

NewStandards

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SBS Welcomes New Board Member & Establishes Internal WG

Our SBS Board Meeting was held in Brussels on 20th May. During this session, the SBS Board warmly welcomed a new member: Barbara Sorgato – [ECAP](#).

This important meeting also included the nomination of SBS' accountant and the establishment of an internal Working Group on Policy. The Board strongly welcomed the concept of having groups to work on specific issues – sectorial and/or national. This is in line with the internal work in progress related to the 2015 Strategy preparation. SBS members will be involved in the process and this will help encourage SMEs to actively participate in these groups as well as provide information on their specificities towards the standardisation process; therefore improving their participation at national level. Finally, the meeting confirmed the strong support of national members with the three seminars on the importance of standardisation for SMEs – in France, Italy and Germany – foreseen in 2014 and welcomed by the Board members.

Barbara Sorgato

ECAP Secretary General, SBS founding member

Barbara Sorgato spent almost all her working career in the construction sector – the last 15 years dealing with SMEs and with the standardisation of their construction products. In 2002, she was appointed Secretary General of ECAP (European Consortium of Anchors Producers). ECAP is a unique consortium in Europe, entirely made and self-financed by European SMEs that are all competitors on the European market. She promotes an SME-friendly approach in the European standardisation system, and supports SMEs in

- * the implementation of the CE-marking of construction products – connecting technical international institutions and SMEs, and
- * the participation in EU policies on construction products – enabling SME presence and bringing SME expertise to the EU international standardisation processes.

She represents SBS in the Standing Committee on Construction as well as Construction Products Europe (the voice of the European construction products' manufacturers) in [EOTA](#) Technical Board, and takes part in several [CEN](#) and EOTA working groups as SBS expert.



"I am glad to belong to the SBS board, and I consider it a challenge."

- Barbara Sorgato

Technical News

TC 250 SC5 - Eurocodes

SMEs in timber construction are facing issues related to Eurocodes, particularly for day-to-day calculations. SME interests are:

- ↶ To handle standardisation in practice (mainly calculation-methods)
- ↶ To define rules of execution
- ↶ To handle standardisation in products
- ↶ To simplify CE-marking.

For a new structure, SBS expert Mr Kulhenkamp proposed to improve the ease of use of Eurocodes with special calculation methods written in annexes. He also put forward the idea of an annex with simplified rules and tables.

TC 124 WG4 – Timber Structure – connectors

Mr Steinmaurer discussed technical issues such as bending angle and corrosion tests with other experts in this TC. The inclusion of smaller diameters in the standard was previously discussed within ECAP WG. Whilst Eurocode 5 does not give any limitation to the diameters, in fact some tests foreseen in the standard are quite difficult for small diameter screws and could exclude them from CE-marking.

As a result of the discussion, screws with smaller diameters will be excluded from CE-marking, hence cannot be sold for structural usage. If a CE-marking on these screws is required, manufacturers will have to think about asking for a mandate for these products.

TC 434 – Electronic invoicing

Following a proposal put forward by [NEN](#) (Dutch standardisation organisation) and [UNI](#) (Italian standardisation organisation), a vast majority of CEN members have approved the creation of a new Technical Committee on electronic invoicing. Indeed, newly created CEN TC 434 will elaborate a standard to make e-invoicing possible all over Europe, within public procurement but also in business to business relations. The voting result demonstrates strong interest and future active participation by nine NSOs in CEN. More information on the TC's calendar of meetings, secretariat and work-programme will be available soon. The TC covers a very important area for SMEs and will certainly raise SBS' interest in the future. This is also in line with the interest shown by UEAP-ME – and other SME associations – on the future developments of e-invoicing all over Europe, mostly incited by new European legislation on public procurement.

SBS Participates in CENELEC Technical Board

For the first time on 27th and 28th May, SBS participated in the [CENELEC](#) Technical Board (CENELEC BT) taking place in the premises of the French standardisation organisation [AFNOR](#) in Paris. SBS, as a partner organisation of CENELEC and Annex III stakeholder, is allowed to participate in the BT meetings, as an observer.

The CENELEC BT is the highest decision-making body of CENELEC on technical issues. For that reason, it is the most relevant arena in which questions and problems regarding standardisation are treated and decided upon by the members of CENELEC, i.e. the national standardisation organisations (NSOs).

During the meeting, SBS heavily opposed the decision of the BT to limit the right for partner organisations to appeal against a standard, only if the partner organisation has contributed to the activities leading to the production of that standard. This decision goes against SME interests especially, it entails cancelling an instrument for SMEs who are, due to limited resources, not always aware of or involved in the work of a TC from the beginning. Presently, SBS has appointed three experts in three CENELEC TCs.

