

Implementing International Standards in Europe – The Frankfurt Agreement

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Your speakers



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Outline

- Overview of Frankfurt Agreement (FA)
- Benefits of IEC-CENELEC relationship
- How do IEC and CENELEC work together
- European Standardization System and EU legislation
- Specific European elements

Overview of Frankfurt Agreement

Who is CENELEC?

- 3 recognized European Standardization Organizations

CENELEC – CEN – ETSI

- **CENELEC**
 - 34 National Committees (NCs) – All IEC members
 - Committed to working first at IEC level
 - Implementing IEC Standards as CENELEC Standards (EN IEC)



Historical background



Lugano Agreement
(1991)



Dresden Agreement
(1996)



Frankfurt Agreement
(2016)

**More than 30 years of
partnership**

**CENELEC 80%
aligned on IEC**



Purpose of FA

- Primacy of international standardization over regional and national standardization (WTO principles)
- Harmonization of national standards and technical regulations to reduce non-tariff technical barriers to trade



Objectives of FA

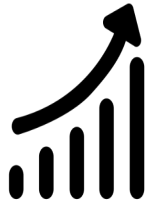
- Commit to primarily undertake the work at IEC level
- Expedite publication and common adoption of International Standards
- Ensure rational use of available resources to avoid duplication of work
- Accelerate standards preparation process in response to market demands
- Recognize specific European needs

Scope of FA

- FA applies to Standards only
- European adoption of IEC TR or TS approved by CENELEC Technical Board (BT) on a case by case basis
- IEC adoption of CENELEC TR or TS decided by TC/SC
- ISO/IEC JTC 1 work permanently exempted from parallel development
- Possible adoption of JTC 1 Standards by CEN and CENELEC under mode 5 of cooperation

Benefits of IEC-CENELEC relationship

Added value of CENELEC to IEC



One region = One standard instead of 34

- Status of EN
- Standstill – no competing/conflicting work
- Obligation to implement



Presumption of Conformity (PoC)

Access to European market of 600 million consumers using global standards



Implementing IEC Standards

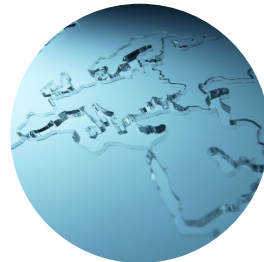
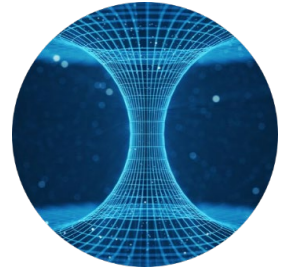
- **> 75% IEC Standards** follow parallel CENELEC procedure for adoption
- **80% IEC Standards** are adopted as CENELEC Standards
- **> 80% CENELEC Standards** are identical to or based on IEC
- **30% CENELEC Standards** are Harmonized Standards, **~75% of which** are identical to or based on IEC

How do IEC and CENELEC work together

Pillars of FA

4 main provisions

- Common planning of work
- Parallel voting on draft International Standards
- Publication requirements
- Conversion of European Standards into International Standards



Common planning of work

Work initiated in IEC (NP or RR)

- Normal procedure (no exemption)
 - Assigned to mirroring CENELEC TC or Reporting Secretariat
 - Further information (e.g. legislative aspects) provided to IEC
 - Parallel adoption process starts in CENELEC
- Exemption procedure
 - No “European adoption” but national adoption possible
 - Can be “used as such” in Europe

Common planning of work

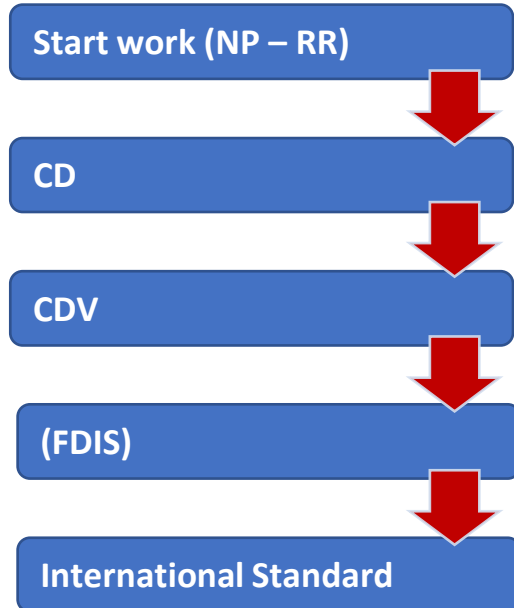
Work initiated in CENELEC (NWI)

- Before initiating
 - Assess situation at IEC on overlaps and possibility that IEC TC starts the work
- On approval of NWI for European Standard
 - By default, NWI is offered to IEC
 - In some cases, CENELEC BT may decide not to offer
 - CENELEC TC starts the work – IEC initiates NWIP
 - If IEC NWIP is approved, CENELEC hands over the work to IEC

