



Towards better participation in Standardisation

ETUC standardisation newsletter - April 2019

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.

Meeting of the Permanent Committee on Standardisation

The seventh meeting of the ETUC Permanent Committee on Standardisation took place on Friday, 12 April. Over 30 people took part. More participants than in the past made use of the video conferencing tool. This allows experts to save precious travel time to Brussels and helps to reduce their carbon footprint.

Peter Scherrer – ETUC Deputy General Secretary – opened the meeting and gave an overview of past achievements. He also elaborated on the chapter on standardisation which will be included in the next ETUC Action Programme. The final wording will be decided at the ETUC Congress in Vienna (20-24 May 2019). During the meeting, the Permanent Committee took stock of current activities and confirmed the standard-setting priorities.

ETUC meets with the EESC Rapporteur and discusses the European Commission's Annual Union Work Programme (AUWP) for European Standardisation 2019

In February, Guido De Jongh met with Gerardo Larghi – member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) – and his team. During the meeting, they reviewed and discussed standardisation policy, standardisation activities and the use of standards as a policy tool for the shaping of the single market. This discussion contributed to the completion of the EESC Opinion on the [European Commission's Communication on the Annual Union Work Programme \(AUWP\) 2019](#) on standardisation. The EESC Opinion was adopted and published in March as document [INT/878](#). The Opinion is very welcome and in line with the ETUC's goals and priorities.



European Economic and Social Committee

European and Economic and Social Committee gives its Opinion on harmonised standards

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has also given its Opinion ([INT/879](#)) on the European Commission Communication [[COM\(2018\) 764 Final](#)] on harmonised standards.

The EESC recommends that more could be done in the area of transparency and inclusion, as there are still very many stakeholders who are potentially interested in the standardisation process but who in practice do not participate in it. This constraint is clearly reflected in the EU's difficulty in systematically defending its standards internationally in International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) negotiations.

The EESC also notes that the use of (harmonised) standards is usually voluntary. However, *in practice*, (harmonised) standards are observed and recognised by practically all because it is so complicated to use other, alternative standards. *In practice*, (harmonised) standards are therefore more than just 'voluntary'.

Gerardo Larghi, the Rapporteur on this Opinion, also contributed to the EESC

Opinion on the Annual Union Work Programme for European standardisation 2019.

The ETUC doubles its involvement and capacity in the standard-writing process



The ETUC STANDardisation project's core activity is involvement in standard-writing activities which directly affect workers. We aim to shape the content of standards in such a way that they do not encroach on labour laws, collective agreements and collective bargaining, but rather achieve upwards convergence.

In 2018, the ETUC was involved in 17 different sectors (or 'technical committees') and consequently working at full capacity. Therefore, more than in the past, the ETUC must start to prioritise its standard-setting activities.

Sixth European Conference on standardisation, testing and certification in the field of occupational safety and health

The EUROSHNET conference on standardisation, testing and certification in the field of occupational safety and health will take place on 12-14 June 2019 in Dresden, Germany. EUROSHNET is a European network of occupational safety and health (OSH) experts involved in standardisation, testing and certification.

The conference brings together various stakeholders and will discuss the changes, challenges and chances currently facing standardisation, testing and

certification.

The conference is aimed at manufacturers and users of products, European and national authorities, OSH experts, and other stakeholders with an interest in health and safety at work.

The ETUC will participate in the panel discussion on ‘Stakeholder views on the future role of standardisation, testing and certification’, to share the concerns and challenges for European workers.

Please find more information on the [EUROSHNET homepage](#).



New ISO standard on worker-carers

ISO, the International Standardisation Organisation, will develop a standard for ‘Carer-inclusive and accommodating organisations’. The work will be carried out in ISO/TC 314 ‘Ageing societies’ WG 3 ‘Carer-inclusive and accommodating organisations’.

The standard will set requirements for organisations on how to deal with worker-carers. Worker-carers are employees who work in a normal job but at the same time take care of family members suffering long-term illness at home. Worker-carers are found in all industries and all occupations, regardless of workplace size or sector. The future standard will be based on the existing Canadian Standard B701-17 ‘Carer-inclusive and accommodating organisations’.

The ETUC supports the existing [ILO Convention C156 ‘Workers with family responsibilities’](#), which provides measures for equal opportunities and treatment for workers with family responsibilities. We hope the new ISO standard is coherent with the minimum requirements of C156.

ISO/TC 314 WG 3 has launched an [online survey](#) on the applicability and

relevance of the Canadian seed document. Responses can be submitted until 14 June.

If you would like to receive more information on this work, please contact us at standards@etuc.org.



Including social aspects in *private* service procurement – have your say now!

CEN/TC 447 'Horizontal standards for the provision of services' is developing a series of European standards that address different phases in the provision of services: the service procurement phase, the service contracting phase and the service execution phase. The development of this series is in response to the standardisation request M/517 from the European Commission for programming and the development of horizontal service standards.

Until 20 June, comments can be submitted on these three draft standards:

- prEN 17371-1 Provision of services - Part 1: Service procurement - Guidance for the assessment of the capacity of service providers and evaluation of service proposals.

