisation requests.