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AMENDMENTS 19-32

Draft report

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Financing of European standardisation

(PE 365.103v02-00)

Proposal for a decision (COM(2005)0377 – C6-0252/2005- 2005/0157(COD))

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment by Edit Herczog

Amendment 19

Recital 3

(3) It is necessary for the Community to contribute to the financing of European standardisation in view of the latter's **important** role in supporting its legislation and policies. On the one hand, European standardisation contributes to the functioning and strengthening of the internal market, thanks especially to the "New Approach" Directives in the fields of health, safety, environmental and consumer protection or to ensure interoperability in fields such as transport. On the other hand, European standardisation **makes it possible to** boost the competitiveness of firms by facilitating in particular the free movement

(3) It is necessary for the Community to contribute to the financing of European standardisation in view of the latter's **useful** role in supporting its legislation and policies. On the one hand, European standardisation contributes to the functioning and strengthening of the internal market, thanks especially to the "New Approach" Directives in the fields of health, safety, environmental and consumer protection or to ensure interoperability in fields such as transport. On the other hand, European standardisation **helps to** boost the competitiveness of firms by facilitating in particular the free movement of products and services, network

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of products and services, network interoperability, means of communication, technological development and innovation in activities such as information technology. It is therefore a good idea to include in this Decision the financing of European standardisation activities in the field of information technologies and telecommunications which is also governed, in particular, by Council Decision 87/95/EEC of 22 December 1986 on standardisation in the field of information technology and telecommunications¹⁵.

¹⁵ OJ L 36 of 7.2.1987, p. 31. Decision amended by Regulation (EC) No 807/2003 (OJ L 122 of 16.5.2003, p.36).

interoperability, means of communication, technological development and innovation in activities such as information technology. It is therefore a good idea to include in this Decision the financing of European standardisation activities in the field of information technologies and telecommunications which is also governed, in particular, by Council Decision 87/95/EEC of 22 December 1986 on standardisation in the field of information technology and telecommunications¹⁵.

¹⁵ OJ L 36, 7.2.1987, p. 31. Decision amended by Regulation (EC) No 807/2003 (OJ L 122, 16.5.2003, p. 36).

Or. en

Justification

Apart from European standards, international and other standards as well strengthen the internal market and ensure the development and take-up of new technologies in the fields mentioned above. For example, W3C is a widely recognised international standard for making web pages accessible to disabled users of the Internet.

Amendment by Edit Herczog

Amendment 20
Recital 3 a (new)

(3a) For these same reasons, it must be kept in mind that at a later stage the best way of enhancing the operation of the internal market through standardisation could be to set up a European Standards Agency in charge of accompanying in the field of standardisation the deepening integration of the internal market.

Or. en

Justification

This decision is only a first step towards a high level of integration of standardisation on the Community's internal market.

Amendment by Béatrice Patrie

Amendment 21
Recital 4

(4) This Decision must provide an explicit, complete and detailed legal basis for the Community's financing of all the European standardisation activities required to implement its policies and legislation.

(4) This Decision must provide an explicit, complete and detailed legal basis for the Community's financing of all the European standardisation activities required to implement its policies and legislation **and to determine the specific obligations of European standardisation bodies in return for public aid.**

Or. fr

Justification

The 'European standardisation bodies' are associations of general European interest enjoying a monopoly on the territory of the European Union. Public community aid granted to these 'European standardisation bodies' must satisfy the requirement for fair compensation for the specific public service obligations imposed by the Community.

Amendment by Béatrice Patrie

Amendment 22
Recital 5

(5) Community financing must seek to establish standards or other standardisation products, to facilitate their use by firms, especially by means of their translation into the various Community languages, to strengthen the cohesion of the European standardisation system and, lastly, to ensure the promotion of the whole system.

(5) Community financing must seek to establish standards or other standardisation products, **to ensure the effective participation of all interested parties in standardisation work**, to facilitate their use by firms, especially by means of their translation into the various Community languages, to strengthen the cohesion of the European standardisation system and, lastly, to ensure the promotion of the whole system.

