



**WTO TBT Thematic Session on Standards  
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# ***Referencing standards in EU legislation***

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## European standardisation ...

**...is founded on the WTO principles** of coherence, transparency, openness, consensus, voluntary application, independence from special interests, efficiency;

**...supports the Single Market** by eliminating technical barriers to trade, and facilitating the free movement of goods and services, network interoperability, means of communication, technological development and innovation.



# Benefits of the SINGLE MARKET

Created more than **2.3 million new jobs** in Europe

Since 2007, the administrative burden for EU companies was **cut by 25%**

Having the Euro as currency means **lower transaction costs**

**No customs formalities** when you travel inside the EU

Using the mobile phone when abroad is **80% cheaper** than in 2007

If a product can be put **on sale** in one EU country, it can be also offered in any other

Offers **access to more than 500 million** consumers



# Standards – Market Tool

**Standardisation**: voluntary activity of private bodies, mostly without a direct regulatory link

**Standards**: *private voluntary consensus documents* for repetitive use

- Most standards are developed on industry's initiative, by industry experts, for the use of industry, and using the financial resources of the industry
- European standards have a key role for the competitiveness of the European industry
- Economic contribution of standards to the economies Members States: up to **1% of national GDP**



# Standards – Legislative Tool

- **Single European Act:** *Internal Market to be completed by Dec 1992 => need for new legislative techniques*
- **New approach to technical harmonisation and standards:**
  - **Legislative harmonisation *limited to essential requirements***
  - **Technical specifications** laid down in hENs
  - **Products manufactured** in compliance with **hENs** benefit from **presumption of conformity**
  - **Application of hENs remains voluntary** (*CPR excluded*)
- **New Legislative Framework (NLF)**



# Standards are not Legislation!!!

## Standards :

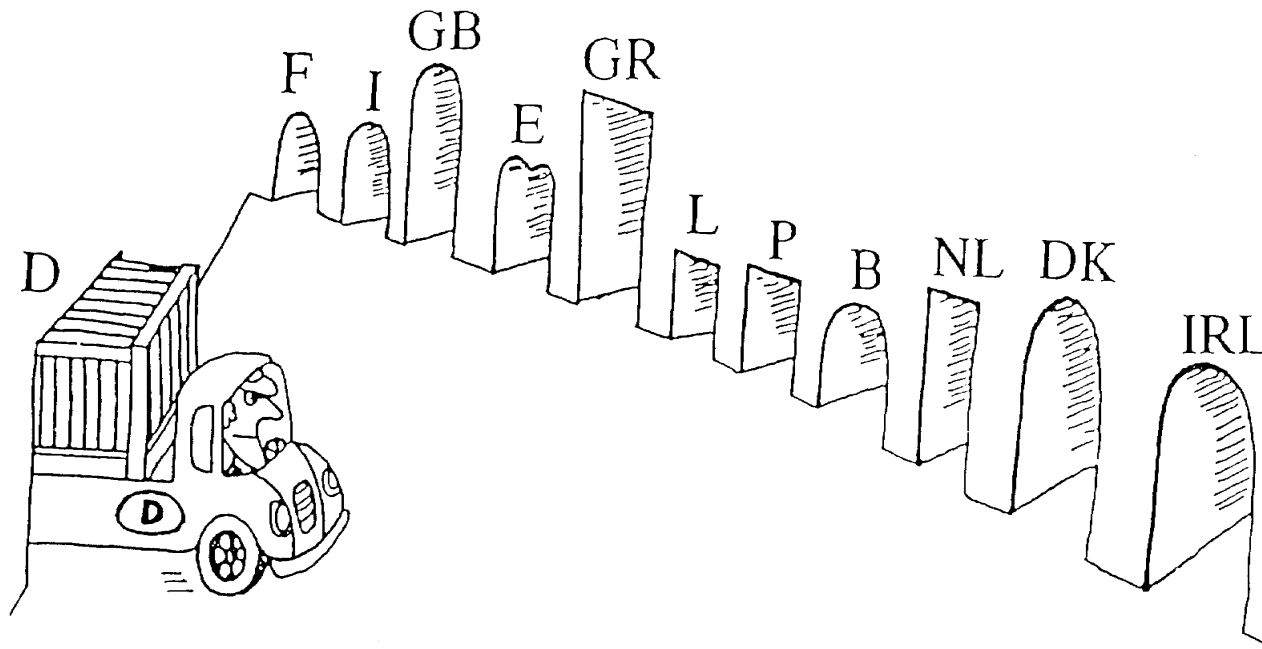
1. *Voluntary*
2. *Consensual*
3. *Developed by independent organisations*
4. *Revised every 5 years*
5. *Provide specifications and test methods (interoperability, safety, quality, etc.)*



