



European Committee for Standardization



International Standardization Organisation

Webinar 'Introduction to the Vienna Agreement and the different cooperation modalities'

Webinar moderator

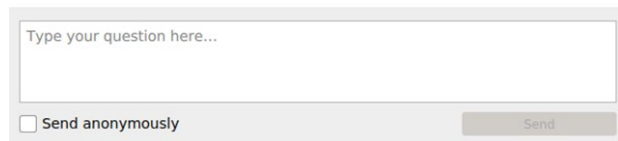
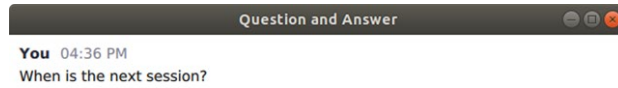


Els SOMERS
Project Manager
Public Relations
CEN-CENELEC
esomers@cencenelec.eu

Get the most out of the webinar today



- You are muted
- Use the Q&A panel to submit your questions



- Talk about us on LinkedIn, X, Bluesky or Instagram
#training4standards

Your speakers today



Gonçalo ASCENSAO

Account Manager –
Production • Standardization

gascensao@cencenelec.eu

Carolina MÜLLER
Project Manager - Sustainable
Systems & Consumers •
Standardization
cmueller@cencenelec.eu

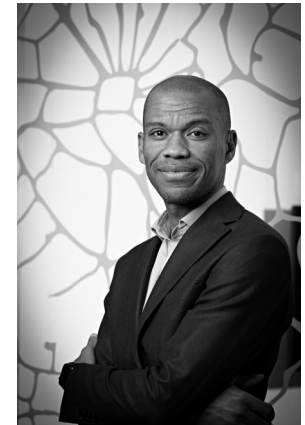


Joanna FRANKOWSKA

Account Manager -
Sustainable Systems &
Consumers • Standardization

jfrankowska@cencenelec.eu

Frédéric MLANAO
Account Manager -
Harmonized Standards
Compliance •
Standardization
fmlanao@cencenelec.eu



Contents

1. Introduction to the Vienna Agreement
2. New edition of VA Guidelines (April 2026)
3. VA Cooperation modes
4. VA other aspects
5. VA & harmonized standards
6. VA key learning points and FAQs

Acronyms



EC = European Commission

EY = Ernst and Young (HAS Contractor)

FDIS = Final Draft International Standard (equivalent of FV)

hEN = harmonised standard

HAS Consultants = Harmonised Standards (HAS) Consultants

LCA = Last Confirmatory Assessment

LoC = Lack of Compliance (EC/HAS assessment)

VA = Vienna Agreement

DTR/DTS = draft Technical Report/Specification

CD = Committee Draft (stage code 30.00)

DIS/FDIS = (Final) Draft International Standard

Introduction to the Vienna Agreement

Introduction

Vienna Agreement



What?	When?	Why?	What in practice?
<p>Formal agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1991 - Signature• 2001 ‘Codified version’	<p>To avoid duplication of work at International and European levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guidelines on implementation• Frequently Asked Questions (under development)• In ISO, see here to access the same documents

Primacy of International standards



Commitment of ISO and CEN Members to primarily undertake work at ISO level to develop globally relevant standards



Rational use of available resources avoiding duplication of work and structures and creating synergies

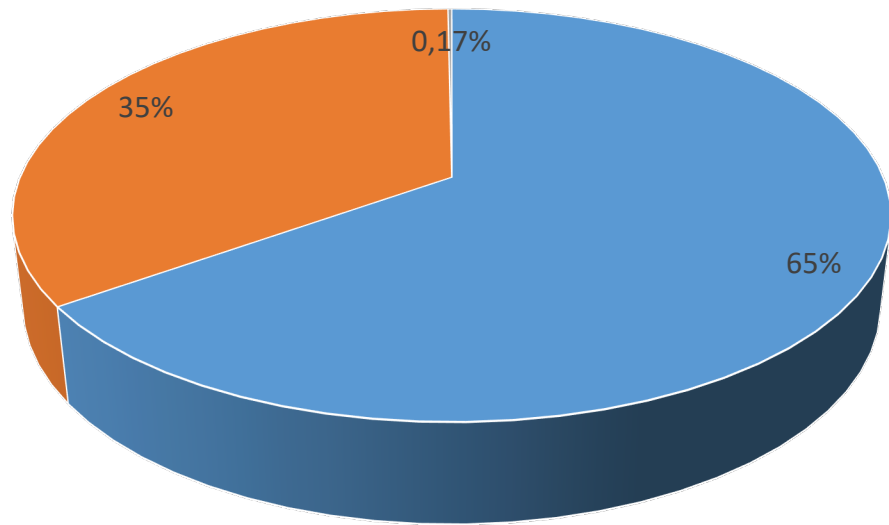
Basic principles

- ▶ Identical standards in CEN and ISO is the highest goal
- ▶ Technical co-operation in line with rules and processes of both organizations
- ▶ Process of consensus and approval are synchronised
- ▶ ISO recognizes particular needs of CEN (EU market; harmonized standards)
- ▶ ISO lead by preference, CEN lead possible
- ▶ CEN commits to respond adequately to comments from non-CEN ISO members
- ▶ Possibility to proceed separately if expected results not attained

