

How to invoke the Frankfurt Agreement (FA) with CENELEC (CLC)

An IEC (sub)committee may initiate a project for a revision (or amendment using an RR) by either a Q (a direct means) or DC (an indirect means). In the case of the Q document specific work to be done is being asked for by the Secretariat and in case of DC a list of things to be done plus whether the members agree to start it (revision) is being asked for by the Secretariat. The target date for publication and the proposed project leader must be indicated in either of these documents as well as a call for (additional) expert nominations for the MT. These processes are independent of the FA.

In either case, an additional point that can be asked of the NCs is to offer the work to the relevant CLC (sub)committee under the FA for simultaneous review and ballot, which may be done as part of the Q or DC or may occur as a decision at a meeting. Once the (sub)committee has decided to offer the project under the FA to the relevant CLC (sub)committee, the IEC Secretariat so informs the CLC (sub)committee and the CLC (sub)committee must decide to accept the project under the FA.

Similarly, the proposal to place a project under the FA may also be initiated by the relevant CLC (sub)committee. The IEC (sub)committee then must decide to accept that proposal.

As stated in Clause 1 of the FA, the FA is intended to:

- underline the commitment of IEC and CENELEC National Committees primarily to undertake the work at IEC level;
- expedite the publication and common adoption of International Standards;
- ensure rational use of available resources. Full technical consideration of the content of the standard should therefore primarily take place at international level; and
- accelerate the standards preparation process in response to market demands.

Hence, US TAGs are encouraged to support using the FA for the work of their (sub)committee where practicable in support of these objectives. Having one standard (with the right content) used worldwide is normally in all our best interests. Where the US holds the Secretariat, this is straight forward as the TAG directs the Secretariat. Where the Secretariat is held by another NC, the US should be prepared to raise this issue at plenary meetings or request the distribution of an appropriate Q or DC. The text of the FA can be used as supporting rationale.