



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL, THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE**

Towards an increased contribution from standardisation to innovation in Europe

1. INTRODUCTION

In the EU strategy for Growth and Jobs, the Commission and the Council of the European Union have identified standardisation as a key instrument for improvement in order to foster innovation. The Competitiveness Council of 4 December 2006, addressing in its Conclusions¹ the subject of innovation, stressed the need to enhance the European standards-setting system, and invited the Commission to present proposals for action to be taken by the relevant stakeholders to reform and streamline the system. The European Parliament, in its resolution on innovation strategy², also underlined the contribution of standards to innovation policy.

This Communication, responding to the invitation of the Council, focuses on a greater contribution from standardisation to innovation and competitiveness. It identifies the most important challenges faced, presents concrete objectives for standardisation and the use of standards, and consolidates on-going efforts and proposed measures to be launched both by relevant stakeholders and by the Commission.

2. POLITICAL OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES.

As highlighted in previous policy documents, in particular the Communications on a broad-based innovation strategy³ and on the mid-term review of industrial policy⁴, innovation is central in tackling the key challenges faced by the European Union. **A stronger role for standardisation in support of innovation is important for the European effort to address economic, environmental and social challenges.** While the lack of standards, the limited uptake of new standardisation items or the slow updating of existing standards hamper the uptake of innovation, standardisation that is lively and strong has the power to accelerate the access of innovation to both domestic and global markets.

The current standardisation models in Europe and at international level are called into question by challenges such as accelerated market cycles, the convergence in technologies and the trend towards global markets. This occurs in the context of growing international competition in standards-setting from emerging powers, who consider standardisation an important strategic asset. **It follows that standardisation must adapt to this changed landscape, while strengthening its role in support of innovation and competitiveness.**

3. THE CONTRIBUTION OF STANDARDISATION TO INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS

Standardisation is a voluntary cooperation among industry, consumers, public authorities and other interested parties for the development of technical specifications based on consensus. **Standardisation complements market-based competition**, typically in order to achieve objectives such as the interoperability of complementary products/services, and to agree on test methods and on requirements for safety, health, organisational and environmental performance. Standardisation also has a dimension of public interest, in

¹ http://www.eu2006.fi/news_and_documents/conclusions/vko50/en_GB/1165932111543/

² European Parliament resolution of 24 May 2007 on putting knowledge into practice: a broad-based innovation strategy for Europe

³ COM(2006)502 final "Putting knowledge into practice: A broad-based innovation strategy for the EU"

⁴ COM(2007)374, "Mid-term review of industrial policy. A contribution to the EU's Growth and Jobs Strategy"

particular whenever issues of safety, health, security and of the environment are at stake. In addition the standard-setting process needs to be in line with European competition provisions.

Standardisation, usually bringing predictability and a level playing field, may be intuitively perceived as conflicting with innovation, which strives for change and exclusivity. However, as confirmed by the stakeholder consultation, **dynamic standardisation is an important enabler of innovation**. This occurs in different ways:

- (a) Standards that express the state of the art give innovators a **level playing field** facilitating interoperability and competition between new and already existing products, services and processes. Standards provide customers with trust in the safety and performance of new products and allow differentiation of products through reference to standardised methods;
- (b) The development of new standards is also necessary to **accompany the emergence of new markets** and the introduction of complex systems, such as the expansion of the Internet;
- (c) The **use of standards** contributes to diffusing knowledge and facilitating the application of technology; this may then trigger innovation, in particular non-technological innovation in the service sector.

A strong role for Europe in international standardisation is also a means of capitalising on European leadership in new markets and of gaining first-mover advantages in global markets.

Most of the benefits of standards for innovation only materialise when standards are effectively implemented and market-relevant. **The actual use of standards remains voluntary**, depending on the perception of different market players of their interests and their capacity to use them. Standards may fail to achieve relevance because of the inappropriate timing of their development or their lack of visibility, or due to the existence of competing standards which introduce uncertainty.

European stakeholders engage in standardisation both formally and informally. Formal standardisation has a three-level structure which includes the national standards bodies (NSBs), the three European Standards Organisations (ESOs⁵) and the international organisations⁶. The ESOs have been formally recognised by the EU in Directive 98/34/EC⁷. Industry also engages in informal standardisation in hundreds of fora and consortia, with different characteristics in terms of longevity, sectoral coverage, and territorial scope, which is often global and thus may clash with the 3-level structure of formal standardisation.