Vienna Agreement

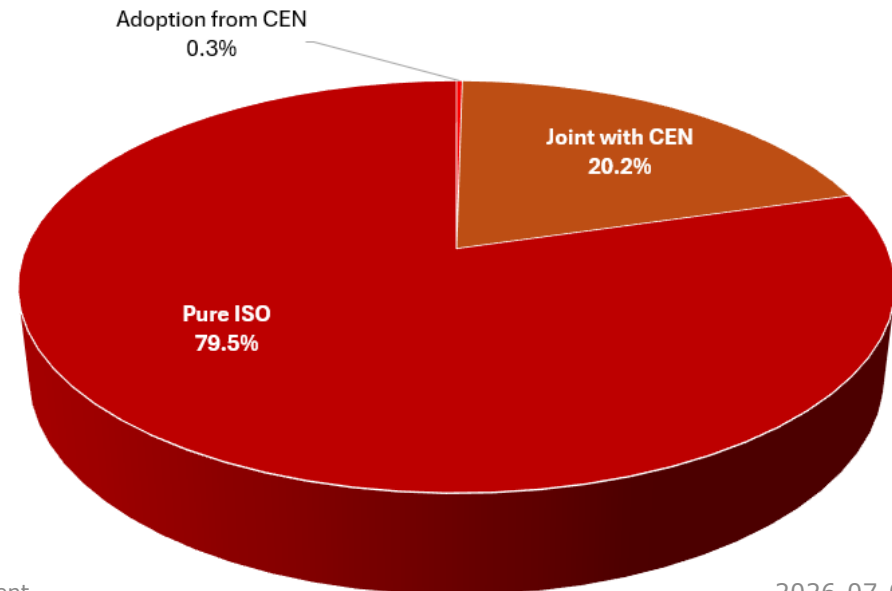


CEN – portfolio – relation to ISO



- purely CEN
- EN ISO
- modified ISO

ISO Portfolio - Relation to CEN



Evolution of publications – Vienna Agreement

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Total CEN	1036	1207	993	1073	1135	382
CEN homegrown	509	709	569	628	659	185
Vienna Agreement	527	498	424	445	476	197
% VA	51%	41%	43%	41%	42%	52%

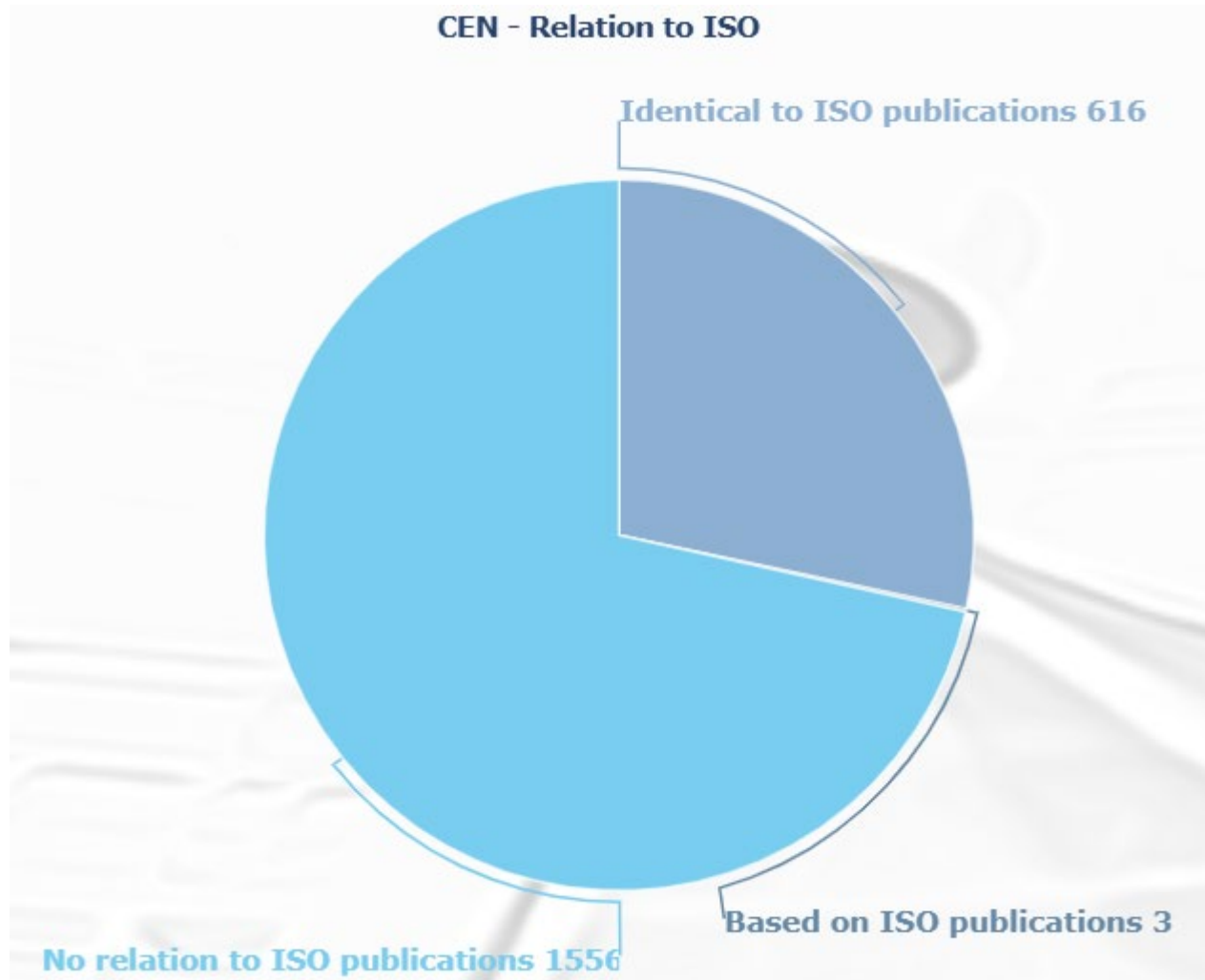
- In 2025: 62 ISO adoptions;
- In 2024: 80 ISO adoptions;
- In 2023: 84 ISO adoptions.

Evolution of ISO publications – Vienna Agreement



Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Pure ISO	1262	1059	1155	1135	1113
Joint with CEN	357	361	313	392	375
Adoption from CEN	5	3	4	11	9
Total	1624	1423	1472	1538	1497
% VA	22.3%	25.6%	21.5%	26.2%	25.7%

Statistics on harmonized standards



CEN portfolio.
Status end Q1 2026.

Ratio of CEN hENs offered
for OJEU citation:

- ▶ 28,5% identical to, or based on ISO
- ▶ 71,5% no relation with ISO

Data content:

All deliverables in the CEN portfolio offered for citation in the Official Journal of the European Union, with their relation to ISO publications.

