

## ETUC standardisation newsletter - November 2022

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](mailto:standards@etuc.org).

### ETUC speaks at the 2022 EUROSHNET conference



Isabelle Schömann, ETUC Confederal Secretary, was invited to speak at the 7<sup>th</sup> European conference on standardisation, testing and certification in the field of occupational safety and health (EUROSHNET), which took place in Paris on 20 October. The Conference was dedicated this year to ‘**Artificial Intelligence meets Safety and Health at work**’, and Ms. Schömann participated in the roundtable addressing “The challenges of AI on standardisation, testing and certification”, where she stressed that standards are not sufficient to protect workers from the application of AI systems at the workplace. The use of AI in employment raises specific concerns which include, but are not limited to, disproportionate and undue surveillance at work, discriminatory treatments on the basis of biased algorithms, and the risk of abuse of data protection and privacy. The technical guidance provided by standards can help design and develop AI systems that are in conformance with the requirements of the proposed AI Act, but standards alone cannot guarantee that the use of AI systems, in particular at the workplace, will promote and protect fundamental rights, including workers’ rights.

---

## National awareness raising event in France



On 24 October, the ETUC joined forces with its French affiliates and Eurocadres in the organisation of a national awareness event around standardisation in Paris. The event was held in AFNOR, which gave trade unions the opportunity to exchange directly with their National Standardisation Bodies. The main

objective of the event was to inform the French trade unions about standards setting activities, update them on the recent developments in Europe, and to discuss the role of trade unions in standardisation. The event featured practical cases that aimed at showing how standards can have an impact on workers, their link with legislation, and at sharing best practices for increased trade union participation.

The contributions of the different speakers are accessible, [here](#)

---

## ETUC Special Committee "Standardisation" met on 11 October



For the first time after the COVID restrictions, the ETUC special Committee meeting “Standardisation” members met again, in person. It was the first time that many met again – in person – after 36 Months. As usual, the ETUC Affiliates and experts discussed the overall political issues around standardisation – for example the different actions in the framework of the EU Standardisation strategy – as well as selected standards which needed some attention.

The ETUC Affiliates welcomed the European Parliament’s final position on the amendment to regulation 1025/2012 on standardisation. On the standardisation side, special attention was given to new standardisation initiatives around cargo bikes, additional work around ladders and pre-qualification of companies and organisations (in CEN/TC 447).

The next SC “Standardisation” meeting will take place in the Brussels premises of [KAN \(Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung\)](#), in March/April 2023.

---

**ETUC welcomes the agreement on the Regulation amending Regulation (EU) N° 1025/2012 on European Standardisation**



The ETUC welcomes the agreement reached by the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament on the technical amendment to [Regulation 1025/2012](#) on European standardisation as regards the decision making of the European standardisation organisations (ESOs) on European standards in support of Union legislation and policies. The agreement was reached only 8 months after the proposed amendment was presented as part of the package of measures outlined in the [Standardisation Strategy](#) published by the European

Commission in February 2022.

In line with the ETUC demands put forward in Parliament in April, the agreement recognises the important role standards play for societal stakeholders, including workers, and supports the need to safeguard good governance principles in the delivery of standards supporting EU legislation and policies, the so-called harmonised standards. In that sense, the amendment to the regulation strengthens the role of the National Standardisation Bodies of the EU and the EEA area in the decision-making process of European standardisation organisations when they execute standardisation requests in support of Union legislation and policies. It further recognises the need to ensure a balanced representation of relevant stakeholder's interests, including trade unions, at National level and within the ESOs.

---

## Chase the sun webinar on accessibility and inclusivity of OSH standards



The ETUC took part in the BSI Health & Safety Day webinar on 1-2 November. The webinar series dived into topics surrounding health and safety at the workplace, covering psychological health, performance evaluation and many more. The webinar was organised by BSI (British Standards Institute), which holds the Secretariat of the ISO/TC 283 'Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) management'.

The ETUC participated in the panel addressing the accessibility and inclusivity of OHS standards. The discussion tackled questions such as whether OHS standards really protect everyone and how to make them more inclusive. We called for more outreach towards trade unions with a view to involve them in mirror committees. The ETUC also stressed the importance of including clearer requirements for worker participation and consultation in OHS standards. We said that more guidance and examples could clarify the role of the worker representative when a standard from the ISO 45000-series is being implemented in an organisation. For several years, the ETUC has been participating in the work of ISO/TC 283 'Occupational Health & Safety management'. More information can be found at [Health & Safety Day Webinar | BSI \(bsigroup.com\)](https://www.bsigroup.com/Health-Safety-Day-Webinar).

## How to survive a technical committee meeting?



Trade unionists are often new or underrepresented in standardisation meetings – be it at European, international or national level. To cope with the different challenges and barriers unionists may find in these situations, the ETUC organised the training: Defending your position in a standardisation meeting - How to survive a technical committee meeting? on 10 October in Brussels. The training simulated a role play to experience first-hand a commenting

resolution meeting where the different positions on a specific standard were discussed and resolved. Throughout the training, the participants learnt techniques and tools to prepare and participate actively in a standardisation meeting. The training ended with a brainstorming session on what are the element for success and what is still needed in this process.

---

## Designing stressless workplaces



The world of work is constantly changing over time. Robotics and intelligent autonomous systems – such as Artificial Intelligence – can relieve workers from doing dangerous, heavy or repetitive tasks. But the cooperation with automated system also carries risks for workers. While indirect forms of control like agile working require more leeway of decision making by workers, an unrealistic workload and the lack of transparency can result in workers' failing to reach objectives and exhausting themselves in trying. In addition to new technologies, interactive labour such as nursing is part of daily work life. Such intense and emotionally challenging work has a high likelihood for burnout. All these forms of work carry risks for workers. EN ISO 10075-2 'Ergonomic principles related to mental workload' provides guidance of work systems for task and equipment, but the standard needs updating. The ETUC therefore follows the revision of this EN ISO/CD 17005-2 'Ergonomic principles related to mental workload — Part 2: Design principles'. Until early December, the standard is out

for comments. Should you wish to raise an issue with this standard, please contact your [national standardisation body](#).

---

## ETUC STAND Calendar for 2023



The new ETUC Standardisation Calendar for 2023 is out! The paper table calendar has interesting facts and ideas around standards and their link with the world of work. Feel free to pick up a calendar until 9 December at the International Trade Union House, Boulevard Roi Albert II 5, 1210 Brussels.

---

*Copyright © ETUC STAND. All rights reserved.*

**Our website is:** <http://standardisation.etuc.org>

**Our mailing address is:** [standards@etuc.org](mailto:standards@etuc.org)

Follow us on Twitter @ETUC\_standards

To subscribe to our newsletter, click [here](#)

The ETUC STAND project is financially supported by the European Commission and EFTA





---

This email was sent to [gdejongh@etuc.org](mailto:gdejongh@etuc.org)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

ETUC · Bld du Roi Albert II, 5 · B - 1210 Brussels · Brussels 1000 · Belgium

