



9 November 2011

## STANDARDISATION

### KEY MESSAGES

---

- 1 Standardisation has been a central element in the delivery of the single market. Standards provide benefits to the economy at large and are an important tool to facilitate international trade and interoperability.
- 2 Standardisation and legislation play different roles and must not be confused. It is the responsibility of politicians to set political priorities and it is up to the standardisers to find the technical solutions to those priorities.
- 3 BUSINESSEUROPE objects to the adoption of formal procedures concerning particular types of participant (e.g. consumers, SMEs, environmental organisations and organisations covering 'social interests') in the development of European standards as participation is already open to all parties.

### WHAT DOES BUSINESSEUROPE AIM FOR?

---

- Good quality and market-relevant standards, whose use must remain voluntary.
- Global market access on the basis of 'one standard, one test, accepted everywhere'.
- The development of service standards only in cases where there is a demand from the market.
- Preservation of the system of national delegation as it is the best way to ensure the access of a wide range of stakeholders, including SMEs in the development of standards.
- A real commitment and expertise from stakeholders who participate in the standardisation process.

### KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Of the many types of standards, only about 20% are related to public interests. The large majority of standards mainly respond to the needs of enterprises and are privately driven.