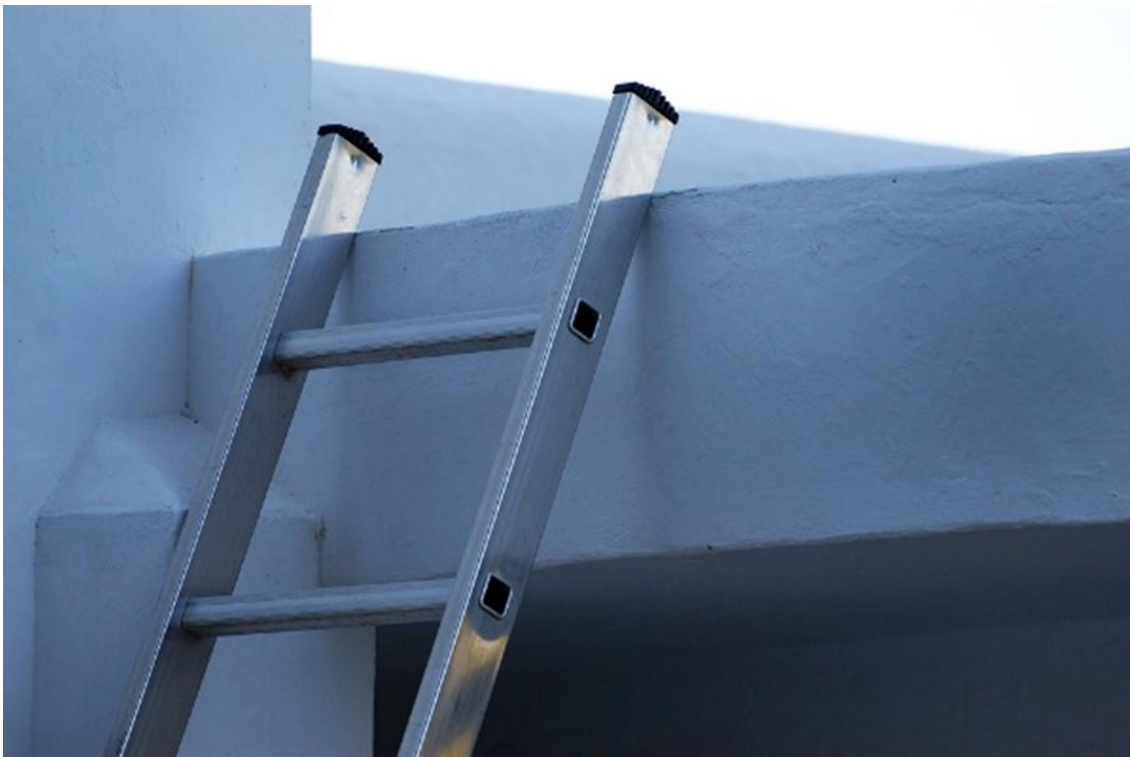


## ETUC standardisation newsletter - December 2022

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 Study on ladder safety



Ladders are an indispensable tool used both in private everyday life and also at work. Ladders are often used by workers in the construction sector, agriculture and in the cleaning industry. However, working on ladders involves many risks,

as they are carried out at considerable heights. Fall accidents often have dramatic consequences. The design of ladders, but also the durability, ease of use and robustness can however contribute a good, safe and practice-oriented work equipment.

The ETUC therefore commissioned a study to examine window-cleaning ladders and loft ladders with regard to their safety. The study covers the testing of loft ladders – often used by chimney-sweeps - including temperature testing, humidity and mixture of material (e.g. wooden ladder with metal screws). The testing of the release torques showed that humidity has a considerable influence on the loosening of the screw connections. The use of locking devices to prevent screws from loosening is therefore recommended. Furthermore, an inclusion of loft ladders in the EU Construction Products Regulation is an additional measure to increase the underlying safety requirements and also to implement them in the long term.

The second research object is window-cleaning ladders. These are often supported by a ladder foot to increase stability, especially for ladders which are reaching high. The study showed that a reduction of the ladder foot decreases the stability of the ladder. It has also been shown that the overall stability depends on other conditions such as friction, person weight, set-up angle and surface roughness. The underlying test procedures for approval of the ladders should therefore be extended to include dynamic forces. The results of the study are put forward to CEN/TC 93 'Ladders'. The ETUC participates in some selected ladder standards of CEN/TC 93 since 2021. The study is available here: [ETUC study on the safety of loft ladders and ladder feet](#)

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**German awareness raising event on  
standardisation**



On 18 November, the ETUC the German trade union (DGB) and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) organised a round table to discuss standardisation activities and its place in our society. It was a first time that such a national (German) awareness event took place, with close involvement of the German trade union movement.

