

Project proposal
Update of the existing European eSignature CWAs

1. Context

This proposal is submitted in the frame of the standardization mandate M/460 to the ESOs in the field of information and communication applied to electronic signature.

It is part of a common response from CEN and ETSI with regards to phase 1 of this mandate.

It specifies in detail the contribution of CEN in phase 1a aimed at defining the structure for the rationalised framework for e-signature standardisation, in line with the description of Mandate M/460 first aims (clause 2.2).

The different phases of the answer to the mandate, the split of responsibilities between CEN and ETSI and the CEN ETSI coordination are described in the CEN-ETSI joint response document.

2. Objective and impact

2.1 - Objectives

The overall aim of this proposed work is to establish a rationalised framework for electronic signature (eSignature) standardisation.

In line with Mandate 460, Phase 1a is aimed at establishing a structure for a rationalised framework. This will include the following activities:

- a) Inventory of eSignature standards;
- b) Rationalised structure for the European e-signatures standardisation documents;
- c) Gap analysis – assessment of the existing e-signatures standardisation deliverables and future work plan;

Quick fixes proposed leading to a quick and easy improvement of the functionality of the existing e-Signature standardisation deliverables are proposed in separate technical proposals.

A high level description of this proposed work and the quick fixes are described in the CEN ETSI joint answer document.

2.2 - Relevance

The work plan proposed in this document addresses the Electronic Signature Mandate M/460 requirement for a “rationalised European eSignature standardisation framework”.

It specifies in detail the contribution of CEN in phase 1a aimed at defining the structure for the rationalised framework for e-signature standardisation, in line with the description of Mandate M/460 first aims (clause 2.2).

The different phases of the answer to the mandate, the split of responsibilities between CEN and ETSI and the CEN ETSI coordination are described in the CEN-ETSI joint response document.

As of today the electronic signatures standardization landscape is rather complex and does not offer a clear mapping with the requirements of directive 1999/93/EC on a community framework for electronic signatures. The current multiplicity of standardisation deliverables together with the lack of usage guidelines, the difficulty in identifying the appropriate standards and lack of business orientation is detrimental to the interoperability of electronic signatures. Also because many of the documents have yet to be progressed to full European norms, their status may be considered uncertain.

It resulted in a lack of truly interoperable e-signature applications and in a lack of trust in the existing framework. We particularly face problems with the mutual recognition and cross-border interoperability of electronic signatures. A few interoperability events have been held. These have yet to be developed to the extent that they provide full conformance tests and cover all areas of standardization.

On the other hand, the ESOs have initiated work to update partially the standardization framework derived from EESSI in such way that existing new materials have to be incorporated in a rational way into the new framework.

The definition of a rationalised framework for electronic signature standards will overcome those issues and will allow business stakeholders to easily implement and use products and services based on electronic signatures.

2.3 Indicators

With regards to the program of work described in 7, information will be provided that will act as performance indicators against the contracted activity in the following cases:

Proposed Benchmarks

2.3.1 CG esign Coordination Group :

- a) Number of CG eSign meetings and milestones, Documentation available on CG esign Electronic committees including CG eSign meetings reports at least 5 meetings as indicated in section 6.3.1
- b) Public web page under CG esign "Electronic Committee" with links to some documents made publicly available and downloadable including the Special Report with CEN and ETSI logos (rationalised framework), Public Workshop announcement and results.
It is expected to have at the minimum 50 download of the Special report
- c) Notes that the CG eSign "Electronic Committee" will have two areas :
 - the public web pages and public documents
 - an restricted area where all numbered documentation will be available for CG esign members)

2.3.2 CEN consultation process

- d) At least 3 consultations of ETSI, CEN and stakeholder contact list :

- for each CEN consultation, a document compiling the comment returned by national members (ETSI will provide in a separate file comment received from ETSI members). At least 5 returns are expected
- for the Stakeholder contact list (and from any other stakeholders), the contributions received to the work, compiled in a stand alone document. At least 10 returns are expected

2.3.3 CEN ETSI Workshop

- e) Number of attendees to open workshop: Minimum 20 people .
- f) .
- g) The workshop report produced by CG eSign secretariat and circulated to CG eSign members.