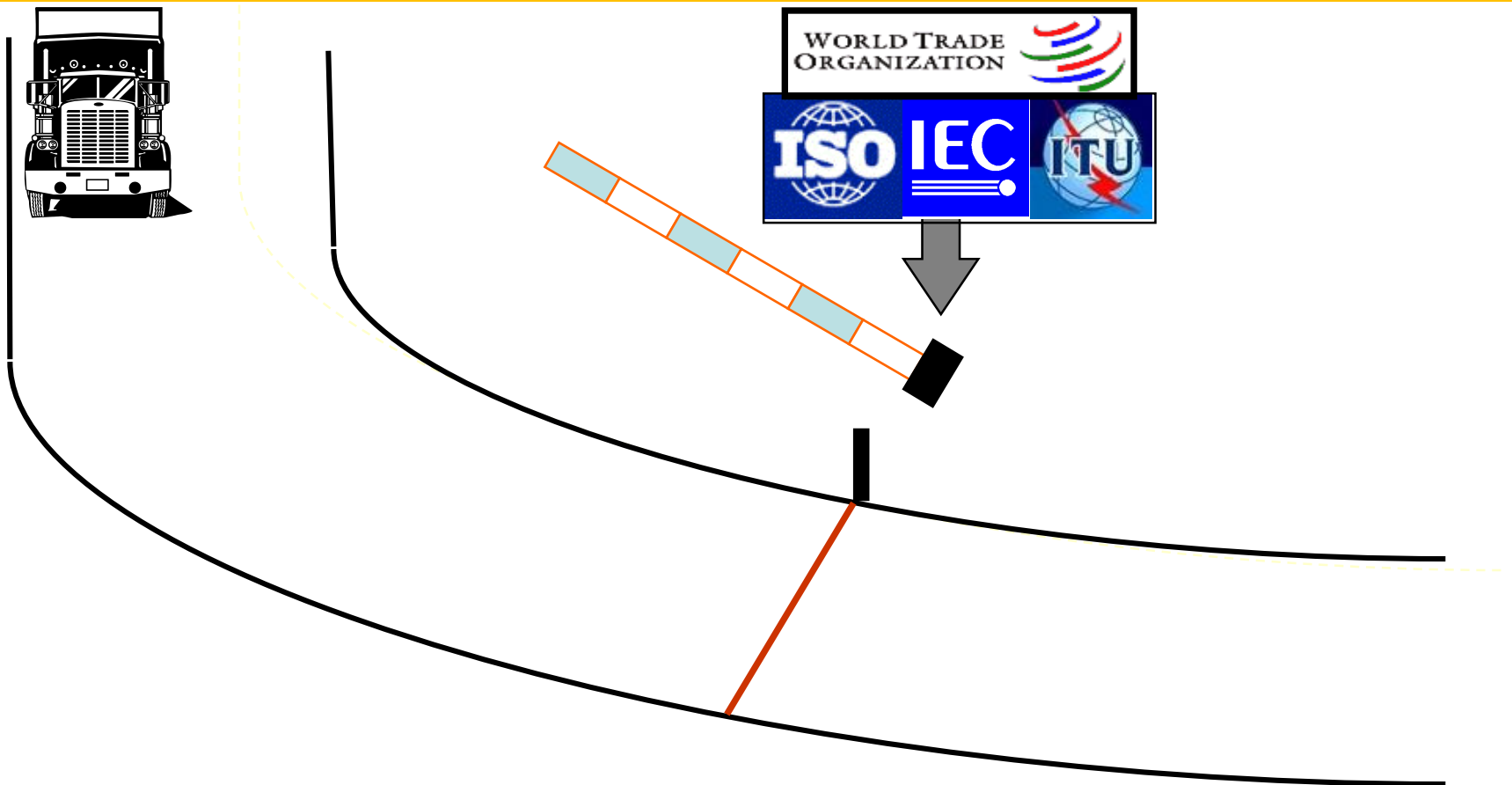
## Legislation :

1. *Mandatory*
2. *Imposed by Law*
3. *Established by public authorities*
4. *Revised when legislators decide*
5. *Sets requirements to protect public interests*

