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<Commission>{ITRE}Committee on Industry, Research and Energy</Commission>

<RefProc>2016/2274(INI)</RefProc>

<Date>{29/03/2017}29.3.2017</Date>

<TitreType>OPINION</TitreType>

<CommissionResp>of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy</CommissionResp>

<CommissionInt>for the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection</CommissionInt>

<Titre>on European standards – implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012

</Titre>

<DocRef>(2016/2274(INI))</DocRef>

Rapporteur (\*): <Depute>Hans-Olaf Henkel</Depute>

(\*) Associated committee – Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses that industry-led, voluntary and consensus-driven information and communications technology (ICT) standardisation based on openness, transparency, impartiality, coherence and inclusiveness should be successful and effective, to the advantage of European consumers, workers and industry;

2. Highlights the fact that ICT standards are essential for completing the Digital Single Market, facilitating the transformation to a data-driven digitised economy and supporting the global competitiveness of European industry; stresses that ICT standardisation must be an essential part of the European industrial strategy, as interoperability allows for economies of scale, enables innovation and supports market access and job creation;

3. Acknowledges the current challenging context of digitisation for all sectors and the increasing pace of technological change and proliferation of standard-setting fora, and recognises the need to adapt EU processes for setting standard to these new realities;

4. Recognises the strategic importance of ICT standardisation and calls for a continuous dialogue between Parliament, the Commission, the Council and the European Standardisation Organisations (ESOs);

5. Stresses the need for greater cooperation within the ICT standardisation community, in particular between ESOs, and calls on the ESOs to prepare a common annual work programme identifying cross-cutting areas of common interest;

6. Recognises the strategic importance of a coordinated and optimised EU presence in global ICT fora and international standardisation organisations;

7. Asks the Commission to rationalise the number of platforms and coordination mechanisms;

8. Calls on the Commission to actively promote European standards internationally and to develop an agenda for closer cooperation based on specific areas of common interest with international partners;

9. Stresses the global nature of ICT standards and technical specifications, and calls for continued commitment across the ESOs to introduce global standards in Europe and for intensified cooperation with third countries through a transparent, inclusive, consensus-oriented process, and asks the Commission to identify proven best standards for public procurement purposes with due regard for EU legislation and policies; calls on the Commission to accelerate the procedure of listing European ICT standards in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU);

10. Stresses that fair trade agreements between EU and non-EU states can contribute to the formulation common international standardisation rules;

11. Stresses that international cooperation on standards helps ensure transparency, efficiency and coherence, and creates a competition-friendly context for the industrial sector – a good example is the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), which was set up for the ICT sector;

12. Considers Commission and Member State involvement with EU industry to be a crucial means of facilitating the adoption of global standards with a European stamp in the definition and rolling out of 5G technologies;

13. Urges the Commission to consider the convergence with third countries on 5G, cloud computing, data and cyber security;

14. Encourages the Commission and the ESOs to provide technical assistance beyond the EU in supporting the internationalisation of European standards, institutional designs and standardisation processes;

15. Calls on the Commission to start implementing the Joint Initiative on Standardisation as quickly as possible, given that this is provided for in the single market strategy;

16. Underlines that standardisation is increasingly recognised as an important contributor to research and development, and that it plays an important role in bridging the gap between research and the market, fosters the dissemination and exploitation of research results, and creates a basis for further innovation;

17. Calls on the Commission to adopt policies that remove excessive barriers in innovative sectors, with a view to incentivising investments in research and development, and in EU standardisation; notes that vertical industries should work out their own roadmaps for standardisation, relying on industry-led processes which, if guided by a strong will to reach common standards, would have the capacity to become worldwide standards; believes that EU standardisation bodies should play a special role in this process;

18. Urges the parties to the Joint Initiative to ensure that research and innovation is better aligned with standard-setting priorities;

19. Calls on the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CENELEC) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) to pursue and promote cross-sectoral collaboration, and to ensure easy, agile, transparent and accessible standardisation processes, especially for ICT standards affecting traditional industries, with the appropriate involvement of all relevant stakeholders, such as the manufacturing industries, SMEs, social and societal stakeholders, and public authorities;

