

ANEC comments on Amendment to the Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 European standardisation

ANEC agrees with the European Commission proposal to amend Regulation (EU) 1025/2012. We agree it is essential that action is taken to enable European standards, and other standardisation deliverables, to reflect only European values and principles in supporting the European public interest. Hence we welcome the wish of the Commission to limit the electorate able to take decisions in the ESOs on Standardisation Requests, their supporting standards and other standardisation deliverables to the national standardisation bodies (which we understand to be those of the EEA countries).

Nevertheless, the ESOs and the national standardisation bodies have operated in a global environment for many years and, although this co-operation should be welcomed as the Commission acknowledges, it can mean that the positions taken by the national standardisation bodies are also at risk of being influenced by a more international perspective. For example, numerous multinational companies that do not have their headquarters in Europe have national offices in EEA member states, and these are sometimes active in standardisation at national level and in the national mirror committees. In a similar limitation, each national standardisation body should be required to ensure its votes, on Standardisation Requests and related deliverables cited in Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 1025/2021, take into account only the positions of companies that are headquartered in the EEA member state.

Bearing this in mind, ANEC also believes the Commission should continue to pursue the option to use implementing acts - establishing technical specifications or common specifications - as a fallback where harmonised standards are absent (for whatever reason) or would be insufficient in ensuring the European public interest.

ENDS.

ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending consumer interests in the processes of technical standardisation and the use of standards, as well as related legislation and public policies.

ANEC was established in 1995 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law and is open to the representation of national consumer organisations in 34 countries.

ANEC is funded by the European Union and EFTA, with national consumer organisations contributing in kind. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels.

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