Towards better participation in Standardisation

ETUC standardisation newsletter - October 2020

Dear colleagues and friends,

The ETUC is pleased to send you its newsletter on standardisation that will keep you regularly updated on the ETUC's activities in the field of standardisation. It will deliver information on European and international standardisation direct to your desktop. If you wish additional information and/or documents related to the news mentioned below, feel free to contact us at standards@etuc.org.

Better understanding the origins of contaminated air in airplanes

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the cabin air quality on aircraft came in the spotlight. Airlines claim that that their cabin air is constantly monitored and

free of germs. It should not be a cause for not flying. However, little is said on the ongoing toxicity of cabin air. The problem relating to contaminated cabin air on aircrafts is well documented. The issues of contaminated air arise principally from the bleed-air system (air supplied from the engine/auxiliary power unit compressor (APU)), which feeds the environmental control system of the cabin air. By virtue of the design and maintenance of these bleed-air systems, oil and hydraulic fluid fumes can contaminate the ventilation air onboard.

The draft Standard (prEN 17436) travels toward the next step of approval, before publication. Thanks to the work contributions of the ETUC, ETF, ITF , GCAQE and other stakeholders, the new draft standard on aircraft cabin air quality now includes measures to prevent exposure to engine oil and hydraulic fumes onboard aircraft during commercial flights.

To better understand the issues around the contaminated air in airplanes, the Global Cabin Air Quality Executive (GCAQE) supported by the European Transport workers Federation (ETF) and ETUC, is organising a series of webinars. Join the below webinars, free of charge:

The flight safety aspects of contaminated air.

- 3 November 2020 - 1830 - 2030 UK time
- 4 November 2020 - 0900 - 1100 UK time

Contaminated air - An Australian perspective

- 17 November 2020 - 0900 - 1100 UK time

Contaminated air - A UK perspective

- 18 November 2020 - 1400 - 1600 UK time

Contaminated air - A Canadian perspective

- 19 November 2020 - 1800 - 2000 UK time

Contaminated air - A film makers perspective

- 25 November 2020 - 1830 - 2030 UK time
- 26 November 2020 - 0900 - 1100 UK time