2.4 Impact

The definition of a rationalised framework for electronic signature standards will allow business stakeholders to easily implement and use products and services based on electronic signatures. It will allow a harmonized use of electronic signatures in line with directive 1999/93/EC and will favour the take up of electronic signature standards by the industry. This will result in a simplified access of enterprises and citizens to cross-border electronic public services.

3. Description of the different tasks

3.1 Introduction

The answer to mandate M/460 is divided in two phases:

- Phase 1 will define primarily the rationalized framework with a gap analysis and a resulting final work programme. Phase 1 will also address issues which urgently need an update.
- Phase 2 will implement the final work programme as defined in Phase 1.

3.1.1 Phase 1

Phase 1 is composed by actions related to the development of a rationalised framework : phase 1a and actions of standardization related to response to urgent needs : phase 1b

3.1.1.1 Phase 1a - Rationalized Framework

Phase 1a is aimed at establishing a structure for a rationalised framework for electronic signature (eSignature) standardisation. This will include the following activities:

1. Inventory of eSignature standards;
2. Rationalised structure for the European e-signatures standardisation documents;
3. Gap analysis – assessment of the existing e-signatures standardisation deliverables and future work plan.

3.1.1.2 Phase 1b

Phase 1b is not addressed by this proposal. A general overview on phase 1b may be found in the Joint CEN ETSI Report in response to the Mandate M/460 that gives a first description of expected actions related to phase 1b).

3.1.2 Phase 2

Phase 2 is not addressed by this proposal. A general overview on phase 2 may be found in the Joint CEN ETSI Report in response to the Mandate M/460 that gives a first description of expected actions related to phase 2).

3.2 Scope

The Joint CEN ETSI Report in response to the Mandate M/460 gives a detailed overview of the scope and items addressed with regards to mandate M/460 and on the organisation based on this CEN-ETSI eSign coordination Group (eSign –CG) (see section 3 of that Report)

This proposal addresses specifically the tasks provided by CEN on 3 items that are directly related to CEN ETSI cooperation for achieving tasks needed for phase 1a:

- organisation by CEN of an open CEN&ETSI workshop with stakeholders,

- organisation and secretariat of a CEN-ETSI eSign coordination group (eSign-CG) during phase 1a
- organisation of the CEN consultation on deliverables produced in Phase 1a.

3.2.1 Organisation of CEN – ETSI cooperation

A detailed description of the Modus operandi between CEN and ETSI for cooperation may be found in the joint CEN ETSI Report in response to the Mandate M/460 that gives also a first description of expected actions related to phase 2.)

CEN and ETSI have agreed to apply mode 4 of the cooperation agreement between the organisations with a division of responsibilities for standardisation activities under Mandate M/460. CEN and ETSI apply different working procedures and the business models are quite different, including publication and availability of deliverables

Some work items requires detailed cooperation during the standardisation process as detailed in the the Joint CEN ETSI Report in response to the Mandate M/460 that gives a first description of expected actions related to phase 1b).

For the understanding of this proposal, see in particular the section 3 of that document related to the organisation of a CEN-ETSI eSign coordination group (eSign-CG)

CEN-ETSI eSign coordination group (eSign-CG):

The Joint CEN ETSI Report in response to the Mandate M/460 gives a detailed overview of the organisation of this CEN-ETSI eSign coordination Group (eSign –CG) (see section 3 of that Report).

The work program described here after in section 5 refers directly to the actions needed in support of this eSign. as AFNOR as CEN NSB will undertake responsibility the secretariat of this eSign-CG and the development of a public Web Page for dissemination of information produced by phase 1a.

