

European standards - implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012

2016/2274(INI) - 09/06/2017 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection adopted the own-initiative report by Marlene MIZZI (S&D, MT) on European Standards – implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, exercising its prerogative as an associated committee in accordance with [Article 54 of the Rules of Procedure](#), also gave its opinion on the report.

General considerations: while welcoming the overarching Commission standardisation package, Members acknowledged that the European standardisation system is a central element in the delivery of the single market.

They advocated an open, inclusive, transparent and primarily market-driven European standardisation system open to all actors (businesses, public authorities, standardisation bodies and other interested parties).

Moreover, the European standardisation organisations (ESOs) should in all circumstances develop **inclusive, sustainable, safe and high-quality standards** with fair access for and treatment of all stakeholders as well as minimised impact on the environment and adequate protection of personal data and privacy.

Members considered that the EU should uphold its **key role** in the international standardisation system, and stressed the importance of promoting European standards at a global level when negotiating trade agreements with third countries.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) standards: the report called on the Commission to request the ESOs to contribute to **high-quality interoperable and open standards** and encourage their wide adoption.

Stressing the imperative need to adapt ICT standardisation policy to market and policy developments, Members recommended that the Commission and ESOs prioritise standards in the area of 5G, cloud computing, IoT, data and cybersecurity domains, as well as in that of vertical domains, such as ‘connected and automatic driving and intelligent transport systems’, ‘smart cities’, smart energy’, ‘advance manufacturing’ and ‘smart living environments’.

The report stressed that **open standardisation processes** have been effective insofar as they constitute a driver of innovation, interconnectivity and deployment of technologies based on the FRAND (fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory practices) methodology while ensuring that the standardisation process offers a level playing field.

European standards for the 21st century: Members considered that the standardisation system should be made more transparent, open and inclusive with a view to fully integrating the concerns of **citizens, consumers and SMEs**. They regretted that Parliament did not consult them prior to the adoption of the package, and urged the European institutions to align the different initiatives into a **single strategic, holistic work programme**.

The report stressed the importance of the interinstitutional dialogue for the preparation of the Annual Union Work Programme (AUWP) and encouraged efforts to involve, prior to the adoption of the AUWP, all relevant stakeholders in an **Annual Standardisation Forum** to discuss new fields, existing challenges and necessary improvements of the standardisation process. It urged the Commission to encourage the ESOs to ensure that market-relevant services standards reflect the **increased servitisation of the economy** and are developed with the aims of ensuring the safety and quality of services.

Moreover, the standardisation process in Europe must include standards that **improve barrier-free accessibility to transport** and transport services for people with disabilities and older people.

European Standardisation Organisations: while welcoming the role played by the ESOs, Members encouraged further initiatives to improve their openness, accessibility and transparency, and recommended that their work be guided by European interests. They considered that the use of digital tools can facilitate stakeholders' participation in the development of standards and provide information about upcoming, ongoing and finalised standardisation work.

Strategic recommendations: the Commission is called upon to enhance the synergies and coordination between the European institutions, the ESOs, the NSBs and all relevant stakeholder organisations through the Annual Standardisation Forum.

Members also called on the Commission to **harmonise the conditions for Annex III organisations** in [Regulation 1025/2012](#) and to ensure the removal of the de facto obstacles to their effective involvement in standardisation.

They recommended that the membership status, rights and obligations of Annex III organisations be subject to a revision with the ESOs.

The Commission is invited to:

- work with the ESOs and the NSBs to promote easy-to-use **contact points of access** to standards that can provide assistance and information to the users of standards regarding those which are available and their general specifications;
- develop **technology-watch** activities so as to identify future ICT developments that could benefit from standardisation;
- prepare a **European register** listing existing European standards in all official EU languages.

Lastly, Member States are encouraged to use European ICT standards in public procurement procedures.