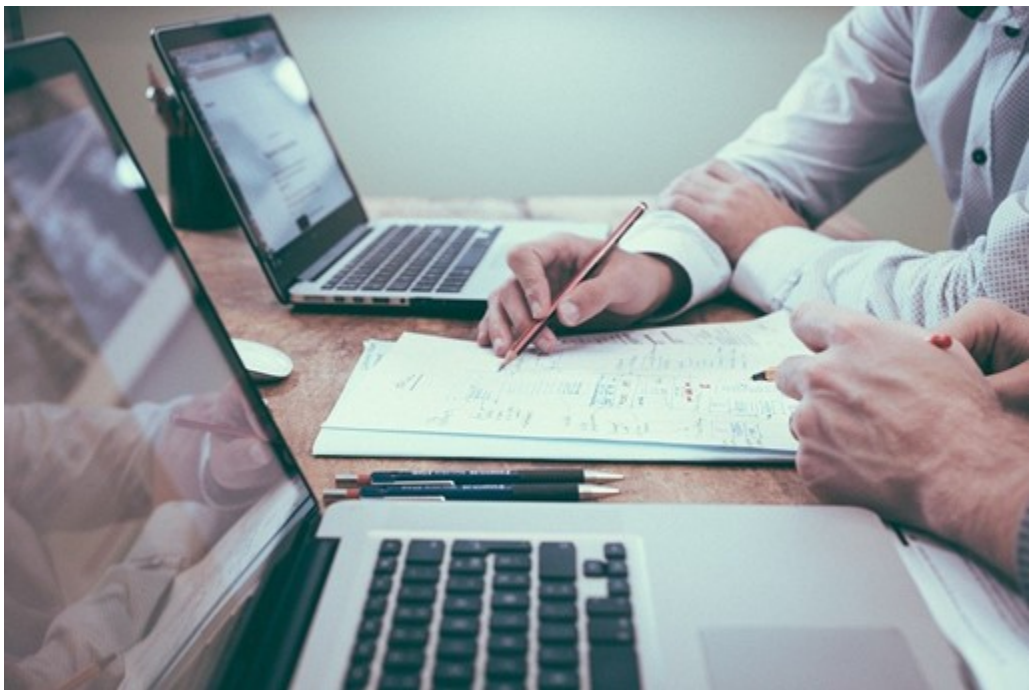
Contaminated air for beginners

- 2 December 2020 - 1830 - 2030 UK time
- 3 December 2020 - 0900 - 1100 UK time

The medical consequences of exposure to contaminated air

- 15 December 2020 - 1830 - 2030 UK time
- 16 December 2020 - 0900 - 1100 UK time

Free ETUC online English course for trade unionists working in standardisation



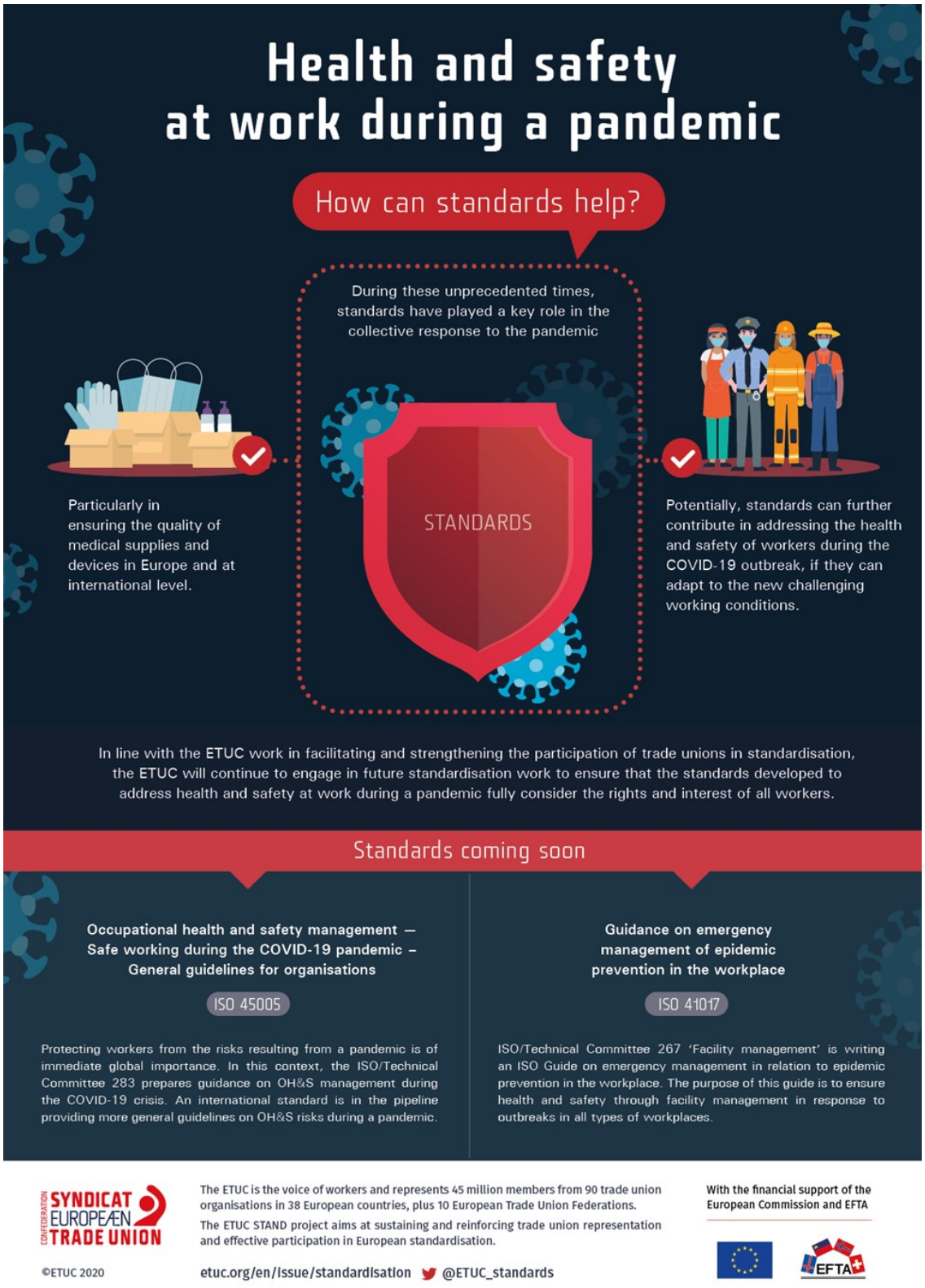
ETUC organises a free online English Language course for trade unionists working in standardisation. It will take place the week starting 16 November 2020.

