



PRESS RELEASE



Innovation and the Future Landscape of European Standardization: Results of the CEN/CENELEC Annual Open Meeting

-for immediate release-

(Brussels 4 July 2007) Open a newspaper, read a trade journal, or turn on the television: it is clear the world is changing rapidly. News travels faster, markets are more flexible and adaptable, and currency travels further faster, and with fewer restrictions. At the 3rd CEN-CENELEC Annual Meeting in Lemesos Cyprus on 27 June the focus of the day was strategies for European Standardization to not just meet these developing and future challenges, but to anticipate them. This all-day meeting was an important step in strengthening the common values and principles of the European Standardization System.

The morning session on ‘Standardization, research and innovation’ was chaired by CENELEC President Dr Ulrich Spindler. Presentations showed how the European Standardization Organisations efforts to support innovation and to integrate research results in the standardization process can respond to the needs of the European Commission’s 7th Framework Programme. Building on this initiative it was demonstrated that standardization provides innovations with market access, and significant work is being done to put a strong system into place to facilitate this.

The afternoon session, chaired by CEN President Dr Juan López Agüí, focused on the ‘Future Landscape of European Standardization’ during which the results of a two-year inquiry into future cooperation between CEN and CENELEC, were presented. The Chairmen of the Working Groups presented their recommendations for the political agenda, sectorial approach, backoffice and external policy. These findings served as the basis for some important decisions made by the stakeholders. For further details refer to the press release ‘The dawn of a new era for European Standardization: the Cyprus decision.’ It can be found at www.cen.eu, or www.cenelec.org.

The European Standardization System must be capable of responding to, and supporting innovation. To do this the European Standardization Organizations must seek common ground for a more integrated approach to standardization. The decisions taken at this meeting will go a long way to ensuring the continued relevance and effectiveness of the European Standardization System, and provide a united response to the challenge of supporting the long-term competitiveness of Europe in the global economy.

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