Or. fr

Justification

The establishment of European norms both for products and services and for societal needs is based on the voluntary participation of the parties concerned in the work of 'European

standardisation bodies'. This specific public service obligation which involves the participation of all parties concerned generates additional expenditure which Community funding should be able to compensate.

Amendment by Edit Herczog

Amendment 23

Recital 5

(5) Community financing must seek to establish standards or other standardisation products, to facilitate their use by **firms, especially by means of** their translation into the various Community languages, **to strengthen the cohesion of the European standardisation system and, lastly, to ensure the promotion of the whole system.**

(5) Community financing must seek to establish standards or other standardisation products, to facilitate their use by **EU undertakings, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, through** their translation into the various Community languages **and to ensure fair and transparent access to European standards for all market players throughout the Union.**

Or. en

Justification

Wherever a European standard is referred to in European legislation, these standards' not being translated into all languages discriminates those who cannot access the market for not having access to the legally mandated standards in their own language. This is particularly harmful for those SMEs who don't have the financial and human resources to cope with non-translated, generally very technical standards.

Amendment by Edit Herczog

Amendment 24

Recital 7 a (new)

(7a) Member States are encouraged to ensure proper national financing for standardisation tasks.

Or. en

Justification

Several national standards organisations and bodies complained about the ever growing amount of European standards awaiting national translation and implementation, in parallel

with constantly decreasing awareness and more and more underestimated budgetary allocations from Member States' governments. This seriously harms the promotion and achievement of a more operational internal market at local levels.

Amendment by Edit Herczog

Amendment 25
Recital 7 b (new)

(7b) However, without underestimating the importance of such national financing, some areas of standardisation deserve outstanding focus from the Community. Indeed, the use of certain standards is positively mandated by Community legislation and, in such cases, the availability of these standards in all Community languages is a key condition of access to EU legislation. Therefore the translation of such standards should have the highest priority in the allocation of EU resources earmarked for standardisation.

Or. en

Amendment by Béatrice Patrie

Amendment 26
Recital 9 a (new)

(9a) The extension of the scope of standardisation to services presupposes the broad participation of all parties concerned. To this end, provision should be made in some cases for the possibility of granting aid in order to increase the awareness of the various parties concerned of the process of establishing standards. If necessary, aid should be granted to some of the parties concerned to enable them to play an active part in the process, if they are unable to internalise the costs involved in making a contribution in kind.

Justification

The extension of standardisation to services, whether or not they are of general interest, and to societal needs requires that the public service obligation which consists in involving all the parties concerned in the process of drawing up European norms is fully ensured, particularly for those parties which are unable to internalise the costs of making available experts and consultants with a view to defending their interests.

Amendment by Béatrice Patrie

Amendment 27

Recital 11

(11) In view of the specific nature of standardisation work and especially the involvement in the standardisation process of various interested parties, particularly firms, by making experts available, it should be acknowledged that the co-financing of the activities of producing European standards or other standardisation products covered by a Community grant could be provided on a more or less automatic basis by contributions in kind.

(11) In view of the specific nature of standardisation work and especially the involvement in the standardisation process of various interested parties, particularly firms, **consumers' representatives, associations, contracting authorities and local public authorities**, by making experts available, it should be acknowledged that the co-financing of the activities of producing European standards or other standardisation products covered by a Community grant could be provided on a more or less automatic basis by contributions in kind.

Justification

The extension of standardisation to services and to societal needs requires that the public service obligation which consists in involving all the parties concerned in the drawing up of European standards be respected. It is therefore important to ensure the active participation of all parties concerned, in particular consumer associations, end user associations and contracting authorities.

Amendment by Béatrice Patrie

Amendment 28

Recital 12

(12) In order to ensure the effective

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implementation of this Decision, there should be the possibility of using the requisite expertise, particularly with regard to auditing and financial management, as well as administrative support resources capable of facilitating implementation, and of evaluating on a regular basis the relevance of the activities receiving Community financing to ensure their usefulness and impact.

implementation of this Decision, there should be the possibility of using the requisite expertise, particularly with regard to auditing and financial management, as well as administrative support resources capable of facilitating implementation, and of evaluating on a regular basis the relevance of the activities receiving Community financing ***in particular as regards representativity and a balance between the parties concerned***, to ensure their usefulness and impact.

