



Brussels , 5 February 2024

To: Annika Andreasen, CEN Vice-President Technical  
Frédéric Vaillant, CENELEC Vice-President Technical

Cc: Elena Santiago Cid, CEN-CENELEC Director-General  
Cinzia Missiroli, CEN-CENELEC Director, Standardization

Dear Vice-Presidents,

We have noticed that – under agenda item 2.3 of the Common session of the CEN and CENELEC Technical Boards on 14 February – a topic will be addressed on the “Governance Review”.

The Governance Review was also discussed at the common meeting of the CEN and CENELEC policy groups on 31 January. Several CEN-CENELEC Partner Organisations, including all Annex III organisations, were present at that meeting. For the first time, the meeting provided us with a deeper insight into the overall governance review within CEN and CENELEC.

All partners at the meeting supported the need for a governance review, with the aim to make the standardisation system more efficient. But at the same time, there was a unanimous plea to maintain the current involvement of the Annex III organisations, noting we dispose of a wealth of information (and networks) - beyond the traditional ESO, NSB and NC networks - in the “Brussels Bubble” and also at national and international level. We also benefit greatly from the insights on technical, policy and strategy developments in CEN and CENELEC, which we can take into account in our own work. As such, the Annex III organisations enrich the ESOs in their decision-making processes.

Our particular concern is that the present “Members only” sessions under the Technical Boards will be formalised in the Internal Regulations and be empowered to take decisions. Of course, we appreciate the members of the Technical Boards are always free to meet, in a formal or informal setting. However, we believe decision taking in these closed meetings would be a step back from the “inclusiveness” that CEN-CENELEC have helped champion over the past decade or so.

Given these considerations, we urge the Technical Boards not to exclude the voice of the Annex III organisations, either at BT level or in the advisory groups reporting to the BTs. After all, we represent the voices of stakeholders weak or absent at the national level.

Best regards

Stephen Russell Director General ANEC	Justin Wilkes Executive Director ECOS	Claes-Mikael Ståhl Deputy General Secretary ETUC	Maitane Olabarria Secretary General SBS
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CC: Maive Rute, DG GROW  
Sophie Müller, DG GROW  
Federico Musso, DG GROW