"Standardisation"

Presentation by Norbert Anselmann

Head of Unit
European Commission
DG Enterprise, Unit C 2
URL:http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/ standards_policy/index_en.htm

"Table of contents of the presentation"

- *1) The legal basis – the standards part of Directive 98/34 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the fields of technical standards and regulation (OJ L 207 of 22.7.1998)*

- *2) Standardisation as a strategic tool to support European policies*

- *3) What needs to be done by candidate countries to implement European standards policy*

The legal basis – the standards part of Directive 98/34

- Directive 98/34 refers to standards in several provisions. Key statuary provisions with regard to standards are:

  – the reference to the principles of the European standardisation system (coherence, transparency, openness, consensus, independence of special interests efficiency and decision making based on national representation) in the recitals of the Directive;

The legal basis – the standards part of Directive 98/34

– the definition of a standard as a written document, adopted by a recognized standards body which is available to the public for repeated or continuous application and which is non-mandatory;

– the stipulation of an obligation to notify all new national standards;

– the standstill obligation;

– the stipulation of an obligation to withdraw conflicting national standards when a European standard has been developed;

The legal basis – the standards part of Directive 98/34

- the authorisation to request the elaboration of European standards ("standardisation mandate");

- the determination of the three official European Standards Organisations (CEN, CENELEC, ETSI).

The legal basis – the standards part of Directive 98/34

Directive 98/34 is currently under revision. For the standardisation part, the following key adjustments are planned:

- extension of the scope of application to service standards;

- insertion of alternative standardisation products ("New Deliverables") into the scope of application;

- obligation of national and European Standards Organisations to comply with the principles of standardisation when developing formal standards.

Standardisation as a strategic tool to support European policies

- Nowadays, standards play a prominent role in supporting EU policies. This takes place in the following four areas:

  - EU Legislation
  - Support of the competitiveness of industry
  - Support of societal needs
  - Removal of barriers to trade at international level

Standardisation in support of EU legislation

- In the context of the "New Approach" legislation, standardisation has been facilitating the establishment of the Single Market for goods since the early 1980s

- As a consequence of its better regulation policy in the framework of the revised Lisbon strategy to create more jobs and growth, the Commission has committed itself to carrying out, more systematically, an impact assessment for important legislative projects. In this context, alternatives and the least stringent solution must be considered. Reference to voluntary standards is one possibility.

- Since 1998, more than 20 legislative acts have been adopted or proposed which make use of European standards and concern areas beyond the Single Market for goods. These areas include ICT, services, transport, consumer and environmental protection.

Standardisation in support of the competitiveness of industry

- Standards provide added value and increase the competitiveness of industry.

- In the context of the revised Lisbon strategy aiming at the creation of more jobs and growth, the Commission has incorporated and intends to continue to incorporate the use of standards in various documents related to its policies (e.g. improving the internal market for goods and services, innovation, defence, ICT)

Standardisation in support of societal needs

- Environment

- Accessibility for all

- Security

- Services

Removal of barriers to trade at international level

- The use of international standards helps to remove barriers to trade. The Commission therefore promotes, together with the European Standards Organisations and their national members, the use of international standards.

- Also, with its standards policy at international level, the Commission's activities include participation in Business Dialogues, support to the co-operation between European and international standards organisations, the promotion of standards receptive regulatory models such as UN/ECE and technical assistance.

What needs to be done to implement European standards policy

- Transpose and implement Directive 98/34
- Set up and maintain a national infrastructure in support of the European Standardisation System
    - Financial viability
    - Application of standardisation principles by National Standards Body
    - Membership of ESOs and transposition of European standards
- Strengthen co-operation with the Commission

What needs to be done to implement European standards policy

- **The introduction of an institutional framework on standardization, including:**

- an autonomous institution separate from governmental bodies;
- the voluntary character of standards;
- participation of interested parties;
- application of standardisation principles;
- transposition of European standards at national level;
- support of EU policy on standardisation.

The most recent important political documents relating to European standardisation are:

- The Commission Communication on the "Role of European standardisation in the framework of European policies and legislation" of 18 October 2004

- The Council Conclusions on European standardisation of 21- 22 December 2004

- The Action Plan for European Standardisation of October 2005

All documents are available at:

[*URL:http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/ standards_policy/index_en.htm*](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/standards_policy/index_en.htm)

Thank you for your attention