



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,  
C(2010)114

20 JAN. 2010

Dear Ms Meldgaard,

The Commission welcomes the Danish Parliament's views of 11 September 2009 on the White Paper on modernising ICT standardisation in the EU – The Way Forward {COM(2009)324}.

In line with the Commission's decision to encourage National Parliaments to react to its proposals to improve the process of policy formulation, we welcome this opportunity to respond to your comments. I enclose the Commission's response, and I hope you will find this a valuable contribution to your own deliberations.

I look forward to developing our policy dialogue further in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Margot WALLSTRÖM  
Vice-President of the European Commission

Ms Anne-Marie Meldgaard  
Chairman of the European  
Affairs Committee  
Folketinget



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, December 2009

## COMMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AN OPINION FROM THE DANISH PARLIAMENT

### COM (2009)324 - ON THE COMMISSION WHITE PAPER – MODERNISING ICT STANDARDISATION IN THE EU – THE WAY FORWARD (COM(2009) 324)

The Commission welcomes the thorough analysis of the White Paper by the Danish Parliament's European Affairs Committee and its overall support for more effective and flexible standardisation processes within the ICT sector to benefit production, competition and innovation.

In this regard, the Commission notes in particular the Committee's full support for:

- reviewing the rules on public procurement, so that public authorities can more easily identify the technical requirements and standards for procurement;
- fostering better synergy between research, innovation and standardisation in order to ensure fast and effective updating of the standards;
- ICT standards developing organisations coming up with transparent and balanced policies for weighing intellectual property rights;
- a new, permanent platform, in which all stakeholders participate and can act as expert advisers.

The Commission also notes the concerns raised by the Committee about

- the possibility of applying standards from fora and consortia, which may sometimes be dominated by individual enterprises;
- the need to take particular account of administrative burdens, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, regions and local authorities.

With regard to these latter points, the Commission shares many of the preoccupations of the Danish Parliament's European Affairs Committee.

That is why, with regard to the referencing of standards, whether ESO or non-ESO, the White Paper emphasised the importance of integrating into ICT standardisation policy, the 'list of attributes' including openness, consensus, balance and transparency, based on the WTO

criteria for standard setting bodies. A further safeguard in this respect could be assured through the role of 'examining the application of the attributes list with regard to fora and consortia standards' suggested for the stakeholders' policy platform.

The Commission is also of the view that any proposals to reform the European ICT standardisation legislation should aim if possible, to reduce rather than increase the administrative burden on SMEs, regions and local authorities. Accordingly an impact assessment will be carried out before any decision is made on whether to bring forward detailed policy and legislative proposals to revise the current ICT standardisation framework in the coming year.

In conclusion, as stated in its Communication, the Commission will enhance the dialogue and partnership with stakeholders with a view to setting-up a permanent, multi-stakeholder, ICT standardisation policy platform to advise the Commission on all matters related to the European ICT standardisation policy and its effective implementation.

Furthermore, the Commission is also looking forward to continuing to work closely with the Member States and stakeholders as it analyses the 130 or so separate responses elicited by the public consultation on the White Paper. Those responses have already been published on the Europa web site<sup>1</sup> where they will shortly be joined by a staff report on the results of the consultation.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/ict/standards/extended/consultation\\_2009\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/ict/standards/extended/consultation_2009_en.htm)