Or. fr

Justification

The assessment of the activities of European standardisation organisation cofunded from Community public aid must also cover the conditions for drawing up standards, in particular as regards the specific requirement of representativity and maintaining a balance between the parties concerned.

Amendment by Edit Herczog

Amendment 29
Article 1

This Decision establishes the rules concerning the Community's contribution to the financing of European standardisation in order to support the implementation of ***its*** policies and Community legislation.

This Decision establishes the rules concerning the Community's contribution to the financing of European standardisation in order to support the implementation of ***specific*** policies and Community legislation.

Or. en

Justification

Not all Community legislation makes use of standards in implementation. This amendment also realigns Article 1 with Article 3(a) of this proposal for a Decision to produce or revise European standards when 'ecessary and suitable for the implementation of Community policies and legislation'

Amendment by Béatrice Patrie

Amendment 30

Article 3, paragraph 1, point f)

(f) the promotion and enhancement of the European standardisation system and of European standards among interested parties in the Community and at international level.

f) ***the participation, where necessary, of some of the parties concerned in the standardisation work*** and the promotion and enhancement of the European standardisation system and of European standards among interested parties in the Community and at international level.

Or. fr

Justification

The extension of standardisation to services, whether or not they are of general interest, and to societal needs requires that the public service obligation which consists in involving all the parties concerned in the process of drawing up European standards is fully ensured, particularly for those parties which are unable to internalise the costs of making available experts and consultants with a view to defending their interests.

Amendment by Edit Herczog

Amendment 31

Article 5, paragraph 2

The activities of the central secretariats of the European standards organisations referred to in Article 3(1)(c) may be financed on the basis either of grants for actions or of operating grants. In the event of renewal, the operating grants ***will not*** be reduced ***annually***.

The activities of the central secretariats of the European standards organisations referred to in Article 3(1)(c) may be financed on the basis either of grants for actions or of operating grants. In the event of renewal, the operating grants ***may*** be reduced ***if justified***.

Or. en

Justification

Systematic renewal of previously allocated amounts is not a pro-active scheme. Indeed, budgetary grants to administrative tasks should not be justified by their existence in the past, but by the actual need for them in the future. Moreover, the possibility of an adjustment in the event of renewal might be an incentive for more efficiency and better evaluation of actual needs.

Amendment by Béatrice Patrie

Amendment 32

Article 6

1. The appropriations authorised by the budgetary authority for the financing of standardisation activities may also cover the administrative expenses relating to actions involving preparation, monitoring, inspection, auditing and evaluation, which are directly necessary for achieving the objectives of this Decision, and particularly studies, meetings, information and publication activities, expenses relating to informatics networks for the exchange of information and any other expenditure on administrative and technical assistance which the Commission may use for standardisation activities.

2. The Commission shall evaluate on a regular basis the relevance of the standardisation activities receiving Community financing in the light of the requirements of Community policies and legislation.

1. The appropriations authorised by the budgetary authority for the financing of standardisation activities may also cover the administrative expenses relating to actions involving preparation, monitoring, inspection, auditing and evaluation, which are directly necessary for achieving the objectives of this Decision, and particularly studies, meetings, information and publication activities **and raising the awareness of the parties concerned**, expenses relating to informatics networks for the exchange of information and any other expenditure on administrative and technical assistance which the Commission may use for standardisation activities.

2. The Commission shall evaluate on **an annual** basis the relevance of the standardisation activities receiving Community financing in the light of the requirements of Community policies and legislation **and shall present this annual report on the evaluation of standardisation to Parliament.**

Or. fr

Justification

Given the increasing importance of standardisation, in particular as regards the effective operation of an internal market in services, extra Community exports of our products and services and in view of the public aid which the Community grants to European standardisation bodies, the evaluation of Community standardisation policy must be undertaken on an annual basis and in close association with the European Parliament.