

BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 467 Climate Change

1 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE CEN/TC 467

1.1 Description of the Business Environment

The following political, economic, technical, regulatory, legal, societal and/or international dynamics describe the business environment of the industry sector, products, materials, disciplines or practices related to the scope of this CEN/TC, and they may significantly influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards:

- It is broadly recognized that increased severity of anthropogenic climate change represents an extraordinary challenge, compelling us to serious commitments and more ambitious and wider actions in a limited time frame;
- Since 1992 the UNFCCC is in place, and EU played a crucial role in this negotiating process on climate change;
- The Paris Agreement established the international framework for this century to actively cope with the unprecedented challenge of climate change;
- The EU Green Deal downscaled this international framework as a concrete path in the EU context;
- This includes the formal EU commitment to reduce the GHG emission by 55% by 2030 and it implies a radical change at the political, social and economic level with areas of action not completely investigated yet;
- Consistent and effective actions within the EU for such ambitious target require a large number of technical standard available in the future years;
- EU is already suffering climate change impacts and the expected trends implies these impacts will be more severe in the incoming years. The prompt availability of standard on adaptation implies that infrastructures, buildings and local planning development that will be in place in the future years will be directly designed and developed taking in consideration the possible future conditions due to climate change;
- A CEN/CENELEC Coordination Group on Adaptation is already active with a significant number of experts on adaptation;
- ISO/TC 207/SC7 already developed several standards on Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), mitigation and adaptation and several more are under development. In this evolving framework it is fundamental to guarantee consistency and harmonization in the development of the needed CEN standards;
- The European NSBs are actively participating in the several ISO/TC 207/SC7 WGs, but the large number of ongoing projects creates difficulties in term of resources to maintain the needed active involvement. Facilitating the exchange of information between NSBs on the project under development in the ISO//TC 207/SC7 WGs would increase the effectiveness of their participation at ISO level;
- The EU is in a leadership position in terms of mandatory framework on climate change, with internationally recognized historical best case of the EU ETS and Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Shipping (Regulation (EU) 2015/757);
- There are several initiatives at national level (e.g. ACT, Net Zero Initiative) that may be expanded at EU level.

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1.2 Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment

The following list of quantitative indicators describes the business environment in order to provide adequate information to support actions of the CEN /TC:

- around 11.000 organizations, responsible for almost 45% of EU emissions, are within the EU ETS scope. This implies that the remaining 55% is not covered by specific regulation yet. The number of EU organizations engaged in mitigation or adaptation actions is a crucial data;
- the number of CEN/TC standards adopted by the EU Commission as technical references for future policy tool is a key performance indicator;
- the increased participation of EU NSBs in the ISO/TC 207/SC7 WGs (as number of experts, number of NSB or number of participants to CIB) and a larger use of ISO standards on GHG can be considered an indirect result of the CEN/TC promotion of knowledge on these ISO standards.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

The main benefits expected from the work of the CEN/TC 467 are:

- address standardization in the field of climate change. The goal is the development of frameworks, requirements and guidance to support the EU policies on climate change and the full implementation of the EU Green Deal;
- the massive development of ISO standards addressing climate change, in the context of ISO/TC 207/SC7, requires a large investment of resources by all the EU NSBs to follow all the projects within each country. To establish a mechanism to facilitate the sharing of knowledge between European experts involved in the ISO/TC 207/SC7 will result in a more effective use of National resources and in a more effective participation at ISO level;
- the new TC will also facilitate the knowledge of National experiences in terms of standards and innovative projects, and the possibility to faster the transfer of national best practices as EU common standards;
- provide common understanding and metrics – including language and terminology - for the low carbon transition at the countries, cities and communities levels as well as at the market level;
- establish a solid technical reference framework to facilitate the innovation in organizations and research centres.

3 PARTICIPATION IN THE CEN/TC

All the CEN national members are entitled to nominate delegates to CEN Technical Committees and experts to Working Groups, ensuring a balance of all interested parties. Participation as observers of recognized European or international organizations is also possible under certain conditions. To participate in the activities of this CEN/TC, please contact the national standards organization in your country.

