



European Commission

DG Enterprise and Industry

# Standardisation and Innovation

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# Where does Europe stand?

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- EU innovation performance is lagging behind
- Member States possess many innovation assets, however:
  - Few inventions are converted into new products
  - Innovative start-ups don't easily grow
  - Productivity gains didn't happen in some sectors (e.g. financial services and distributive services)
- Major innovation drivers:
  - High-quality education
  - Demographic changes
  - R&D investments
  - Economic and regulatory obstacles



# Why standardisation is important for innovation

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- Standardisation facilitates a broad diffusion of knowledge stemming from R&D, or from industrial or commercial practice
- Standards enable that innovative products, services and processes benefit from access to open markets
- Standards complying with the New Approach have helped innovative products, processes and services to enter the market
- In general, standards contribute to innovation in relation to processes, to services, and to the organisation of business in general



# The challenges for standardisation

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- To facilitate the access to standards, especially by SMEs
- To ensure the continuous update of standards
- To improve the co-ordination among the ESOs on innovation-related domains



# Policy aspects

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- Commission's innovation strategy for the EU [COM(2006) 502, 13/9/06]
- Commission's Communication to the informal meeting of the European Council in Lahti [COM(2006) 589, 12/10/06]
- Council conclusions on innovation policy and competitiveness (4/12/06)
- European Council conclusions (14-15/12/06)



- The Council adopted conclusions on strategic priorities for innovation action at EU level.
- Excerpt from the Council conclusions:

[...] the Council stresses that efficient support for innovation is an integral part of the Lisbon Process; thus joint action is required at European level. Therefore, implementation of a broad-based innovation strategy necessitates defining the following strategic priorities at EU level:

....

## 2. Creating a pro-active standard-setting policy

The Council stresses the need to enhance the European standard-setting systems.

The Commission should work out by September 2007, based on on-going efforts and in consultation with the industry, including SMEs, and all other relevant stakeholders, proposals for action to be taken by appropriate bodies, for reforming and streamlining the system.

The Council invites the Commission and Member States to investigate how to further integrate standardisation aspects into European and national RTD projects.

The Commission is also invited to report on ways to reinforce the uptake of standards.



- The European Council underlined that innovation is crucial to Europe's ability to respond effectively to the challenges and opportunities of globalisation
- The European Council emphasised in particular the following:
  - ...
  - the Commission is invited, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, to propose action for the improvement of the working methods and overall resources of European standardisation bodies. Standards must be developed quickly enough to meet the needs of fast-moving markets, whilst ensuring interoperability.



# Useful links

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## DG ENTR ICT Standardisation

- [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/standards/ict\\_index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/standards/ict_index_en.htm)

## DG ENTR Innovation Policy

- [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/innovation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/innovation/index_en.htm)

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