

Strengthening the Role of Europe in the Standardisation of the Future Internet



The European Standardisation System

Strengths

- Close co-operation with international counterparts (CEN, CENELEC).
- Contradiction-free standards.
- Consistent system with close links to European policy makers.
- Well respected internationally (ETSI).
- Pioneers in innovative approaches.
- Flexible approach to standardisation (ETSI).
- Representation of at least part of the 'Third Estate'.

Weaknesses

- (Financially) dependent on policy makers.
- Rather slow-moving process (CEN, CENELEC).
- Representation through national delegations (CEN, CENELEC).
- 'New Deliverables' lack necessary level of consensus.
- Policy ignores standards consortia.
- Limited links between R&D and standardisation.
- Overly European focus (CEN, CENELEC).

Opportunities

- Good links to international bodies can be used to strengthen the EU position.
- High reputation can attract both European and international know-how, contributions, and members.
- Flexibility will be helpful when newly emerging topics will have to be addressed.
- Wide participation increases democratic legitimacy.

Threats

- Financial dependency may reduced global importance.
- Slow processes and strong EU focus, may lead to international marginalisation.
- Limited level of consensus may render 'New Deliverables' irrelevant.
- Continuing to ignore consortia may leave Europe stranded with possibly irrelevant European standards.
- Poor links to R&D may keep ESOs from addressing crucial future topics.

Major Problems

- **Lack of integration of standards consortia**
EU legislation cannot reference standards that were not developed by a 'formal' body.
- **Lack of adequate European standards**
In many crucial areas the ESOs have never played a major role.
- **Marginalisation of the ESOs (in the ICT sector)**
In ICT much of the ESOs' work is lagging behind market realities.
- **Lack of adequate links to the R&D community.**



Suggested Ways Forward

- Improve links with standards consortia. Specifically, co-develop relevant standards.
- Focus on proven core competencies (mobile communication, ITS, security, ...).
- Don't try to catch up in other areas; don't try to compete with existing successful standards.
- Support/provide standards education (both academical and professional).
- Provide for better access to European standards for researchers.
- Make participation in standards setting easier.
- Follow the lead of the international bodies.
- Implement the recommendations of the projects 'Copras' and 'Interest'.