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Towards better participation in Standardisation

ETUC standardisation newsletter - December 2016

Dear colleagues and friends,

The ETUC is pleased to send you its newsletter on standardisation that will keep you regularly updated on the ETUC's activities in the field of standardisation. It will deliver information on European and international standardisation direct to your desktop. If you wish additional information and/or documents related to the news mentioned below, feel free to contact us at standards@etuc.org.

Digital transformation - Impact and challenges for occupational injury insurance

In December 2016, [EUROGIP](#), the French organisation investigating issues related to insurance and prevention of accidents at work and occupational diseases has published a report on the digital transformation and its impacts and challenges for occupational injury insurances. Taking stock of the situation in France with examples in other European countries, the report addresses the issue of social protection for new forms of work, the emergence of new activities and related new occupational risks and underlines the preponderant role of standardisation in preventing risks associated to new forms of employments. As the report points out: " Faced with the development of flexible law, allowance for risk prevention as of the design stage, via standardization, represents a major occupational safety and health challenge." The report (in English) is available [here](#).

How do judges consider standards in court rulings? A german legal report

Which parts of standards and similar documents are referred to in court rulings, and for what reasons, was the subject of a legal report produced on behalf of [KAN](#) and published in December 2016. Analysing 68 court rulings in which standards or similar documents played a significant part, the report found that the terms "normative" and "informative", which are precisely defined in the rules and structures of standardisation, have a somewhat different meaning in court rulings. The report more generally concludes that standards and similar documents are used in reasonings of legal judgments, irrespective of their status, the composition of the committee responsible for them and their formal suitability. The full report, including an English and French summary, is available [here](#).

EESC Opinion on the Annual Union Work Programme 2017

On 14 December 2016, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) plenary almost unanimously approved rapporteur Elżbieta Szadzińska [opinion](#) on the Annual Union Work Programme (AUWP) for European standardisation for 2017. The [AUWP 2017](#) was published in June 2016 as accompanying document to the EC Communication "European standards for the 21st Century". In this opinion, the EESC welcomes the AUWP 2017 and further points out "that ensuring the pluralism of European standardisation systems by including the organisations referred to in annex III of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 guarantees greater transparency and access to this system". It further argues that "The participation of society representatives in the standardisation system must not be limited to the EU level. These stakeholders should be involved in national standardisation systems too", thus echoing ETUC Resolution on the rationale for trade union participation in standardisation.

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