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Towards better participation in Standardisation

ETUC standardisation newsletter - June 2016

Save the Date - 13 October 2016 - Societal Stakeholders' Event on European Standardisation

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the ANEC, the voice of European consumers in standardisation and the European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation (ECOS) are pleased to announce the tenue of their first joint event on standardisation to take place in **Brussels** on the **13 October 2016**. The **joint ANEC-ECOS-ETUC event** is aimed at presenting and promoting societal stakeholders' view of the European standardisation system, including topics such as inclusiveness, role and added value of societal stakeholders in standardisation or relations between legislation and standardisation.

This event is for all public interested by the role of standards for the society at large, including consumers' associations, environmental NGOs, trade unions, as well as public officials, European/national standardisation bodies and members of the European parliament. So, save the date !

The European Economic and Social Committee votes for an inclusive European standardisation system

On 25 May 2016, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) plenary almost unanimously approved rapporteur Patrick Liébus' Opinion on the 2016 Annual Union Work Programme for European standardisation. This is the first time workers, consumers and environmental NGOs and small and medium-sized companies make their joint voice heard in an official document on standardisation at the EESC. The Opinion calls for better inclusion of the

underrepresented players within standardisation as well as for a specific status for the organisations that represent them. Have a look at the [press release](#) and read this very helpful [opinion here](#)!

ETUC signs the Joint Initiative on Standardisation



At a high-level conference on the Single Market in Amsterdam on 13 June, the European Trade Union Confederation, the European Commission and other stakeholders signed a joint initiative on standardisation.

The ETUC will work with other stakeholders on the European standardisation process, in the framework of the Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS). The JIS is a voluntary and non-binding initiative to boost public-private partnership in European standardisation, through a programme of activities for the next four years. The ETUC has contributed to the consensus-based drafting process of the JIS. The document consists of two parts. The first sets out a joint vision for European standardisation. It reaffirms the need for an inclusive standardisation system working in line with the legal framework provided by the European Standardisation Regulation (EU)1025/2012. The second part puts forward concrete actions to be taken by a future steering committee. Two of these actions have been strongly supported by the ETUC and aim at improving trade union participation at European as well as national level. "For the ETUC it is clear that standards can complement legislation but must not replace it, or encroach upon collective bargaining and the autonomy of the social partners,"

said Peter Scherrer, ETUC Deputy General Secretary.

The actions sketched in the JIS will be further defined and implemented via the JIS Steering Committee that held its first meeting on 28 June in Brussels. ETUC will actively participate the work of this steering committee. For more information, have a look at the [text of the Joint Initiative](#) and [ETUC related communication](#).

ISO 45001 - update on voting results

In March 2016, the Committee ISO/PC 283 opened a voting period to approve the ISO standard « ISO 45001 Occupational health and safety management systems - Requirements with guidance for use». The process was not successful for ISO, but significant for trade unions. The draft has been disapproved with more than 3000 comments submitted during the voting period. A broad majority of the votes against came from European countries, some of whom raised objections, others disapproved of the draft. Some of the main objections were related to:

- the current draft does not respect the core International Labour Standards principle that an effective OHS management system should comply with national laws and other legal requirements ;
- the current draft is not in line with the EU Occupational Health and Safety Framework ;
- the terms “worker” and “workers’ representatives”, “participation” and “consultation” used throughout the standard, can be misinterpreted and cause confusion ;

This vote was one stage on the road leading to the adoption of the standard. The result means that Committee will need to examine the comments and re-draw a plan to relaunch a new text to be put to a new vote. In this context, the ETUC reiterates its corresponding [Resolution](#) and encourages those who attend the future meetings to advocate for trade unions comments.

ICT Standardisation and ETUC Resolution on Digitalisation

On 8-9 June 2016, the ETUC Executive Committee has adopted a Resolution on digitalisation – towards fair digital work. Digitalisation of the economy and society is an important challenge for the European trade union movement. Digitalisation brings the fourth industrial revolution which is about to change

industry, services, markets, but also the world of labour in general (in public services, education etc.). Digitalisation means opportunities as well as risks, including in the field of standardisation.

The ETUC recalls that ICT standards for completing the digital single market are not only a matter of technology and interoperability, as they will impact upon occupational health and safety, privacy at work, surveillance of employees, skills and competitiveness of European workforces. In this regard, the ETUC Resolution demands to conduct an assessment of the social impacts of ICT standards on workers, to promote the development of open standards in all identified priority domains, open and accessible to all players in industry through fair, reasonable and nondiscriminatory legal and economic conditions and to secure funding for an effective participation of trade unions in relevant global standard-setting organisations falling outside the remit of the 1025/2012 Regulation and related provision for inclusiveness. Please, find [here](#) the complete version of the Resolution.

Publication of EC Standardisation Package

On 1 June 2016, the European Commission has adopted a "**Standardisation package: European Standards for the 21st Century**". Next to the EC communication setting out its vision for a single and coherent European Standardisation System, this package includes :

- The Annual Union Work Programme (AUWP) for European Standardisation 2017. The AUWP sets out the priorities in EU standardisation for 2017 ; services and ICT sectors are identified as priority areas given their cross-cutting role in the economy.
- REFIT/Article 24 Report, i.e. report from the EC on the implementation of Regulation (EU) N° 1025/2012 on European Standardisation from 2013 to 2015.
- Service Standards Staff Working Document : the EC proposes to prioritise and promote the targeted development of voluntary European service standards.

Moreover, the standardisation package puts in context the Joint Initiative on Standardisation as a direct delivery of the Single Market Strategy. In line with the Joint Initiative on Standardisation, the Commission proposes to launch an inter-institutional dialogue, including an integrated annual reporting preserving the diversity of different domains, with the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the

implementation of EU standardisation policy and the contribution of European standards to EU policies in general and to jobs creation, competitiveness and growth in particular.

For more information and documents, please see [here](#).

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