



European Commission
Environment Directorate-General
Enterprise Directorate-General

***Workshop on
the Integration of
Environmental Aspects
into Standardisation***

Brussels, 11 June 2004 (9.15am – 5pm)

Venue: Albert Borschette Conference Centre (CCAB)
(Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels, room 1D)

BACKGROUND AND AIM OF THE WORKSHOP

Standards can have a substantial influence on the way products and services impact the environment. They can define how a product is made, used, maintained and treated at the end of its life. They can help to sample, test and analyse products or materials in relation to their environmental behaviour or conditions.

European standardisation offers great potential to advance the protection of our environment, while industry can be certain of making safe investments, as products and processes will be compatible and inter-operable. This is the message of the Commission in a Communication¹ adopted in February 2004.

In order to develop this Communication, all relevant stakeholders in standardisation have been duly consulted and involved in the process through two stakeholder meetings and an internet consultation.

The Communication aims to encourage the three European Standardisation Organisations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI), National Standardisation Bodies, public authorities, NGOs and business/industry groups, who are all involved in writing standards, to consider the environmental aspects of the subjects they cover - in particular product standards - with a view to establishing sustainable patterns of development.

In order to develop further the different means agreed between stakeholders as a way of moving the situation forward, it has been decided to invite relevant stakeholders to a Workshop, during which good examples of initiatives that could be disseminated will be presented and discussions on concrete follow-up can be launched. Therefore, the Workshop will address four main issues:

- How do we increase the use of environmental tools such as checklists, guides and helpdesks?
- How can training contribute to the development of environmental thinking amongst the technical experts who write standards?
- How do we ensure that all interested stakeholders are represented during the standards elaboration process?
- How can the development of standards with minimal impact on the environment contribute to business development?

The Workshop is of interest to all actors involved in the standardisation process, such as European Standardisation Organisations, National Standardisation Bodies, public authorities, NGOs and business/industry groups, universities ...

¹ COM (2004) 130 final: Integration of environmental aspects into European standardisation

PROGRAMME

Chair morning session:

Mr Herbert Aichinger, Head of the Unit "Environment and Industry" of the Environment Directorate-General, European Commission

9.15 Registration - Opening session

Opening speech by Mr Herbert Aichinger, Head of the Unit "Environment and Industry" of the Environment Directorate-General, European Commission:

Standards and Environment: a potential for advancing the protection of our environment and at the same time encouraging European businesses to establish a solid platform for sustainable growth.

9.45 Tools: how to develop their use?

The European Standardisation Organisations have already developed a number of useful tools which can directly aid the integration of environmental aspects into standardisation. Their further development and systematic use are promising and should be encouraged. Two initiatives developed in CEN and one in CENELEC will be presented during this session:

The CEN Environmental Helpdesk

Mr Heiko Kunst, Project Manager for the CEN Environmental Helpdesk

The CENELEC environmental database

Mr Pablo Corrons, Spanish Standardisation and Certification Association (AENOR), Head of Unit IEC/CENELEC

The Construction Sector Network Environment Project in CEN

Dr John Moore, Rapporteur of the CEN Construction Sector Network

Discussion

11.00 Coffee break

11.20 Training: how to develop environmental thinking?

As the integration of environmental aspects into standardisation is also an awareness raising issue, training is a key aspect. Knowledge about the potential environmental impacts of certain materials, processes or functions needs to be accessible to all technical experts participating in the European standardisation process. Access to standardisation-relevant environmental information can be of benefit to all stakeholders and has the potential to strengthen the quality of standards by improving the dissemination of technical know-how. In this session, two different training programmes carried out by national standardisation bodies will be presented:

The British Standards Institute (BSI) training programme

Mr Arnold Pindar, Head of Consumer and Societal Policy, BSI

Training activities, tools and methods in Sweden

Mr Folke Hermanson Snickars, Business Manager, International Training, Swedish Standards Institute (SIS)

Discussion

12.15 Lunch

Chair afternoon session:

Mr Norbert Anselmann, Head of the Unit "Standardisation" of the Enterprise Directorate-General, European Commission

13.45 How to ensure a wide participation of stakeholders?

The acceptability of standards depends to a large extent on the involvement of all stakeholders. The participation of civil society (e.g. stakeholders representing consumer, health, safety and environmental interests) in standardisation reinforces the quality of consensus and makes the standards more representative and thus acceptable for use by the stakeholders themselves, and, if appropriate, by the authorities. For example, the involvement of the scientific community can also ensure that standards take the latest scientific developments into account. In this session, different stakeholders (two national standardisation bodies, two NGOs active at the national level and one at the European level) will give their views on this issue and explain their respective approaches:

AFNOR consumer approach as applied to environmental NGOs

Mrs Annie Tricoche, Consumer Affairs Advisor, Secretary of the French Association for Standardisation (AFNOR) Consumer Committee

How can NGOs be involved in standardisation? The Danish example

Mr Jesper Jerlang, Head of Department, Danish Standards Association

Mrs Pia Olsen, International Policy Co-ordinator, Danish Society for Conservation of Nature

European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation (ECOS): NGO active at European level

Mr Michel Jeanson, Secretary General, ECOS

Over 10 years of NGO participation in standardisation: Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)

Mr Helmut Röscheisen, Secretary General, DNR

15.15 Coffee break

15.25 Business commitment to environmental thinking and win-win situations

The voluntary nature of standards, their obvious advantages in terms of market access and interoperability, the benefits a company can gain by saving energy or raw materials or the contribution to the development of new businesses flourishing on new environmental markets (recycling for example) are excellent bases for win-win situations (good for the business and good for the environment). These need to be promoted in order to feed the process. In this session, industry will present three concrete cases:

Environment as an opportunity for Industry: the importance of standards

Mr Henk Jan Rijks, Standardisation Officer/Environment in Philips

Post-consumer tyres

Mrs Valerie Schulman, Secretary General, European Tyre Recycling Association (ETRA)

Remanufacturing ink and toner cartridges: why and how to develop a European standard?

Mr Thomas Schmelzer, SWS Software Support, Convenor, CEN BT TF 165

16.25 Closing session

Discussion

Conclusions from the Commission's perspective

Mr Norbert Anselmann, Head of the Unit "Standardisation" of the Enterprise Directorate-General, European Commission