20. Stresses that digitisation is proceeding at a rapid pace and is a major driver of the economy; underlines the importance of effective digitisation of vertical industries in order to benefit SMEs, and especially consumers at European, national, regional and local level, and the need to represent their concerns appropriately in international ICT standardisation;

21. Takes note of the remaining barriers to SME participation in standardisation and uptake standards, including the lack of awareness; calls for a simple and accessible framework for standardisation in support of all SMEs across all ESOs;

22. Welcomes ETSI’s efforts to provide easy access for European SMEs, and welcomes as well its long-term strategy (2016-2021) for addressing specifically cross-sectoral collaboration;

23. Points out that standardisation in the fields of goods, services and ICT improves market access, especially for SMEs;

24. Highlights the fact that ICT standardisation requires a balanced and effective policy for intellectual property rights, and underlines that the FRAND system of licensing (that is, the application of fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory terms) contributes to an important balance between innovators and technology users; welcomes the recent landmark ruling of the Court of Justice of the European Union in Huawei v ZTE, and calls on the Commission to ensure the efficient settlement of disputes, to support return on investment and to ensure wide access to standardised technology; underlines the concerns that a lack of legal clarity can undermine the fairness of the system; points out that SMEs are especially disadvantaged in the licencing process, and suggests that greater transparency and guidance with regard to the licencing conditions would increase the use of standards;

25. Stresses that it is for the parties to negotiate a FRAND licensing agreement on the portfolio of patents required to implement a standard, and that a fair royalty reflects the value that patented technology contributes to the product;

26. Calls on the Commission to publish bi-annual reports evidencing actual cases of: (a) unlicensed SEP use (i.e. infringements) lasting for 18 months or more; and (b) issues regarding access to standards due to systematic non-compliance with FRAND commitments;

27. Notes the need for an evidence-based approach in monitoring and further developing the licensing framework in order to ensure a dynamic ecosystem that creates added value and jobs;

28. Considers that open knowledge and licenses are the best instruments for boosting innovation and technology development; encourages research institutions receiving EU funds to use open patents and licenses in order to gain a greater role in standard setting;

29. Acknowledges improvements made in the process of anticipating ICT standardisation; highlights the fact that speedy and timely adoption and publication of ICT standards is crucial, and calls on the parties concerned to take all necessary measures to improve the processes and increase certainty;

30. Reiterates that the Commission has a crucial role to play in determining the speed at which standards can be market ready, and encourages the Commission to agree, in conjunction with the ESOs, on a clear process to ensure the timely publishing of standards in the OJEU;

31. Highlights the fact that timely delivery of standards is crucial, including the citation of their references in the OJEU in the case of harmonised standards;

32. Acknowledges the success of the New Approach and calls for the preservation of its principles;

33. Welcomes the five ICT priority areas identified by the Commission: 5G, cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), data and cyber security, all of which are essential technology building blocks on which equally important areas such as eHealth, smart and efficient energy use, intelligent transport systems, smart cities and advanced manufacturing will rely;

34. Stresses the need to create an open, interoperable ICT ecosystem based on the five ICT priority standards, encouraging competition in value creation on which innovation can flourish; believes that:

– 5G standards should allow a real generation shift in terms of capacity, reliability and latency, allowing it to cope with the expected increase in traffic and the different requirements of the services that will be built on top of it;

– cybersecurity standards should enable security-by-design and comply with privacy-by-design principles, support resilience of networks and risk management, and be able to cope with the rapid development of cyber threats to all ICT technologies developments;

– cloud standards should converge to allow interoperability in all aspects of the cloud, enabling portability;

– data standards should support cross-sectorial interdisciplinary flows of data, achieving better interoperability of data and metadata, including semantification, and contribute to the development of a big-data reference architecture;

– IoT standards should tackle the current fragmentation without hampering innovation in a sector that is developing very fast;

35. Recognises that efficient 5G communication networks depend critically on common standards to ensure interoperability and security, but recalls that the development of a very high capacity network is the backbone of a reliable 5G network;

36. Notes that a data-driven economy depends on a wider ICT ecosystem to succeed, including highly educated experts as well as skilled people, in order to terminate a digital divide and exclusion;

37. Encourages EU adoption of the Reference Architecture Model for Industry 4.0 for the digitisation of the European industry;

