









Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2022/2058(INI)	Procedure completed
A standardisation strategy for the Single Market		
Subject 2 Internal market, single market		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	 Internal Market and Consumer Protection		Appointed
			11/05/2022
			 BIELAN Adam
			Shadow rapporteur
			 COMI Lara
			 GRAPINI Maria
			 HAHN Svenja
		 GALLÉE Malte	
		 PELLETIER Anne-Sophie	

Key events			
07/07/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/03/2023	Vote in committee		
12/04/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0136/2023	Summary
09/05/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/05/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0136/2023	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2022/2058(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	IMCO/9/09346

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE737.208	14/11/2022	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE742.355	02/02/2023	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0136/2023	12/04/2023	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0136/2023	09/05/2023	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2023)358	29/08/2023	EC	

A standardisation strategy for the Single Market

The Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection adopted an own-initiative report by Adam BIELAN (ECR, PL) on a standardisation strategy for the single market.

Members recalled that the adoption of European standards facilitates market access, increases the competitiveness of European companies and the safety of citizens, contributes to the strengthening of the single market and simplifies compliance for market participants and national authorities, replacing as many as 34 national standards with one European standard.

General considerations

The report welcomed the adoption of the standardisation strategy, which sets out five main areas for action for the Commission and stressed that the list of areas for action could be further expanded and that there is a need to increase the focus of the strategy on the uptake and implementation of standards, especially among SMEs.

Members support the development of European standards in an accountable, transparent and inclusive way, ensuring that the needs and specificities of all relevant stakeholders, including SMEs and other societal actors, are taken into account. European standards and European standardisation deliverables should be open, inclusive, transparent, high-quality and where applicable, promote durable products which are easier to repair, re-use and recycle and should also respect the rules regarding the protection of personal data and privacy.

The report stressed the importance of standardisation in the areas where non-standardisation has the highest potential to disadvantage consumers including older persons and persons with disabilities.

Members support the creation of an annual standardisation dashboard covering the planned, current and completed standardisation activities with the aim of bringing more transparency to the European standardisation system.

Leveraging the European standardisation system

Members support the launch of the High-Level Forum on European Standardisation and the desire to broaden the range of voices heard when identifying standardisation priorities and needs, planning future activities and coordinating approaches in standardisation bodies. This expert group should include a diverse range of stakeholders, including SMEs and consumer organisations, and ensure transparency in its activities. Members also welcomed the creation of an EU excellence hub on standards and the appointment of a chief standardisation officer (CSO) in the Commission.

The report recommended that the Commission should, in consultation with the ESOs, establish a clear set of key performance indicators (KPIs) and guidelines on the aspects of standardisation within its remit, in particular for standards linked to the objectives of the European Green Deal and of the Europe Digital Decade.

Members believe that the long delays in the standardisation processes stem from various causes. They called on the Commission to avoid the use of overly prescriptive requirements in relation to standardisation requests, which reduce the capacity of experts to propose appropriate and timely solutions to meet the demand for a standard request and narrow the scope for future-proofing standards. EU product legislation should focus on essential health and safety requirements, applying where possible a technology-neutral approach, leaving the technical requirements to harmonised EU standards.

The report called for stable, clear criteria for the assessment of harmonised standards, commonly understood by all stakeholders, as well as for the provision of the necessary resources to ensure their timely assessment.

Upholding the integrity, inclusiveness and accessibility of the European standardisation system

Members considered that an evaluation of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 may identify areas where further efforts with the option of reforms are needed, beyond the targeted amendment already introduced by the Commission.

The role, participation and input of relevant stakeholders, including those representing, SMEs, social partners and environmental, social and consumer interests, should be evaluated and strengthened where such reforms may be beneficial and complementary to work envisaged by

the ESOs following the Commissions call for them to present proposals to reform their own internal governance.

The Commission should cooperate with Member States in order to increase financial support and ensure that funding programmes are available that can provide substantial, long-term and stable financial support for the involvement of various stakeholders, including SMEs and consumers Organisations. The participation of SMEs at national level should be encouraged.

Setting international standards

Members believe that it is essential to improve European coordination and engagement at international level in relation to standardisation, with like-minded global partners, while respecting the right of national delegations to reach their own decisions in international forums.

They emphasised that prioritising standardisation matters in cooperation with third countries to ensure that like-minded, inclusive approaches towards standardisation can prevail at international level.

The Commission and the ESOs are called on to engage with international counterparts and like-minded trading partners.

Cutting-edge innovations that foster timely standard-setting

The report stressed the value of commercialisation for research activities, including those launched under the Unions research funding programmes. It recalled that the collaborative nature of Union funded research, including with third-country researchers, may be beneficial to standards development and support not only the creation of standards but also the next generation of experts involved in standardisation activities.

Ensuring future standardisation expertise

Members support the development of awareness-raising and training programmes, including lifelong learning programmes and vocational education and training aimed at developing pathways towards standardisation activities for academics, future industry professionals, policymakers and civil society representatives. They called for training and mentorship programmes to be launched to promote awareness of standards and the benefits of standardisation.

A standardisation strategy for the Single Market

The European Parliament adopted by 501 votes to 8, with 41 abstentions, a resolution on a standardisation strategy for the single market.

Members recalled that the adoption of European standards facilitates market access, increases the competitiveness of European companies and the safety of citizens, contributes to the strengthening of the single market and simplifies compliance for market participants and national authorities, replacing as many as 34 national standards with one European standard.