# Where we come from: Trade barriers hindered the European economy



# Where we are going: European/international Standards – a tool for free trade





**and how: by integrating the national standardisation with the regional and ultimately with the international one**



“Vienna Agreement” with



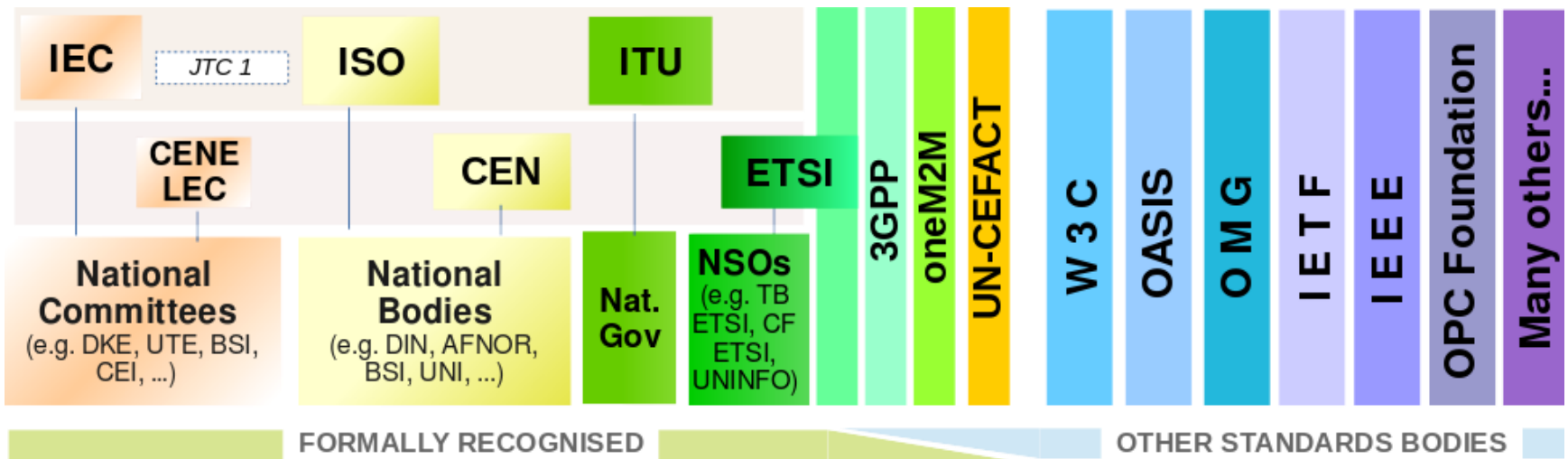
“Frankfurt Agreement” with



MoU for telecommunications sector (ITU-T)  
Agreement on radio-communication sector (ITU-R)



# High-level overview of the global standardisation ecosystem



## Why European standards are special?

*European standards (ENs) support the functioning of the single market*

- **One EN replaces 34 different national standards:** one product-one standard, priority to international ones
- National Standards Bodies are obliged to **adopt ENs as national standards** and **withdraw any conflicting ones**
- **The system is transparent, stable and predictable**



# European standards (VOLUNTARY) and EU legislation (MANDATORY)

**Enable EU  
INTERNAL  
MARKET**

**Instruments  
of EU POLICY**

**Protect EU  
CITIZENS**

## EU legislation makes reference to Standards

***Direct reference:***  
*mandatory –  
mandatory for  
specific use*

***Indirect reference***  
**→ « *New Approach* »**

# References to Standards in «New Approach» legislation

**Objective: remove barriers to trade in the EU Single Market**

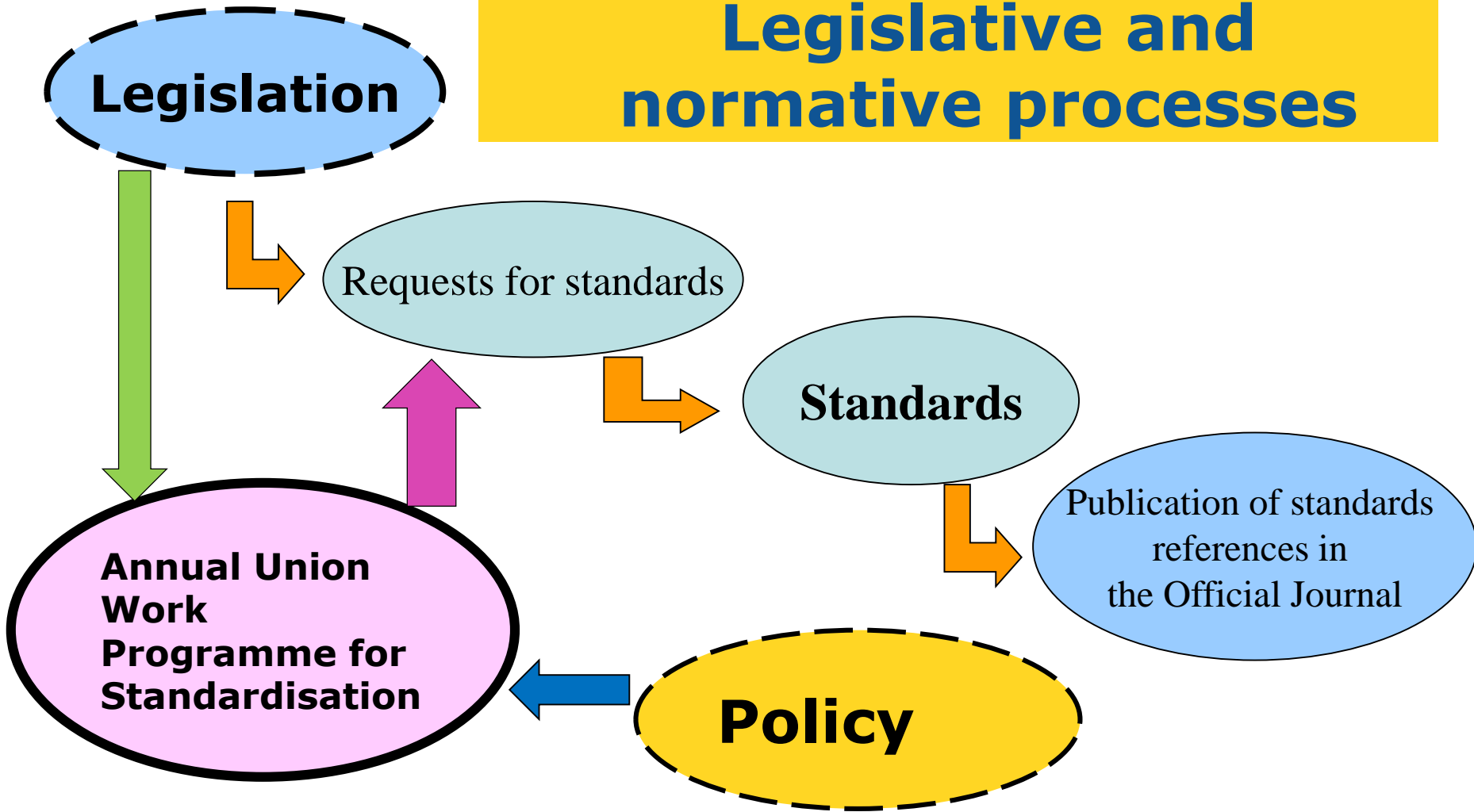
***How? By task sharing:***

- **Legislation: mandatory, stable, predictable and safeguarding public interest** (via listing the **essential requirements**)
- **Standards: voluntary, constantly updated to the state-of-the-art, predictable, harmonising the technical specifications**