SBS Takes Part in CEN-CENELEC General Assembly

The Turkish Standardisation Institution hosted the CEN-CENELEC Annual Meetings in Istanbul from 10th to 12th June where Riccardo Viaggi (EBC) represented SBS. In addition to holding the separate CEN and CENELEC General Assemblies, a special Joint Session of the General Assemblies was held for the second time ever. During this Joint Session, an exhaustive report of 2013 activities was presented by CEN-CENELEC Director General Elena Santiago.

This meeting was also an opportunity for members and partners of the two organisations to discuss common concerns, such as European policy developments since the entry into force of the 1025/2012 Standardisation Regulation. Specifically, CEN Vice-President for Policy Scott Steedman presented a report, including an important point about SME involvement in the standard making system.

As a concrete result of this report, the Joint General Assemblies approved a resolution inviting CEN and CENELEC members to contribute to the SME-Working Group (next meeting 23 September 2014) to define a set of actions to ensure existing tools (e.g. Toolboxes, SME Helpdesks) are used by SMEs and SME representatives.

Since our association directly takes part in the activities of the SME-WG, we welcome this resolution and confirm that SBS is looking forward to this increased level of contribution by CEN-CENELEC members for the benefit of SME participation in the standardisation process.

Furthermore, we also emphasise the importance of CEN-CENELEC Guide 17 as a concrete tool to draft European standards while taking into account SME needs. We also confirm our readiness regarding a future revision of Guide 17 in order to adapt it, update it and increase its usability. Inspired by the spirit of the above-mentioned resolution, SBS calls on the ESOs and NSOs to distribute and share the best practices of Guide 17 to the standard writers in TC secretariats.

3rd European Standardisation Summit Tackles the Silver Economy

The third European Standardisation Summit took place in Istanbul on 11th June, within the framework of the CEN-CENELEC Annual Meetings. This year, the Summit was devoted to the contribution of standardisation to the development of the "silver economy", the part of the economy geared towards the needs and tastes of aged people.

Ageing is one of the greatest social and economic challenges of the 21st century for Europe. It will affect all EU countries, as by 2025 more than 20% of Europeans will be 65 or over, with a particularly rapid increase in the number of citizens over 80. The fact that people are living longer is a testament to advances in health care and nutrition, and emphasises that the elderly should be seen not as a burden but as a resource. This challenge can also be turned into opportunities: Europe can establish itself as a global leader capable of providing innovative responses to this changing situation.

The 3rd European Standardisation Summit made it clear that, by addressing this market, European Standardisation could take important steps to address those businesses looking into older people's needs. Creating customised services and technologies for the use of the ageing society will soon be necessary. This is an opportunity not to be missed by the European industry. This new economic and industrial sector will greatly promote growth and jobs in the coming years.

The theme 'How standardisation can support the silver economy' covered various items high on the political agenda as well as some items which have been discussed in depth in parallel sessions.

The material of the 3rd Standardisation Summit is available and can be downloaded [here](#)

European Seminar ‘Better Services: How Can European Standards Help?’

SBS was invited to participate in the seminar on horizontal service standards, organised by CEN on 27th May. This is an activity under the Mandate for the development of European horizontal service standards (M/517) by the European Commission to CEN. SBS participated to such exercise for the first time.

In January 2013, the European Commission issued a mandate M/517 addressed to CEN, CENELEC and [ETSI](#) for the programming and development of Horizontal Service Standards. The aim of the Commission is to further integrate the single market and to boost the performance of the service sector as well as to improve the quality of services. Therefore, Mandate M/517 aims at identifying areas for the development of standards for services so as to prioritise the taking into account of the needs of the different stakeholders in the service sector. This mandate follows up on the work carried out under Mandate M/371 (Second programming mandate addressed to CEN in the field of services) and the 2008 CHESS report on the horizontal service standardisation strategy.

An ad-hoc group ‘generic service standards’ was created consisting of the consultancy firm ECORYS and the national standardisation organisations – [AENOR](#) (E), [AFNOR](#) (F), [BSI](#) (UK), [DIN](#) (D), [DS](#) (DK) and [NEN](#) (NL). In the first phase of the mandate, this group is in charge of presenting by the end of 2014 6-7 issues where horizontal service standards could be developed and have an impact. The second phase, developing the standard, will take several years.

CEN also examined the feasibility of taking a horizontal approach to European service standardisation (Mandate M/371). This led to CEN's 2008 'Horizontal European Service Standardisation Strategy' (CHESS Study) which includes:

- ↖ Existence of a horizontal dimension to services;
- ↖ Horizontal service standardisation can facilitate cross-border services in the EU;
- ↖ One suggested horizontal service standard;
- ↖ Topic for consideration for service standards: Design; Information provision to customers; Billing; Complaint & redress; Innovation & review (e.g., complaint handling, billing, etc.)

