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Answer given by Mr Breton

on behalf of the European Commission

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The Commission strives to implement Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 in a consistent manner and in constant dialogue with all relevant stakeholders participating in the standardisation process, with the aim of providing maximum legal clarity and improving the practical implementation of the regulation¹. The Commission has worked closely with the European Standardisation Organisations and other stakeholders to understand the impact of the regulation implementation on the developers and users of harmonised standards, identify existing bottlenecks in the process, and implement solutions to address them. Among actions undertaken have been the organisation of dialogues between high representatives of EU institutions and key standardisation stakeholders, and introduction of a system of harmonised standards consultants supporting the process of development and citation of harmonised standards.

In its efforts to develop forward-looking standardisation policy the Commission highly values the contribution from industry, which is ensured for instance through the regular dialogue in the Standards Market Relevance Roundtable. The Commission also supports participation of societal and economic stakeholders (including consumer organisations) in standardisation, in line with requirements of the regulation.

The Commission Industry Strategy² has underlined the importance of a robust and smoothly operating standardisation system for the functioning of the Single Market. Standards are essential in the context of recovery, resilience building and the twin transitions. The standardisation strategy, as announced in the Digital Strategy³ will also reflect on these elements.

¹ For an overview of such actions, see for instance COM(2018) 764 final.

² COM(2020) 102 final

³ COM(2020) 67 final