

JBCE's additional comments to the public consultation on Standardisation Regulation 1025/2012

Introduction

JBCE appreciates the opportunity given by the European Commission to provide input into the evaluation of Regulation 1025/2012.

To complement our contribution to the online questionnaire, we would like to further clarify some of the responses we have provided.

JBCE is of opinion that, overall, the current Regulation provides a clear and stable legal framework for the development of standards in line with the European standardisation principles of openness, inclusiveness, transparency, and consensus.

We consider that the provisions of Regulation 1025 fulfil the Regulation's objectives and remain future-proof to deliver standards to support the EU strategy for a green, digital, and resilient single market. JBCE members believe that in this context, the principles and the content of the Regulation do not require any change.

As an alternative to revising the existing legal foundation of the European Standardisation System (ESS) as outlined in the Regulation, JBCE would like to suggest focusing efforts on resolving issues related to its current implementation, as outlined below.

✓ The timely citation of Harmonised Standards in support of EU policies and legislation.

According to JBCE members' observations, the implementation procedures defined by the European Commission regarding the development and citation of Harmonised Standards since 2016 have heavily affected the efficiency of the system by creating some blocking points affecting the developed standards approval timelines and thus slowing down the citation of Harmonised Standards and creating legal uncertainty for companies doing business in the EEA common market. In addition, the functioning of the EU Single Market could be affected. JBCE members believe that the current implementation process needs to be improved to remedy this situation.

✓ Better alignment with international standards.

When adopting international standards as European Harmonised Standards, the procedures of the European Commission make it very difficult to implement the Vienna and Frankfurt agreements

correctly without the need for common modifications to European standards, despite the engagement of the European Union in the WTO TBT and the EU-Japan trade agreements on the convergence of European standards with international standards.

This leads to delays in the adoption of an international standard in Europe, as resolving the bottlenecks created by EU modifications to international standards requires additional time and efforts on the part of experts delegated by industry and other stakeholders to the European Technical Committees responsible for standards development.

JBCE would like to emphasise that aligning European standards with international standards would not only enable European industry to sustain a competitive edge, but would also avoid additional barriers when accessing global markets. If European standards deviate from international ones, or their development timelines are not synchronised, this would generally result in additional costs for companies wanting to access the EEA market compared with other regions.

JBCE would like to reiterate the importance of aligning European standards with international standards, in accordance with the WTO TBT agreement and bilateral EU-Japan agreements. This fundamental principle for the competitiveness of European industry in a global market should be further emphasised in the Vademecum and be carefully considered when assessing a harmonised standard developed in a parallel process with an international standardisation body.

✓ Importance of inclusiveness and international collaboration

JBCE members would like to emphasise the fundamental principle of inclusion that citizens should not be discriminated against because of the origin of their employer throughout the European standardisation process. This should include ESOs, NSOs, and sectoral expert groups.

If an exclusion mechanism is deemed necessary to prevent undue influence incompatible with EU principles such as freedom and democracy, JBCE members suggest the establishment of a transparent mechanism to address policy violations committed by representatives of different organisations, as opposed to a non-inclusive approach targeting the nationalities of individuals or the headquarters of companies.

The diversity and expertise of the stakeholders involved (e.g. large global companies, SMEs, societal stakeholders and public entities) allows a diversity of views and interests to be reflected in consensus on a balanced specification. To enable the development of market-driven and future-proof standards, industry and other stakeholders should be able to contribute to the development of these standards by sharing best practices, knowledge and international expertise through the standards.

ABOUT JBCE

Founded in 1999, the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE) is a leading European organization representing the interests of over 100 multinational companies of Japanese parentage active in Europe. Our members operate across a wide range of sectors, including information and communication technology, electronics, chemicals, automotive, machinery, wholesale trade, precision instruments, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and glass products.

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