The European Union has an active standardisation policy that promotes standardisation in support of Better Regulation⁸ and as a tool for European competitiveness. Formal European standardisation has been particularly important in supporting New Approach legislation for the Single Market for goods. This legislative technique has been instrumental in putting in

⁵ CEN for the majority of sectors, CENELEC for the electro-technical area, ETSI in telecommunications

⁶ IEC in the electro-technical area, ITU in telecommunications and ISO in most other areas, but also the International Civil Aviation Organisation, Codex Alimentarius, UN-CEFACT, etc

⁷ OJ L 204, 21.7.1998, p.37

⁸ COM(2004)674 on the role of European standardisation in the framework of European policies and legislation

place innovation-friendly regulation, where technical specifications which allow compliance with legal requirements are developed by the interested parties themselves and updated according to the state of the art. The reliance on voluntary standards in support of legislation in other sectors will help to remove further regulatory barriers to innovation.

In the services sector, there is still a limited number of standards resulting mainly from the heterogeneous and intangible nature of services, as well as the access difficulties for SMEs, who are the predominant actors. Therefore, it is necessary to analyse further in what way standards can contribute to innovation and the development of services markets.

4. THE ROLE OF STANDARDS IN PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR INNOVATION.

Though most standardisation occurs on the initiative of market actors, the EU expects standardisation to make an **important contribution to the following priority actions for innovation**:

- (1) **Sustainable industrial policy**: this aims at improving the energy and resource efficiency of products, processes and services and the competitiveness of European industry. Standardisation is important in enabling the uptake of eco-innovation and environmental technologies and facilitating their dissemination in the Single Market and access to global markets⁹. In addition, advanced performance benchmarks and wider use of labelling will be necessary to inform consumers about product performance and reward frontrunners.

The Commission will issue requests for the development of standards to support Directive 2005/32/EC on the eco-design of Energy-using Products (EuP), the measurement of greenhouse gas emissions, the introduction of renewable energies, the improvement of energy management, and other goals in relation to the forthcoming Sustainable Industrial Policy and Sustainable Production and Consumption initiatives.

- (2) **Lead markets**: the lead market initiative¹⁰ aims to accelerate the emergence of innovative market areas¹¹ through the close coordination of innovation policy instruments. Standardisation is one of the key elements for the success of this initiative: a European lead in developing globally accepted standards and an anticipatory approach would facilitate the growth of these markets both in Europe and abroad. To account for the **crucial time dimension** in these markets, a particularly focused effort should be made to accelerate standards-setting to enable international acceptance.

The Commission will issue requests for the development of standards in support of lead markets and will consider, together with stakeholders, which type of standard best matches the needs in terms of timing and international perspective.

⁹ COM(2004)38, introducing ETAP, an Environmental Technologies Action Plan for the European Union

¹⁰ COM (2007) 860 “A lead market initiative for Europe”

¹¹ Such as eHealth, sustainable construction and recycling and renewable energies

- (3) **Public procurement:** the appropriate use of standards in public procurement may foster innovation, while providing administrations with the tools needed to fulfil their tasks. Instead of prescribing particular technical solutions, the use of technology-neutral standards allows contracting authorities to call for advanced performance and functional requirements (e.g. relating to environmental aspects or to accessibility for all), thus stimulating the search for innovative technologies that provide best value for money in the long term, while ensuring safety and interoperability.

A case in point is that of defence, where national agencies too often rely on existing divergent national standards which limit the breadth of the market for innovation and hamper its diffusion. Pooling civil and military resources through reference to multiple-use standards and the harmonisation of standards for defence procurement has the potential to improve efficiency and provide more incentives to innovation.

- *The Commission will promote the use of guidelines and of good practice¹² to European administrations at all levels to enhance innovation through public procurement.*
- *Complementing the European Defence Equipment Market initiative, the Commission has asked CEN to develop a European Handbook for Defence Procurement and will encourage its use by Member States.*

- (4) **The integration of ICT in industry and administrations:** the potential to improve the competitive position of the European economy through a more efficient and effective use of ICT tools is important, and standards are essential to realise this potential. Standards are also key enablers for societal applications of ICT, such as e-Identity, e-Health and RFID¹³.