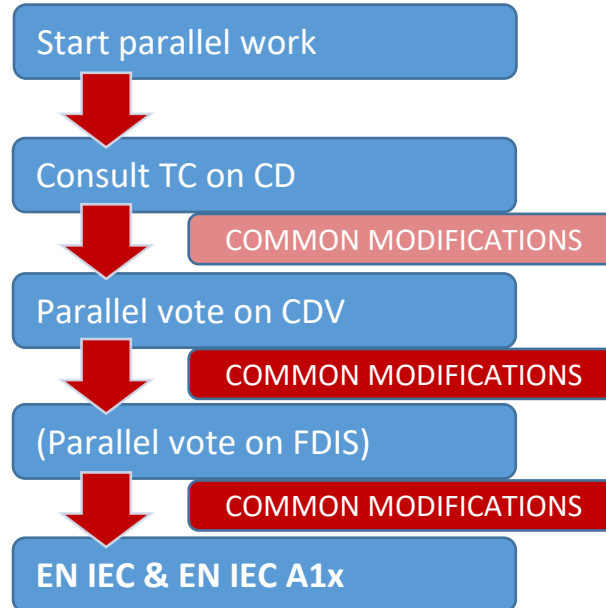
Parallel voting on draft IS

Important to start parallel work from earliest stage!

IEC



CENELEC



Parallel voting on draft IS

More than 80% of all CENELEC Standards are identical to or based on IEC Standards

Why not 100%?

By CENELEC BT decision some IEC Standards are

- Permanently exempted
- Temporarily exempted from parallel procedures (for a specific version or for adoption after IEC publication)
- Exempted to be “used as such” in Europe with standstill (e.g. databases, standards referred to in international legislation)