The course is split into lessons for beginners and for intermediate users. The live sessions of 3 hours take place twice (beginners) or three days (intermediate) per week. A more detailed timetable is available upon request.

Similarly to last year, the English language training is a course for trade unionists working in standardisation. The course is tailor-made for trade unions, with intensive training, focusing on the English that is used during (standardisation) meetings.

Should you be interested in following the course, please send an email to Katrin Behnke (kbehnke@etuc.org) by Wednesday, 28 October the latest. Please indicate your name, your organisation, your country and whether you wish to participate at the beginners or intermediate level.

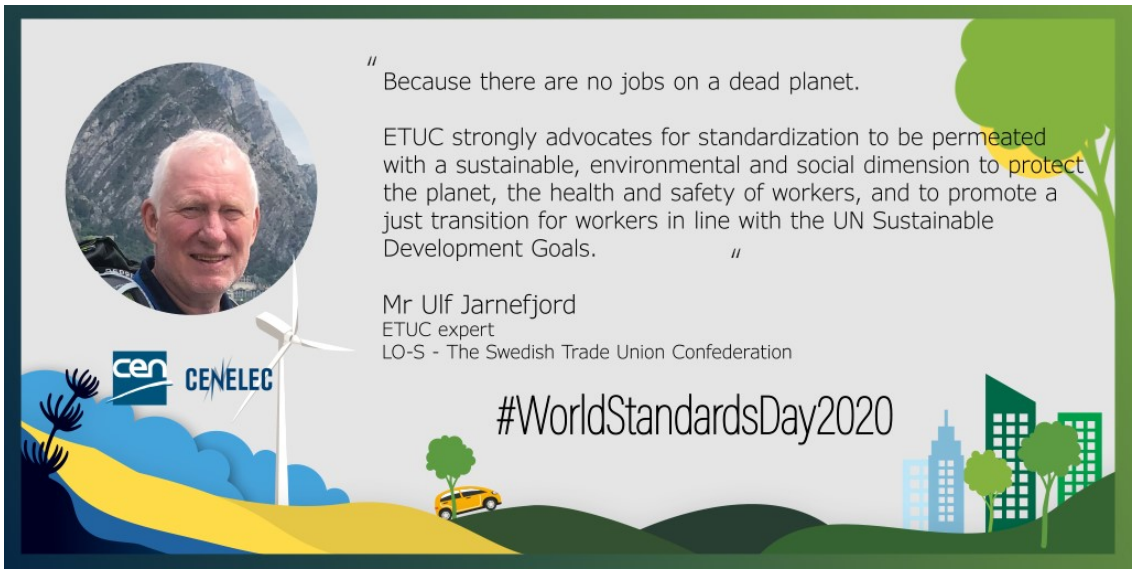
World standards day – stay safe at work during the pandemic