Taking into account the recently published “Study on the specific policy needs for ICT standardisation”¹⁴, the main subjects for the revision of standardisation policy in the ICT area are:

- (a) A better integration of informal ICT standards development bodies to the EU standardisation system, in order to allow EU ICT policies to benefit from the expertise of those fora and consortia
- (b) The creation of a policy dialogue platform for all ICT standardisation stakeholders
- (c) The need to address other aspects such as interoperability testing, access to standards and IPR issues in order to enable the rapid uptake of standards in market solutions

Following consultation with stakeholders, the Commission will in 2008 seek a broad agreement on how ICT standardisation policy will be revised, to be followed by policy proposals, in particular regarding the possible revision of Council Decision 87/95/EC on ICT standardisation.

¹² Particularly relevant are SEC 2007 (280) Guide on dealing with innovative solutions in public procurement, and ongoing Europe Innova networks <http://www.europe-innova.org>

¹³ Radio-Frequency Identification

¹⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/standards/piper/full_report.pdf

Standards should also enable innovation in many areas not included above, in particular where standardisation needs have been identified in the context of European Technology Platforms (ETPs) and Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs). Relevant examples are *Space, Galileo, Fuel Cells and Hydrogen* and *Nanotechnologies*.

5. HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE CONTRIBUTION OF STANDARDISATION TO INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS

If standardisation is to fully realise its potential benefits in support of innovation, it must adapt itself to the needs of innovation and respond to the challenges resulting from globalisation, the emergence of new economic powers, and the evolution of technology. The responsibility for the continuous improvement of European standardisation mostly belongs to its private stakeholders, but, due to its important public interest dimension, the Commission and the Member States also have a role to play.

The Commission has identified the following nine key elements for **focusing EU standardisation policy on innovation**:

- (1) Re-assert the commitment to market-led **standardisation** and to the voluntary use of standards. The specific added value of standardisation with respect to setting technical specifications lies indeed in the voluntary cooperation of private and public actors.

The Commission encourages industry to set up or accelerate cooperation in the development, implementation and use of standards in support of innovation and competitiveness

- (2) Recognise **the importance of both formal and informal standards** for innovation. A formal standardisation process which fully respects the principles of openness, inclusiveness, transparency and coherence and is accountable for establishing consensus between all national positions and interested parties is necessary. At the same time, other standards, developed both within the recognised standards organisations and in other organisations, are often more receptive to innovative technologies, and play thus an important role in accelerating their acceptance by the market. In order to get the benefits of both types of standard, preserve the coherence of the European standardisation system and optimise the impact of available experts, it is important to facilitate good coordination of activities between formal and informal standards bodies. In this respect, the practice of ETSI at European level, and of ISO and IEC at international level, of engaging in collaboration with many informal standards fora needs to be considered as good practice.

- *The Commission invites the ESOs to develop less formal standardisation deliverables when appropriate for industry and user needs.*
- *The Commission invites the standards organisations, both formal and informal, to find ways of cooperating during the planning of activities and of transferring standards to the most appropriate level, international or European, for dealing with the market in question.*

- (3) Focus on **standards development for the global market**. European industry needs standards that allow access to increasingly global markets. Consequently, standards-making shifts towards the international level, where the stakes of setting standards in cooperation with other trading partners are higher than ever. This is a strategic challenge that industry must address. It is important that European industry is involved from the onset in setting standards for global markets. In this context, **the focus of the ESOs and the National Standards Bodies (NSBs) should be to facilitate European contributions to international standardisation work**. Coordination mechanisms between the European and international standards organisations already exist, allowing stakeholders to decide whether the European or the international level should lead in the development of international standards. However, the emergence of new economic powers who may gradually assert their role in international standards-making, and the growing scarcity of European experts in some industrial sectors, demand a continuous improvement in the effectiveness and efficiency of European contributions at international level.

International standards are part of an emerging international regulatory regime based on regulatory cooperation, convergence of standards and equivalence of rules. This approach, which is emerging as a result of sectoral bilateral discussion with third countries¹⁵, should be further developed in the mutual interest of the EU and its partners, including developing countries, thus avoiding the risk of divergent standards and rules becoming barriers to spreading innovation, competition and trade.

