

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr WEDEKIND, Mr JANSSEN van RAAY and
Mrs PHLIX

on behalf of the EPP Group (Christian-Democratic Group)

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on improving European standardization

PE 84.919

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to Articles 30 and 36, taken in conjunction with Article 100 of the EEC Treaty,
 - B. whereas the European Council has repeatedly stressed the need to maintain and develop the internal market,
 - C. whereas at its meeting of 16 November 1982, the Council recognized in particular the need for more rapid progress in the field of technical standardization,
 - D. whereas a directive on an information procedure in the field of standards and technical requirements has been submitted to the Council; an information system of this kind is a step in the right direction but is quite inadequate to bring about the necessary dismantling of trade barriers in this field,
1. Considers, therefore, that the Community requires a legislative procedure involving the European standardization institutes CEN and CENELEC;
 2. Hopes that the combined European standardization institute CEN/CENELEC will strengthen its present organizational structure with support from the secretariats of the technical committees on international standardization within the ISO and IEC which are served by the CEN/CENELEC members in the individual countries;
 3. Considers, in view of the fact that the working languages of CEN and CENELEC are English, French and German, that the texts of completed standards should be translated into the official languages of the Community by the national standardization institutes concerned and that the Commission of the European Communities or the national governments should provide appropriate assistance for this purpose;
 4. Is convinced that financial assistance is essential if European standardization activities are to be increased and hopes, therefore, that the Community will provide financial support for CEN and CENELEC. The financial assistance must be large enough to provide a genuine incentive for the standardization organizations to step up their activities without delay;

5. Considers that CEN and CENELEC on the one hand and the Commission on the other should conclude an agreement which guarantees the latter sufficient authority to ensure that certain standardization projects are adopted and implemented within a reasonable period, as is already the case with the agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Industrial Standards Organization;
6. Considers that if the EEC wishes to fulfil its task of attaining free movement of goods in a Common Market, it must pursue standardization for its market even though the ISO and IEC are active worldwide in the same field. In so doing, the priority of worldwide standardization should not be challenged; CEN and CENELEC should increasingly assimilate ISO and IEC standards and carry out the groundwork for these organizations, while favouring their own standards if worldwide standardization cannot be completed in time;
7. Considers it necessary, finally, to inform the EFTA States in good time of this EEC initiative so that an arrangement may be adopted which, while protecting the interests of EFTA Member States, also takes into account the special activities of the Commission and, where necessary, provides for a special arrangement for majority decisions at Community level;
8. Calls on the Commission to take appropriate measures to develop European standardization, pursuant to Article 155 of the EEC Treaty, and to report back to the European Parliament on this matter before the end of 1983.