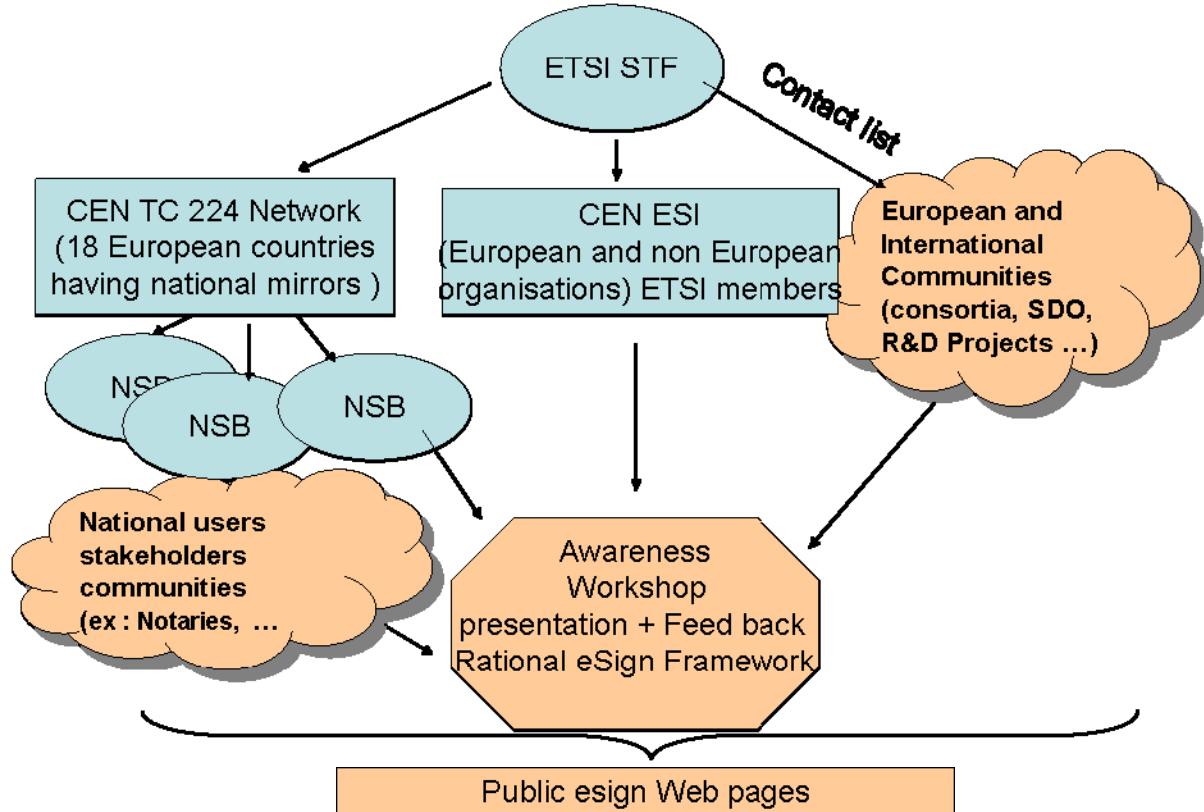
3.2.2 Collaboration with other standards organizations and projects

Coordination with various stakeholders including European member states, standards organization and European projects will be necessary to achieve the best outcome of this work and the widest possible share of views amongst all parties concerned. In particular, the experts will target to establish connection with entities including Services Directive expert group, PEPPOL, SPOCS, FESA, STORK, IETF, OASIS, ISO, W3C, and CAB Forum.

To ensure a large involvement of the "electronic signature market community" in Europe and outside Europe, a workshop will be organised on behalf of CEN and ETSI to which all stakeholders (e.g. member state and EU commission representatives, suppliers, EU projects) will be invited. The draft rationalised framework will be presented at this workshop.

Finally, as shown on the figure hereafter, three channels will be preferred to achieve a broadest as possible involvement of all kind of stakeholders in the process of definition of the rationalized framework.

Involvement of stakeholders in phase 1a



CEN will then assume the responsibility of establishing consultation of National CEN members and organisation of a CEN ETSI Workshop as ETSI will assume the responsibility to consult ETSI members and to establish/maintain a contact list of relevant stakeholders.

3.3 Work plan and milestones

As mentioned previously this proposal is related to CEN contribution to phase 1a only,

The descriptions that follow refer to the whole organisation of the work during phase 1a. Therefore, it refers explicitly to the work program detailed in ETSI phase 1a Technical Proposal.

In this context, CEN work plan in phase 1a is the following:

- a) Activities of CG eSign during phase 1a – in particular achieving Milestones for coordinated actions, and meetings schedule, including providing a Web page that point to the documents made publicly available for download
- b) Activity of CEN TC 224 to ensure consultation on deliverables by the CEN TC 224 network of National Standardization Bodies participant to CEN TC 224, consolidation of comments and Feedbacks on comments received - validation of deliverables produced by the STF during phase 1a
- c) Organisation of an open Workshop (conference) with stakeholders to present the Draft Rational Framework issued from ETSI STF in order to collect and discuss feedbacks of the electronic signature market community.