4 OBJECTIVES OF THE CEN/TC AND STRATEGIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN/TC

The TC has the objective to create a solid bridge between the ISO standards already available or under development and the European needs for the implementation of the EU Green Deal and for the achievement of the EU targets on climate change.

Following the UNFCCC and the ISO/TC 207/SC 7 area of actions, it is recommended to pay particular attention to the standardization work on:

- Mitigation;
- Adaptation;
- Taxonomy and climate finance.

In particular, the following priority areas have been identified.

For Mitigation:

- 1) Standard for carbon footprint quantification of events.
- 2) Standard for Sectoral Decarbonization Plans.
- 3) Standardization on Climate Change Mitigation for the local authority level.
- 4) Proposal for a new area on Consumption based GHG accounting.
- 5) Development of guidance for the EU specific implementation of ISO standards on GHG.

For Adaptation:

- 1) Documents on the use of climate information and develop further sectorial documents in addition to construction sector already covered by CEN-CENELEC Adaptation to Climate Change Coordination Group (ACC-CG) documents
- 2) New standard on adaptation for:
 - water supply and treatment infrastructure, drainage and flood protection (high priority, maybe together with documents on local level);
 - drought resistant agriculture (medium priority but need to have more expert views);
 - nature-based solutions for adaptation (high priority);
 - climate resilience solutions for buildings (low priority);

4.2 Identified strategies to achieve the CEN/TC.s defined objectives.

The standardization activities by this Technical Committee are intended to be developed with an approach consistent and complementary with the International Standards. This Technical Committee will refer to the standard on climate change produced by ISO/TC 207/SC 7.

The Technical Committee will pay particular attention to follow a consistent and complementary approach with the international standards developed under the responsibility of ISO/TC 207/SC 7. In its work program, the Technical Committee will consider standards published in ISO/TC 207/SC 7 for uptake in European standardization and - based on input from participating National Standardization Bodies – will take into account specific European needs. Links and joint work under the Vienna Agreement will also be offered to avoid duplication.

To effectively achieve these results, the involvement of National experts already part of ISO/TC 207/SC 7 is also fundamental.

There will be a focus on European context-specific needs, in order to avoid any duplication with existing ISO standardization activity.

In particular for adaptation, one of the main areas of the TC, the involvement of the CEN-CENELEC Adaptation to Climate Change Coordination Group (ACC-CG) experts it is considered crucial for an effective valorization of the existing experiences and competences.

To promote a consistent use of data and information related to climate change, the involvement of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) is also considered crucial. Mitigation and adaptation are the main standardization areas at the moment, and for the specific differences connected with these two topics it is expected that they may organize differently their standardization activities.

The Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) are considered basic fundamental concept for both mitigation and adaptation standards. For this reason, it is expected to have an horizontal management of this topic.

4.3 Environmental aspects

The scope of this CEN/TC is focused on environmental benefits, therefore the expected results shall promote an effective implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions on climate change.

In addition, it is planned that all the TC activities will mainly take place remotely, even after the conclusion of the COVID-19 emergency situation, with the purpose of minimizing the Carbon Footprint of the TC activities.

For this reason, the in-person meetings will be minimized as much as possible.

5 FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEN/TC WORK PROGRAMME

Climate change concerns a complex interrelated framework of different levels (UN, Europe, States, Regions, Cities, Communities), interested parties (public and private) as well as the social, economic and environmental dimensions. Within this complexity, the Technical Committee will focus on standards supporting the implementation of the EU Green deal and the expected low carbon transition.

The main issue that could hinder this work could be the lack of expert figures, since a broad range of knowledge and experts is needed to cover the multiple aspects connected with climate change. Particular attention should be paid to the European experts already involved at ISO/TC 207/SC7, since their participation is fundamental to monitor the rapid evolution of ISO standards development and to identify where additional standard may be necessary at CEN level, while avoiding any possible overlapping.