- *The Commission will strengthen its efforts through multilateral agreements and through bilateral trade and regulatory dialogues to promote regulatory models based on the reliance on voluntary standards, and to enhance the commitment of our trade partners to the development and use of international standards.*
- *The Commission encourages the stakeholders of European standardisation to strengthen their involvement in international standardisation, to cooperate in addressing the standardisation activities and policies of relevant regions, and in particular to strengthen the role of the ESOs in increasing the impact of European input to international standardisation.*
- *Building on the successful experience of the European standards expert in China, the Commission encourages the ESOs to make proposals for improving the visibility of European standardisation in other strategic markets, and to cooperate with a view to setting up procedures for pro-active information exchanges on standardisation with relevant regions.*

- (4) Facilitate **the inclusion of new knowledge in standards**, in particular from publicly-funded Research and Innovation programmes including the RTD¹⁶ Community Framework Programme and CIP (Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme). While only a limited proportion of R&D projects delivers results of interest for standardisation, their systematic identification and the facilitation of exchanges with the appropriate standards bodies have the

¹⁵ COM (2007)581 “The European Interest : succeeding in the age of globalisation”

¹⁶ RTD: Research and Technological Development

potential to accelerate the application of new knowledge in an industrial and commercial environment.

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) already leads co- and pre-normative research in several areas including construction, life-sciences, bio- and eco-technologies. These activities have allowed the development of relevant standards, including measurement standards, and of innovative products and services. It is important to maintain and reinforce this effort.

Setting up a powerful European metrology with common standards for measurement and testing is a field where the cooperation of Member States and the Community is necessary. In this respect, the setting up in 2007 of the association of national metrology institutes (Euramet e.V.), and the European Metrology Research Programme, as a potential EC article 169 initiative under the 7th Research Framework Programme are important milestones.

- *Measures to be assessed by public research and innovation authorities include:*
 - *the introduction of concrete incentives for the consideration of standardisation issues in the activity plans of public research institutions and of co-funded RTD and innovation projects*
 - *the provision of training in standardisation for evaluators and managers of RTD and innovation programmes*
 - *systematic action to link standardisation-relevant research projects with the standardisation community, in particular in those priority areas identified for lead markets, Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) and Technology Platform (ETPs)*
- *Standards organisations are encouraged to facilitate the research community's access to published standards.*
- *The ESOs are invited to develop a joint proposal for setting up technology watch activities and helpdesks with a focus on facilitating the transfer of results of RTD and CIP framework programmes to standardisation. The Commission is prepared to consider financial support for such a proposal.*

- (5) Facilitate **the access to standardisation of all interested stakeholders, in particular SMEs**, but also users/consumers and researchers. Standardisation is a powerful tool for the dissemination of the state of the art to SMEs, and through the participation of consumers, to facilitate the uptake of innovation by the market. However, this potential is often not realised because of barriers such as the complexity of the language of the standards, the time required to participate in standards-making, and the cost of the deliverables.

The EU supports SME representation in standards-setting at European level. Additionally, the funding schemes 'Research for SMEs' and 'Research for SME associations' of the 7th RTD Community Framework Programme (2007-

2013), as well as several mechanisms developed within EU Cohesion Policy, enable SMEs and their associations to provide input into the standardisation process, but also to assist SMEs to comply with new standards. The following measures are proposed:

- *The Commission will substantially increase its financial support to European coordination of SME representation in standardisation. Within the planned proposal for a Small Business Act, the Commission will introduce provisions to consolidate the commitment of the Member States to include SMEs in standardisation at national level, which is the most accessible context for most SMEs.*
- *The Commission invites the standardisation bodies to fully acknowledge the implications of the ‘think small first’ principle, in particular regarding how the standardisation process may be revised in order to improve the transparency of standardisation activities and the cost-benefit balance of participation for SMEs and users. The Commission encourages the ESOs to seek a fair and balanced representation of all stakeholders of standardisation.*
- *On the basis of existing SME associations and national bodies, SMEs need to organise themselves better to defend their interests in the standardisation process, with the institutional and financial support of public authorities.*

Regarding access to standards, the cost of purchasing standards is increasingly mentioned by SMEs and other stakeholders as an issue. Some standards organisations, such as ETSI and ITU for all their deliverables, and CEN and CENELEC for some of them, have decided to publish their standards for free, and there is evidence that this decision has multiplied their diffusion. Other issues relate to the lack of standards in national languages, the excessive number of cross-references between standards, and the difficulty in identifying the group of standards relevant for a product or process.

- *The Commission invites the standards organisations to systematically publish abstracts of European Standards without access restriction.*
- *The Commission is currently carrying out a study on access to European standardisation. The European and national standards bodies are invited to address as a matter of priority the conditions of access to standardisation, and to reconsider, in close cooperation with the Member States and the Commission, their business model in order to reduce the cost of access to standards, with the ultimate goal of providing free access to standards developed in support of EU legislation and policy.*

- (6) EU policy needs to address better those barriers which hinder the actual **implementation and effective use of standards**, such as their lack of visibility, their complexity, the uncertainty about conformity to the standard or the existence of competing standards.