3.3.1 General planning

Based on the ETSI STF work plan established in ETSI technical proposal, the following CEN tasks (written in blue) have been added:

- The Joint CEN&ETSI Coordination Group will meet at the milestones indicated below: task 6
- The joint CEN ETSI workshop "stakeholders" will be organised at month 9 (already mentioned in ETSI technical proposal) task 4
- The CEN TC 224 consultation process task 7 will be organized at 3 occasion (and processing of information related to Special Report Publication

Task (responsibility*)	Description	T0 + X months															
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
0 (ETSI)	Set-up of the STF																
1 (ETSI STF)	Inventory								SR				SR				
2 (ETSI STF)	Rationalised framework								early draft		SR consol. draft		final draft				SR pub.
3 (ETSI STF)	Gap Analysis & Work Plan																
4 (CEN)	CEN-ETSI Workshop																
5 (ETSI)	Technical project management and liaison								IR								FR
6 (CEN)	CG Sign coordination/ Meetings				X				X		X		X				X
7 (CEN)	Public Web Page and documents (eSign Web site "livelink")								X				X				X
8 (CEN)	CEN TC 224 consultations								X		X		X				X

* For tasks under ETSI responsibility, use ETSI financial quotation for phase 1a

3.3.2 Detailed description of CEN Work program phase 1a

3.3.2.1 Establishment of a joint CEN&ETSI Coordination Group (CG eSign) and running CG eSign during Phase 1a – task 6

AFNOR as CEN NSB and will undertake secretariat and organisation of CG eSign meetings.

As AFNOR is responsible for CEN TC 224 secretariat, according CEN rules, there is no need to establish an open call to CEN NSBs for CG eSign secretariat due to the fact that this CEN TC has in its scope the responsibility to establish standards related to electronic signature domain.

Five CG eSign meetings during phase 1a scheduled as, at least, 2 physical meetings, the other meetings expected to be processed electronically (through the "goto meetings" system or equivalent).

AFNOR will provide electronic facilities to maintain and give access to all the documentation (setting up of a livelink workspace through the so called "COMELEC" System).

It is important for the success of the framework that all stakeholders are given the opportunity to input to its development. So when the first draft is complete it will be made available for public comment This will be achieved by different means: CEN TC 224 consultation, ETSI TC ESI consultation, CG eSign public web site consultation, contact list and an open CEN ETSI Workshop.

Deliverable: CEN/ETSI Workshop Report. , CG eSign terms of reference, consolidated list of action operated under CG eSign.

Planned timescale: Milestones at T0 + 8 months, T0+10 months, T0+12 months and T0+16 months

3.3.2.2 Set-up and maintenance of a public eSign Web Page during Phase 1a – task 7

Furthermore, AFNOR will provide through CG eSign "electronic committee" public web pages that will give access to the public documentation for free public download. This will comprise in particular the CEN/ETSI open Workshop announcement and associated report as well as the STF final Draft Special Report (Framework document).

CG eSign will take on the responsibility to decide which document shall be made publicly available through that web page (with respect to CEN and ETSI rules)

These public web pages will also be used for the public consultations on the draft Special Report in order to ensuring openness of the process to any stakeholder. Two means will be proposed to express their comments by that way:

1) Download of a questionnaire file to be return by email to CG eSign secretariat

2) In option, access to the AFNOR on-line system for Public Enquiry, being understood that this system that will offer the possibility to consult and comment on-line the draft report, is still in experimentation. Therefore, the design of the interface of that system is not available in English and commands are in French. Nevertheless, If this system gives satisfaction, it could be anticipated that a multilingual extension of that system could be proposed for phase 2 of the mandate.

Deliverable: Extraction of CG eSign Public Web pages with associated links to publicly available documents.

Note : the compilation of comments received by stakeholders (contact list...) in the form of a CG eSign numbered document will be included as a separate part in one document including results of CEN members consultation (Task 8).

Planned timescale: T0 + 8 months, T0 + 10 months, T0 + 12 months

3.3.2.3 CEN Consultation on Intermediate and Final STF outputs - task 8

As mentioned in section 3, intermediate and final deliverables from ETSI STF will be presented to CEN ETSI CG eSign in order to facilitate consultation by concerned CEN and ETSI TCs.

