

NewStandards

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SBS Board and General Assembly

On 28th March, SBS held its second General Assembly in Brussels. New members were approved and more experts were appointed, hence reaching the annual goal of representation in the Standardisation Technical Committees. President Gunilla Almgren chaired the General Assembly meeting and welcomed three new members: [IFD](#) (International Federation for the Roofing Trade), [EVH](#) (Europäische Vereinigung des Holzbaus – European Federation of Timber Construction) and [CNA](#) (Confederazione Nazionale dell'Artigianato e della Piccola e Media Impresa – National Confederation of Crafts and SMEs). “*The construction sector is one of the most active throughout our members,*” commented Ms Almgren, “*we are very happy to also contribute to additional sectors in order to add to the establishment of SME friendly standards.*”

The General Assembly also appointed new experts to represent SBS in the Standardisation Technical Committees (TCs). “*All members of the General Assembly are very glad to already have achieved SBS’ first aim to have an SME position in more than 30 TCs related to textile, construction, transport, tourism, electronic appliances, cosmetics, machinery and tools, and finally telecommunications,*” concluded Ms Almgren.

Furthermore, SBS members approved the nomination of two internal auditors, hence adding an internal layer to the external audit already requested by the European Commission. Indeed, based on SBS statutes, the General Assembly was to nominate two auditors – mandated for two years – to check SBS’ accounts and present an annual report. Two associations presented their candidates: Mr Karl-Heinz Schneider from [ZDH](#) and Mr Gert Lanz from [Confartigianato](#), who were both approved. Last but not least, the General Assembly approved [ECAP](#)’s request to appoint Ms Barbara Sorgato as a Board Member.

New Board member

* Barbara Sorgato ([ECAP](#))






New members

- * [IFD](#): International Federation for the Roofing Trade
- * [EVH](#): Europäische Vereinigung des Holzbaus (European Federation of Timber Construction)
- * [CNA](#): Confederazione Nazionale dell’Artigianato e della Piccola e Media Impresa (Italian National Confederation of Crafts and SMEs)

Internal auditors

- * Mr Gert Lanz ([Confartigianato](#))
- * Mr Karl-Heinz Schneider ([ZDH](#))

Calendar

- | | | |
|---|-------------|---|
|  | 22-23.05.14 | ETSI Porvoo 18 Conference |
|  | 27.05.14 | CEN BT (Paris) |
|  | 11-13.06.14 | CEN General Assembly (Istanbul) |
|  | 20.05.14 | SBS Board |
|  | 18.06.14 | CEN Construction Sector Network Conference 2014 |

New approved experts (as of 05.04.14)

- * Ms Barbara Sorgato, CEN/TC 213, WG1 *Cartridge operated hand-held tools - Safety - Cartridge operated fixing and hand marking tools*
- * Mr Sven Schöppe, CEN/TC 248, WG 17 *Textiles - Laundry processed textiles - Biocontamination control system*
- * Mr Detlef Stauch, CEN/TC 128 - *Roof covering products for discontinuous laying & products for wall cl*
- * Mr Neofitos Arathymos, CEN/TC 301 - *Road Vehicles*
- * Mr Frank Kania, CEN/TC 121 - *Welding and allied processes*
- * Mr Stefano Ciliberto, CEN/TC 124, WG 4 - *Timber Structures – connectors*
- * Mr Reinhold Steinmaurer, CEN/TC 124 - *Timber structure*
- * Mr Dieter Kuhlkamp, CEN/TC 250 - *Structural Eurocodes*
- * Mr Nicholas Sridharan, CLC/TC 210, WG 12 - *Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) - future EMC environment and the digital dividend*
- * Mr Reinhold Brunke CEN/TC 392 - *Cosmetic*
- * Mr Heinz Freier, CEN/TC 409 - *Project Committee - Beauty Salon Services – Structure*
- * Mr Franci Ceklin, CEN/TC 67 - *Ceramic tiles*
- * Mr Alex Steinhauser, CLC/TC 82 - *Solar photovoltaic energy systems*

SBS experts in action

As from this issue, NewStandards will include an outline of technical work covered by SBS experts within the different TCs.

For this first overview, Furniture and Lifts TCs are in the spotlight:

* CEN 14749 Furniture – Domestic and kitchen storage units and kitchen-worktops

The expert, Helmut Haybach, attended a meeting which took place on 18th-19th March 2014 in Nürnberg/Germany. During the meeting, the comments given in the inquiry stage were discussed and important issues for SMEs were defined – i.e. the need for a clear definition of free-standing unit, wall-attached unit, wall-hanging unit and wall attachment devices, as these unit definitions correspond to specific testing requirements. Proposals were made which must now be elaborated by two testing institutes and a decision will be made at the next meeting in July.

* CEN 15939 Hardware for Furniture – Strength and loading capacity of wall attached devices

The current standard was completed in 2011 and an amendment procedure in a UAP-procedure (Unique Acceptance Procedure) was decided upon in a later stage. Meanwhile, the corrective actions were completed and the standard will be finalised for formal voting in the next few months.

