



COPRAS Conference: themes for discussion

Bedford Hotel, Brussels

17 January 2007



THE *Open* GROUP



Ministers see R&D/standards links as a serious issue

- Competitiveness Council of Ministers, 4 December, strategic priorities for innovation action at EU level:
- *“Attention should be paid in particular to reassessing the working methods and the overall resources of the standardisation organisations as well as to analysing the role of standardisation in research and new fields of technology*
- *“The Council invites the Commission and Member States to investigate how to further integrate standardisation aspects into European and national RTD projects”*
- COPRAS provides already an important practical experience of this integration > **our recommendations**

What is needed?

- A more permanent and unified platform to facilitate the start of projects/standards cooperation (*we need a "COPRAS 2" at the general level...*)
- Better internal coordination between project consortium partners to help projects provide output to standards organizations when the opportunity arises
- Additional mechanisms within research programmes that will enable projects to continue their standards work also beyond their project's lifespan

Concretely: 1 Tools should be available to ease research/standards interfacing

- There should be Support Actions within 'Challenges' to help fund projects to cooperate with standardization
- There should be specific (additional) funding possibilities where standards issues emerge or change during a projects lifespan
- There should be possibilities to extend projects for the purpose of continuing contributions to standards work

2 What can standards bodies do to improve interfacing with projects?

- Standards organizations should provide more clarity on their working methods
- There should be a single point (“one stop shop”) where projects can find:
 - what the latest available standards on specific issues are;
 - which standards body/bodies they should work with
- Generic arrangements should be made enabling projects’ (temporary) membership of standards organizations

3 How should standardization be an integral part of EU research programmes?

- Addressing standards issues during a project's preparatory phase should be encouraged and facilitated by the Commission
- There should be specific facilities for SME companies in EU funded projects to participate in standard processes
- Valuable contributions to standardization developed by projects could be a basis for additional funding after a project's original lifespan
- Project Officer training should improve