New edition of VA Guidelines (April 2026)

New edition of VA Guidelines

- ▶ Developed in BT TG on VA with ISO/CS
- ▶ Merging into one document of two old:
 - ▶ Guidelines for the implementation of the Vienna Agreement and
 - ▶ Day to day management between ISO/CS and CCMC
- ▶ Simplification, reducing duplications
- ▶ Alignment to current rules, terminology, hyperlinks etc
- ▶ Clarification of HAS assessments on ISO request
- ▶ Addition of flowcharts, tables, list of acronyms
- ▶ New section 8 on ISO special procedures

Contents

Contents	2
Introduction	3
1 Scope	4
2 Cooperation by correspondence	4
3 Cooperation through mutual representation at meetings of committees and working groups	4
4 Adoption by one organization of available publications from the other organization	5
5 Cooperation by mutually agreed allocation of work with parallel approval of standards in ISO and CEN	5
6 Other deliverables – ISO or CEN lead	11
7 Maintenance of publications	13
8 Synchronisation of procedures and other exceptional procedures	14
Annex A — List of acronyms	16
Annex B — General flowchart with process for non-harmonised EN ISO standards	17
Annex C — Work items harmonised against EU legislation	18

Information on harmonized standards



Boxes with general information are directly in main chapters

More specific information and flowcharts are in Annex C

5.5 Stage 40.00 – Enquiry stage: Parallel ISO/DIS vote – CEN Enquiry (ISO or CEN Lead)

The decision to submit a draft for enquiry (ISO/DIS – CEN Enquiry) is taken by the responsible body of the lead organization in accordance with its rules and procedures.

The Committee Manager/Secretary of the **lead** committee (whatever the lead is) submits all required files directly in **ISO Projects** (see **Requirements and guidelines for the submission of drafts to ISO/CS**).

NOTE — For assistance, see the article “**Submit your files**” in the **ISO Knowledge Base**. In case of issues, contact projects@iso.org.

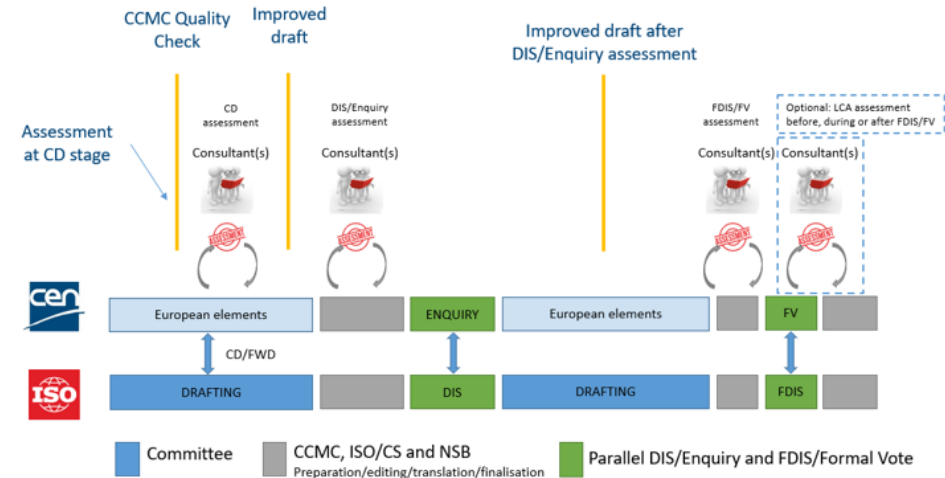
Work items linked with EU legislation:

The DIS draft shall include the informative Annex Z (see **Annex C** for more details on Annex Z and responsibility for its preparation). Annex Z is included in the final EN ISO publication but not in the final ISO publication.

CCMC submits the official DIS text for HAS assessment during the translation period before the launch of the parallel ISO/DIS vote – CEN Enquiry. The assessment is triggered when ISO/CS notifies CCMC that the DIS ballot will start.

If supporting documents are required for the assessment (such as committee replies to consultant comments from the previous assessment, justification of normative references, risk assessment, sector-specific arrangements, or checklists) the CEN Committee Secretary shall submit them along with the informative Annex Z to the ISO Committee Manager, who then provides them together with the DIS text to ISO/CS.

Flowchart 2 — Process for harmonised (EN) ISO standards with the quality check by CCMC



C.2 PARTICULAR ASPECTS

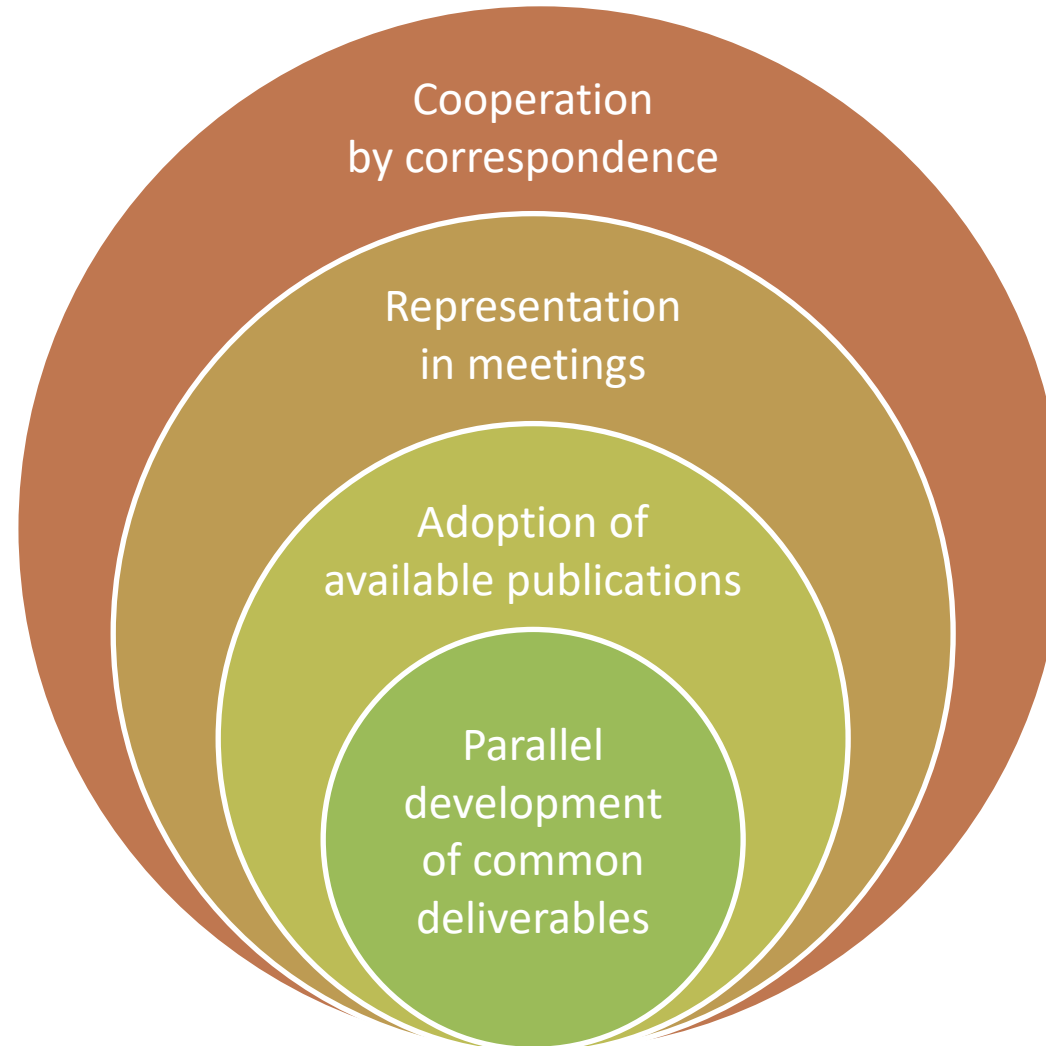
Table 3 summarizes the main possible options after a FDIS/Formal Vote assessment and Last Confirmatory Assessments, considering the HAS assessment result and the stage in the development process. However, less common scenarios may also apply.