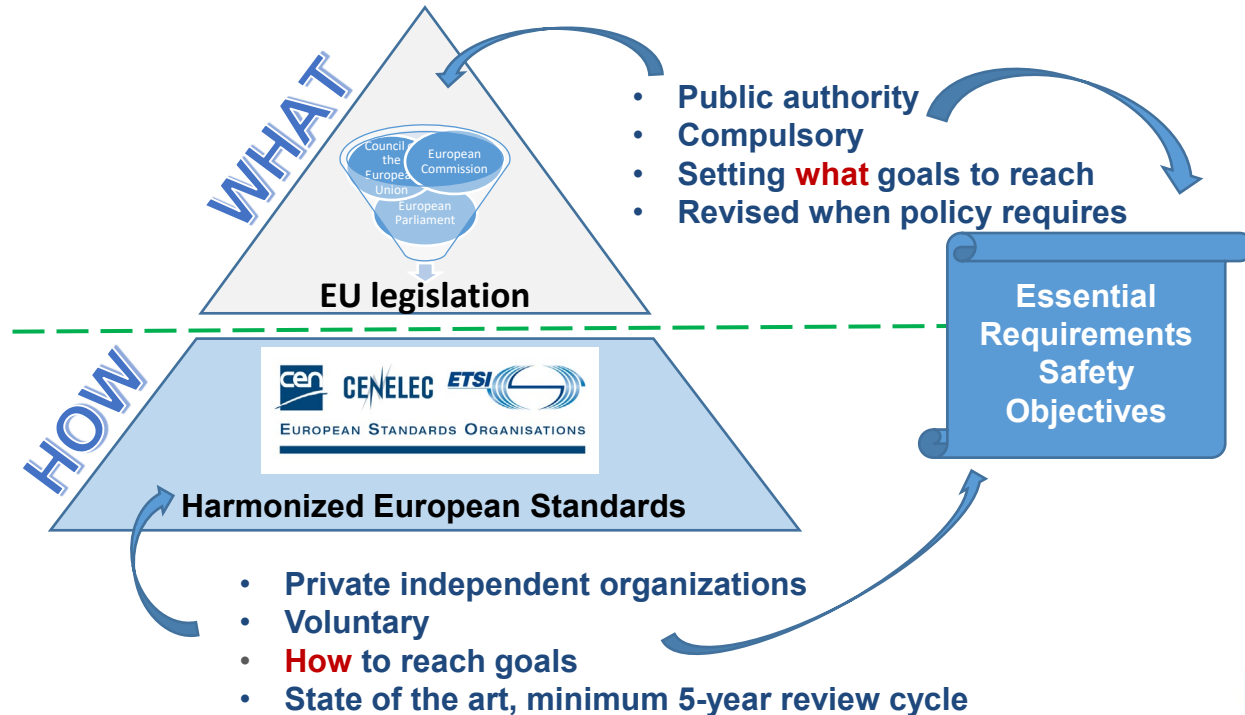


Conversion of EN into IS

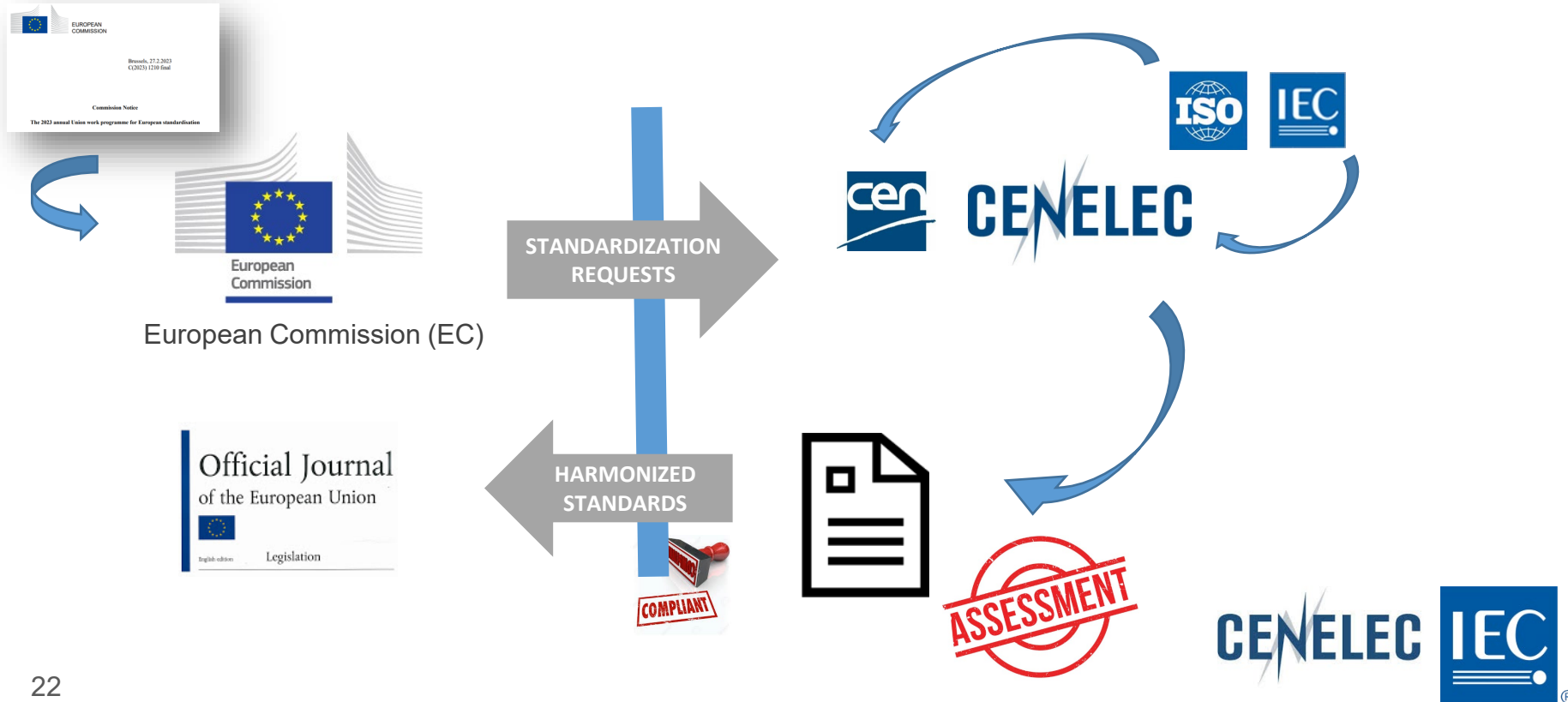
- **What?**
 - **Published CENELEC deliverables** (“homegrown standards”) offered to IEC
 - European Common Modifications to IEC based standards
- **If IEC TC takes them on board**
 - IEC text identical to CENELEC text → ‘*Boomerang case*’
 - No parallel voting
 - Just a correction of the numbering by corrigendum to reflect IEC number
 - IEC text different from CENELEC text → Parallel vote

European Standardization System and EU legislation

European Standardization System



Relation to EU legislation

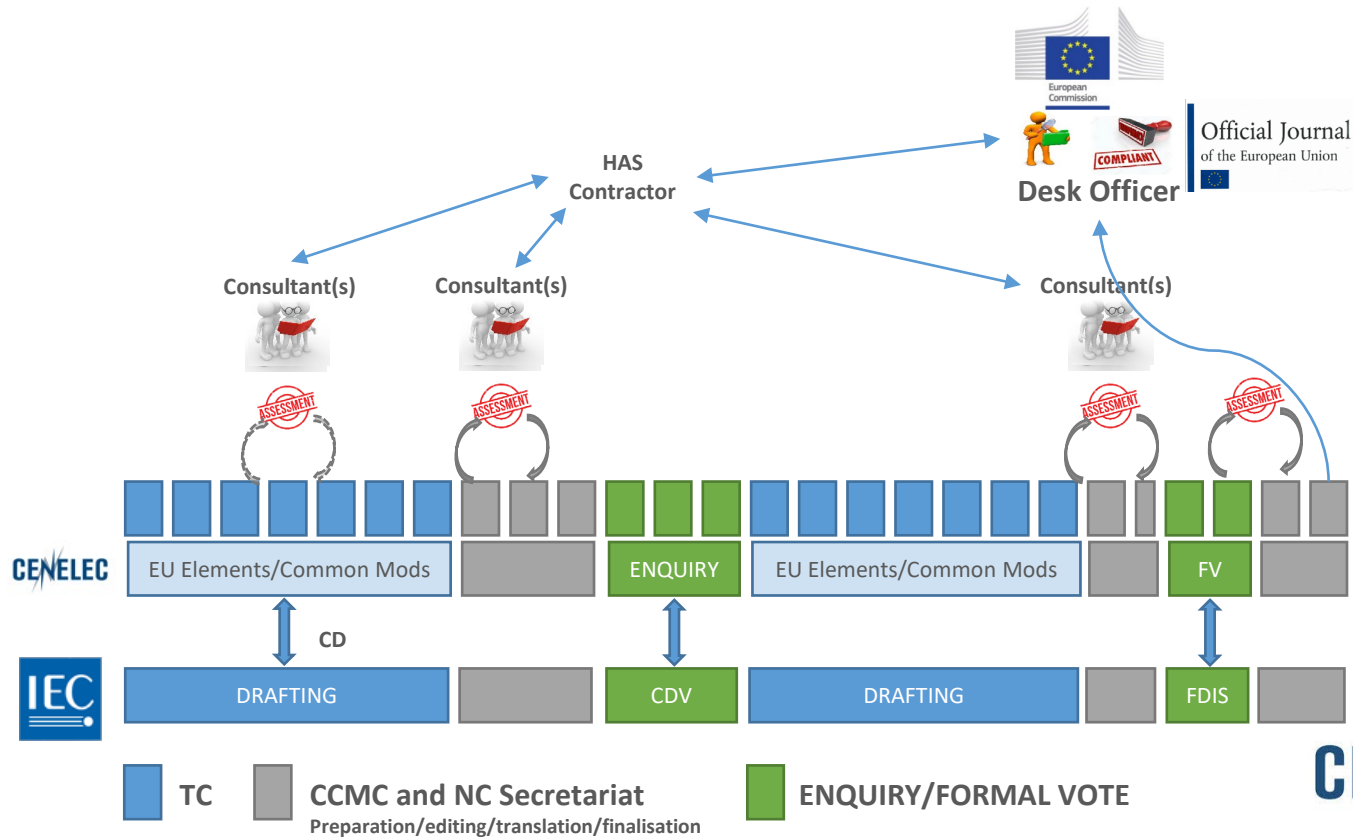


HAS Consultants

- Independent experts contracted by EC who assess compliance of documents drafted by ESOs against legislative requirements (incl. standardization requests)
- HAS Consultant comments
 - No veto on consensus
 - Input for compliance to EU legislation on Harmonized Standards
- IEC TCs decide whether to pick up their comments or not
- Opportunity to maximize number of Harmonized EN IEC Standards without Common Modifications



Harmonization process



Typical “European elements”

- Technical changes (amendment type – A1x)
 - When no alignment possible with specific European needs → creation of **Common Modifications**
 - Offer to IEC for later uptake
- Annex ZA
 - Substitution of normative references of IEC Standards with equivalent European normative references
- Annex ZZ
 - Only for European Standards developed under EC standardization requests
 - Identify which **clauses** cover which **legal requirements**

Conclusions

Main takeaways

- Longstanding partnership – 80% alignment
- Implement IS as one single EN IEC for European market
- Close and timely mirroring is key to maximize identical adoption
- Harmonized Standards – Access to European Single Market using global standards
- Regular coordination meetings to ensure alignment between organizations

Useful links

- [Frankfurt Agreement](#)
- [CENELEC Business Operations Support System](#)
- [Frankfurt Agreement – Day to Day Management Between IEC/CO and CCMC](#)
- [Referencing of CENELEC Standards under the Frankfurt Agreement](#)

Feedback poll



Thank you!

Contact us for further questions

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Thank you!

Upcoming events:

2023-10-24 - [The Power of Standardization in Building the African and European Single Markets](#)

2023-10-26 – [Standards + Innovation Awards 2023](#)

2023-12-05 - [Road to Net Zero: Standards for an All-Electric Society](#)

2023-12-12 - [Putting Science into Standards workshop – Circular Technologies for construction industry](#)