



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Single Market : regulatory environment, standardisation and New Approach
Director

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VADEMECUM ON EUROPEAN STANDARDISATION

FOREWORD

Twenty years ago, the Community set out the legal basis for its cooperation with the European Standardisation structures in Directive 83/189/EEC. Since then few things have changed in legal terms. However, there has been evolution; a wealth of changes has occurred and a wealth of experience has been accumulated.

Standardisation has proven its potential as a tool in support of Community law and policies. The positive results of this huge task have been recognised. European standardisation policy has grown from the hand-in-hand cooperation between public authorities and standardisation bodies. It is a great success story of the European Union.

I believe that a compilation of the texts that both make and back up this policy can aid the officials of the European institutions in understanding European standardisation and how it relates to their own areas of responsibility. Such a compilation can help these officials make better and broader use of standardisation and guide them in following the appropriate procedures. The texts to be included would include official documents or documents agreed with Member States at the level of the Committee on Standards and Technical Regulations (Directive 98/34/EC) or the Senior Officials Group for Standardisation and Conformity Assessment (SOGS).

The primary target group for this compilation – the “Vademecum” – is therefore the officials of the European institutions. However, Member States officials, European and national standardisation organisations and stakeholders could also find important information helping them to understand the “mechanics” of the system and to contribute to its further evolution.

By its very nature the Vademecum is destined to be updated continually. It has still gaps. The standardisation policy Unit of the Enterprise Directorate General has the responsibility of seeing to its timely revision in coming years. Any suggestions for its improvement and completion would be welcomed.

I would like to thank all those who, over the past years, have contributed to the development of European standardisation policy and especially those who have contributed to the compilation of this first edition of the Vademecum.

Michel Ayrat