



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE GENERAL III
INDUSTRY

Directorate B: legislation and standardization; telematics networks
Unit III/B-2: normalisation

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MANDATE TO CEN/CENELEC FOR STANDARDIZATION IN THE FIELD OF ADVANCED CERAMICS

I. MOTIVATION.

This mandate relates to European support for the development of advanced industrial ceramic materials. The development of new advanced ceramic materials will open the way for significant advances in industrial and materials technology. Investment in the development of such materials has been significant, and the Union has, through its industrial and materials technology research support programmes and through activities in the Joint Research Centre, made a substantial contribution to the field.

Hitherto, European research strength in the field has not been matched with corresponding strength in product development, with the market largely dominated by producers outside Europe.

It has been recognised by the Commission that standards are an appropriate means of supporting the development and bringing into use of advanced ceramic materials. Standardization in this area promotes innovation, the application of the technology and the development of a market for products using advanced ceramics. Accordingly, in January 1989, CEN and CENELEC were given a mandate, CEN/CLC/01-89, to draw up a programme of standards in this area, to which they replied on 5 January 1990 with a joint programme. The progress of this programme has been particularly successful, with some 50 standards at or approaching completion.

In March 1994 a conference took place on the subject at the Commission's Joint Research Centre at Petten. The conference combined researchers, manufacturers and users. The principal points to emerge in discussion were the interest in further standardization activities in advanced ceramics; the need for co-ordination between CEN and CENELEC, since the electrotechnical industries are major users; the need for the involvement of users in the drawing up of the programme, and the need to maintain European competitiveness. As a result of this conference, it was agreed that a new European standardization programme in advanced ceramics would be valuable.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK.

CEN and CENELEC are requested to draw up standards for all aspects of advanced industrial ceramic materials. The standards should cover classification, terminology, performance, and methods of test, and should cover the mechanical, thermal, electrical and other physical and chemical properties of all types of advanced ceramic materials.

The programme shall take into account the experience gained in elaborating the standards adopted, or in course of preparation, as a consequence of the programming mandate CEN/CLC/01-89 mentioned above.

CEN and CENELEC shall advise the Commission of the standardization work items that they propose to add to their programme in response to this mandate. The Commission will inform the Committee on Standards and Technical Regulations of the work items thus added.

III. BODIES TO BE ASSOCIATED.

The work should be carried out in co-operation with interested manufacturers, potential users and other industrial groups; and with other groups carrying out research and technological development work in advanced ceramics and their applications. In particular, the attention is drawn to the activities of EU Joint Research Centre at Petten in this field.

IV. EXECUTION OF THE MANDATE.

1. CEN and CENELEC shall present the Commission with a joint and mutually agreed programme of standardization work, including a list of draft standards in preparation in the programme mandated under mandate CEN/CLC/01-89, and including target dates for all the standards, within six months of the date of adoption of this mandate.
2. The European Standards (EN) shall be adopted by the target dates specified. At these dates, the three linguistic versions (German, English, French) shall be available as well as the correct titles in the other Union languages. CEN and CENELEC shall jointly notify the Commission of any further standards projects, with their target dates, which it approves for addition to its work programme, that may fall within the area of technology covered by this mandate.
3. The European standards adopted shall be transposed into national standards and differing national standards shall be withdrawn from the catalogues of the national standards organizations in the Member States within six months of their adoption.
4. Acceptance of this mandate starts the standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Council Directive 83/189/EEC of 28 March 1983 (OJ N° L189 of 26 April 1983), except where the work items are already included in the work programmes of CEN or CENELEC, in which case standstill is already in force.