Table 3 — Options after HAS assessment of FDIS/Formal Vote draft

Result of assessment	Next steps in ISO and CEN
Compliance	ISO and CEN proceed to parallel ISO/FDIS – CEN Formal Vote and, when positive, publish a harmonised deliverable under VA
Conditional compliance	Changes required from the HAS assessment, i.e. concerning normative references (see Clause C.1), shall be implemented in the final published document. ISO and CEN proceed to parallel ISO/FDIS – CEN Formal Vote and, when positive, publish a harmonised deliverable under VA.

VA Cooperation modes

Modalities of the Vienna Agreement



Cooperation by correspondence

ISO–CEN Information Exchange Provisions

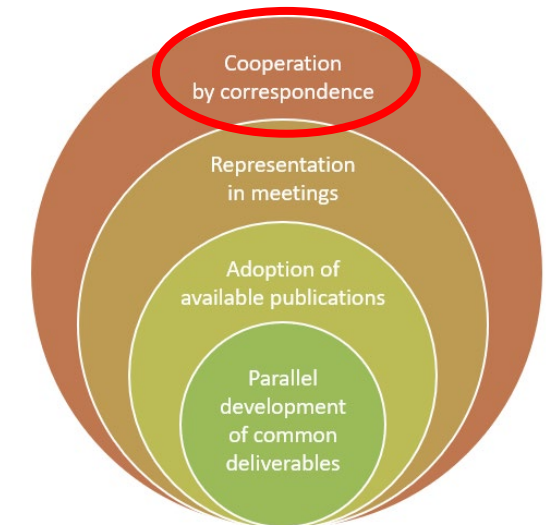
- ▶ Mutual Agreements: Information exchange arrangements are defined jointly when needed
- ▶ Flexible Cooperation: May occur via correspondence if no parallel work exists
- ▶ Document Sharing: Each committee decides what to share (e.g., all docs, reports, drafts)
- ▶ Official Comments: Must represent the committee's agreed views

Extended Input:

- CEN accepts comments on *prEN* from ISO members outside CEN
- Sent to CEN Secretary → circulated within CEN

Feedback Loop:

- CEN Secretary reports resolutions to ISO Committee Manager
- ISO Committee Manager shares outcomes with ISO members

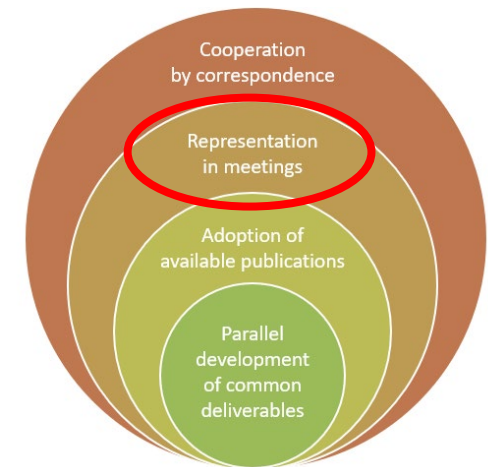


Representation in meetings



ISO–CEN Mutual Representation in TC and WG meetings

- ▶ Mutual representation may be needed for shared topics, arrangements should be made early
 - ▶ CEN Secretaries and ISO Committee Managers exchange representative(s) details and resolutions
 - ▶ Representation may not always be required – decided case-by-case
- ▶ For ISO representatives: preference is given to delegates from non-CEN Members
- ▶ Max. 4 representatives per meeting
- ▶ Head of delegation must be nominated
- ▶ Representatives...
 - ▶ ...have an observer status.
 - ▶ ...must be formally appointed and can contribute on relevant agenda items.
 - ▶ ...are formally appointed by its TC and represent its consolidated committee view.
 - ▶ ...are expected to act constructively.



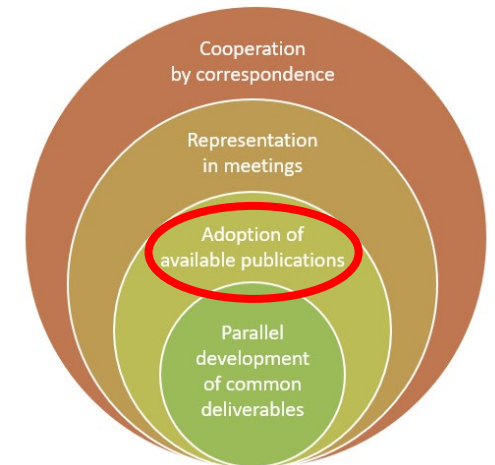
Adoptions of available publications

General Remarks

- ▶ Organizations adopting a publication follow their own adoption procedures.
- ▶ Preferred approach: adopt the publication without modifications.

- ▶ If changes are needed:
 - ▶ Secretaries from both organizations should consult each other.
 - ▶ ISO/CS and CCMC must be informed and may provide assistance.