The round table discussion was stimulated through interventions of DIN (German national standardisation body), the respective German ministries of Labour and Economic affairs, Employers federation, KAN, European Commission and European Parliament.

Case studies on the elaboration of standards complemented the more theoretical discussions. It also provided an insight how standards are developed and how these have an impact on workers.

The round table discussion allowed deeper reflection on the “inclusiveness” principles of the standardisation system as well as a reflection on the overall German influence in the standard setting system itself. It was noted that , overwhelmingly, standard setting takes place at the European and International level (and no longer at German level). The German Standardisation Institute – DIN – therefore has a key-role to play in guaranteeing that trade unions are on board – where and when needed - in the decision making processes in the standardisation systems.

# Certifiable standard on UN Sustainable Development

## Goals (SDGs)



The Danish Standards Body proposed to develop an international standard 'Management System for UN Sustainable Development Goals – Requirements for any organization'. The vote for this proposal – which was tabled at the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) - closed on 8 December. The scope of the work is to help organizations improve their performance for achieving one or more SDGs by implementing specifying required steps. The new standard would give one framework for organizations to work with a selection of SDGs relevant to their business. The framework provides selecting methods to fulfil the requirements of existing ISO/IEC standards related to each SDG.

The proposal provides a non-exhaustive list of these standards, which can provide the requirements needed. The ETUC is involved in a few ISO Technical Committees, where some of the standards are prepared. These cover standards ranging from Occupational Health & Safety to Human Resource Management and governance.

The standard would be a Management System Standard, hence certifiable. Compliance obligations are explicitly mentioned.

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## CEN publishes a long awaited Report on Cabin Air

## Quality on civil aircraft



On 2 November, after over a decade of work, the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) has published the CEN/Technical Report 17904 on “Cabin air quality on Civil Aircraft”. This document was written by a panel of industry, labour, and standardisation representatives with expertise on the subject of “fume events.” A fume event is when the ventilation supply air on commercial aircraft gets contaminated with heated engine oil and hydraulic fluid fumes, due to the design and maintenance of the air systems. Those fumes are toxic and can impair crewmembers. The document includes recommendations for measures like air supply filtration and monitoring, worker training, and improved maintenance and reporting. It is a collection of best practices from across the aviation industry in the arenas of design, maintenance, and operation, all intended to improve safety. Unions thank CEN for facilitating a standardisation framework for this important safety issue. CEN required balanced labour representation on this technical committee to ensure that all points of view were represented. As a result, the voices of people who spend their working life in the aircraft environment were included. Committee members worked hard to achieve consensus prior to balloting. After being approved internally, the document was balloted four times to National Standardisation Bodies (NSBs) in 34 EU countries under a rigorous process. There was strong and persistent NSB support to publish it. On average, across the four ballots, 76% of the NSB votes were positive. The related press release is [here](#).

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**European Commisison publishes the 2023 draft  
Work Programme on Standardisation**



Every year, the European commission publishes the topics for which it needs European standards that underpin legal acts. On 1<sup>st</sup> December, the European Commission released its 2023 preliminary draft Union working programme on standardisation. The draft working programme is divided into four main categories:

- Green transition
- Digital transition
- Resilience of European Industries
- Internal Market for Products and services

It contains over 80 different fields or topics. At this moment in time, it is uncertain if every single topic will result in a Commission implementing Decision, containing a “standardisation request” to the European Standardisation organisations (CEN – CENELEC – ETSI). Topics like “Safety of Machinery”, Safety of Lifts” and “safety of cableway installations” deserve Trade Unions attention as workers issues will be likely be addressed in (many?) of these standards (which will underpin the respective legislative acts).

The 2023 preliminary draft working programme can be accessed [here](#).

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**ETUC makes proposals to improve the governance structure of CEN and CENELEC**





Infectious diseases are increasingly recognized as major challenges to health, safety and well-being. Decisions and activities relating to the prevention and management of infectious diseases affect workers within the organisation. The International Standardisation Organisation, ISO, is therefore preparing an international standard, ISO/DIS 45006 'Occupational health and safety management — Guidelines for organizations on preventing and managing infectious diseases' to give guidelines for organisations of all sizes and sectors, on how to prevent the exposure to, and manage the risks associated with, infectious diseases. The document covers diseases which present a risk of severe illness or death and that can impact the health, safety and wellbeing of workers and other relevant interested parties. The ETUC follows this work since the beginning.

Until early January, the ISO members can submit comments on the draft standard. After that, the standard will move to the last voting stage.





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