* Consultation on Product Information for Furniture launched by the European Commission

The EC distributed a questionnaire enquiring about existing regulations on furniture information and about the need for additional and specific information for the consumers as Member States have different requirements. Some consumer associations ask for additional information, like the origin of used wood and wood based panels, health risks for indoor air quality, conditions of labour during the manufacturing process. Mr Haybach is of the opinion that the necessary product information should be limited to direct material information and product relevant safety aspects. Gathering all relevant information concerning the other demanded aspects would be quite cost intensive for SMEs which mainly rely on their suppliers and have low influence on the conditions of the purchased products.

* ISO TC178/WG4 TFC - Safety parameters meeting the global essential safety requirements (GESRS) for lifts

The expert, Luciano Faletto participated to the last updated version of the lift safety codes exercise within the Task Force, to ensure that none of the most recently established requirements may cause specific limitations to SMEs in the lift business. Currently, the TFC is developing a "possible roadmap" to be presented at WG4's April 2014 meeting, after reviewing the summary of the comments. Taking into account the fact that SMEs are mainly based in Europe, it is important that the final document does not deviate from rules established by the European standards, which have been developed to ensure that local SME needs are taken into account for a balanced market as well as for the after-sales activities.

SME friendly standards for SME innovation to market

[UEAPME](#) Secretary General Peter Faross, representing SBS at the EU Standardisation Working Group 'Operational Aspects and Strategy' meeting on 4th March, emphasised the special importance to have SME friendly standards so as to bring SME innovation to the market. European Commission and Member States representatives, ESOs, NSOs as well as members of the Working Group were informed about SBS objectives, i.e. representing the interests of SMEs in the standardisation process at European level, raising awareness of SMEs on standardisation and motivating SMEs to participate in the standardisation process.

Standardisation Stakeholders: 1st coordination meeting

On 27th March, DG Enterprise's standards unit organised the first "Coordination Meeting with Stakeholders Representation in European Standardisation", chaired by Mr Hein Bollens – Acting Head of the standards unit. One of the main goals of this first meeting was to get the standardisation stakeholders to know each other better and to find common ground for cooperation and exchange of experiences and best practices. Mr Bollens underlined the importance of this coordination meeting in order to reach a coherent approach in the frame of Regulation 1025/2012 and its provisions concerning Annex III organisations, as well as to improve the inclusiveness of the European standardisation process. To start with, each organisation made a presentation about their work, structure, financing instruments, goals and priorities for the future; participants were then able to ask questions and clarifications.

This was followed by a discussion on work efficiency with ESOs. Participants agreed on the four crucial points: i) specific membership status for Annex III organisations, ii) raising awareness on the role and tasks of the Annex III organisations, iii) alignment of working methods and governing rules, and higher level of democracy and transparency.

The meeting was concluded by a presentation concerning reporting requirements for the stakeholder organisations receiving EU funding, as foreseen by the Regulation, and a suggested plenary meeting in June at [EETA](#) to constructively exchange views and positions between stakeholder organisations and the three ESOs.

Independent review of EU Standardisation System

In the context of the independent review of the European Standardisation System (ESS) requested by the EC DG Enterprise, Ernst&Young met with SBS to discuss the new association's approach towards the Standardisation world. Ernst&Young asked about the standardisation challenges encountered with a special focus on SMEs, the involvement of SMEs in the standardisation process and if challenges had already been identified at national and European levels. SBS was able to provide general information about SBS experts, nominated in December 2013, and about its role towards Standardisation bodies. Some examples were provided based on NORMAPME experiences.

SBS highlights the relevance to meet with SME representatives, namely SBS members associations, and how their unique position may be integrated in the review. The Ernst & Young experts invited SBS to share case studies at the second phase of the review, planned April-May, this year.

SME Helpdesk: Maximising SME support

SBS Project Manager Sandrine Laurent and Riccardo Viaggi ([EBC](#)) attended the [CEN-CENELEC](#) Network of SME Helpdesks' first meeting on 10th March, organised to maximise support to SMEs. Ms Laurent underlined SBS' priorities for 2014 and 2015 as enabling SMEs to be better positioned in the European standardisation process. *"There is also a serious urgency in taking out an assessment of SME needs so as to tackle the areas more adequate to SMEs and their position in the standardisation world."* The importance of national focal point to better grasp national aspects of SMEs challenges is essential to ensure adequate response from all involved actors, Standardisation bodies as well as SME representatives were the major conclusion point of SBS' presentation. National members of the Helpdesk were pleased to get information related to the new call for experts and to the development of the association.