- ▶ Recommended solution:
 - ▶ Revise the publication using the parallel ISO–CEN approval procedure.
 - ▶ If parallel revision is not possible: A modified version may be adopted.
 - ▶ Modified version must:
 - Explain the nature and reasons for changes
 - Use a different ISO/CEN reference number

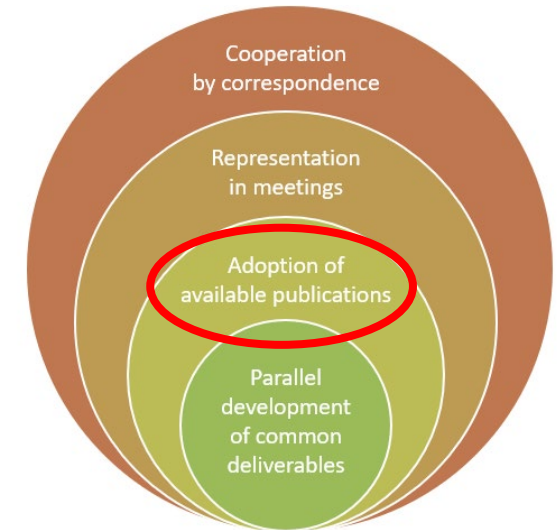


Adoptions of available publications



Adoption of **ISO** deliverables by **CEN**

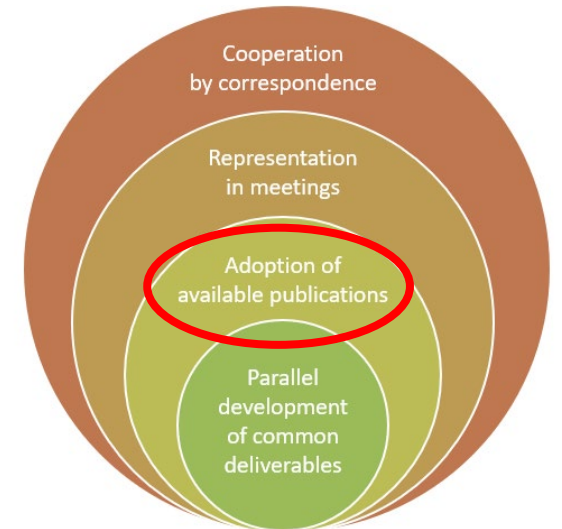
- ▶ CEN Committee Secretary ensures:
 - ▶ A New Work Item (NWI) is submitted for voting
 - ▶ Registration follows CEN rules and timelines
 - ▶ ENQ vote is mandatory, FV is skipped after positive ENQ
- ▶ If no corresponding CEN Committee exists:
 - ▶ CEN/BT decides whether to create the Work Item (WI)
- ▶ The five-members rule does not apply to unmodified ISO adoptions under the Vienna Agreement
- ▶ CCMC regularly shares adoption information with ISO/CS to synchronize databases



Adoptions of available publications

Adoption of **CEN** deliverables by **ISO**

- ▶ ISO committees adopting a CEN deliverable must follow:
 - ▶ The ISO adoption process (ISO/IEC Directives Part 1).
 - ▶ A New Work Item (NWI) is submitted for voting and follows ISO rules and timelines
 - ▶ The deliverable will always receive an ISO number
- ▶ Only minimal changes are expected, such as:
 - ▶ Replacing “European Standard” with “International Standard”.
 - ▶ Updating ISO normative references.
 - ▶ DIS ballot is needed before publication, if positive FDIS is skipped
- ▶ ISO/CS regularly shares adoption information with CCMC to keep databases aligned



Parallel development of common publications

- ▶ Decision to carry out the work together
- ▶ Mutually agreed allocation of work
- ▶ One WI is need in each organization
- ▶ Defines the process, roles and decisions to follow
- ▶ For hENs → CEN TC responsible for the legislation links

Parallel development of common publications

- ▶ Project in parallel → Only when both active projects exist

- ▶ Leadership
 - ▶ ISO by default
 - ▶ CEN only if P-members (non CEN) simple majority
 - ▶ Justification needed for CEN lead

- ▶ In case of dispute ISO TMB and CEN BT to be contacted

Preparatory and committee stages (ISO) / Drafting stage (CEN)



- ▶ Drafting done by lead organization
- ▶ Following Lead organization rules
- ▶ ISO template for documents drafting
- ▶ Non-Lead
 - ▶ Receives early drafts (WD/CD)
 - ▶ Can provide comments
 - ▶ May participate via representatives
- ▶ Possibility to have a Committee Draft vote in ISO

- ▶ For hENs → possibility to have HAS assessment at this stage

Enquiry stage: Parallel ISO/DIS vote – CEN Enquiry (ISO or CEN Lead)



- ▶ Drafting done by lead organization
- ▶ Submission of document to ISO CS
- ▶ ISO → DIS vote - CEN → Enquiry → 2 ballots
 - ▶ 8 (6) weeks translation → French in ISO and German for CEN
 - ▶ 12 weeks vote
- ▶ ISO circulates the full text to the members → CEN only a dispatch notice
- ▶ Comments received from both organizations and solved by lead organization

Enquiry stage: Parallel ISO/DIS vote – CEN Enquiry (ISO or CEN Lead)



- ▶ CEN and ISO committees discuss and agree on way forward

Result of vote in ISO	Positive	Positive	Positive	Negative	Negative
Result of vote in CEN	Positive	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Decision	Skip FDIS and FV and proceed to publication (only if no technical changes)	Submission to FDIS and FV (if technical changes)	Submission to FDIS and FV ³	Circulation to 2 nd DIS and 2 nd Enquiry ³	Circulation to 2 nd DIS and 2 nd Enquiry

- ▶ In case of CEN lead a Tc decision to skip FV is needed

Enquiry stage: Parallel ISO/DIS vote – CEN Enquiry (ISO or CEN Lead)



▶ For hENs

- ▶ ISO text includes Annex Z
- ▶ HAS assessment requested in parallel with DIS and ENQ
- ▶ Outcome of the Assessment does not interfere with ballot
- ▶ ISO and CEN leadership decide on necessary actions
- ▶ Skip FV decision only in case of compliant assessment

Approval Stage: Final text preparation or parallel ISO/FDIS



- ▶ If decided to start an FDIS and FV lead committee takes responsibility
- ▶ Submission of document to ISO CS
- ▶ ISO → FDIS vote - CEN → Formal Vote → 2 ballots
 - ▶ ISO announces with 1 week the dates for the ballots and for translations in French in ISO and German for CEN
 - ▶ 8 weeks vote
- ▶ ISO circulates the full text to the members → CEN only a dispatch notice