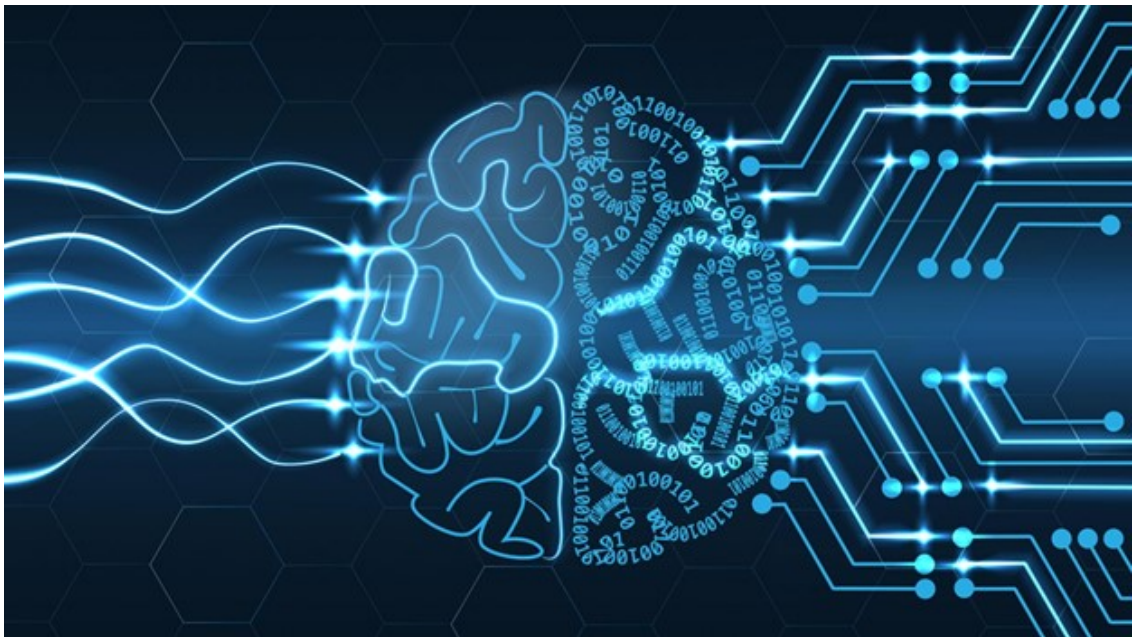
ETUC STAND celebrated the World Standards Day 2020 on 14 October! To mark the occasion, we launched a [new infographic "Health and Safety at work during a pandemic: how can standards help?"].

Standards have played a key role in the collective response to the pandemic, especially in ensuring the quality of medical supplies and devices in Europe and at international level. There are standards being developed to address the health and safety of workers under the new challenging working conditions. In line with the ETUC work facilitating and strengthening the participation of trade unions in standardisation, we will continue to engage in future work to ensure that the standards developed to address health and safety at work during a pandemic fully take into account the rights and interest of all workers.

ETUC STAND also joined CEN-CENELEC in their celebration, which dedicated this year to *Protecting the planet with standards*.



Artificial intelligence: The final roadmap towards its standardisation in Europe



At the European level, the CEN-CENELEC Focus Group (FG) on Artificial Intelligence (AI) finalised in september 2020 the Roadmap on Artificial Intelligence Standardisation, in September 2020. The ETUC STANDardisation experts have contributed to the preparation of the Roadmap, which was submitted for CEN/Technical Board approval until 6 October. ETUC welcomes the Roadmap and agrees with the identified themes, which are the following: Accountability, Quality, Data for AI, Security & privacy, Ethics, Engineering of AI systems, Safety of AI systems.

The document analyses the existing standardisation activities addressing AI, which essentially take place at international level in IEEE and the ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee 1 Sub Committee 42. Then, based on the mapping exercise and further considering the European specificities, it establishes a list of themes for European standardisation, grouped in the above-mentioned themes. Finally, the FG makes a few recommendations to CEN-CENELEC, namely to set up a dedicated CEN-CENELEC group (possibly a Joint Technical Committee) to address European AI standardisation. An initial proposal for a scope for such a technical group should be prepared by the AI Focus Group before the end of 2020.

Webinar organised in collaboration with CEN on the VA

The ETUC STANDardisation was happy to organise and host in close collaboration with CEN a webinar on the technical cooperation between CEN & ISO: Understanding the Vienna Agreement, which took place on 6 October 2020.