38. Underlines the importance of interconnecting platforms and databases at European level, enabling better interoperability of networks and systems;

39. Underlines that interoperability and performance of equipment, technical solutions and services are at the centre of ICT standardisation;

40. Believes that ICT standardisation involves not only the setting of product requirements, but also the development of innovative technologies;

41. Calls on the Commission to promote European standards that support open-source tools capable of ensuring equal access to equities developed at European level;

42. Calls on the Commission to take the lead in promoting intersectoral, cross-lingual standards and in supporting privacy-friendly, reliable and secure services;

43. Stresses that uniform (technical) arrangements help to reduce development, production and certification costs, and avoid the duplication of tasks;

44. Stresses that standardisation also implies the development of a unitary process that is sustainable and transferable to all Member States;

45. Asks the Commission to provide Parliament with an annual update, in the form of a regular informal exchange, on the progress of ICT standardisation and its contribution to EU competitiveness and growth.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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| **Date adopted** | 22.3.2017 |  |  |  |
| **Result of final vote** | +:  –:  0: | 61  0  0 | | |
| **Members present for the final vote** | Nikolay Barekov, Bendt Bendtsen, Xabier Benito Ziluaga, José Blanco López, Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, Reinhard Bütikofer, Jerzy Buzek, Angelo Ciocca, Edward Czesak, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Fredrick Federley, Ashley Fox, Adam Gierek, András Gyürk, Rebecca Harms, Eva Kaili, Kaja Kallas, Krišjānis Kariņš, Seán Kelly, Peter Kouroumbashev, Zdzisław Krasnodębski, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Janusz Lewandowski, Paloma López Bermejo, Edouard Martin, Angelika Mlinar, Nadine Morano, Dan Nica, Angelika Niebler, Morten Helveg Petersen, Michel Reimon, Herbert Reul, Paul Rübig, Massimiliano Salini, Algirdas Saudargas, Neoklis Sylikiotis, Dario Tamburrano, Evžen Tošenovský, Claude Turmes, Vladimir Urutchev, Kathleen Van Brempt, Henna Virkkunen, Martina Werner, Lieve Wierinck, Anna Záborská, Flavio Zanonato, Carlos Zorrinho | | | |
| **Substitutes present for the final vote** | Mario Borghezio, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Jens Geier, Françoise Grossetête, Benedek Jávor, Olle Ludvigsson, Sofia Sakorafa, Anne Sander, Maria Spyraki, Marco Zullo | | | |
| **Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote** | Isabella Adinolfi, Arndt Kohn, Maria Noichl, Pavel Poc | | | |

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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| **61** | **+** |
| ALDE | Fredrick Federley, Kaja Kallas, Angelika Mlinar, Morten Helveg Petersen, Lieve Wierinck |
| ECR | Nikolay Barekov, Edward Czesak, Ashley Fox, Zdzisław Krasnodębski, Evžen Tošenovský |
| EFDD | Isabella Adinolfi, Dario Tamburrano, Marco Zullo |
| ENF | Mario Borghezio, Angelo Ciocca |
| GUE | Xabier Benito Ziluaga, Paloma López Bermejo, Sofia Sakorafa, Neoklis Sylikiotis |
| PPE | Bendt Bendtsen, Jerzy Buzek, Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, Françoise Grossetête, András Gyürk, Krišjānis Kariņš, Seán Kelly, Janusz Lewandowski, Nadine Morano, Angelika Niebler, Herbert Reul, Paul Rübig, Massimiliano Salini, Anne Sander, Algirdas Saudargas, Maria Spyraki, Vladimir Urutchev, Henna Virkkunen, Anna Záborská, Pilar del Castillo Vera |
| S&D | José Blanco López, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Jens Geier, Adam Gierek, Eva Kaili, Arndt Kohn, Peter Kouroumbashev, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Olle Ludvigsson, Edouard Martin, Dan Nica, Maria Noichl, Pavel Poc, Kathleen Van Brempt, Martina Werner, Flavio Zanonato, Carlos Zorrinho |
| VERTS/ALE | Reinhard Bütikofer, Rebecca Harms, Benedek Jávor, Michel Reimon, Claude Turmes |

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Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention