

The New European Standardisation Strategy – Will It be Adequate for the Future Internet?

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Highlights of the Proposed New Standardisation Strategy

Increasing use of selected consortium standards in support of European policies

- ESOs shall revise their processes to bring consortium standards into the European standardisation system.

Adequate representation of stakeholder groups

- specifically SMEs, consumers, and users,
- ESO's/NSO's adherence to WTO TBT criteria shall be ensured and monitored.

ESOs shall improve their processes to bring consortium standards into the European reduce time to develop standards requested by the Commission by 50% by 2020.

Funding shall be subject to the ESOs meeting certain requirements.

Issues

Use of selected consortium standards

- closer co-operation between ESOs and private consortia is a must,
- implementation of this co-operation = ???
- ❖ Questionable how/if this should be done at European level.

Representation of stakeholders.

- next to impossible to make a clear cut between users and manufacturers,
- users rarely have meaningful requirements prior to system implementation and use,
- requirements vary between user companies,
- at odds with the 'speed' requirement,
- ❖ Doubtful that increased user involvement will lead to better standards.

Speed

- adequate speed can only be determined on a case-by-case basis,
- more important that a standard is useful for all stakeholder groups, and that it will stand the test of time,
- 'Faster' does not necessarily equal 'better'.
- ❖ Over-emphasising speed is a folly.

EC's tighter grip on ESOs through funding

- Threatens ESOs' independence and makes them open to blackmail.
- Who defines 'performance criteria' and 'objectives'?
- ❖ Very broad consensus for criteria and objectives is crucial.

Conclusions

- Some of the proposed Actions are popular but questionable and should be re-considered.
- Quite a bit of careful implementation work will be required to create a better ESS out of the proposed 'Actions'.

Possible Next Steps

- A 'European JTC1' could co-ordinate the European activities and act as partner for ISO/IEC JTC1.
- The status of the ESOs' respective 'lightweight deliverables' should be reconsidered.
- A well-defined transposition path from lightweight specifications to European standards needs to be implemented.
- Identify suitable mechanisms to integrate consortium specifications into the European system.