- prEN 17371-2 Provision of services - Part 2: Services Contracts - Guidance for the design and structure of contracts.
- prEN 17371-3 Provision of services - Part 3: Management of Performance Measurement - Guidance on the mechanism to measure performance as part of service contracts.

The ETUC participated in the development of prEN 17371-1 on private service procurement and paid particular attention to labour rights and social criteria in the tendering process.

Should you wish to learn more about the draft standards and provide comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Upcoming: Draft European standard on *public* service procurement

CEN/TC 461 on Public Procurement has been set up to prepare a specific standard focusing on integrity, accountability and addressing contracting entities for procurement operations.

The European Commission has given CEN/TC 461 its initial task as part of its Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS) under the Single Market Strategy. JIS

consists of 15 different actions, and CEN/TC 461 is part of action 11: 'Increased use of standards in public procurement'.

The proposal for the new standard prEN XXXXX 'Integrity and accountability in public procurement' will be discussed and adopted at the first meeting in June. The proposal document is already available.



Good air quality in airplanes?

CEN/TC 436 is developing a European standard on cabin air quality in civil airplanes. Recently, it decided the work will not only focus on chemical agents but more broadly on compounds, hence broadening the scope.

This future standard will define requirements and recommendations for chemical compounds in the air in civil aircrafts. This means the standard is applicable to civil aircraft in operation from the period that is defined as when the first person enters the aircraft until the last person leaves the aircraft.

The enquiry phase of the draft standard will be launched soon. The enquiry is important in the standardisation process as it allows input also from those who did not participate in writing the standards. The CEN National Members (National Standardisation Bodies) submit their vote and their comments within

the prescribed 12-week voting period.

Should you wish to learn more about the draft standard and provide comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.



ETUC English course for trade unionists working on standardisation

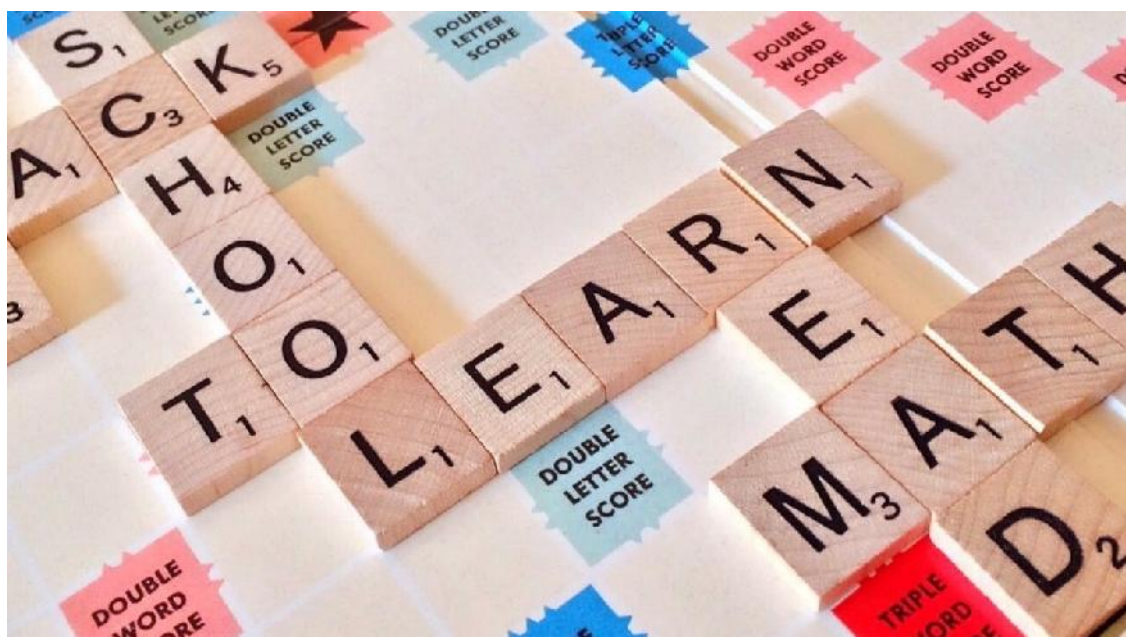
English is the *lingua franca* of the standardisation world but not of trade unions, who continue to rely on interpretation/translation. This is a major obstacle to actively contributing to standardisation activities. We therefore offer the opportunity for trade unionists working in/on standardisation to participate in a technical English language course.

The intensive English language course will take place from 18-22 November 2019 at the Unilang International School, Malta.

The course is divided into different sessions, focussing on English used during (standardisation) meetings, speaking and practical English, which would help to put the language into practice. At the end of the course, participants receive a certificate.

The ETUC will cover the course fee and reimburse accommodation and travel expenses up to a certain amount.

If you are interested, please send an email to kbehnke@etuc.org by Friday, 10 May at the latest. We give priority to members of standardisation committees. If not all the places are taken, we will offer the remaining seats to other applicants with an interest in standard-setting activities.



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