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DECEMBER 2016



SBS appoints new Vice-President and diversifies its presence in Technical Committees

On the 1st of December, the Board appointed Riccardo Viaggi, Secretary General of the European Builders Confederation, as the new Vice-President of SBS. Mr Viaggi will put his thorough understanding of standardisation to the service of the members.

On another note, the General Assembly appointed eleven new experts to take up activities in various sectors on behalf of SBS in 2017, thereby enabling SBS to strengthen and to diversify its presence in construction, machinery, occupational health and safety, ergonomics, transport systems and navigation, and management services.



SBS continues its awareness raising efforts

Several awareness raising events have been held as the year drew to a close. A training course on the European Standardisation System introduced the participants to the world of standards and the stakes for business as a result. Speakers included representatives from CEN-CENELEC, the European Commission, and business stakeholders.



Against the background of the current momentum on services, SBS organised a roundtable discussion on services where representatives of various sectors discussed and exchanged views on the standardisation of services in their respective sector. Findings from the meeting include the fact that SBS does not see the need to develop service standards at European level as services are, generally, more individual and tailor-made for local markets. Furthermore, standards should not be used to implement policies, and it is of the utmost importance that the market relevance of standards is properly assessed. Finally, SBS called for improved consultation mechanisms as they are vital to the development of market relevant and "SME-friendly" standards.



Finally, SBS also organised its fifth and last national seminar of the year in Dublin. As in previous editions, the purpose of the event was to reach out to trade associations and companies so as to raise awareness about the opportunities and value of standards for smaller businesses. For example, the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) shared some findings from the 2016 CEBR report which showed that 17% of Irish productivity growth (GDP) could be attributed to standards or that standards supported the creation of 900 permanent full-time jobs in Ireland annually since the 1960s.

The seminar was also an opportunity for Dolores Murray from the Association of Body Modification Artists in Ireland to share her experience in the standardisation process and for Siobhan O'Connor, Managing Director at Codex Office Solutions, to explain the implementation process from a company perspective.

The European Telecommunication Standards Institute (ETSI) nominated Vladimir Poulkov as its new Vice-Chairman

Prof. Vladimir Poulkov was elected Vice-Chairman of the ETSI General Assembly representing the user members of the Institute. The candidature of Prof. Poulkov was put forward by SBS.

Prof. Poulkov has more than 30 years of teaching, research and industrial experience in the field of Telecommunications. Until 2015, he was Dean of the Faculty of Telecommunications in Sofia. He founded, and is, the Head of the telecom labs at Sofia University, namely the Electromagnetic Compatibility of Communications Systems R&D Centre and the Teleinfrastructure Laboratory. He also runs his own telecommunications engineering SME, Balkanbit Ltd, and chairs the Bulgarian Cluster of Telecommunications.

CONSTRUCTION

Position on balustrade kits and railing kits

SBS recently released a [position paper](#) on the European Commission's work on balustrade kits and [railing kits](#) in connection with the Construction Products Regulation (CPR).

The European Commission consulted Member States and relevant stakeholders on the applicable system(s) for assessment and verification of the constancy of performance (AVCP) of balustrade kits and railing kits intended for use in construction works solely to prevent falls pursuant to the CPR. SBS proposes to apply a combination of systems to be selected depending on the nature of the construction works. This would make it possible to differentiate between products to be installed in public and private buildings.

On 9 December, during the meeting of the Advisory Group on Construction (see article below), the Commission recommended opting exclusively for AVCP system 4 for essential characteristics of

balustrades and railings, except for reaction to fire. Several Member States opposed this proposal and asked the Commission to reconsider a combination of AVCP systems.

Delegated act: classification for volatile organic compounds emissions

At its last meeting, the Advisory Group on Construction (9 December) discussed the most recent developments relating to delegated acts to be issued under the CPR. In addition to the delegated act on balustrade and railing kits (see article above), SBS has recently contributed to the delegated act relating to the classification of performance of construction products and their emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) into indoor air. The current proposal defines classes for the performance of construction products based on four essential characteristics: i. sum of VOC emissions; ii. [EU- Lowest Concentrations of Interest \(LCI\) ratio](#); iii. formaldehyde emissions; and iv. carcinogenic substances emissions.

Construction SMEs in the timber sector view this proposal as too stringent for their products. The proposal does not take adequate account of the natural behaviour of timber construction products concerning the release of VOC.

CEN TC 127 - Fire doors

The German and UK industries recently expressed their concerns to the European Commission regarding the extended application of results from fire resistance tests (EXAP methods) currently in the EN 16034 for establishing the performance of products on the basis of test results obtained for similar products of different geometric dimensions and details. This issue will be discussed in CEN TC 127, with a view to the necessary improvement of the EXAP methods, which, if implemented, can significantly reduce costs for fire door manufacturers who usually have a large line of product models in various sizes.

ICT

SBS Forum on ICT standards: SMEs to become setters of standards

On behalf of SBS, DIGITAL SME organised the inaugural [SBS Forum on ICT standards](#) for SMEs on 9 December at IHK Köln (Cologne Chamber of Commerce and Industry), with the support of BITMI, the German federal association of IT small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Forum is a European platform for discussing and sharing information about ICT standards activities that are relevant to SMEs for users and setters of standards. The launch of the Forum was an opportunity for SMEs to learn from other companies, large and small, that are successful in making strategic use of standardisation. Speakers included experts from industry, such as IBM, Ericsson, QUALCOMM and TIM, as well as representatives of SMEs and the European Commission.

Two panel sessions addressed case studies on the Internet of Things (IoT) and on the exploitation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) through standards.

[Watch the video of the event](#)

FUTURE EVENTS

18.1 - Technical platform on CPR simplified procedures for SMEs



Small Business Standards (SBS) is a European non-profit association established in 2013 with the support of the European Commission devoted to representing and defending Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' (SMEs) interests in the standardisation system at European and international levels. Its 22 members are national and European sectoral and inter-professional associations representing SMEs in 32 European countries.

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