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Standardization

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M/230

STANDARDIZATION MANDATE TO CEN AND CENELEC FOR EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATIONS FOR THE TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICITY

1. Background

This mandate responds to measures taken by the European Union to open up procurement, markets for utilities, and in particular Directive 93/38/EEC.¹ Clearly this is a matter of contracts drawn up by the awarding bodies referred to in Article 2(1) of that Directive.

As a part of the establishment of the internal market, utility contracts for installations and equipment used by electricity transmission and distribution utilities must be open to competition.

To describe such contracts, it is required, and useful, to state specifications referring to European standards. The absence of such standards is thus a barrier that must be removed if contracts are to be opened up. It is thus appropriate to prepare European standards to ensure that those contracts are perfectly transparent and offer the same conditions of competition to all involved.

Although, in January 1994,² CENELEC published a reference list of electrical-engineering standards covering several of the sectors covered by Directive 93/38/EEC, specific action was needed to draw up a programme for the transmission and distribution of electricity in order to round off the existing mandate concerning electricity-generating equipment.

¹ OJ L 199, 9.8.1993, p. 84.

² An updated version was published in March 1995.

A programming mandate (M/070) was sent to CEN and to CENELEC, on this basis, following a favourable opinion by the 83/189 Committee on 7 July 1994. This mandate asked the European standardization organizations to draw up a programme of standardization to open up contracts under Directive 93/38/EEC, and to ensure the interoperability of national networks and access to such networks. This is one of the measures that the Commission committed itself to taking in its Communication to the Council of 22 December 1993 "Making the most of the internal market: strategic programme ³" within the context of Article 129B, Title XII of the Treaty on European Union.

On 20 July 1995, and by note of 26 March 1996 in answer to the Commission's response of 11 August 1995, CENELEC passed on CEN's and CENELEC's programme of public procurement-related standards. This programme provides for the preparation of 73 standards for the opening up of contracts covered by Directive 93/38/EEC and not covered by an existing mandate.

CENELEC confirmed, by letter of 23 February 1996, that in its opinion to-day no further European standards need to be drawn up to ensure functional interoperability of electricity grids, and that the existing European standards are sufficient for that purpose.

To be complete, it has to be noted that the answer of CENELEC to the programming mandate contains also a supplementary list of approximately 49 existing European standards which have to be used in application of the Directive 93/38/EEC (cf. annex 2 part A).

2. Description of the mandated work

- 2.1 The Commission invites CEN and CENELEC to draw up the European standards listed in annex 2 part B in accordance with the timetable given. This Annex forms part of the common CEN and CENELEC response to mandate M/070. The 18 items in this part B of this annex 2, which refer to other directives (mainly the railways directive) will be included in the existing corresponding mandates.
- 2.2 The aim of the standards is to eliminate obstacles for opening the markets and/or to open up contracts as provided for in Directive 93/38/EEC.
- 2.3 CEN and CENELEC should work in close cooperation and ensure that the standards are consistent.
- 2.4 CENELEC should coordinate the activities and, where appropriate, define procedures for co-operation with CEN.
- 2.5 CENELEC shall, in cooperation with CEN if necessary, inform the Commission at regular intervals of any other draft standard as requested in the programming mandate, that may be covered by this mandate. In turn the Commission will inform the 83/189/EEC Committee.

³ Com (93) 632 final of 22.12.1993

3. Implementation of the mandate

- 3.1 The European standards (EN and HD) shall be drawn up and adopted by the target dates set out in the annex 2 part B. At the target dates for adoption the versions of those standards shall be available in the three working languages of CEN/CENELEC (English, French and German) together with the titles in the other languages of the European Union. European standards of type HD shall be admitted only in the case that they are an amendment to existing HDs.
- 3.2 Within six months of their adoption the European standards shall be transposed as national standards and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn from the catalogues of the Member States' national standardization bodies.
- 3.3 Acceptance of this mandate starts the standstill period referred to in Article 7(1) of Council Directive 83/189/EEC of 28 March 1983⁴, as last amended by Directive 94/10/EC⁵. Where these activities are already covered by a CEN or CENELEC work programme, the standstill period has already been started.

4. Annexes

1. Letter of CENELEC of 23 February 1996.
2. CEN and CENELEC work programme part A and B.

⁴ OJ L 189, 26 April 1983, p.8

⁵ OJ L 100, 19 April 1994, p.30