General considerations

Parliament welcomed the adoption of the standardisation strategy, which sets out five main areas for action for the Commission and stressed that the list of areas for action could be further expanded and that there is a need to increase the focus of the strategy on the uptake and implementation of standards, especially among SMEs.

Members considered that the fundamental qualities of the standardisation system remain relevant and effective for the proper functioning of the internal market and the competitiveness of European industry. They support the development of European standards in an accountable, transparent and inclusive way, ensuring that the needs and specificities of all relevant stakeholders, including SMEs and other societal actors, are taken into account. European standards and European standardisation deliverables should be open, inclusive, transparent, high-quality and where applicable, promote durable products which are easier to repair, re-use and recycle and should also respect the rules regarding the protection of personal data and privacy.

The resolution stressed the importance of standardisation in the areas where non-standardisation has the highest potential to disadvantage consumers including older persons and persons with disabilities.

Members support the creation of an annual standardisation dashboard covering the planned, current and completed standardisation activities with the aim of bringing more transparency to the European standardisation system.

Leveraging the European standardisation system

Parliament supports the launch of the High-Level Forum on European Standardisation. This expert group should include a diverse range of stakeholders, including SMEs and consumer organisations, and ensure transparency in its activities. The High-Level Forum may offer input on both strategic and operational levels, in particular in conjunction with the EU excellence hub on standards on technical matters.

Members welcomed the appointment of a chief standardisation officer (CSO) in the Commission. This position and the hub, as a resource, should lead to greater consistency across the Commission in terms of standardisation requests and the timely adoption of standards and legislative provisions with relevance to standardisation. The person holding this oversight function should be an important interlocutor for Parliament, informing it on the Commissions standardisation activities and enabling effective scrutiny on a technical level.

Parliament recommended that the Commission should, in consultation with the ESOs, establish a clear set of key performance indicators (KPIs) and guidelines on the aspects of standardisation within its remit, in particular for standards linked to the objectives of the European Green Deal and of the Europe Digital Decade.

Members welcomed the fact that the Commission wishes to accelerate the steps involved in developing standards. Delays have occurred in a variety of sectors, leading to difficulties for operators, national authorities and civil society where standards are not available, or to fragmentation where only national standards can be used. Members underlined that public consultation with stakeholders, consensus building, inclusiveness and the proper verification of whether standards satisfy EU legal requirements, in particular in the case of harmonised standards, should prevail over speed.

EU product legislation should focus on essential health and safety requirements, applying where possible a technology-neutral approach, leaving the technical requirements to harmonised EU standards.

Parliament called for stable, clear criteria for the assessment of harmonised standards, commonly understood by all stakeholders, as well as for the provision of the necessary resources to ensure their timely assessment.

Upholding the integrity, inclusiveness and accessibility of the European standardisation system

Members considered that an evaluation of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 may identify areas where further efforts with the option of reforms are needed, beyond the targeted amendment already introduced by the Commission.

The role, participation and input of relevant stakeholders, including those representing, SMEs, social partners and environmental, social and consumer interests, should be evaluated and strengthened where such reforms may be beneficial and complementary to work envisaged by the ESOs following the Commissions call for them to present proposals to reform their own internal governance.

The Commission should cooperate with Member States in order to increase financial support and ensure that funding programmes are available that can provide substantial, long-term and stable financial support for the involvement of various stakeholders, including SMEs and consumers Organisations. The participation of SMEs at national level should be encouraged.

Members recognised the need for a consistent approach towards common specifications, in particular as different legislative processes, recalling the importance of linkage between common specifications and existing European and international standards in order to ease compliance, especially for small and medium-sized companies.

Setting international standards

Members believe that it is essential to improve European coordination and engagement at international level in relation to standardisation, with like-minded global partners, while respecting the right of national delegations to reach their own decisions in international forums. Where similar viewpoints exist and are also shared with like-minded third-country partners, European policy leadership on standard development can act as a multiplier for European industrial leadership. Members emphasised that prioritising standardisation matters in cooperation with third countries to ensure that like-minded, inclusive approaches towards standardisation can prevail at international level.

Parliament encouraged close European and EU-NATO cooperation regarding harmonisation of standards in the field of defence in order to enhance interoperability.

Cutting-edge innovations that foster timely standard-setting

The resolution stressed the value of commercialisation for research activities, including those launched under the Unions research funding programmes. It recalled that the collaborative nature of Union funded research, including with third-country researchers, may be beneficial to standards development and support not only the creation of standards but also the next generation of experts involved in standardisation activities.

Ensuring future standardisation expertise

Members support the development of awareness-raising and training programmes, including lifelong learning programmes and vocational education and training aimed at developing pathways towards standardisation activities for academics, future industry professionals, policymakers and civil society representatives. They called for training and mentorship programmes to be launched to promote awareness of standards and the benefits of standardisation.

Transparency				
GALLÉE Malte	Shadow rapporteur	IMCO	30/01/2023	Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs 9505781573-45
GALLÉE Malte	Shadow rapporteur	IMCO	27/01/2023	DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung e. V. 989808524267-58
HAHN Svenja	Shadow rapporteur	IMCO	13/01/2023	Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie e.V. Verband Deutscher Maschinen- und Anlagenbau e.V. ZVEI e.V. - Verband der Elektro- und Digitalindustrie
HAHN Svenja	Shadow rapporteur	IMCO	11/01/2023	DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung e. V.
HAHN Svenja	Shadow rapporteur	IMCO	10/11/2022	European Telecommunications Standards Institute