

The Director General

Ms Lara Comi,
Member of the European Parliament
Vice President of the Internal Market and
Consumer Protection Committee
Rue Wiertz 60
B-1047 Brussels

5 December 2011

Re: Follow-up of the EP IMCO Hearing on European Standardisation (23/11/2011)

Dear Mrs Comi,

I would like to thank you for the interesting hearing that you convened on European standardisation and for giving me the possibility to present Orgalime views to IMCO Members. On your invitation, we would like to highlight four main issues that emerged from the discussion and deserve, in our opinion, to be reflected in your report:

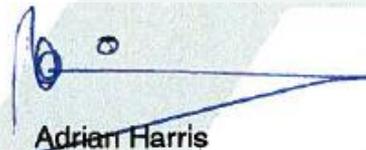
1. EC requests should be scrutinized by a European multi-stakeholder platform (we suggest to introduce it under Article 6), in order to ensure that transparency and inclusiveness of European standardisation works both ways and that standards requested by the European Commission are attractive to market operators so as to thereby ensure their widest use and, potentially, any resulting societal benefits. It is therefore essential to set up in the draft Regulation a European multi-stakeholder platform which would advise the Commission on new standardisation requests to European standardisation organisations (ESOs) in all sectors and not only in the ICT field, as was decided by the Commission ([Decision C 349/04 of 28/11/2011](#)). In addition, we suggest that such a platform should be consulted prior to Commission adoption of delegated acts (as granted in Art. 16 of the draft Regulation), which may have a significant impact on the overall efficiency of the European standardisation system, such as a proposal to amend the list of ESOs in Annex I.
2. Technical specifications from fora and consortia (Articles 9 & 10): it should be clarified that ICT standardisation deliverables can only be referred to in support to public procurement purposes, and cannot provide the same benefits as harmonised standards for compliance with European Union legislation.
 - For the same reasons we suggest an amendment to Article 11 (2), and consequently to Article 13 (1b), which would limit Commission financing of “other bodies” to preliminary or ancillary activities only, i.e. only for the activities referred to in Article 11 (1) point (a). Otherwise, deliverables from Fora and Consortia and other unspecified bodies risk to undermine the legitimacy of formal European standardisation bodies or to open up undue influencing routes and undermine trust in and respect for the EU regulatory framework at large, for example in the rollout of infrastructures for charging electric vehicles.

The European Engineering Industries Association

- Therefore, deliverables from Fora and Consortia and from “other bodies” would be acceptable in support to Union policies and legislation only on condition that they would be subject to consultation and adoption, possibly under a fast-track procedure (e.g. CEN-CENELEC ‘Consortium Bridge’ procedure), by the European Standards Organisations referred to in Annex I of the draft Regulation. This is especially important in order to ensure coherence and avoid conflicting standards.
3. The national delegation principle is the best way to ensure that all relevant stakeholder interests are involved: it is easier for them to participate in their own language and without having to travel to another country. As recalled by several speakers during the hearing, trade associations already provide an effective and continuous support to the participation of SMEs in standardisation at national level. Considering that the vast majority of standardisation projects covers issues along the business value chain, we believe that sector specific trade associations are the most able and effective at representing the views of SMEs from their branch. See for instance [Orgalime associations best practices to promote SME access to standardisation - Final 22-10-2010.pdf](#).
 4. Voting rights given to Annex III organisations would not improve the system: Orgalime strongly believes that it is not up to regulators to seek to impose governance rules on private organisations such as ESOs that would not be considered as acceptable and desirable by their members, the national standards organisations (NSOs). However, we support the idea of improving the consensus-building of the European standardisation process and an independent appeal procedure which would take due consideration of a sustained opposition at TC level. Such a procedure, which may be applied during an on-going standardisation project would be much more effective than any (negative) vote at the end of the process. For that purpose, it should be entirely up to ESOs to decide the conditions and procedures to put it in place to do it, free from any interference from public authorities. Hence, there is no need to require in the draft Regulation that European standardisation bodies should report on the “effective membership” of Annex III organisations.

Thank you once again and looking forward to continuing to work actively with you,

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Harris

N.B.: For more details please see our positions papers:

- [16/9/2011 - Orgalime comments on COM\(2011\) 315 final of 01/06/2011 on European Standardisation](#)
- [13/7/2011 - European standards: a useful tool for both the EU and companies, which deserves support with less bureaucracy](#)
- [18/2/2011 - ESS - Transparency and efficiency of the European standardisation system](#)

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