Approval Stage: Final text preparation or parallel ISO/FDIS



- ▶ CEN and ISO committees discuss and agree on way forward

Result of vote in ISO	Positive	Positive	Negative	Negative
Result of vote in CEN	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Decision	Identical publications in ISO and CEN (see 5.7)	Consultation between ISO and CEN (see below)	Consultation between ISO and CEN (see below)	Consultation between ISO and CEN. Return of draft to responsible committee

- ▶ If positive outcome ISO publishes the International Standard

Approval Stage: Final text preparation or parallel ISO/FDIS



▶ For hENs

- ▶ Text shall include Annex Z
- ▶ HAS assessment triggered prior to FDIS
- ▶ Several options in case of lack of compliance → see table C1 and C2
- ▶ If Compliant FDIS starts

Publication stage (ISO or CEN Lead)



- ▶ With a positive vote in ISO and CEN, ISO/CS prepares the final text for publication;
- ▶ 2 week review period to project leader and information to secretariat of non lead
- ▶ ISO CS notifies CCMC of edition date
- ▶ ISO CS prepares both English and French text
- ▶ ISO publishes the document and DIN aligns the German version
- ▶ CCMC makes European elements available in English and French and the German text when available.

Publication stage (ISO or CEN Lead)

► For hENs

- If assessment is compliant or conditional compliance → editorial comment can be considered
- If changes are needed in the Annex Z, those should be raised to CCMC
- At the publication stage the Annex Z is shifted to the CEN publication and removed from the ISO publication
- BT may need to be consulted in case of technical changes

Submission of files

- ▶ **Enquiry and Approval** stages, **DTR** and **DTS**
- ▶ All via ISO Projects (<https://sd.iso.org/projects>)
- ▶ Project should be registered at correct stage xx.99 for submission (contact projects@iso.org if needed)
- ▶ Committee Manager/Secretary of the **lead** committee has the access rights
- ▶ Refer to [Requirements and guidelines for the submission of drafts to ISO/CS](#)

Q & A Break



Use the Q&A panel to submit your questions

A screenshot of a web-based Q&A panel. At the top, a dark grey header bar contains the text 'Question and Answer' and three small window control icons (minimize, maximize, close). Below the header, a message is displayed: 'You 04:36 PM' followed by the question 'When is the next session?'. A horizontal line separates this message from the rest of the panel. Below the line is a large, empty text input field with the placeholder text 'Type your question here...'. At the bottom left of the input field area, there is a checkbox labeled 'Send anonymously'. To the right of the input field is a grey 'Send' button.

VA other aspects

- Other deliverables
- Exceptional cases
- Maintenance

Other deliverables

▶ **Technical Report (TR) and Technical Specification (TS)**

- Change of type of deliverable --> both committees need a decision
- Technical comments may lead to 2nd DTR or 2nd DTS
- Voting period = 12 weeks
(2nd DTR = 4 weeks, 2nd DTS = 8 weeks)

▶ **Guide (ISO lead)**

- Translation period = 8 weeks (2026-10 = 6 weeks)
- Voting period = 12 weeks

Maintenance of publications

▶ **Revise or amend**

- Committee Manager/Secretary of the lead committee should coordinate
- ISO lead by default
- Registration of WI in ISO and CEN databases
- WI created by CCMC in CEN database

▶ **Minor revision – ISO lead (until 2026-10)**

- No technical change
- Voting period ISO/FDIS vote – CEN Enquiry = 12 weeks

▶ **Systematic review** for standards in ISO **(until 2026-10)**

Other exceptional procedures

- ▶ Consolidation of an amendment in ISO
 - New edition of the standard
 - Voting period ISO/FDIS vote – CEN Enquiry = 12 weeks

- ▶ Adoption in ISO of a document from another organization
 - Voting period ISO/FDIS vote – CEN Enquiry = 12 weeks
 - Additional procedures may apply (IEEE,...)

- ▶ Development of a CD in another organization
 - Close cooperation between Committees required

