

A Strong Single Market needs a Strong European Standardization System

CEN and CENELEC'S Declaration and call
for action for the next legislative cycle



CEN and CENELEC call upon the European institutions to prioritize a series of best practices for Europe's competitiveness and to commit to priorities that enable a well-functioning Single Market supported by a strong European Standardization System.

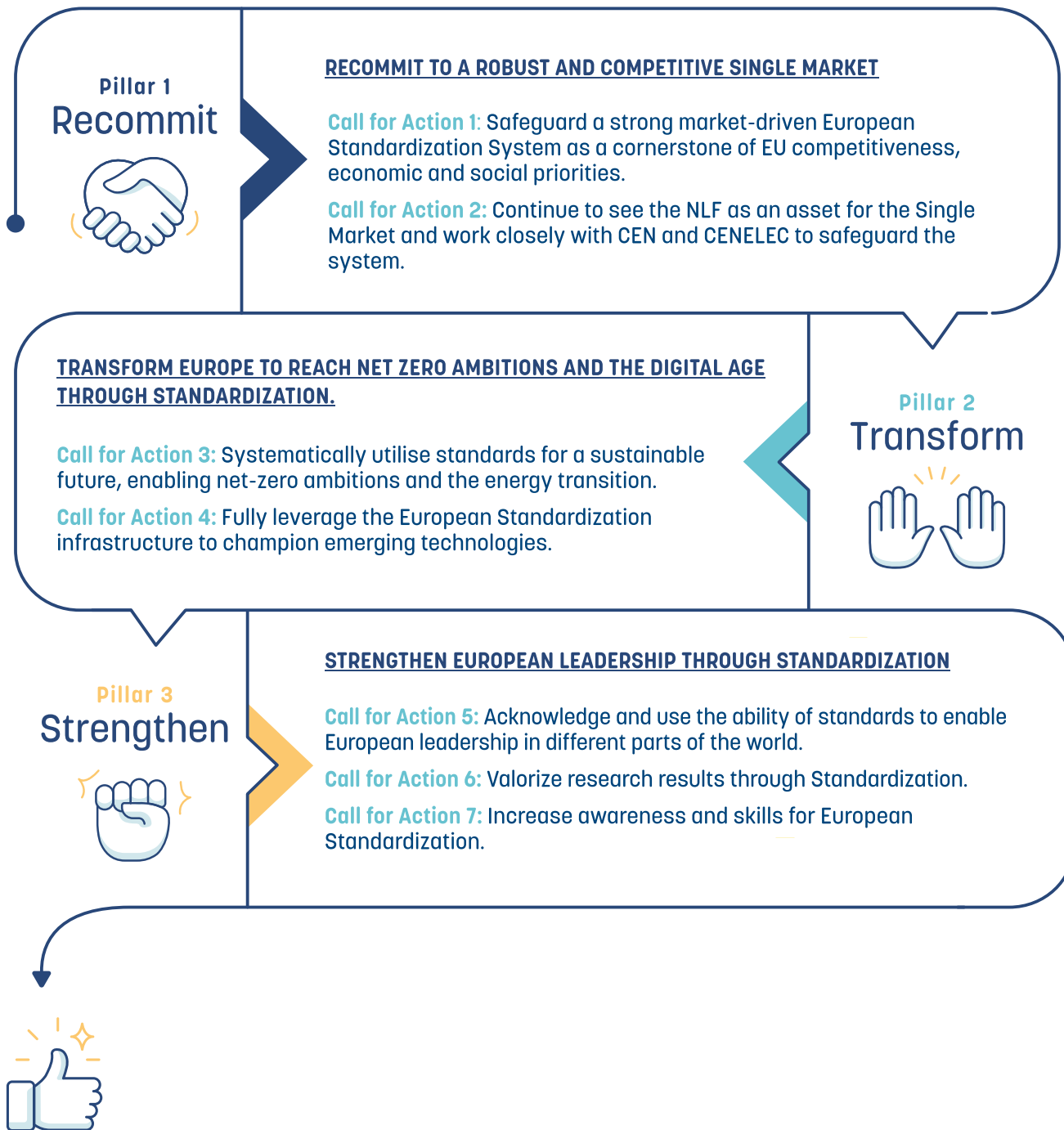
The European Standardization System: A successful public-private partnership

The European Standardization Strategy of February 2022 recognized European Standards for their ability to foster innovation, ensure product quality and safety, and enhance global trade. The European Standardization System offers the framework to better support Europe's competitiveness and strategic autonomy, facilitate the dissemination of European innovations and ensures that European and international standards are in line with Europe's interests and values.

