

ETUC standardisation newsletter - April/May 2021

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.

The ETUC stands for clean cabin air

DANGER
Contains Asbestos Fibers.

Since 1991, the use of **ASBESTOS IS BANNED IN THE EU**, because it threatens workers' health and causes severe lung diseases

Yet in 2021, crew members still **BREATHE INTOXICATED AIR** on planes!

ETUC STANDS FOR CLEAN CABIN AIR

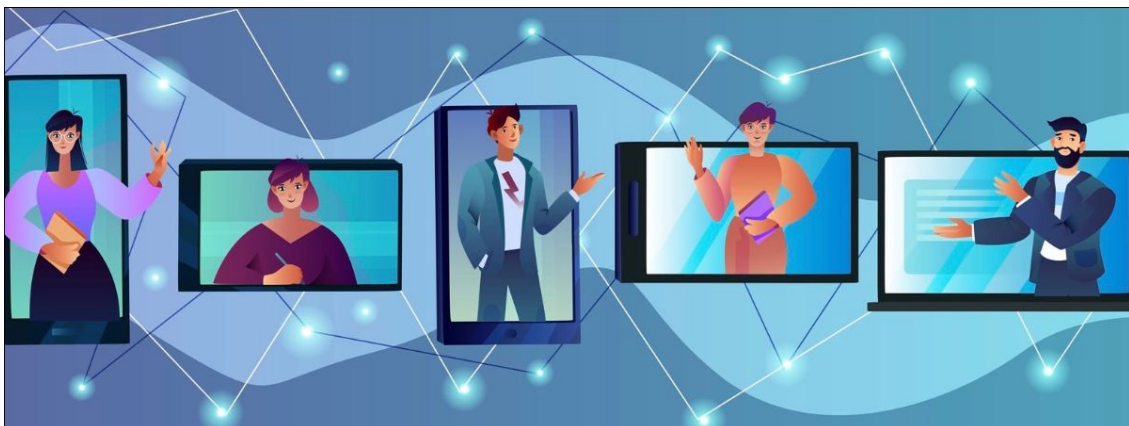
CONFEDERATION **SYNDICAT EUROPEEN TRADE UNION**

On 23 March, the ETUC organised a webinar on the draft European standard for “Cabin Air Quality” in airplanes. Over 60 participants registered to the webinar aimed at raising awareness of the contaminated cabin air on aircrafts. The event also earmarked the launch of a film translated in over 15 Languages,

which explains simply the complex issue of contaminated cabin air. The film together with more related information are available at [this dedicated webpage](#). The webinar coincided with the start of the second public enquiry on the draft standard (prEN 17436) open until mid-May. The draft standard pulls together the disparate nature of current aviation standards on cabin air quality into one rule-making document, that energises and innovates current Regulation. The standard also addresses recommendations from European and international aircraft accident investigation agencies intended to prevent pilot impairment caused by breathing oil fumes onboard.

The draft standard also supports the overall vision of the 'Next Generation EU', delivering access to funding for the rapid development of engineering and operational solutions. It further sets the conditions for European Aviation to provide a world-class flight experience, whilst delivering on employee and consumer expectations. Once adopted, the standard will not only aid the Regulator (EASA) in its enforcement role, but it presents an opportunity for innovation, whilst supporting the obligations of the Single Market; it is a watershed moment for European Aviation Safety. The new standard will provide a world-beating reference on how to manage the issue of contaminated air on aircraft and not only stands above current Standards Regulation, but it will deliver continued stakeholder consultation, innovation, solutions and benefits for all.

Swedish national awareness event on standardisation



[LO-Sweden](#) and the ETUC are organising on 20 May an online national awareness event about standardisation. The main objective of the event is to inform the Swedish trade unions about standard setting activities in Sweden, and beyond, and to raise awareness about the importance for trade union

participation.

The event will provide the opportunity for Swedish trade unions to meet with the Swedish Standardisation bodies SIS and SEK, as well as with the European Commission to discuss the impact of standards on workers, their link with legislation and to share best practices for increased trade union participation.

For additional information and to register to the event, contact tina.nordling@lo.se

A new "social management system" fast track standard, in the pipeline



BSI, the British Standards Institute, has started to elaborate a Public Available Specification (PAS) for a social management system. The PAS will specify the requirements for social management systems and specific criteria for social performance, applicable to any organisation that processes or manufacturers consumer products.