The Commission will strengthen its support to the coordination of the integration of standards in innovative products and business practices through the Europe Innova standardisation networks.

- (7) Both **intellectual property rights** (IPRs) and standardisation encourage innovation and facilitate the dissemination of technology. However, as they contribute to these common objectives by different means, due regard needs to be paid to the interrelation between IPR and standardisation.

The Commission supports the view that standards should be open for access and implementation by everyone, with IPRs relevant to the standard being taken into consideration in the standardisation process, aiming to establish a balance between the interests of the users of standards and the rights of owners of intellectual property. In the Guidelines for cooperation¹⁷ between the EC and EFTA and the ESOs, the ESOs have committed themselves to ensure that standards, including any IPRs they might contain, can be used by market operators on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory conditions (FRAND). However, standardisation stakeholders, including public authorities, have been confronted with issues raised by the interplay of IPRs and standards, in particular in the ICT field.

- *The Commission encourages the ESOs to continue their efforts to make the FRAND policy effective and to develop mechanisms to prevent abuses of the standard-setting process.*
- *The Commission will launch a fact-finding study to analyse the interplay of IPR and standards.*

- (8) A strong European standardisation system is a key asset for European industry, governments and citizens. **The ESOs are the keystone of standardisation in Europe, and their ongoing reform processes** deserve special attention. ETSI continues to implement the recommendations of its 2004 High Level Review Group, and CEN and CENELEC are now starting to implement the first recommendations of the FLES exercise (Future Landscape of European Standardisation). These initiatives are timely. The ESOs and their members are of course responsible for addressing most of the points set out above in their reform processes.

¹⁷ General guidelines for the co-operation between CEN, CENELEC and ETSI and the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, signed on 28 March 2003. OJEU C 91 , 16/04/2003 p. 7

The Commission encourages the ESOs to pursue and be ambitious in their reform efforts, in particular to address the following points:

- (a) Where appropriate, the involvement of stakeholders in the governance of formal standardisation at European level should be improved*
- (b) The current procedures for standards development need to be reviewed in order to further speed up the standard-setting process, to ensure a pro-active setting of priorities in subjects to be addressed based on industry and users needs, and to identify the type of deliverables to be developed. The Commission invites the ESOs and the NSBs to systematically give priority to the European level for new standardisation activities, avoiding potential delays due to preparatory work at national level*
- (c) The convergence of technologies, and the application of ICT to many other technical fields makes necessary the cooperation between standardisation bodies whose competences have traditionally been separated into electrotechnical, telecommunications, and other technologies. The Commission invites the ESOs to set up common operational structures, such as joint technical bodies, for standardisation in those areas where technologies converge*
- (d) The European identity and the visibility of European standardisation, both inside Europe and in the world, need to be reinforced*
- (e) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, will follow up and encourage the reform process of the ESOs in the framework of its continuing dialogue with the ESOs and their stakeholders.*

- (9) The focus of European standardisation has to change in accordance with the evolving needs of the European economy and society, and with the dramatic changes in the international political and economic environment. While the Commission invites all standardisation stakeholders to cooperate in the implementation of the measures proposed in this Communication, current and future challenges demand an in-depth reflection on the scope and the role of European standardisation in the emerging global context, including a possible need to update its current legal base.

The Commission will set up a high level expert group to identify the future scope and role of European standardisation and to develop strategic recommendations for the coming decade.

6. CONCLUSION AND FOLLOW-UP.

The Commission expects the European standardisation bodies, industry and all stakeholders of standardisation to consider the measures outlined in this Communication. In the context of relevant EU initiatives and dialogues, the Commission will discuss with Member States, industry, standards bodies, and other relevant stakeholders how best to achieve the objectives outlined in this Communication. On the basis of these discussions the rolling Action Plan for European Standardisation¹⁸ will be updated.