The CEN-CENELEC **Declaration** creates an agenda for action that leverages on the ability of standards to amplify Europe's progress, growth, and sustainable development. Europe must prioritize a more robust and competitive future by exploiting European Standards as a valuable resource of knowledge and innovation.



CEN and CENELEC, together with our **National Members**, are calling for the European Institutions to **recommit, transform and strengthen** the Single Market, and:





Re-committing to a robust and competitive Single Market

CEN and CENELEC, as two of the official European standardization organizations (ESOs), have a history of supporting a well-functioning Single Market. With a combined portfolio of around 24,000 standards across all economic and societal sectors, CEN and CENELEC National Members work together with industry, SMEs, civil society and policy makers to create instruments supporting the Single Market in its growth. Once a European Standard is approved, CEN and CENELEC National Members commit to replacing conflicting national standards with that one standard, thus solidifying the Single Market.

For the past 30 years, the Single Market has established itself as one of the European Union's greatest achievements. With the aid of European Standards, the Single Market gains a systematic ability to facilitate trade, reduce red tape, and ensure the same levels of safety and quality across Europe.

And yet, the Single Market is still far from completion. To successfully tackle today's challenges and ensure competitiveness in the long term, Europe needs to recommit to a robust and competitive Single Market that can maintain the ability to be modern and resilient against today's challenges.





Re-committing to a robust and competitive Single Market



CALL FOR ACTION 1: Safeguard a strong market-driven European Standardization System as a cornerstone of European competitiveness, economic and social priorities.

European standards ensure clarity and consistency for the trade of goods and services across Europe, providing confidence for businesses and consumers when buying or selling across different Members States. This unique standardization system based on consensus and inclusion should be upheld by the European Institutions in the next legislative cycle as a vital tool to pursue economic and societal policy priorities and ensure Europe's competitiveness.

Standards not only frame and guide the development of products and services but also play a crucial role in driving innovation in the private sector. Hence, it is paramount that the industry continues to have a strong voice in standards development so that standards remain market-driven and support European industry.



CALL FOR ACTION 2: Continue to maintain the NLF as an asset for the Single Market and work closely with CEN and CENELEC to safeguard the system.

Under the New Legislative Framework (NLF), CEN and CENELEC have worked extensively in cooperation with the European Commission, EFTA and all European stakeholders to produce standards in support of European policy objectives. The continued use of the NLF to establish clear and essential requirements in legislation, supported by voluntary technical standards, helps European businesses meet legal requirements and support the needs of all stakeholders. The European Standardization Strategy is a great example of renewed commitment and prioritization to the value of European Standards and provides a clear framework for a continuous partnership with the European institutions.

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Transform Europe to meet the ambitions of the net-zero and digital future through standardization.

CEN and CENELEC, and our National Members, have strongly committed to the green and digital transition, developing standardization solutions in partnership with European Institutions that are instrumental to facilitating these transitions. But the evolving environmental and technological landscapes continues to pose many new challenges that can only be solved by a reinforced and balanced public-private partnership between the European Standardization System and the European Institutions.

The technical, market aware expertise of the European Standardization System must be fully utilised to generate Europe's answers to the complex questions posed by the need for a net-zero and fully digitalised future.



CALL FOR ACTION 3: Systematically utilise standards for a sustainable future, enabling net-zero ambitions and the energy transition.

Europe aims to be the leading global hub for clean technology innovation by ensuring favourable conditions for market scale-up.

