

Standards

REVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN STANDARDISATION SYSTEM

Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee - Towards an increased contribution from standardisation to innovation in Europe ([COM\(2008\) 133 final](#)) of March 2008

Objective

To launch a reflection process at EU level on the role of standardisation in the next years, with regard to innovation and competitiveness. It also lays the ground for a reform of the European standardisation system and its legislative framework.

Relevance for the hospitality industry

The Communication is of interest for the sector because it defines the vision of the Commission on the role of European standardisation and its functioning.

A proper functioning of the system is crucial because standardisation is being used by the Commission to support and complement EU policies and legislation.

State of progress

Adopted on 11 March 2008.

In the framework of the reflection process opened with the Communication, the Commission launched the following initiatives:

- EXPRESS panel (January 2009)
- Study on the “Evaluation of actions for the promotion of craft and SME interest in the European standardisation area” (March 2009)
- Study on “Access to Standardisation” (April 2009)
- Public consultation on the review of the European standardisation system (February 2010)

Legislative proposals could be issued in autumn 2010.

Content

With this document, the Commission gives its views on the role and the way forward in relation to European standardisation. The Communication acknowledges that the current standardisation process at international, European and national level presents a number of problems, including:

- Complexity of the system;
- Costs of the so-called “deliverables” (standards, guidelines, etc);
- Time required to participate in standards-making;
- Difficult access to standardisation, in particular for SMEs.

The Communication outlines a number of measures to address these problems and stresses the need for *“a formal standardisation process which fully respects the principles of openness, inclusiveness, transparency and coherence and is accountable for establishing consensus between all national positions and interested parties...”*.

The Commission invites European standardisation bodies, industry and relevant stakeholders to consider the measures proposed and will discuss with them and the Member States *“how best to achieve the objectives outlined...”*.

HOTREC position

HOTREC welcomed, as a key step in the right direction, this Commission Communication. Since years, HOTREC and its Member Associations have been repeating over and over that the working procedures of the standardisation bodies at international, European and national level should be reassessed to ensure increased transparency and a fair representation of stakeholders.

HOTREC, which is not against standards “per se”, considers a transparent and facilitated access to the standardisation process as essential.

See also:

HOTREC [reply](#) of May 2010 to the Commission consultation on the “Review of the European standardisation system”

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

Official references

Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee - Towards an increased contribution from standardisation to innovation in Europe ([COM\(2008\) 133 final](#)) of March 2008

See also:

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

[Study](#) on “Access to Standardisation” by EIM Business and Policy Research, April 2009

[Study](#) on the “Evaluation of actions for the promotion of craft and SME interest in the European standardisation area” by GHK Technopolis, March 2009

[Report](#) by EXPRESS Panel, February 2010

Public [consultation](#) on the review of the European standardisation system, February 2010

EXPRESS Panel [website](#)

DG Enterprise and Industry [website](#) on standardisation policy

Last update: June 2010