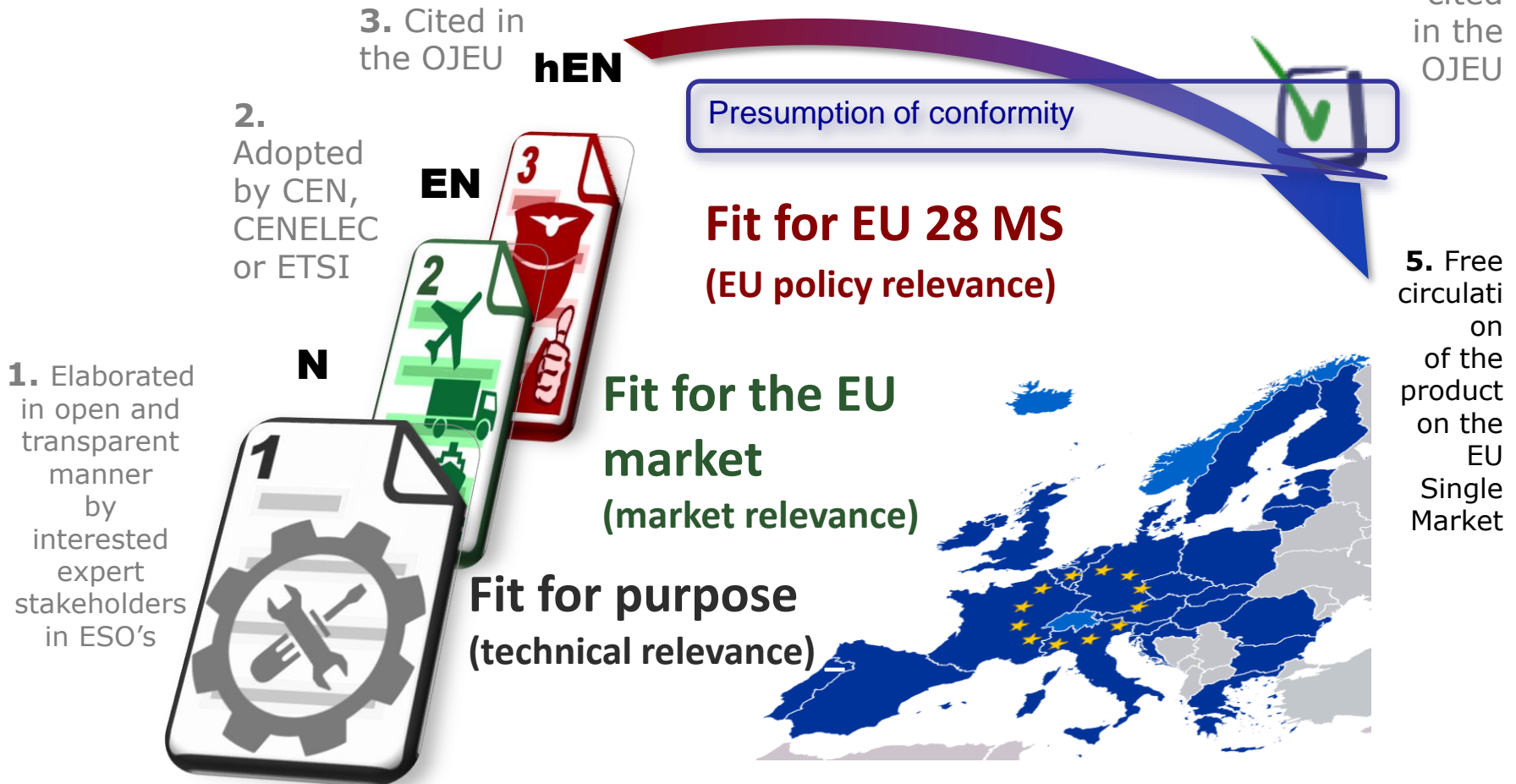
***Areas: Protection of health, safety, environment and consumers***



# Legislative and normative processes



# Harmonised standards





# A coherent Framework



European Commission

**1025/2012**

REGULATION (EU) No 1025/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 October 2012 on European standardisation, amending Council Directives 89/686/EEC and 93/15/EEC and Directives 94/9/EC, 94/25/EC, 95/16/EC, 97/23/EC, 98/34/EC, 2004/22/EC, 2007/23/EC, 2009/23/EC and 2009/185/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Decision 87/953/EEC and Decision No 1673/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 114 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission;

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments;

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (1);

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure (2);

Whereas:

(1) The primary objective of standardisation is the definition of voluntary technical or quality specifications with which current or future products, production processes or services may comply. Standardisation can cover various issues, such as standardisation of different grades or sizes of a particular product or technical specifications in product or service markets where compatibility and interoperability with other products or systems are essential.

(2) European standardisation bodies should also encourage and facilitate the participation of stakeholders.

(3) European standardisation also helps to boost the competitiveness of enterprises by facilitating in particular the free movement of goods and services, network interoperability, means of communication, technological development and innovation. European standardisation reinforces the global competitiveness of European industry especially when established in coordination with the international standardisation bodies, namely the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Standards produce significant positive economic effects, for example by promoting economic interpenetration on the internal market and encouraging the development of new and improved products or markets and improved supply conditions. Standards also normally increase competition and lower average economies as a whole and standards may maintain and improve the safety, thereby increasing safety.

(4) European standards are adopted by standardisation organisations, namely:

(5) European standards play a very essential role for innovation.



## Joint Initiative on Standardisation



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 16 June 2016  
COM(2016) 357 final

## AUWP

Standardisation package

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

The annual Union work programme for European standardisation for 2017

(SWD(2016) 185 final)



MSP – Multi-Stakeholder Platform



CoS – Committee on Standards

**European standards are voluntary and consensus-based**

**Standards support European policies and legislation**

**European Standardisation is a success story**

**DO NOT FORGET TO VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE:**

**[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/european-standards/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/european-standards/index_en.htm)**

**Thank you  
for your attention!  
Any questions?  
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