

Standards

SERVICES IN THE INTERNAL MARKET AND STANDARDISATION

Directive [2006/123/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market

Objective

To remove barriers to the freedom of establishment for service providers in Member States as well as to the free provision of services between Member States. It also aims to increase the quality of services.

Relevance for the hospitality industry

The Directive is relevant to the sector for various reasons (see separate sheet introducing the Directive in general). Inter alia, the text calls for the development of European standards for services with the aim of facilitating the compatibility and the quality of services.

State of progress

Adopted on 12 December 2006. To be transposed into national law by 28 December 2009.

Content

The text encourages the development of voluntary European standards with the aim of facilitating the compatibility and the quality of services (Article 26, § 5). The Commission may, where appropriate, issue mandates to European standardisation bodies (i.e. CEN, etc.) for the development of specific European standards (Recital 102).

For a detailed summary of the Directive you can visit the [SCADPlus](#) website (European Commission).

HOTREC position

HOTREC regrets that the text includes references to the need of European standards in relation to quality. HOTREC is of the opinion that the issue of quality of services should be left to the industry and that the development of standards should be fully market driven and does not need to be encouraged by Member States or the Commission. Furthermore, HOTREC reiterates that, as long as standardisation bodies do not reform their working methods in the direction of increased transparency and consultation with the industry, they should not be mandated to develop standards.

See also:

HOTREC updated [position paper](#) of November 2009 on standards at European and International level

HOTREC [reply](#) of April 2008 to the Commission Communication on standards and innovation

HOTREC [position paper](#) of October 2005 on standards at European and International level

Official references

Directive [2006/123/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market, O.J. L 376 of 27.12.06

See also:

Commission Working [document](#) “Quality of services – the role of European codes of conduct”, December 2007

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the role of European standardisation in the framework of European policies and legislation ([COM\(2004\)674 final](#)) of 18 October 2004

Directive [98/34/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations and of rules of Information Society services, O.J. L 204 of 21.7.1998

DG Internal Market and Services [website](#)

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