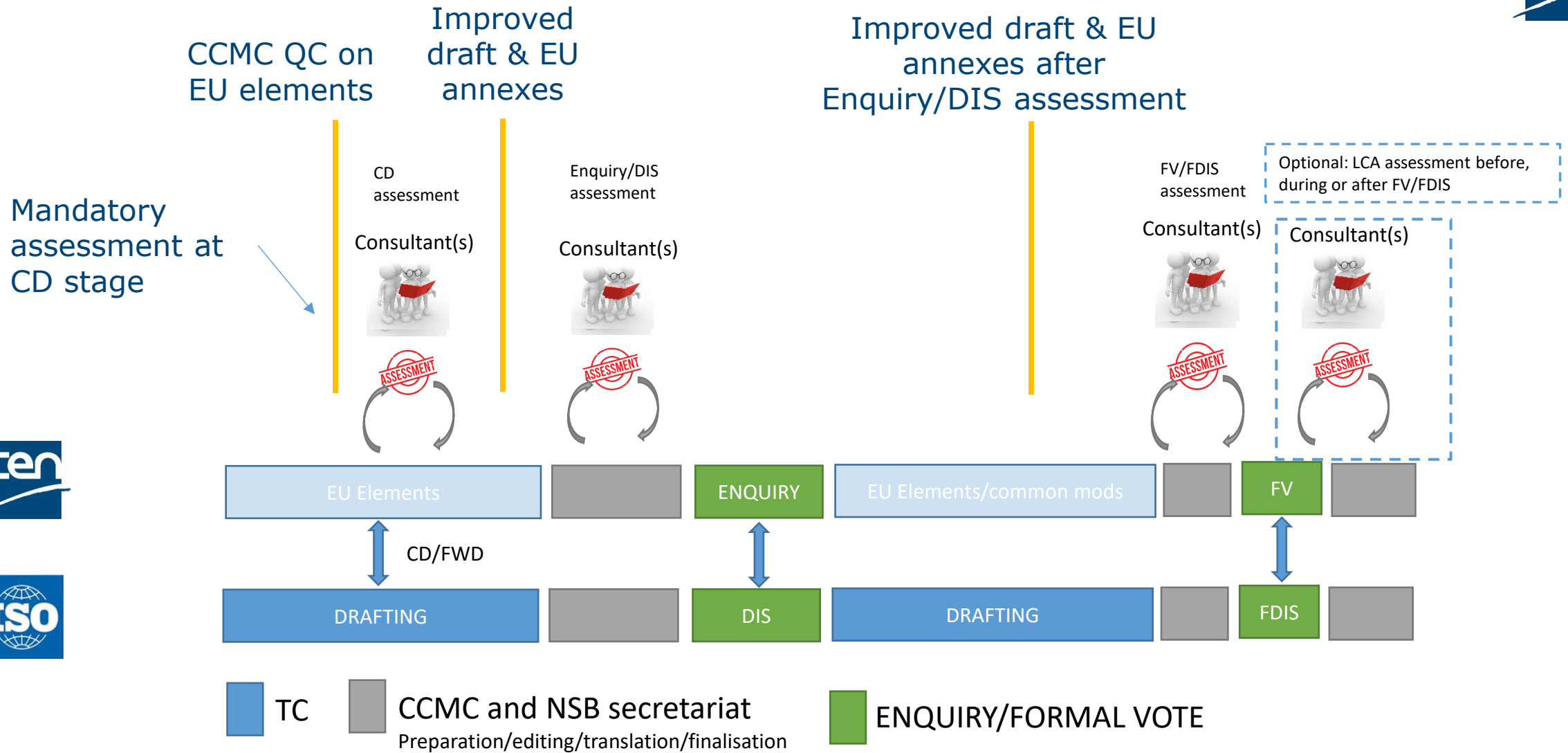
Q & A Break



Use the Q&A panel to submit your questions

A screenshot of a web-based Q&A panel. At the top, a dark grey header bar contains the text 'Question and Answer' and three small window control icons (minimize, maximize, close). Below the header, a message is displayed: 'You 04:36 PM' followed by the question 'When is the next session?'. A horizontal line separates this message from the input area. The input area is a light grey box containing a text input field with the placeholder text 'Type your question here...'. Below the input field, there is a checkbox labeled 'Send anonymously' and a 'Send' button.

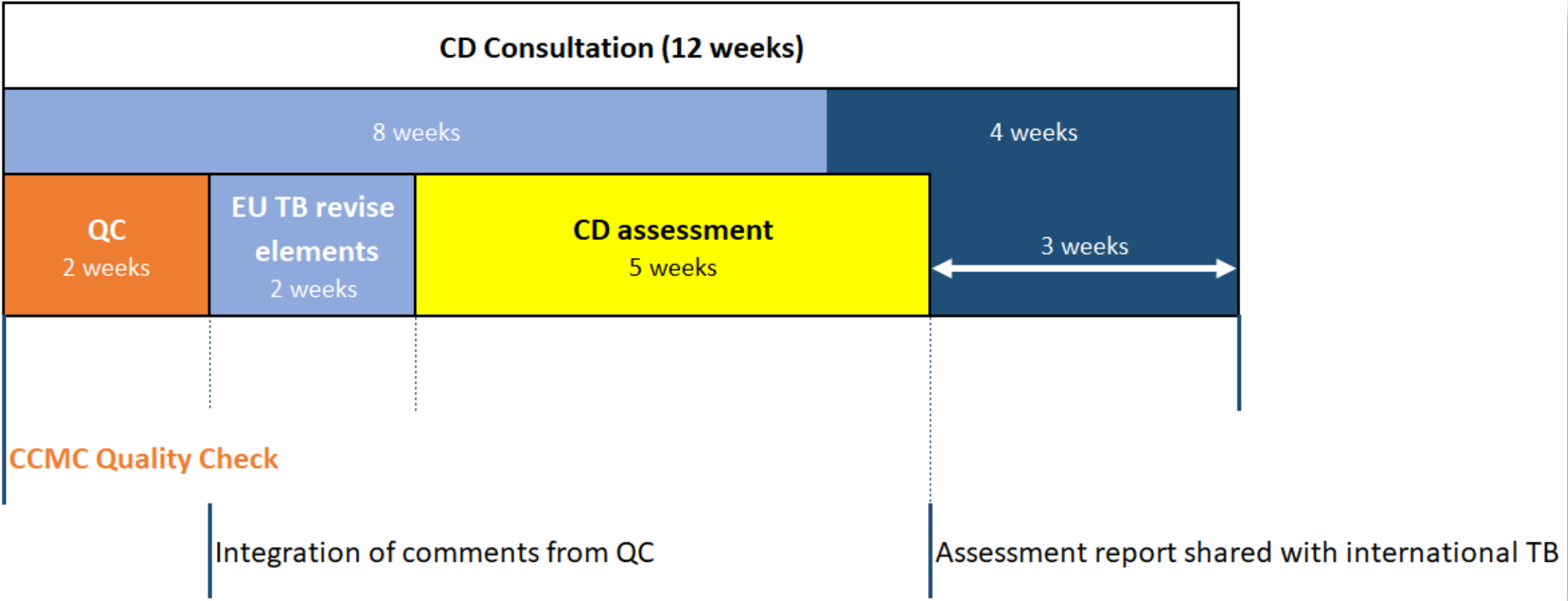
VA & harmonized standards



Mandatory assessment at CD stage



Main principles: CD consultation



How: operational aspects for ISO



Summarized process for ISO:

	CCMC QC	CD Assessment
No ISO CD	NO	NO
ISO CD with Annex ZA included	NO	YES

ISO CD **without** Annex ZA included:

CD = 8 weeks & Annex ZA delivered by CEN/TC	NO	YES
CD > 8 weeks & Annex ZA delivered by CEN/TC	YES	YES

More detailed information available in webinar '[New process for harmonized standards under parallel development](#)'

CEN responsibility for harmonization



- ▶ **CEN responsibility** — ensures compliance with EU legislation and provides required harmonization information to ISO
- ▶ **CEN/TC leadership duties** — ensure inclusion of Annex Z when needed and addressing HAS Consultants' assessment comments
- ▶ **HAS Consultant engagement** — CEN/TC Secretary organizes meetings with HAS Consultants when required
- ▶ **TCs cooperation** — close coordination of CEN and ISO TCs on harmonization tasks and actions following 'LoC' HAS assessments is key
- ▶ **Support roles** — CCMC SPM in cooperation with ISO TPM provide guidance on rules, processes, and complex 'LoC' cases

In case of LoC at FV/FDIS

- ▶ Parallel FDIS–FV **usually waits** for the HAS report
- ▶ A 'LoC' assessment **suspends FDIS-FV** for up to **12 weeks**
- ▶ ISO/CEN leadership and Project Leader agree on corrective actions within **7 weeks** of the LoC receipt

