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Towards better participation in Standardisation

ETUC standardisation newsletter - May 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.

ETUC Resolution on ISO 45001

During its last Executive Committee meeting held on 13th April, ETUC has adopted a [Resolution on the draft standard ISO 45001](#) currently developed by the International Organisation for Standardisation and addressing "Occupational health and safety management systems". This resolution calls on its affiliates to take action to reject the draft ISO/DIS 45001 in its current form and to improve the draft by commenting on it during the voting process which is open until 12th May 2016. A corresponding commenting template has been prepared by the ETUC and shared with its affiliates; it is also available upon request.

The ETUC is also glad to inform you that the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) has published a [policy brief on ISO 45001](#) which mirrors main trade unions concerns with the initiative. We invite you to read it and distribute it!

Joint Initiative on European Standardisation (JIES)

The final meeting of the editorial committee drafting the "Joint Initiative on European Standardisation" (announced as part of the Single Market Strategy (COM(2015) 550 final) has taken place on Friday 15th April. As a reminder, the JIES is a voluntary and non-binding initiative aimed at reinforcing the public-private partnership underpinning European standardisation by identifying actions to be delivered within the next 4 years in support of the 10 Juncker priorities. The (voluntary) signature of this initiative should take place on 13th June, in Amsterdam.

The ETUC has been one of the few societal stakeholders (with [ECOS](#) and [ANEC](#)) represented in the editorial committee gathering about 40 people. Since the ETUC consulted the members of its permanent Standardisation committee on the JIES, important developments have occurred. First, following EC internal discussions mid-March, the specific and detailed actions foreseen to be included in the JIES have been reduced to a short description, leaving to a Steering Committee (to be established after the signature) to further specify the actions and/or to define new ones. Second, the JIES triggers a high level of political interest within the European Commission as it epitomizes the kind of co-regulatory approaches fostered by the EC "Better Regulation" package. Last but not least, the ETUC's requests to include a statement that standards shall not substitute collective agreements, shall respect the autonomy of social partners and take as a basis the level of existing European and national legislations when addressing working conditions have not been included in the JIES. In this context, the ETUC is carefully assessing the support it can grant to the JIES; while some proposed actions targeting all stakeholders have the potential to improve the inclusiveness of the European standardisation system, the lack of recognition of trade unions' stakes in standardisation, the specific action further entrenching the role of the industry in the ESS or the uncertainty surrounding the role, composition and working procedure of the future Steering Committee are of great concerns for the ETUC.

The latest version of the text is available upon request at standards@etuc.org.

ETUC first participation at Technical Committee level

The ETUC is glad to announce that in the framework of the ETUC standardisation action, its experts took part in their first technical committee (TC) meeting in January 2016. The ETUC's experts participated in the meeting of the CEN TC 348 "Facility Management" and already commented on the draft standard dealing with "the Guidance on strategic sourcing and the development

of agreements". In addition, ETUC experts also took part in the plenary meeting of CEN TC 278 "Intelligent Transport System".

New CEN Technical Committee on Horizontal services standards

The European committee for standardisation (CEN) has approved the creation of a new technical committee ([TC 447](#)) that will elaborate horizontal services standards for procurement, contracts and performance assessment. This work is part of the European Commission mandate [M/517](#) asking for European standardisation organisations to develop generic services standards. The ETUC will take part in the corresponding standard-writing activities that should start on the 7-8th July 2016 with the first meeting of the TC.

Creation of a new CEN/Technical Committee on "Quality of care for elderly people"

In December 2015, the European Committee for Standardisation issued a proposal to create a new technical committee dealing with healthcare services, namely "Quality of care for elderly people in ordinary or residential care facilities". According to the proposal, the resulting standards should specify requirements for services delivered to elderly people in ordinary and residential care facilities and are intended to be used "during quality assurance, follow-up, evaluation and development of such services and can be used to provide basic information during procurement, education, supervision and certification". By the end of March 2016, the creation of this TC has been largely accepted by national standardisation bodies despite ETUC comments opposing its creation on the basis of the inputs received from the main European trade unions federations (ETUFs) active in healthcare services; services of general interest should not be regulated by market-driven standardisation. The ETUC will now explore together with ETUFs the need for further action and participation within this new TC.

Creation of a CEN-CENELC REFIT mirror group

As part of the Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT), the EC has established in 2015 a [REFIT platform](#) aimed at supporting the so-called "simplification of EU laws and the reduction of administrative

burdens". This platform, consisting of two groups (government group and stakeholder group) has accepted CEN as a member of the stakeholder group. In January 2016, CEN consequently decided to establish the "CEN-CENELEC Refit mirror group" that will suggest issues for the REFIT platform to work on. A proposal named "Standardisation as a tool for better regulation" has already been provided by this mirror group to the REFIT platform (stakeholder group) and has been accepted for further consideration. The ETUC will keep you informed on the future developments and activities of the CEN-CENELEC Refit mirror group.

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