



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL III
INDUSTRY

Legislation and standardization; telematics networks
Standardization

Brussels, 8 March 1996

M/237

MANDATE TO CEN, CENELEC AND ETSI FOR STANDARDIZATION IN THE FIELD OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE SPACE INDUSTRY.

1. Background: Europe's approach to space technology.

The European nations have, since the 1970s, invested substantial resources in the acquisition of space technologies. Space is still one of the largest items (about 8%) of civilian government-funded RTD in Europe.

Europe has embarked on such a substantial public effort to achieve autonomous capability for Europe in a number of space technologies, and to lay the foundations for future industrial and commercial activity, given the significant market potential for many space applications.

The first of these two goals has been largely achieved through the creation of the European Space Agency (ESA). ESA's member states, a majority of which are also members of the European Union, have recently reaffirmed their commitment to Europe's space effort and the need to promote the competitiveness of this industry.

As regards the creation of competitive European industry in the market for space applications, various policies of the Union provide a platform facilitating the industry's structural adjustment towards greater market-orientation in space applications.

- The information society is at the centre of the Union's strategy for competitiveness, growth and employment. Satellites are widely recognised as having a potential role in the information society. In carrying out various policies, such as telecommunications, R&D, and the development of trans-European networks, the Union wishes to see all markets players, i.e. industry, R&D and users, to be associated to the benefits to be derived from space technology applied in the framework of the information society.
- Satellite remote sensing is being promoted and developed through the Union's environment programme, the activities of its Joint Research Centre, the common agricultural policy, development aid, and regional policies.
- Satellite navigation represents very large industrial stakes, both in the space segment and in the ground and on-board equipment. The European project for satellite navigation provides an immediate opportunity for Europe to become involved in the infrastructure aspects of this application. This project

is also a pioneering example of the cooperation of different European institutions (Union, ESA and Eurocontrol). A High-Level Group on satellite navigation, including the Member States, industry, users and operators, to provide strategic guidance on these issues.

2. The role of standards.

In reinforcing the competitiveness of industry, common technical specifications on quality, reliability and safety requirements are extremely important.

European interested partners have recognised this need by setting up the European Cooperation for Space Standardization, ECSS, in which the European Space Agency ESA, industry, and national space agencies have agreed to collaborate on a voluntary basis to prepare and implement common specifications for space technology.

The High-level Group of industrialists convened by the Commission in September 1995, representing Europe's main space companies, has recommended that the Commission give all possible support to the ECSS initiative.

Given the role of international and European standardization, it is however preferable to foster cooperation between ECSS and the European standards organizations, and to ensure a coherent and cohesive system of standards and common specifications.

The Union's interest in such cooperation and a coherent and cohesive system of standards is related to its policy of the promotion of space applications, its policy towards competitiveness of European industry and its policy on European standardization, set out in the Council Resolution on European standardization of June 1992.

In addition, the General Guidelines for Cooperation between the Commission and the European standards organizations, published as CEN/CENELEC Memorandum N°4, identify new technologies as an area where recourse to international and European standards are capable of reinforcing the competitiveness of industry.

3. Objectives.

The aim of this mandate is threefold:

Arrangements for cooperation should be established between the European standards organizations and ECSS, the European Cooperation for Space Standardization.

ECSS, CEN, CENELEC and ETSI should elaborate an overall standardization strategy relating to the space industry, identifying areas where standardizing activities are to be carried out at the European level and at international level and identifying those specifications which should obtain status of standard and which should remain within the exclusive sphere of ECSS.

ECSS, CEN, CENELEC and ETSI should implement the standardizing programme thus established, being understood that CEN, CENELEC and ETSI may arrange that all or part of the work be carried out at the world level through existing mechanisms for co-operation with ISO, IEC or ITU, with subsequent transposition of the ultimate International Standards as European Standards.

4. Execution of the mandate

1. CEN, CENELEC, ETSI and ECSS are invited to inform the Commission of the arrangements adopted for cooperation within three months of acceptance of this mandate.
2. CEN, CENELEC, ETSI and ECSS are invited to present within nine months of acceptance of this mandate a joint and mutually agreed standardization strategy and a list of standards and specifications to be elaborated, with an implementation plan.
3. The European Standards (EN) and other common technical specifications should be adopted in conformity with the implementation plan.
4. Acceptance by CEN, CENELEC and ETSI of this mandate starts the standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Council Directive 83/189/EEC of 28 March 1983 (OJ N° L 109 of 26 April 1983) as last amended by Directive 94/10 of the Council and Parliament (OJ L100 of 19 April 1994, p. 30).