



Towards better participation in Standardisation

ETUC standardisation newsletter - November 2017

Dear colleagues and friends,

The ETUC is pleased to send you its newsletter on standardisation that will keep you regularly updated on the ETUC's activities in the field of standardisation. It will deliver information on European and international standardisation direct to your desktop. If you wish additional information and/or documents related to the news mentioned below, feel free to contact us at standards@etuc.org.

Work on horizontal service standards goes ahead

The European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) is the body which the European authorities entrust with drawing up and publishing European Standards. CEN is preparing two standards in the field of horizontal services. In a recent vote, the members of CEN agreed to formulate a standard on 'Services contracts' and 'Services performance'.

While the first text will provide guidance on the design and structure of contracts, the latter will give direction on mechanisms to measure performance as part of service contracts. The work will be carried out by CEN Technical Committee 447 'Horizontal services standards'.

The Commission [mandated](#) CEN in 2013 to come up with specific proposals on topics for horizontal service standards. The overall objective of these standards is to raise the quality of services offered in the EU.

The ETUC participates in CEN TC 447.

ETUC awareness-raising seminar in Italy and Malta



On **Tuesday 7 November**, the national trade unions of Italy, in conjunction with the ETUC and UNI, organised a one-day seminar on standardisation.

The objective was to raise awareness among Italian trade unions about standardisation. Hence, the seminar took place in Italian.

Józef Niemec, special advisor at the ETUC, pointed out that standardisation has changed from being an activity by and for industry, to a policy tool to support or complement legal measures.

Gianna Fracassi took part in the round table discussion on behalf of the Italian trade unions. Participants were told that standards are an important tool to underpin economic life and shape industrial policy. As such, standards are industrial strategic tools, which can modify the competitive positions of companies on the market.

The seminar was followed by a basic training on the standards-drafting process, where the participants took a closer look at the ISO/DIS 45001 'Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems'.





GENERAL WORKERS UNION MALTA
COMPETENT | CONSISTENT | CREDIBLE

On **Friday 24 November**, the General Workers Union (GWU), MCCAA and the ETUC organised a national event in Malta. Over 70 participants attended. And for the first time, the event was also broadcast over the internet.

On behalf of the ETUC, Peter Scherrer pointed out that quite a number of European standards address labour topics, such as those on qualifications and the work environment. And European standards have become an important instrument in the framework of 'Better Regulation' and REFIT. But at the same time, European standards cannot encroach upon national labour laws, collective agreements and collective bargaining. And any attempt to use standards for a parallel recodification of labour laws is unacceptable to European trade unions.



Annalisa Tessarolo (European Commission) gave an overview of the regulatory framework (1025/2012). She also stressed that standardisation activity is a public-private partnership, mainly financed by industry (93%-95%) and national governments (3%-5%), and only 2% by the European Commission. Following the morning seminar, a practical training session on how to influence the content of standards took place.



ETUC language course in York

English is the *lingua franca* spoken in the European and international standard-setting activities. In order to improve the level of English of trade union experts involved in standardisation, the ETUC organised an English language course in 2017. The overall feedback from the participants was very positive. The ETUC is therefore looking forward to organising similar training in 2018.

Trade Unions meet to discuss ongoing standardisation activities

The ETUC Permanent Committee on Standardisation met on 9 November 2017 in Brussels. At its 9th meeting, this committee brought together trade unionists from all over Europe to exchange views on national experiences and new activities in standardisation. The participants discussed the achievements of the ETUC STAND project so far and fine-tuned the upcoming work for 2018.



ETUC proposals for cleaner air in airplanes

In our previous newsletter, we reported on the health implications for flight staff and passengers who breathe toxic fumes contained in cabin air.

In order to shape the European standard on this matter, the ETUC joined CEN TC 436 'Cabin Air Quality on civil aircraft - Chemical Agents', in mid-October.

We have submitted [recommendations](#) on TC 436, to draw attention to the scientific evidence on the matter. We call for a reduction of fugitive emissions from aircraft engines using bleed air to the minimum achievable using Best Available Technology (BAT). We also recommend that future generations of aircraft should have a bleed-free architecture.

On this topic, the ETUC works in close cooperation with the European Transport Federation (ETF)

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