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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL III

INDUSTRY

Legislation and standardization and telematics networks

Standardization

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Mandate to CEN/CENELEC for the elaboration of a programme of European Standards in the field of equipment and installation for transport and distribution of electricity.

1. Motivation

This mandate relates to the measures taken by the European Union as part of the opening up of public contracts and in particular to Directive 93/38/EEC (which supersedes Directive 90/531/EEC from 1 July 1994).

As part of the establishment of the internal market, public contracts have to be open to competition on installation to be provided, equipment intended to be installed and/or used in electricity transportation and distribution facilities.

The specifications referring to European standards are a useful tool in describing the contracts concerned. The absence of European standards is therefore one of the barriers to be removed in order to open up such contracts. It is therefore necessary to draw up a body of appropriate European standards in order to ensure full transparency of those contracts and in order that conditions of equal competition are applied to all operators.

Although CENELEC published in January 1994 a reference list of electrotechnical standards for several sectors relating to the Directive 93/38/EEC, a specific action of programming in the field of transportation and distribution of electricity is necessary to complement the existing mandate related to equipment of the production of electricity.

Trans European Networks are the subject of Title XII of the Treaty on European Union. Article 129b provides inter alia that the Union shall contribute to the establishment and development of Trans European Networks in the areas of transport, tele- communication and energy infrastructures, aiming at promoting the interconnection and interoperability of national networks as well as access to them. In order to achieve these objectives Article 129c second indent clearly indicates that the Union shall implement any measures that may be necessary to ensure the interoperability of the networks, in particular in the field of technical standardization.

In its Communication to the Council of 22 December 1993 (COM(93)632 final - "Making the most of the Internal Market -Strategic Programme"), the Commission confirmed its commitment to take all necessary measures in order to ensure interoperability (cf. chapter V par 3 of this document).

Within this framework the present programming mandate has to be seen as a further step in standardization in the field of equipment and installations for the networks for transport and distribution of electricity.

2. Description of the mandated work.

2.1 Work to be done

The Commission assigns to CEN/CENELEC the task of drawing up a full and coherent programme specifying those priority European standards required and those existing standards to be amended or complemented to cover equipment and installation for the transportation and distribution of electricity in order to achieve the aims referred to in item 1.

The programme must enable an overview of the standardization activities to be carried out as an initial priority, while enabling the resources which may be assigned to those activities to be planned, and taking into account the possibilities for co-operation in the framework of the agreements with the international standardization bodies.

The programming task should take account of technical specifications, rules and standards currently available or under preparation in this area at international, European and national level. CEN/CENELEC should also indicate the areas where European standards would achieve the aims of the Directive 93/38/EEC, but where rules at national level still remain and therefore impede the opening of the public procurement market.

2.2 Coherence with other programmes

In drawing up this programme account will be taken of:

- existing and planned international standardization activities in this area;
- existing and planned European standardization activities in the areas covered by "New Approach" or any other relevant Community legislation;
- the existing mandate and its current and planned work, related to machines and equipment for the production of electricity (the mandate "Power Engineering" favourable opinion of the 83/189 Committee on 7/8 October 1992);
- the existing work for the development of Trans European Electricity Networks (cf. e.g. Communication of the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council of 19 January 1994, COM (93) 685 final).

2.3 Programme content

The programme shall contain, in particular, the following information per new and revised work item:

- the title;
- a summary of intended content and justifications in terms of the objective pursued;
- the specific relevance ,if any,to interoperability in relation with Trans European Networks;
- the reference documents (such as the international/national standards);
- a realistic timetable for the development, adoption and implementation of the standards ;
- reference to the relevant subjects within other programmes and/or standardization mandates.

2.4 Types of standards required

The Commission considers that priority should be given to drawing up standards which are really necessary in order to open up public contracts and to make them transparent. The standards proposed should therefore assist in solving the problems arising in connection with these requirements.

The European standards to be elaborated should be sufficiently stringent to meet as many of the specific requirements of the industry as possible and to enable fair competition.

3. Execution of the request

3.1 General

The programming work should be undertaken in co-operation with the broadest possible range of interested groups, including international and European level associations.

3.2 Timetable

CEN/CENELEC shall forward the programme described to the Commission before the end of March 1995.

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