¹⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards_policy/action_plan/index.htm

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. NAME OF THE PROPOSAL:

Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee "Towards an increased contribution from standardisation to innovation in Europe"

2. ABM / ABB FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 Internal market for goods and sectoral policies
- 2.2 Competitiveness, industrial policy, innovation and entrepreneurship

3. BUDGET LINES

3.1. Budget lines (operational lines and related technical and administrative assistance lines (ex- B..A lines)) including headings:

- a) 02.03.04 Standardisation
- 02.01.04.02 Standardisation, Expenditure on administrative management
- b) 02.02.01 CIP (ENTR)

3.2. Duration of the action and of the financial impact:

Permanent / no financial impact (no increase of budget resources needed)

3.3. Budgetary characteristics:

Budget line	Type of expenditure		New	EFTA contribution	Contributions from applicant countries	Heading in financial perspective
020304	Non-comp	Diff ^{19/20}	NO	NO	NO	No 1a
020201	Non-comp	Diff/	NO	YES	YES	No 1a
02010402	Non-comp	Non-Diff	NO	NO	NO	No 1a

¹⁹ Differentiated appropriations

²⁰ Non-differentiated appropriations hereafter referred to as NDA

4. SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

4.1. Financial Resources

4.1.1. Summary of commitment appropriations (CA) and payment appropriations (PA)

(The actions foreseen by the Commission communication will be covered by existing programmes, no variation in budgetary needs due to the introduction of the proposed measures is envisaged)

EUR million (to 3 decimal places)

Expenditure type	Section no.		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 and later	Total
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Operational expenditure (020304 and 020201)

CA 020201 Commitment Appropriations (CA) 020304	8.1.	a	1,0 18,5	2,65 20,5	2,65 23,00	2,65 24,00	2,65 24,5	2,65 24,5	
PA 020201 Payment Appropriations (PA) 020304		b	1,0 20,4	2,65 20,5	2,65 23,00	2,65 24,00	2,65 24,5	2,65 24,5	

Administrative expenditure within reference amount²¹ (02010402)

Technical & administrative assistance (NDA)020304	8.2.4.	c	0,3	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	
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TOTAL REFERENCE AMOUNT

Commitment Appropriations		a+c	19,8	23,65	26,15	27,15	27,65	27,65	
Payment Appropriations		b+c	21,7	23,65	26,15	27,15	27,65	27,65	

Administrative expenditure not included in reference amount²²

Human resources and associated expenditure (NDA)	8.2.5.	d	n.a.						
Administrative costs, other than human resources and associated costs, not included in reference amount (NDA)	8.2.6.	e	n.a.						

Total indicative financial cost of intervention

²¹ Expenditure within article xx 01 04 of Title xx.

²² Expenditure within chapter xx 01 other than articles xx 01 04 or xx 01 05.

TOTAL CA including cost of Human Resources		a+c +d+ e	19,8	23,65	26,15	27,15	27,65	27,65	
TOTAL PA including cost of Human Resources		b+c +d+ e	21,7	23,65	26,15	27,15	27,65	27,65	

4.1.2. *Compatibility with Financial Programming*

- Proposal is compatible with existing financial programming.

4.1.3. *Financial impact on Revenue*

- Proposal has no financial implications on revenue

4.2. **Human Resources FTE (including officials, temporary and external staff) – see detail under point 8.2.1.**

Annual requirements	Year n	n + 1	n + 2	n + 3	n + 4	n + 5 and later
Total number of human resources	n.a.					

The proposal has no implication on human resources

5. **CHARACTERISTICS AND OBJECTIVES**

5.1. **Need to be met in the short or long term**

The Communication announces a number of actions for which a financing from the Community budget will be required :

a) actions to be financed through the budget lines 020304 "Standardisation" and 02010402 "Standardisation, Expenditure on administrative management." :

* setting up and implementation of standardisation programmes in support of sustainable industrial policy and of lead markets (sustainable construction, e-health, protective textiles, bio-based products, recycling, renewable energy, etc...)

* strengthening of the visibility of European standardisation, in particular in strategically important markets

* setting up by the European standardisation organisations of activities of technology watch and helpdesk

b) action to be financed through the budget line 020201 - CIP (ENTR) : increase of the financial support to European co-ordination of SME representatives in standardisation. An amount of 1mio€ has been earmarked in the Commission's decision of 10 December 2007 establishing the Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Work programme for 2008. For subsequent years this amount will need to be further increased up to 2,65 mio p.a. (indicative amount).

The aforementioned actions [a) and b)] will be financed on the basis of a reallocation of credit inside the aforementioned budget lines without any change in the existing multi-annual financial programming.

5.2. Value-added of Community involvement and coherence of the proposal with other financial instruments and possible synergy

The Community co-financing will enable the standardisation bodies to set up necessary European standards within the required timeframe.