In the next few months, the group will work on defining the criteria for horizontal service standards and on a more detailed analysis of the topic items. A Conference open to the public will be held in October 2014. Phase 1 will consist of the identification and selection of proposals for standardisation and will end in November 2014.

For more information, please contact [Doris Rabegte](#).

Construction Standardisation Discussed at UEAPME Construction Forum

On 25th April, construction experts met at the UEAPME Construction Forum in Brussels to discuss policy updates in the sector. With several members of SBS indirectly related to the construction sector and with construction-related standardisation issues being the most relevant in numbers, SBS was the most important point of the Forum agenda.

EBC - as Construction Forum chair and SBS founding member - invited Project Manager Sandrine Laurent to present Small Business Standards and give an idea of SBS experts' activities within CEN -CENELEC TCs as well as of the SBS 2014 work programme.

In addition to some SBS members attending the Construction Forum, other European sectorial associations were present and showed interest in the SBS project. Finally, all Forum members supported the initiative to use the Construction Forum as a means to communicate and discuss construction-related standardisation in the biyearly meetings.

EFESME Strategy Meeting – SBS Overview

On 3rd June 2014, [EFESME](#) (European Federation for Elevator Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) organised a Strategy Meeting with its member associations to discuss ongoing and future activities of the Federation. The meeting was attended by EFESME members from Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, France and Portugal. Considering EFESME is one of the eight founding members of our association, a special item on the agenda of the meeting was dedicated to SBS.



The EFESME members had already been informed of the establishment of SBS, but a deeper presentation was needed so as to better demonstrate to the audience the benefits of being an active part of SBS. In order to bring added value to this discussion, EFESME Vice-President Massimo Bezzi – also one of SBS’ two Vice-Presidents – had invited SBS Project Manager Sandrine Laurent to illustrate in detail the SBS legal framework, purposes, activities and goals.

Ms Laurent began by explaining the legal basis for European standardisation and the improvement brought in via the new Regulation 1025/2012. This regulation clearly defines a role for stakeholders in standardisation. After a detailed overview of the SBS structure, Ms Laurent emphasised the activities of our 38 technical experts participating in CEN-CENELEC, ETSI and [ISO](#) technical committees as SBS representatives. The experts’ situation was a sensitive issue for EFESME as this Federation is very active in the standardisation field. Indeed, EFESME is one of the very few SBS members to have managed to appoint two technical experts – respectively in the CEN/TC10 and the ISO/TC178. The lift sector is quite often subject to standardisation – mainly on safety, accessibility, design and energy saving requirements. Moreover, Ms Laurent illustrated the activities and seminars that SBS is organising in collaboration with its members and the National Standardisation Bodies in France, Italy and Germany. EFESME’s French members appeared very interested in participating in this project.

SBS Participates in Standing Committee on Construction

The European Standing Committee on Construction ([SCC](#)) took place in Brussels on 16th June 2014. Gathering national governments' construction experts with stakeholders as observers, this committee oversees the implementation of the construction products regulation (CPR) and takes the relevant decisions on the standardisation mandates and outcome concerning construction products in general.

Construction is, indeed, one of the most affected sectors in the standard making process. Currently 450 harmonised standards and 1500 test method standards are related to construction products. SBS is therefore very active in this field and sits on the Standing Committee on Construction. With the full entry into force of the CPR in July 2013, several aspects of this regulation still need work in implementation at national and European level. Indeed, the European Commission has recently put forward several delegated acts on very important elements, ranging from the format of the declaration of performance to the possibility of uploading it on websites.

From the point of view of SBS, the SCC meeting also covered an important point about article 5 of the regulation on derogations from CE-Marking obligations. The Commission offered its interpretation of this article in a very strict way, a decision inspired by the Guidance Paper M. Further discussions will take place on this article as well as on the other very important sections of the CPR dealing with simplification measures - articles 36 to 38.

Calendar

- 📅 26.06.14 SME training and awareness raising seminar on standardisation - France
- 📅 30.06.14 Expert training and awareness raising on standardisation
- 📅 01.07.14 European seminar on standardisation for SMEs



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Small Business Standards (SBS) is a European non-profit association established in 2013 with the support of the European Commission. SBS is exclusively devoted to representing and defending SME interests in the standardisation system at European and international levels.

Its 21 members are national and European sectoral and inter-professional associations representing SMEs all over Europe. The membership is thus open to all associations matching these criteria.

SBS was created to meet the European Union's aspiration to make the standardisation system as inclusive, transparent and open as possible, by strengthening the participation of "weak" stakeholders such as SMEs.



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