

S. Joe Bhatia President and CEO American National Standards Institute	CEN-CENELEC-ETSI-ANSI Interoperability Conference Warsaw, Poland – February 7, 2008, 11:50 a.m. Closing remarks <i>873 words, approximately 7 minutes</i>
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Thank you very much.

Over the past two days, we have heard just how important interoperability is . . . not just for industry and business, but for our governments, the global economy, and for the continued convenience, health and safety of all the world's citizens.

Our breakout sessions yesterday helped us understand more about the role that interoperability plays:

- in the built environment . . . from security systems and appliances to heating and air conditioning;
- in the entertainment industry . . . enhancing the way we enjoy television programming in our homes.
- in facilitating trade . . . by addressing common shipping and transportation concerns.
- in RFID technology . . . influencing telecommunications applications and electronic identification methods.
- in e-accessibility . . . ensuring that the elderly and individuals with disabilities have equitable access to ICT-related products and services.
- and finally, in healthcare informatics . . . enabling the exchange of healthcare data on a global scale.

Interoperability impacts a broad range of cross-over societal issues – especially in areas such as privacy and security.

A successful system is one in which each component integrates seamlessly with the other . . . with no notice or interruption of service for the user.

Standards enable this integration.

(pause)

This conference has been an important stepping-stone on a path to bring representatives of standards organizations together with members of their users communities – both industry and government.

We must not lose momentum . . . there is a need for constant engagement.

We can learn from one another by exchanging ideas that will help to shape and drive future innovations.

Innovation is the fuel of economic engines, and standards are a critical element of the formula.

(pause)

Stakeholders in the user community need to help standards bodies make informed decisions. The decisions that will help to enhance the performance . . . that is, the “working together” . . . of products and systems without hindering innovation.

An ongoing mutual dialogue will help us identify which aspects of today’s standards and compliance system are working well and can continue to support vendor and user needs without change.

The dialogue will also help to identify gaps and areas where improvement may be needed. We must be well prepared to effect needed changes and define a path forward for addressing them.

(pause)

ANSI, CEN, CENELEC, and ETSI have already been working together for twenty years now – to tremendous benefit on both sides of the ocean.

I am pleased to stand before you and say that ANSI is looking forward to an even closer relationship during the next twenty years.

By working together, we are always in a stronger position to address emerging issues – both those that we’ve noted here in Warsaw, and those that are new on the horizon.

Our challenge is to help business and government leaders better understand that market-driven, voluntary consensus standards are good ideas to be embraced and implemented.

Standards should create new opportunities for growth without hindering innovation.

Suppliers or manufacturers want the flexibility to vary features and function to create their own niche in the marketplace.

Bob Noth repeated this in his remarks yesterday . . . and I hear it from industry all the time.

Standards should establish a baseline for design and performance that will satisfy user requirements. They should define what needs to be done – not how it needs to be done.

An open and transparent process allows everyone to have a voice at the table where the standards and related compliance systems being set.

ANSI and the ESOs offer those opportunities. And close cooperation between our organizations mean that we will continue to facilitate the seamless interoperability of data, products and services between and among our nations.

(long pause)

In conclusion, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the many efforts of the multinational planning committee and staff members at CEN, CENELEC, ETSI, and ANSI, who came together in partnership to organize this event.

Special thanks are due to CENELEC, who took the lead in organizing this event.

Our thanks go to Elena Santiago, CENELEC's Director General, and to Sarah Penny and Laetitia Fernandez for their excellent support of the planning committee and hard work.

Thanks to all of our speakers, panelists, and moderators – your presentations were very informative, and we appreciate your perspectives and enthusiastic participation.

We extend our appreciation to the three organizations that provided financial contributions to support this event . . . the European Commission, the European Free Trade Association, and Microsoft Corporation.

We also extend our deepest appreciation to our hosts at PKN for offering us this wonderful winter retreat. I hope you all enjoyed your time in Warsaw as much as I did.

And finally, I would like to personally thank each of you for your participation . . . and for your ongoing support of international cooperation between the U.S. and EU in the standardization arena.

Thank you for joining us.

I wish you safe travels.

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