

Dear Sir/Madam,

The European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry, Unit Standardisation, welcomes this study on the effectiveness of the Federal Agency participation in standardization, and is quite interested to be kept informed of its conclusions.

Although the European and the American views on standardization are quite different, their underlying values are mostly shared ones, especially those directly linked to the WTO principles of openness, transparency and consensus. We particularly welcome the effort to implement a coherent system of standards, that does not, as much as possible, overlap or duplicate international standards if those are deemed fit to the domestic purpose of standardization. This is a concept we are trying hard to implement also in the European Union, and that carries the undeniable benefit of lowering technical barriers to trade, to the advantage of everyone involved in the market, from the manufacturers to the consumers.

We would also be interested to see which of the 4 Federal Government's and Federal Agencies' approaches to the standards-setting process seems more successful (i.e.: 1. staff members from FG-FA participate as experts in standards activities led by the private sectors; 2. FG-FA identifies standards needs and reach out to private sector for the development; 3. FA fund private standards-setting activities and 4. FA is in full control: both identification of the needs and leadership of the standard development process are taken by FA).

Last but not least, the European Union's main actors in standardization (the 3 ESOs, European Standardization Organizations, i.e. CEN, CENELEC, ETSI and their national members) seem to have adopted the FRAND policy ([Fair, Reasonable, And Non-Discriminatory](#)) regarding patents and copyrights, that had previously been adopted by the international standardization level, i.e. ISO, IEC, ITU. See for example the CEN-CENELEC Guide 8, CEN/CENELEC Guidelines for Implementation of the Common IPR Policy, freely available from the CEN and CENELEC websites.

We would recommend the US colleagues to align to this widely adopted practice, but are also interested in the results of this particular enquiry.

Best regards

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