



CEN-CENELEC GUIDE 5

Trade Unions and the Preparation of European Standards

Edition 1, December 2001

The CEN Administrative Board decided to replace CEN/CENELEC Memoranda by CEN/CENELEC Guides with the corresponding document number (resolution CEN/CA 18/2001). As a result, CEN/CENELEC Memorandum 5 was converted into CEN/CENELEC Guide 5. No change was made to the text of the original document (1989/04). The CENELEC General Assembly agreed by correspondence to convert the CEN/CENELEC Memoranda listed in the CENELEC Catalogue into CEN/CENELEC Guides with the corresponding document number. As a result, CEN/CENELEC Memorandum 5 was converted into CEN/CENELEC Guide 5.



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It is a principle of standards activity that all interests affected by the work are taken into account. This principle is applied by the Member Bodies of CEN and CENELEC in forming their national opinion and representing it through their national delegations at European level. Moreover, the services of the Commission of the European Communities and the EFTA General Secretariat may take part in the activities of the CEN/CENELEC technical committees to the extent considered appropriate having regard to the legitimate interests represented.

Furthermore, in the 'General Guidelines for the Cooperation' signed between CEN and CENELEC and the CEC and EFTA (see CEN/CENELEC Guide 4) it is stated that 'in order to establish the grounds for wide recognition of the importance of European Standards, CEN and CENELEC will ensure that the interested circles (...) can, if they wish, be effectively associated with the drawing up of European Standards'. Trade Unions have been mentioned in the text of these guidelines as one of the circles which could be interested in European Standardization.

In pursuit of these principles the General Assemblies of CEN and CENELEC make the following recommendations:

1. At national level there should be provision for trade unions' participation in the initiation and planning of the programmes of standards work as well as in policy matters relevant to the interests of the work in force.
2. At national level trade unions' interests should be invited to participate in all technical committees handling standard projects affecting the interests of the work force.
3. Where a CEN and CENELEC committee is developing a European Standard of interest to the work force, Member bodies should seek means to encourage the active participation of trade unions in national delegations.
4. Standards work is by nature technical and complex. Where possible and necessary, Member body staff should provide trade unions representatives with briefing on technical issues and guidance on standards procedure. On the other hand in designating the trade unions representatives all efforts should be made in assuring permanent and efficient flow of information to them thereby allowing true representation of collective interests.
5. Member bodies should ensure effective communication of the results of their standards work to the general public.
6. Questions submitted by or proposals/drafts received from European trade union organizations should be given due consideration by the CEN/CENELEC body concerned.