The PAS content will be inspired by the [Sustainable Supply Initiative \(SSCI\)](#) benchmarking requirements of the [Consumer Goods Forum](#), and is aimed to form the basis for auditing and certification activities. In its adoption process, BSI plans to hold in May/July 2021. a public consultation on the draft content of the PAS, The PAS 24000 is to be published by the end of 2021. It is expected that, following its publication, the PAS 24000 will be introduced to ISO and be turned into an international ISO standard.

The ETUC calls upon ISO not to elaborate "social" standards



Standards are important for the European economy as they play an essential role in the single market strategy. Standards have been used to increase the efficiency of products, integrate markets, drive technological development and further innovation. Although ISO, as a private organisation, has proven a suitable platform to facilitate the development of technical standards to underpin the single market, it is now considering elaborating a new collection of standards addressing social responsibility.

In 2020, the ETUC, together with the International Trade Union Organisation ([ITUC](#)), the United Nation's International Labour Organisation ([ILO](#)), the International Organisation of Employers ([IOE](#)) among others, have already expressed their disagreement with such practices. The ISO structure, processes and underlying business model are not appropriate to address socio-political issues including those related to social responsibility. Most issues surrounding social responsibility involve moral and political values that can only be credibly decided by highly representative and inclusive processes. The ISO/Technical Management Board will evaluate the situation again at its meeting in June 2021. Therefore, in a recent letter, the ETUC has re-issued its position to ISO and its Technical Management Board.

New Framework Partnership Agreement (2021-2024) concluded with European Commission and EFTA



The ETUC has concluded with the European Commission (EC) and EFTA a new Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for the period 2021-2024. In June 2020, the EC launched a “call for proposals” to establish an FPA with a European organisation representing social interests in European standardisation activities. The ETUC responded to the call and submitted a proposal. Following an evaluation and assessment process, the ETUC was granted with the FPA to represent, as of January 2021, the social interests in the European standardisation activities, and as such will continue with the activities it has carried out as part of the previous Agreement.

New - ETUC to work on standards addressing climate change



The ETUC attended on 22 March, the kick-off meeting of the newly created CEN/TC 467 'Climate change'. CEN/TC 467 was set up to address standardisation in the field of both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, including related social and economic aspects. It aims to develop frameworks, requirements and guidance to support the EU policies on climate change, in the perspective of a full implementation of the EU Green Deal.

At the meeting, the ETUC expert underlined the importance for trade unions to participate in this standardisation work as climate change will profoundly impact the world of work, starting with potentially detrimental impacts over human-health and working conditions. Although it is important that standards addressing climate change make reference to social issues, including working conditions and working environment, the ETUC stressed the need to remain vigilant as the latter fall primarily under the remit of social partners and relevant authorities, and should not be covered in detail in standards.

The ETUC looks forward to participating to the next CEN/TC 467 meeting in June.

The ETUC is invited to a high level event on "The impact of standardisation in the European economic recovery"



ETUC Confederal Secretary, Ms. Isabelle Schömann, is invited to participate to an event entitled ‘The impact of standardisation in the European economic recovery’ organised by the Portuguese Institute for Quality (IPQ)- the National Standardization Body - in the framework of the Portuguese presidency of the European Union. The event will be opened by the Portuguese Minister of State, the Economy and Digital Transition as well as by Commissioner Thierry Breton, in charge of the Internal Market. The event takes place on Tuesday 11 May, from 10h00 to 13h00 (Brussels time).

Standards and sustainable development goals



The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address global challenges including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The SDGs cover several sectors for which CEN and CENELEC are already developing European Standards, and it is by following the overall ambitions of these goals, that the community of CEN and CENELEC consciously contribute to the practice of sustainability and to developing technical long-term solutions for society.

In this context, CEN & CENELEC have set up a project, the CEN & CENELEC Steering Group SDGs, aiming at introducing a more systematic approach to addressing SDGs. The Steering Group, to which the ETUC participates, met for the first time in February and serves as a platform where members share experiences and prepare a systemic way to consider SDGs during the development of European standards.

The outcome of the project will be the elaboration of a methodology for the mapping of CEN-CENELEC standards against the UN SDGs. It will also provide internal guidance for technical bodies and external communication and engagement with other organisations.

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