SME Working Group reviews SME focused activities

On 10th April, SBS Project Manager Sandrine Laurent participated in the CEN-CENELEC SME Working Group during which a review of SME focussed activities was presented through its two Task forces (Task Force 1 'Communication towards SMEs' report & Task Force 2 'Trade associations support to SMEs' report). It was a good opportunity for SBS to position itself for the benefit of its members and of SMEs, including the integration of SBS role and activities. The meeting raised 58 recommendations of CEN-CENELEC towards SMEs, among which e-learning tools, update of the Guide 17 and online tools. For this reason, SBS is looking forward to the upcoming activities in reviewing and updating the content and the relevance of Guide 17. Such an activity has been proposed for 2015. The decision to create a specific task force on SME priorities was put forward and the first meeting was scheduled for July.

CEN BT: First CEN Technical Board for SBS

On 1st and 2nd April, SBS attended the CEN Technical Board (CEN BT) for the first time. SBS - as a CEN partner and Annex III stakeholder organisation recognised by Regulation 1025/2012 - has been and will be regularly invited to the BT meetings in order to express the point of view of SMEs.

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

The meeting is a useful opportunity for NSOs to exchange best practices and receive feedback and reports on European standardisation on important topics, such as energy management, construction, machines, health services and protective equipment.

Taking the floor at the meeting, SBS had the occasion to remind and highlight the importance of CEN-CENELEC Guide 17 on writing standards while taking into account the needs of SMEs. This Guide is of fundamental importance and its content must guide standard writers and CEN-CENELEC management bodies in limiting unnecessary burden for SMEs using and implementing standards.

Regulation 1025/2012: first year assessment

DIN organised, on 3rd April, a seminar on the "Regulation on European Standardization – The First Year", where national standardisation organisations in particular, UNI (Italy), BSI (UK), ASI (Austria) and DIN (Germany) shared their experience of the first year following Reg. 1025/2012, implemented at national level. The European Commission, as well as the European Parliament were also active in the debate. Critical points of discussion were efficiency of its implementation, transparency and inclusiveness of SMEs. SBS participated to this first year assessment which was an opportunity to discuss potential collaboration at national level with NSOs. A DIN Progress report with regard to the Standardisation Package has been made available to the audience.

SBS meets with American standards organisation

SBS Project Manager Sandrine Laurent and Luc Hendrickx met with [ASTM](#) President James Thomas and Vice President Thomas O'Brien. During the meeting the work of both organisations was presented, as well as the SME involvement in the ASTM process. The priorities and concerns of both organisations in relation to the ongoing TTIP negotiations (Trans Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) on regulatory convergence and standards were discussed. Finally, they exchanged views on possible ways of cooperating and discussed possible issues of common interest.

ASTM International is the American Society for Testing and Materials – globally recognised leader in the development and delivery of international voluntary consensus standards.

Better regulation for better standards

Luc Hendrickx (UEAPME) spoke on 14th April in Paris at the [OECD](#) International Business Dialogue 2014 “Better regulation to enhance trade” organised in partnership with BIAC (the business and industry advisory committee to the OECD). During his intervention, Mr. Hendrickx stressed that there is no doubt standards can enhance trade. However, in order to avoid standards being a barrier to trade they need to be SME friendly. To achieve this, the creation of SBS and the support given by the European Commission can certainly be considered as good practice to be followed in other OECD countries as it allows SMEs to fully participate in the international and European standardisation process.

CEN Construction network

Construction is one of the most affected sectors in the standards-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, which was set up by the Construction Products Regulation and has been invited to join the CEN Construction Task Force.

About UEAPME Construction Forum

The UEAPME Construction Forum meets twice a year (usually in April and October) with a full agenda to inform and discuss the most important policy dossiers regarding construction crafts and SMEs, as of 2008 the European Builders Confederation (EBC) has been chairing the Forum. Several European sectoral associations and national horizontal associations from UEAPME members take part in the Forum, which adopts joint positions, replies to consultations and carries out joint activities.

SBS presented at UEAPME Construction Forum

On 24th April 2014, UEAPME members from the construction sector met to speak about the latest developments of relevant legislative issues and projects in the UEAPME Construction Forum. They also discussed the involvement of construction SMEs in the standard making system. SBS Project Manager Sandrine Laurent presented SBS to the Construction Forum participants for the first time and explained SBS experts' activities in the CEN-CENELEC Technical Committees and the work programme for 2014. The presentation was then followed by a discussion about the main concerns for the construction sector in standardisation. With the creation of SBS, the UEAPME Construction Forum will also become a platform to debate the latest developments in the standards-making system and to inform on SBS activities.

Corrigendum of last issue: Relations with the Societal Stakeholders

Small Business Standards (SBS) is already working with other European Standardisation Stakeholders. In particular, SBS established a very positive cooperation with [ANEC](#), [ETUI](#) and [ECOS](#), which represent different interests of society (consumers, trade unions and environmental protection). SBS and other Societal Stakeholders negotiated the partnership agreement with the European Standardisation Organisations. The next steps of this cooperation will involve an exchange of Best Practices for the Toolboxes for Societal Stakeholders and 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.

www.sbs-sme.eu



The work conducted under SBS is mandated and financed by the European Commission