- The focus is to secure ample capital within Europe for research and mass production of new decarbonization technologies. Standards help create those favourable conditions, by addressing the gaps currently blocking such innovations from being pursued.

If the energy crisis of 2022 has shown us anything, it is how critical it is for Europe to gain greater energy independence. Optimizing consumption of renewable power while maintaining security of supply, grids with a high degree of interoperability that incorporate the benefits of digitalization is key. Standards make an important contribution to speed up the energy transition.



Transform Europe to meet the ambitions of the net-zero and digital future through standardization.



CALL FOR ACTION 4: Fully leverage the European Standardization infrastructure to champion emerging technologies.

European standards are a crucial instrument for trustworthy interoperable practices within Europe and ensure that best practices can be applied horizontally across different technologies. Transparency is at the heart of CEN and CENELEC. Through technical expertise, European Standardization ensures safety and security in the digital field.

At a time when Europe is increasingly setting the global example on regulating emerging technology (e.g., artificial intelligence, quantum computing and cyber resilience), European Institutions must fully leverage the European Standardization System. European policy makers should ensure timely communication with European standardization experts on matters concerning emerging technologies, and benefit from their technical expertise and market knowledge. It is essential to avoid taking decisions that are not reflective of the technical reality and could hinder industry uptake, both in Europe and globally.

- CEN and CENELEC are also transforming standardization to meet the challenges of digitalisation, such as through projects to implement the switch to SMART standards, i.e. machine readable standards that allow standards users to import them directly into technical systems.



Strengthen European leadership through standardization

The general business climate, technology-neutral regulation, and the swift development and use of standards primarily determine European industry's global competitiveness. The European Standardization System addresses the need for a strategic approach to international standardization activities and promotes Europe's global competitiveness through leadership in priority areas. CEN and CENELEC support Enrico Letta's proposed new Fifth Freedom to enhance research, innovation, and education in the Single Market. For Europe to maintain leadership internationally, the relationship between standardization, research and education must also be strengthened.



CALL FOR ACTION 5: Acknowledge and use the ability of standards to enable European leadership in different parts of the world.

By cooperating with ISO and IEC, the National Members of CEN and CENELEC ensure that European expertise fosters international innovation. Through standardization work, Europe is leading strategic topics at international level like fuel cell technologies, circular economy, cybersecurity, quantum technologies, specialty metals and minerals (e.g. critical raw materials). European standards are instrumental to advance the trade discussions with other regions of the world and should be fully leveraged in European trade initiatives like Free Trade Agreements and Digital Partnership Agreements.



CALL FOR ACTION 6: Valorize Research results through Standardization

Standards serve as a catalyst for innovation and help researchers bring their innovative ideas and scientific results to the market. For this reason, CEN and CENELEC are committed to working together with researchers and academics to them translate their research results into standards, preparing for the next generation of standards makers.

To best valorize research results through standardization, we call on the European institutions to monitor the uptake of standardization in the future research framework (FP10) and the European Research Area. CEN and CENELEC also advocates for the systematic integration of standardization in any future research framework programmes and connecting science with standardization, which will contribute to the strengthening Europe's ability to achieve research and innovation priorities..



Strengthen European leadership through standardization



CALL FOR ACTION 7: Increase awareness and skills for European Standardization

The European Standardization System relies on the knowledge and hard work of a variety of experts, from industry, civil society, academia and more. For the long term success of European Standardization, we must deepen the pool of future talent to maintain its current influential position. To do so, education on standardization will increasingly be relevant: the High-Level Forum on Standardization will also look to provide students and educators with the information necessary to introduce thousands of new standardization experts into the European economy over the next decades. This includes education through universities, vocational institutes and lifelong learning programmes. The European Institutions, along with CEN and CENELEC, need to maintain this momentum, while also considering how to scale up in the future.

To recommit, transform and strengthen the Single Market, CEN and CENELEC calls on the European Institutions to reinforce their partnership with the European Standardization System.

For more information or collaboration opportunities with CEN and CENELEC, please reach out to the contact information featured below.



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