Basic information

1998/2106(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
European standardisation: efficiency and accountability under the new approach **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	KESTELIJN-SIERENS Marie-Paule (Mimi) (ELDR)	25/06/1998
	Committee for opinion	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/05/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0291	Summary
15/07/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/12/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
08/12/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0501/1998	
12/02/1999	Debate in Parliament		
12/02/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/05/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/2106(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/4/10062

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0501/1998 OJ C 104 14.04.1999, p. 0004	08/12/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0126/1999 OJ C 150 28.05.1999, p. 0612-0624	12/02/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0291	13/05/1998	Summary

European standardisation: efficiency and accountability under the new approach

1998/2106(COS) - 13/05/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: This Commission report is in response to a request from the Council to prepare a report on the efficiency of European standardisation. SUBSTANCE: The report has been prepared in close collaboration with the Member States, European and national standards bodies and the relevant committees at Community level. It describes the relationship between the new approach and standardisation and emphasises the need for accountability in standardisation. It then indicates how efficiency can be assessed, and formulates a number of proposals for improving efficiency. Its main conclusions are as follows: - the basic concepts of the new approach and of European standardisation have proved their validity for the development of the single market, - the management of the standardisation process and transparency can be improved, which is a task mainly for the European standards bodies, - standardisation as a voluntary system has its limitations, and public authorities have the responsibility to create incentives and the framework in which standards can be developed in a efficient way. With regard in particular to improving transparency, the Commission invites the standards organisations to make reports on the progress of standardisation in new approach areas available on the Internet. A number of aspects, such as the analysis of the impact of standards on the market, the working of sectoral committees and the visibility of European standardisation and its financing require continuous follow-up, involving the cooperation of standards bodies, national authorities and the Commission.

European standardisation: efficiency and accountability under the new approach

1998/2106(COS) - 12/02/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament voted to endorse the resolution drafted by Mrs. KESTELIN-SIERENS (ELDR, B) which welcomes Commission proposals for improving efficiency and transparency in the standardisation process and is aimed at abolishing non-tariff barriers to trade. - The Parliament pointed to the fact that more resources must be made available to SMEs and consumer and environment organisations at national and EU level to enable them to participate adequately in the standardisation process. - It urged the Commission to draw up a Green Paper within two years containing cost-benefit analyses and assessments of European standardisation work and supporting its implementation, and to benchmark and implement a best practice model of the standardisation process in Europe vis-à-vis other economies. - The Parliament believes that a balance must be struck not only between transparency and efficiency, but also between efficiency and market impact of standardisation activities, and calls, consequently, on the Commission and national and European standards institutes to look into that aspect more closely. - The EP notes that co-operation between the three European standards institutes - CEN, CENELEC and ETSI - generally operates smoothly and consequently fails to see how, at this time, a merger of European

standards institutes could make the standardisation process more efficient, since each institute has established its own particular expertise, there would be no clear advantage to be gained that could be offset against the cost and effort of adjustment and none of the European standards institutes advocates it. - The Parliament opposes the use of formal voting at an early stage of standardisation activities with the objective of speeding up the process, since the European standardisation process is based on mutual agreement, which in turn safeguards the participation, involvement and confidence of all parties.