


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1995/2277(COS)	Procedure completed
Standardisation: broader use in Community policy		
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		18/12/1995
		PSE MEIER Erhard	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy		26/02/1996
		PPE FERBER Markus	
	RELA External Economic Relations		28/11/1995
	PPE PEX Peter		
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
TRAN Transport and Tourism			
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
30/10/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0412	Summary
17/11/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/07/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
15/07/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0248/1996	
18/09/1996	Debate in Parliament		
19/09/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0486/1996	Summary
19/09/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2277(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/4/07244

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1995)0412	30/10/1995	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0248/1996 OJ C 277 23.09.1996, p. 0004	15/07/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0486/1996 OJ C 320 28.10.1996, p. 0136-0208	19/09/1996	EP	Summary

Standardisation: broader use in Community policy

OBJECTIVE: the Commission communication is in response to the commitment made in the Strategic Programme to present a report on the broader use of standardization in Community policies. It attempts to give an overview of the current situation as regards the use of standards within the context of Union policies and set out the projects for extending the role of standardization in the immediate future. CONTENT: the volume of European standards has increased considerably over recent years and has established the specific role of European standardization, which is why the Commission considers that the use of standardization should be encouraged and that, where appropriate, the principle of referring to European standards should be applied in Union legislation. The Commission recommends that certain conditions should be adhered to when deciding to taking recourse to standardization: - efficiency: the European standardization agencies should be able to respond to the demand for European standards from industry and the authorities; - European dimension: this implies clear, uniform identification of the European nature of a standard once it has been transposed at national level and a truly European mark of conformity using the EN logo; - acceptability: this implies completely transparent activities, easy access to European standards and integral access to the standardization process for interested parties; - needs: needs for European standards in specific sectors should be evaluated as an on-going process and the transparency and objectivity of the standardization process should be highlighted; - technical adequacy: standards must support the integration of the market without hampering innovation. Where possible, standardization should be based on test methods and performance specifications. The Commission acknowledges that European standardization organizations have taken substantial measures in order to meet these requirements. However, this action is still important for the future and continuing improvements to European standardization as a support for EU policy should be based on close collaboration and dialogue between the European authorities and the standardization organizations in a spirit of partnership.?

Standardisation: broader use in Community policy

The Committee on Economic Affairs adopted the proposal for a resolution on standardization in Community policy on the basis of the Meier report. In terms of efficiency, it advocated closer cooperation and unity between European standardization organizations, while preventing standardization from becoming the province of the public authorities. The priorities highlighted in the proposal for a resolution include: the involvement of and scientific information for consumer protection associations in the process of drafting standards, information campaigns and training and further training programmes for small and medium-sized enterprises involved in the process, various links between standards institutions and the countries of central and eastern Europe in order to facilitate their integration and the establishment of close ties between standardization and research and development activities. Although it recommended a statute for a Community agency for the European standardization and certification bodies, the committee called on the Commission to continue to encourage the publication of horizontal standards and implement consensus methods in its relations with the bodies in question and for its new proposal for a specific standardization programme to give greater emphasis to thematic quality networks which could act as a distribution and technological training centre and help to achieve a sustainable development model. Finally, the creation of trans-European networks and the introduction of a European mark in European quality policy were an example of the type of action where the draft resolution called for standardization.?

Standardisation: broader use in Community policy

In adopting the report by Mr Erhard MEIER (PSE,A) on the broader use of standardization in Community policy, Parliament noted that European standards are increasingly replacing national standards and saw this as strengthening the internal market and the competitive

position of European suppliers in world markets. Parliament advocated close cooperation between the European and international standardization organizations. Desiring that European standardization policy should not hinder the vital objectives of competitiveness, growth and employment, Parliament emphasized that standards should not be an obstacle to innovation and highlighted the importance of prenormative research. To ensure that the market position of individual suppliers is not unduly protected by standards, Parliament suggested a version of technical standards geared less to specific technical procedures than to performance and test features. In order that the current cooperation between the three European standardization institutes might increase, Parliament considered that a proposal should be drawn up for a statute of a Community agency for the European standardization and certification bodies. Finally, Parliament emphasized the importance of involving the consumer and environmental organizations, the public-interest groups concerned, and the SMEs in the process of European standardization. ?