

# Press Release

Brussels, 25 November 2016

## **Serbia makes 34! CEN and CENELEC welcome ISS as full member.**

**The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) have both decided to grant full membership status to the Institute of Standardization for Serbia (ISS), the National Standardization Body (NSB) of Serbia. ISS membership will take effect on 1 January 2017, and represents an important step towards the full participation of Serbia in the European Single Market.**

The application of ISS to become a full member of CEN and CENELEC was formally accepted by the General Assemblies of both organisations, which met in Brussels on 23 November. This was preceded by more than 15 years of close cooperation between ISS and the CEN and CENELEC communities. ISS has been an Affiliate of CEN since January 2005, and of CENELEC since 2009, a status that has fostered greater technical alignment between Serbia, and the EU and EFTA. Technical Assistance projects on 'Quality Infrastructure in the Western Balkans' under CEN leadership, the first one of which started in 2004, have accompanied further the strengthening of the Serbian quality infrastructure.

ISS membership to CEN and CENELEC comes in direct support of the negotiations for Serbia's accession to the EU. The Republic of Serbia applied for EU membership in 2009 and was granted candidate country status for EU membership in March 2012. The 1st Intergovernmental Conference on 21 January 2014 signalled the formal start of Serbia's accession negotiations. The European Commission decided in January 2014 to recommend the opening of accession negotiations, which began in January 2014, and discussions on the first two chapters of the EU Acquis were started in December 2015.

The Serbian NSB has demonstrated its commitment to becoming a full part of the European Standardization System, having adopted 91% of the CEN and CENELEC catalogues of European Standards. Additionally, ISS is currently an observer in 28 CEN and 5 CENELEC Technical Committees (TCs).

Following the accession of ISS, both CEN and CENELEC will have national members in 34 European countries, covering over 600 million consumers. These include all 28 countries of the European Union and three countries of the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) plus three EU candidate countries (Serbia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

Speaking after the CEN and CENELEC General Assemblies on 23 November, Mrs Elena SANTIAGO CID, Director General of CEN and CENELEC, said: *“ISS actively contributes to European standardization, and fosters innovation and technological development. Their acceptance as a full member of both CEN and CENELEC represents a positive development, not only for the European Standardization System but also for the economy of the Balkan region and the whole of south-eastern Europe. This shows that the Republic of Serbia can be fully integrated into the European Single Market.”*

Speaking after the CEN and CENELEC General Assemblies on 23 November, Tatjana BOJANIĆ, Acting Director at ISS, said: *“Our work on fulfilling the required conditions for CEN and CENELEC membership has been rewarded and we have become a full member, thus recognizing ISS as a strong, modern and perspective organization. ISS has often looked to the past to be inspired for the future, so from 2017, we intend to get involved in all European standardization initiatives, as well as to invest in enhancing our membership capabilities.”*

**CEN** (European Committee for Standardization) and **CENELEC** (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization) are recognized by the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as European Standardization Organizations responsible for developing standards in relation to a wide range of materials, processes, products and services.

The members of CEN and CENELEC are the National Standardization Bodies and National Electrotechnical Committees of 33 European countries. European Standards (ENs) and other standardization deliverables that have been adopted by CEN and CENELEC are accepted and recognized in all of these countries.

European Standards (ENs) are developed through a process of collaboration among experts nominated by business and industry, public authorities, research institutes, consumer and environmental organisations and other stakeholders. When correctly applied, they contribute to enhancing safety, improving performance and quality, facilitating cross-border trade and strengthening the European Single Market.

CEN and CENELEC cooperate with the European Commission to develop and adopt harmonized standards and other deliverables that support the implementation of EU policies and legislation. They work with the research and innovation community to get market access for their innovative solutions, through European standards. They also work to promote the international alignment of standards in the framework of technical cooperation agreements with ISO and the IEC.

For more information, please see: [www.cencenelec.eu](http://www.cencenelec.eu)

The **Institute for Standardization of Serbia (ISS)** is the only recognized national standardization body in the Republic of Serbia, an institution that is a legal entity and operates in accordance with the regulations governing the legal status of the public services. The founder of the Institute is the Government of Serbia.

ISS provides to all the stakeholders, members of the Institute and to the entire Serbian public, Serbian standards consistent with international and European Standards, as well as the possibility to participate equally in European and international standardization developing national standards respecting approved (accepted) international and European standardization principles.

For more information, please see: [www.iss.rs](http://www.iss.rs)

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