The webinar was a great success gathering participants from trade unions, national standardisation bodies and other stakeholders. Everyone working closely to or on the fringes of standardisation is somewhat familiar with the Vienna Agreement, but how it actually translates into practice is not so straightforward. The webinar was an opportunity to shed some light on how the Agreement is put in practice. It further gave the opportunity to ETUC to introduce itself to a wide audience and raise awareness on trade union participation in both European and international standardisation.

ISO user survey on ISO 45001:2018 ‘Occupational health and safety management’

ISO 45001 is an international standard for occupational health and safety management systems. It was published in 2018. The standard can be seen as a series of minimum requirements which an employer's management system must comply with to achieve certification. Although certain standards, in particular machinery standards, do have some semi-legal status in Europe, ISO 45001 has no legal status at all. This standard also does not guarantee that the employer is complying with health and safety regulations, or any other legal requirements and an employer cannot rely on achieving ISO 45001 certification as a way of automatically fulfilling their legal obligations.

The ISO Technical Committee 283 'Occupational Health & Safety Management', which is in charge of the upcoming review of ISO 45001, has now launched its user survey to collect user views on ISO 45001. It's outcome will inform how ISO will approach a revision of the standard. If you have any remarks or observations, feel free to let ISO know. The deadline is 1 November.

ETUC also published its own Trade Union Guide to ISO 45001, with helpful provisions for workers and their representatives should this standard be implemented in their company or organisation. The ETUC is also involved in the work of ISO/AWI 45002 'Occupational health and safety management — General guidelines for the implementation of ISO 45001:2018'.

One published and one downgraded - European standards on healthcare

A new European Standard, titled EN 17398:2020 ‘Patient involvement in health care - Minimum requirements for person-centred care’, was published.

This document specifies minimum requirements for patient involvement in health care services with the aim to create favourable structural conditions for person-centred care. It is applicable for use before, during and after the actual care that is provided by the care personnel. This document is also applicable to strategic quality assurance and quality improvement, procurement, educational and supervisory purposes and as a guiding document for research and development projects in the field of intervention and implementation of person-centred care.

Another healthcare standard in preparation was not approved. This was the draft standard on Quality of care and support for older persons, called prEN 17500, aimed at providing support to the staff in creating an accessible and supportive physical and psychosocial environment that provides the opportunity

for maintaining function and meaningful activities for older people as well as ensuring a good work environment for the staff.

Considering the insufficient support at the recent commenting stage for the draft to progress to a European Standard, the CEN Technical Committee 449 decided to downgrade the work to a Technical Specification. The next step is that another round of comments for the new deliverable will take place, allowing all members to give opinion or comment on the new type of deliverable.

The Technical Specification is announced and made available at national level, but conflicting national standards may continue to exist. A Technical Specification is not permitted to conflict with an EN. A Technical Specification is reviewed every three years at the latest.

ETUC has followed the development of both standard and contributed actively to this work.

New standards on platform workers in the pipeline?

Workers in the online platform economy often report extreme levels of control, precarious working conditions and no health and safety protection. ETUC is committed to defend the rights of workers in the platform economy and to promote respect of workers' rights and transparency through European legislation.

ETUC also follows the work of ISO/Technical Committee 324, which is developing standards in the area of the sharing economy. Up until the end of October, ISO is proposing to work on two new standards.

The first proposal, ISO/PWI 42501 'Sharing economy -- General trustworthiness and safety requirements for digital platform', will specify requirements for functions of the platforms which also relate to work (registration of users and providers, monitoring of transactions, payment processing, reviews, redress and complaint handlings). Even though the bias is towards consumers' interest, it touches upon elements of work.

The second proposal, ISO/PWI 42502 'Sharing economy - Guidelines for provider verification on digital platform', aims at setting up obligations to "providers" (abusively including workers) to protect consumers and platforms, however with neither obligations nor liability at all towards platforms.

Should you wish to put forward your views on the proposals, please do not hesitate to contact ETUC or your national standardisation body before the end of October.

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