The co-financing of a technology watch and helpdesk activity will allow the instalment and maintenance of a European infrastructure of technology watch available for standardisation and foster the taking up of results of research output by standardisation.

The increased financial support for SME representation will improve the access of European SMEs to the European and international standardisation activities and therefore display synergies due to SME intermediates involvement at national level.

5.3. Objectives, expected results and related indicators of the proposal in the context of the ABM framework

The aforementioned actions will aim at promoting the setting up and use by stakeholders of international and European standards in key areas for innovation. The timely involvement of and input from European stakeholders, including SMEs, will improve the competitiveness of European industry. Indicators: execution of relevant standardisation programmes; publication of standards; uptake of new subjects within standardisation taking account of research output.

5.4. Method of Implementation (indicative)

Centralised Management

directly by the Commission

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

6.1. Monitoring system

6.2. Evaluation

6.2.1. Ex-ante evaluation

Ex-ante evaluations of funded activities will be carried out in accordance with the financial rules for each action.

6.2.2. *Measures taken following an intermediate/ex-post evaluation (lessons learned from similar experiences in the past)*

Not applicable

6.2.3. *Terms and frequency of future evaluation*

Every 5 years in accordance with Article 6(2) of Decision 1673/2006/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 24.10.2006

7. ANTI-FRAUD MEASURES

Application of Decision 1673/2006/EC, Article 7

8. DETAILS OF RESOURCES

8.1. Objectives of the proposal in terms of their financial cost

n.a.

8.2. Administrative Expenditure

8.2.1. Number and type of human resources

Types of post		Staff to be assigned to management of the action using existing and/or additional resources (number of posts/FTEs)					
		Year n	Year n+1	Year n+2	Year n+3	Year n+4	Year n+5
Officials or temporary staff ²³ (XX 01 01)	A*/AD	n.a.					
	B*, C*/AST	n.a.					
Staff financed ²⁴ by art. XX 01 02		n.a.					
Other staff ²⁵ financed by art. XX 01 04/05		n.a.					
TOTAL							

8.2.2. Description of tasks deriving from the action

n.a.

8.2.3. Sources of human resources (statutory)

²³ Cost of which is NOT covered by the reference amount

²⁴ Cost of which is NOT covered by the reference amount

²⁵ Cost of which is included within the reference amount

8.2.4. *Other Administrative expenditure included in reference amount (XX 01 04/05 – Expenditure on administrative management)*

EUR million (to 3 decimal places)

Budget line (number and heading)	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013 and later	TOTAL
1 Technical and administrative assistance (including related staff costs)							
Executive agencies ²⁶							
Other technical and administrative assistance	0,3	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	
- <i>intra muros</i>							
- <i>extra muros</i>							
Total Technical and administrative assistance							

8.2.5. *Financial cost of human resources and associated costs not included in the reference amount*

EUR million (to 3 decimal places)

Type of human resources	Year n	Year n+1	Year n+2	Year n+3	Year n+4	Year n+5 and later
Officials and temporary staff (XX 01 01)	n.a.					
Staff financed by Art XX 01 02 (auxiliary, END, contract staff, etc.) (specify budget line)	n.a.					
Total cost of Human Resources and associated costs (NOT in reference amount)	n.a.					

²⁶ Reference should be made to the specific legislative financial statement for the Executive Agency(ies) concerned.

Calculation– *Officials and Temporary agents*

n.a.

Calculation – Staff financed under art. XX 01 02

n.a.

8.2.6. *Other administrative expenditure not included in reference amount*

EUR million (to 3 decimal places)

	Year n	Year n+1	Year n+2	Year n+3	Year n+4	Year n+5 and later	TOTAL
XX 01 02 11 01 – Missions	n.a.						
XX 01 02 11 02 – Meetings & Conferences	n.a.						
XX 01 02 11 03 – Committees ²⁷	n.a.						
XX 01 02 11 04 – Studies & consultations	n.a.						
XX 01 02 11 05 - Information systems	n.a.						
2 Total Other Management Expenditure (XX 01 02 11)	n.a.						
3 Other expenditure of an administrative nature (specify including reference to budget line)	n.a.						
Total Administrative expenditure, other than human resources and associated costs (NOT included in reference amount)	n.a.						

Calculation - *Other administrative expenditure not included in reference amount*

²⁷ Specify the type of committee and the group to which it belongs.