Annex C: In case of LoC at FV/FDIS

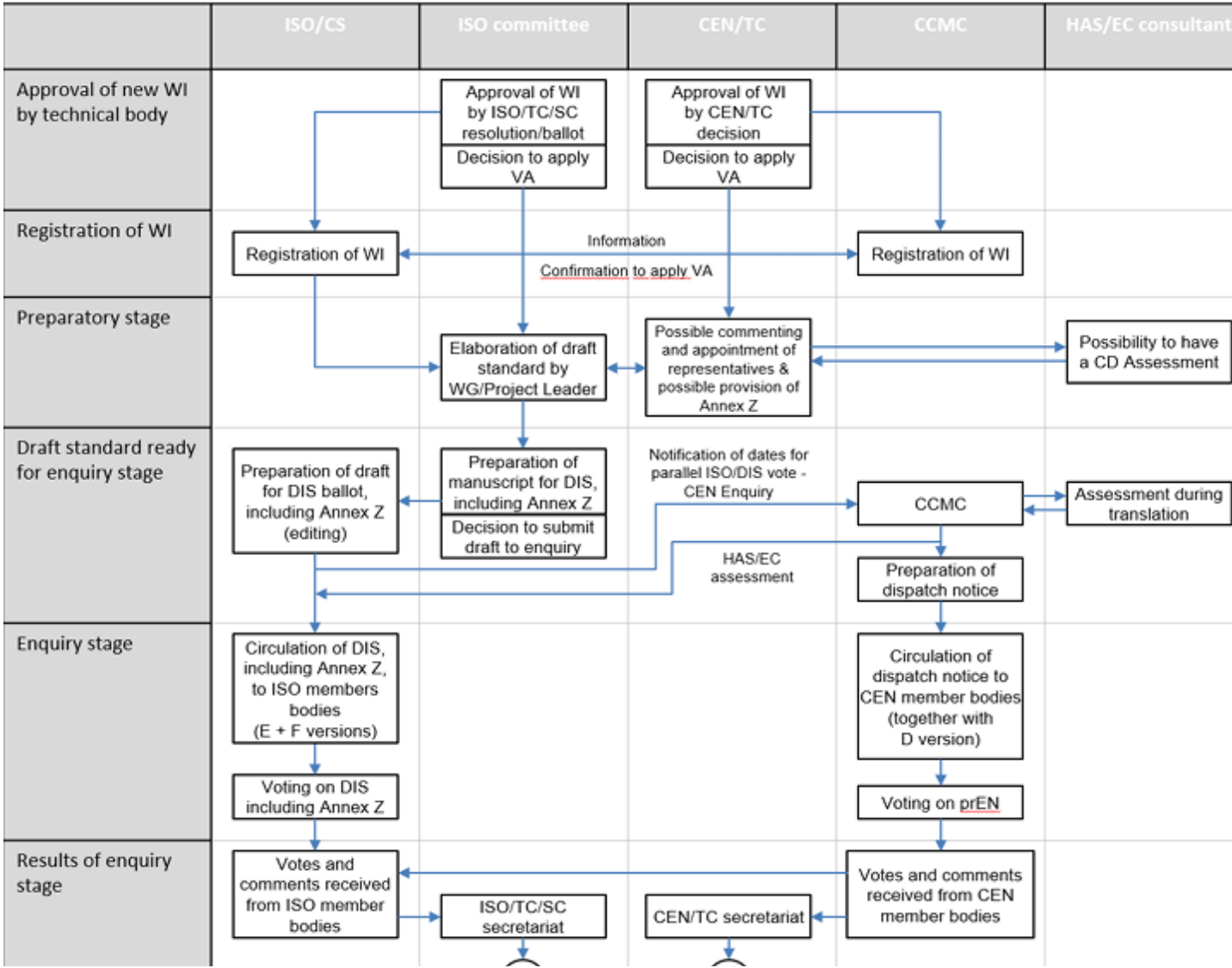


CEN/TC and ISO/TC **discuss** and **agree** on way forward:

1. Revise draft and request LCA before FV/FDIS (recommended)
2. LCA during or after FDIS (exceptional) – revision of draft requires a 2nd FV/FDIS
3. No LCA (exceptional) – e.g. in case of simple, short assessment
4. Removing links with EU legislation – in CEN: TC decision needed
5. Abandon WI in CEN and ISO - decisions needed of ISO/TC, CEN/TC followed by CEN/BT
6. Decoupling from Vienna Agreement – most often decisions needed of CEN/TC and ISO/TC

See also Table C.1 and Flowcharts C.1-C.5 in VA Guidelines

Annex D - process for the development of EN ISO standards under ISO lead



VA key aspects

Key learning points

- ▶ Vienna Agreement – only with active WIs in both organizations;
- ▶ ISO & CEN committee leaderships need to coordinate the technical activities;
- ▶ CEN TC leadership to support and provide technical input in harmonization matters (Annex ZA, handling of HAS comments);
- ▶ *New process for HAS assessments at Formal Vote (incl. 6 options in case of lack of compliance);*
- ▶ CEN BT decisions may be necessary in some cases;
- ▶ ISO CS and CCMC databases are updated on the basis of mutual exchange of information;
- ▶ Be aware of exceptions.

Q & A Break



Use the Q&A panel to submit your questions

A screenshot of a web-based Q&A panel. At the top, there is a dark grey header bar with the text 'Question and Answer' and three small window control icons (minimize, maximize, close). Below the header, a message is displayed: 'You 04:36 PM' followed by the question 'When is the next session?'. A horizontal line separates this message from the input area. The input area is a light grey box containing a text input field with the placeholder text 'Type your question here...'. Below the input field, there is a checkbox labeled 'Send anonymously' and a 'Send' button.

Your feedback



Question time



- ▶ Use the Q&A panel to submit your questions

A screenshot of a web browser window titled "Question and Answer". The window has a dark grey header with the title and standard window control buttons (minimize, maximize, close). Below the header, the text "You 04:36 PM" is displayed in a bold font, followed by the question "When is the next session?". A horizontal line separates the question from the rest of the page content.A screenshot of a question submission form. It features a large text input field with the placeholder text "Type your question here...". Below the input field, there is a checkbox labeled "Send anonymously" and a "Send" button.



European Committee for Standardization



International Standardization Organisation

Thank you for your participation!