

ETUC standardisation newsletter - February 2022

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.

The European Commission releases its Strategy on
Standardisation



The European Commission issued on 2 February its long-awaited [Strategy on Standardisation](#), which was accompanied by a [proposal](#) for an amendment to the Regulation on standardisation, a [report](#) on its implementation, and the 2022 [AUWP](#) for European standardisation. Overall, ETUC welcomes the standardisation strategy as it addresses most of the issues ETUC had raised in its contribution to the consultation during the summer.

ETUC welcomes that the strategy recognises the strategic importance of standards, and the need to reduce the influence of non-European interests on the decision-making process, especially as regards to standards supporting EU legislation and policies. Moreover, ETUC agrees on the need for improved coordination and more inclusiveness in setting the priorities for standardisation, which can no longer be determined by technical experts alone, all the more if the standards are to support policy goals that fall in the wider public interest. However, ETUC is concerned by the creation of additional platforms that will require additional resources and may not result in the most efficient way forward.

ETUC further agrees on the need for a balanced representation of interests within the national standardisation bodies. National delegations cannot only represent industrial interests if the standards are going to be used to show compliance with rules imposed in the interest of workers. A truly multi stakeholder approach is essential to guarantee that standards meet EU ambitions.

For more information, read the ETUC first assessment of the standardisation strategy, available [here](#).

ETUC contributes to the European Commission consultation on Standardisation Governance



ETUC participated in January 2022 in the EC targeted consultation on 'Standardisation Governance', which aimed at gathering stakeholders' views on good governance principles in the European standardisation system (ESS). In its reply on whether the decision-making process in the ESS provided for sufficient checks and balances to uphold European interests, the ETUC raised its concern with the current primacy principle of international standards, and their transposition process, as it does not allow an appropriate evaluation of the impacts of ISO/IEC standards in the EU internal market, nor a compliance check with EU laws, values, and principles.

ETUC further stressed that if the standards to support EU legislations are to be developed at international level, the requirements of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 need to be fulfilled if the standards are to be cited in the Official Journal. These requirements include the representation and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including trade unions, in the development of the standards.

Finally, although the ETUC recognises the efforts made by the ESOs, essentially CEN and CENELEC, towards increased inclusiveness, more could be done at national and international level.

ETUC is happy to see that the points raised in the consultation were taken on board in the Strategy on Standardisation, whereby the Commission has called on the European Standardisation Organisations to make proposals, by the end of 2022, to modernise their governance. "This should include addressing uneven and untransparent representation of industrial interests and increasing the involvement of trade unions, civil society SMEs, and users".

Slovenian awareness event on standardisation raises major interest



On 30 November 2021, the Slovenian Trade Union ZSSS co-organised with ETUC, an online national awareness event around standardisation, which gathered more than 150 participants. The different guest speakers focused on the practical application of standards that directly affect workers on the shopfloor. Vilko Svab - TÜV SÜD, *Lead Auditor for standards ISO 9001 and ISO 45001*, explained how the audits against ISO 45001 on occupational health and safety management are carried out and what it brings to OSH within organisations. Additionally, Jernej Jenko - *BSC Safety Engineer, president DVI Ljubljana*, outlined the European standards that define the technical criteria for face masks, which are increasingly worn today mainly as protection against COVID 19. Finally, Tea Jarc, President of the ETUC Youth Committee, presented the [CEN Workshop Agreement 17541:2020](#), the ETUC contributed to, which provides guidance for quality internships in Europe.

The ETUC Special Committee "Standardisation" met on 15 December 2021



The second biannual meeting of the ETUC Special Committee ‘Standardisation’, which gathers the ETUC affiliates and experts, was held virtually on 15 December. The Committee discussed policy issues relating to standardisation, such as the forthcoming EU standardisation strategy, as well as specific standardisation work in the fields of Occupational Safety and Health” (i.e. on Ladders, Cabin Air Quality, and ISO 45001), Artificial Intelligence, Management System Standards and Human Resource Management.

The next meeting of the Committee is planned to take place on 22 March 2022.

New European standard on private security services



The new European standard EN 17483-1:2021 '*Private security services - Protection of critical infrastructure - Part 1: General requirements*', developed in CEN/TC 439, was published at the end of 2021. The new standard gives requirements for the provision of private security services for critical infrastructure.

This document is the first of a series of standards on the provision of private security services for critical infrastructure. It will be complemented by other sector specific parts, which give more detailed requirements for related services such as aviation, maritime and port security. EN 17483-1 is a certifiable quality standard.

The standard gives services requirements for quality in the organisation, processes, personnel and management of a security service provider. It lays down quality criteria for the delivery of security services and covers subcontracting, training, leased workers, safety management, etc.

ETUC and UNI Europa worked together to raise the voice of workers in this work. One of the joint main achievements was to include increased protection for staff in the staff performance management policy. ETUC and UNI Europa also welcome the standard includes the call for companies to respect labour and social laws and conventions, such as collective labour agreements. ETUC finally appreciates that its demand to cover legal and internal policies for health and safety was accepted.

CEN/TC 439 is currently revising EN 16082 '*Aviation Security services*' and EN 16747 '*Maritime & Port Security Services*' with a view to become parts 2 and 3

of the overarching standard. The next sectors will most probably be Energy, Transport and Healthcare/Hospitals.

Published: international standard to support an age inclusive workforce



Countries increasingly see the need today to adapt to new demographic trends, as they move inevitably towards ageing societies. To help organisations and other stakeholders develop, implement, maintain and support an age-inclusive workforce, the International Organisation for Standardisation, ISO, published a new standard.

[ISO 25550 'Ageing societies – General requirements and guidelines for an age-inclusive workforce'](#) was developed by the ISO/Technical Committee 314, which was set up at the end of 2017 and tasked with the development of standards addressing ageing societies. The aim of this ISO standard is to set out provisions to ensure that older employees have among other things: meaningful work, access to training, and an adapted workplace design.

While organisations need to be inclusive of all workers regardless of age, these requirements and guidelines focus specifically on older workers. However, younger workers are not excluded. Organisations can tailor these requirements and guidelines according to their own role and specific context.

ETUC has long been working on [active ageing and intergenerational solidarity](#).

The basis for ETUC's involvement in this standardisation project was the European Social Partners' Autonomous Framework Agreement on Active Ageing and an Inter-generational Approach. ETUC joined the standardisation activities to ensure that the Framework Agreement was properly reflected in the standards.

Guidance on employee engagement: involving worker representatives



The standard ISO/FDIS 23326 'Human Resource Management - Employee engagement – Guidelines' was recently approved and will be published in the coming months. It is one of several other standards in the field of human resource management that are being developed in ISO/TC 260.

Employee engagement focuses on enhancing the individual experience at work to achieve performance and to add to the success of the organisation. The standard provides guidelines that describe a mix of existing HR concepts, including job satisfaction, commitment to the organisation and extra-role behaviour.

ETUC has followed this work since the beginning and was concerned at first that the guidelines would encourage self-exploitation of employees and bring harmful effects on the well-being and health as a result. Although it was initially against the elaboration of the standard, and as ETUC could not stop it, it managed to get references to social dialogue and collective bargaining.

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