Documents relevant for CEN consultation are :

- 1) Inventory and Rational Framework – first draft of the Special Report– month 8
- 2) Rational Framework – consolidated draft of the Special Report– month 10
- 3) Inventory and Rational Framework – Final draft of the Special Report – month 12

A 30 days delay will be given to ensure that concerned organisations are able to provide comments/approval on intermediate deliverables.

CEN consultation process will consist on circulation of this deliverables to each relevant Working Group : WG 15, WG16 and WG 17 and .to all CEN NSB active members in TC 224, given then the opportunity to organise national consultations.

It is the responsibility of each NSB to organize a national consultation on the documents. As the documents issued from phase 1a are not standards as such, no formal process apply and a 30 days consultation period will be considered as sufficient to give opportunity to get national feed backs.

Deliverables: compilation of comments received on each consultation in the form of CEN TC 224 numbered documents

Planned timescale: T0 + 8 months, T0 + 10 months, T0 + 12 months

3.3.2.4 Organization of others stakeholders involvement: Workshop Task 4

A workshop will be organised on behalf of CEN TC 224 and ETSI TS ESI to which all stakeholders (e.g. member state and EU commission representatives, suppliers, EU projects) will be invited. The draft rationalised framework will be presented at this workshop. Information

collected at the workshop and from public review will be fed back into the rationalized framework.

Workshop report and documentation will be distributed to CEN TC 224 members and ETSI TS ESI members.

This Workshop will be a one day conference meeting organized by AFNOR as CEN NSB on behalf CEN. Location of the conference will be preferentially Paris or Brussels.

Various stakeholders including European member states, standards organization and European projects will be invited to participate in order to achieve the best outcome of the work and the widest possible share of views amongst all parties concerned. In particular, the experts will target to establish connection with entities including Services Directive expert group, PEPPOL, SPOCS, FESA, STORK, IETF, OASIS, ISO, W3C, and CAB Forum..

The first draft rationalized framework and its objective will be presented at that workshop to members of those entities and projects. This will give us the opportunity to express and discuss comments with the initiators.

The results of that workshop and the issues raised will be summarized in a report.

Deliverable: CEN/ETSI open Workshop announcement and report in the form of a CG eSign numbered document

Planned timescale: T0 + 9 months

3.4 Summary of CEN tasks and deliverables

Task (responsibility*)	Description	T0 + X months															
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
4 (CEN)	CEN-ETSI Workshop									X							
6 (CEN)	CG Sign coordination/ Meetings				X				X		X		X				X
7 (CEN)	Public Web Page and documents (eSign Web site "livelink")								X				X				X
8 (CEN)	CEN TC 224 consultations								X		X		X				X

List of CEN Deliverables

CEN will provide progress reports of the action at months 6, 12 and 19 which will include following deliverables

Deliverables task 6 : CG eSign meetings reports CG eSign terms of reference, consolidated list of action operated under CG eSign.

Deliverables task 7: Public CG eSign Web pages (copy of pages in a self alone document).
Planned timescale: Milesstones at T0 + 4 months, T0+8 months, T0+12 months and T0+16 months

Deliverable task 8: Compilation of comments* received on CEN consultation on the draft CEN/ETSI Special report including in a separate part comments received by other stakeholders trough the different canals (contact list, web pages, formular...).

Planned timescale: Milesstones at T0 + 8 months, T0+10 months, T0+12 months and T0+16 months

Deliverable: CEN/ETSI Workshop Report.

Planned timescale: Milesstones at T0+9 months

Interim report

The interim report will contain:

- First version of the web pages
- Results of the first consultation of TC224
- Reports of the two first meetings of the coordination group CG Sign

* the production of a disposition of comments document as well as the different versions of the draft and final CEN/ETSI STF Report (Framework document) will be under ETSI STF responsibility (but agreed by both ETSI and CEN)

Final report

The final report will contain:

- Final version of the web pages
- Final results of the consultations
- Report on the CEN/ETSI Open meeting
- Report of the three last meetings of the coordination group CG Sign

Note: the final STF report is under the ETSI responsibility but it should be approved by both organisations. Therefore it is not included in this proposal