Basic information

1995/2277(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Standardisation: broader use in Community policy **Subject** 2.10.03 Standardisation, EC/EU standards and trade mark, certification, compliance	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	MEIER Erhard (PSE)	18/12/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	FERBER Markus (PPE)	26/02/1996
RELA External Economic Relations	PEX Peter (PPE)	28/11/1995
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
TRAN Transport and Tourism		
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/10/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0412	Summary
17/11/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/07/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
15/07/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0248/1996	

18/09/1996	Debate in Parliament		
19/09/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/10/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2277(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ECON/4/07244

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0248/1996 OJ C 277 23.09.1996, p. 0004	15/07/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0486/1996 OJ C 320 28.10.1996, p. 0136-0208	19/09/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0412	30/10/1995	Summary

Standardisation: broader use in Community policy

1995/2277(COS) - 19/09/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Erhard MEIER (PSE,A) on the broader use of standardization in Community policy, Parliament noted that European standards are increasingly replacing national standards and saw this as strengthening the internal market and the competitive position of European suppliers in world markets. Parliament advocated close cooperation between the European and international standardization organizations. Desiring that European standardization policy should not hinder the vital objectives of competitiveness, growth and employment, Parliament emphasized that standards should not be an obstacle to innovation and highlighted the importance of prenormative research. To ensure that the market position of individual suppliers is not unduly protected by standards, Parliament suggested a version of technical standards geared less to specific technical procedures than to performance and test features. In order that the current cooperation between the three European standardization institutes might increase, Parliament considered that a proposal should be drawn up for a statute of a Community agency for the European standardization and certification bodies. Finally, Parliament emphasized the importance of involving the consumer and environmental organizations, the public-interest groups concerned, and the SMEs in the process of European standardization.

Standardisation: broader use in Community policy

1995/2277(COS) - 30/10/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: the Commission communication is in response to the commitment made in the Strategic Programme to present a report on the broader use of standardization in Community policies. It attempts to give an overview of the current situation as regards the use of standards within the context of Union policies and set out the projects for extending the role of standardization in the immediate future. CONTENT: the volume of European standards has increased considerably over recent years and has established the specific role of European standardization, which is why the Commission considers that the use of standardization should be encouraged and that, where appropriate, the principle of referring to European standards should be applied in Union legislation. The Commission recommends that certain conditions should be adhered to when deciding to taking recourse to standardization: - efficiency: the European standardization agencies should be able to respond to the demand for European standards from industry and the authorities; - European dimension: this implies clear, uniform identification of the European nature of a standard once it has been transposed at national level and a truly European mark of conformity using the EN logo; - acceptability: this implies completely transparent activities, easy access to European standards and integral access to the standardization process for interested parties; - needs: needs for European standards in specific sectors should be evaluated as an on-going process and the transparency and objectivity of the standardization process should be highlighted; - technical adequacy: standards must support the integration of the market without hampering innovation. Where possible, standardization should be based on test methods and performance specifications. The Commission acknowledges that European standardization organizations have taken substantial measures in order to meet these requirements. However, this action is still important for the future and continuing improvements to European standardization as a support for EU policy should be based on close collaboration and dialogue between the European authorities and the standardization organizations in a spirit of partnership.