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FOR STANDARDISATION



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POUR LA NORMALISATION

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[The green line to standards]



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ECOS – The environmental voice in standardisation

Supported by over 40 environmental NGOs across Europe and beyond, and with a strong pool of independent experts, ECOS is the only organisation worldwide working to defend the environmental interests in standardisation. Our goal is to contribute to the development of ambitious strategies to reduce environmental impacts, promote resource and energy efficiency, and ensure a healthy environment.

We do this by promoting the consideration of environmental interests in the development of standards for products, services or systems at both European and international level. Our work covers a wide range of environmental areas, including climate change, clean energy and the circular economy, from product design to turning waste into resources.

We also advocate for greater transparency and inclusiveness in the standardisation system. ECOS also represents the environmental interests in the development and implementation of product-specific environmental policies.

ECOS is officially recognised as a key stakeholder organisation in the European Standardisation System under EU Regulation 1025/2012 on European standardisation and has partnership agreements with the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

ECOS is a partner of the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) and of the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CENELEC), and a member of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). ECOS is a liaison organisation to the international standardisation organisations, ISO and IEC. ECOS is also a member of the EU Ecodesign Consultation Forum.

Foreword – Standards are made for us all

Standards play a substantial role in supporting European laws and policies, including in areas of public interest, and impact citizens' welfare and the environment. To ensure that standards reflect the needs of those affected by them, the inclusion of civil society is imperative. Now more than ever, we need to be heard.

ECOS is committed to tearing down the barriers civil society faces when trying to participate in standardisation activities, barriers that can prevent civil society from participating at all. In 2017, we shined light on how much standards actually impact the lives of people and the environment through an increased presence in social media and the organisation of events. We also created and provided tools needed to access to the standardisation system, such as information on key standardisation developments and trainings, for both our members and environmental NGOs.

2017 saw the beginning of our joint workshops with our members across Europe. Starting in Portugal and Belgium, we confirmed what we have long known: civil society wants to take part in standardisation, but they cannot overcome the obstacles they face without support. 2017 also saw the introduction of the Opinion Mechanism in CEN and CENELEC, and the creation in ETSI of its 3SI Programme, to better improve inclusiveness of societal stakeholders.

In 2017, we also kicked-off our AccESS project, a two-year project aimed to enhance the participation of national NGOs in the development of European standards through ECOS. During this first year, we trained the eight national NGOs involved on how standards can contribute to sustainability and the added value of civil society participation in their development. We have also helped the partners participate in the development of ECOS' comments and positions on standards such as the standards providing definitions and criteria on material efficiency in the area of Ecodesign. We hope that by the end of the project in 2018, our project partners are able to not only participate in standardisation but also pass their learnings on to other civil society actors.

In 2017, we also continued to feed into the specific action of the Joint Initiative on Standardisation dedicated to national participation in standardisation. A Europe-wide survey, which we helped conduct, identified the barriers national NGOs are currently facing and mapped out existing best practices which help overcome those obstacles. This work will continue in 2018 with the development of recommendations to national standardisation organisations and authorities to further support and engage civil society in the standardisation process.

2017 was an eventful year for ECOS, and we would like to thank our members and other supporters for standing beside us and making sure that the environmental voice in standards continues to be heard, and to make an impact.



Laura Degallaix,
ECOS Director

AccESS – For environmental NGOs to the European Standardisation System

This year marked the completion of the first half of AccESS, ECOS' pilot project focusing on giving national environmental NGOs access to the European Standardisation System and highlighting the added value of their involvement. Together with the ECOS Secretariat, nine of the ECOS members are piloting this one of a kind project: BBL and IEW (Belgium), Ecocity (Greece), Terra Cypria (Cyprus), Legambiente (Italy), ZERO (Portugal), SSNC (Sweden), SNS (UK), and DOOR (Croatia).

AccESS partners were extensively trained on standardisation. Building on this newly acquired skillset, they contributed to the development of ECOS' comments and positions on draft standards, EC Standardisation Requests and even pre-normative work in areas ranging from smart grids, to nanotechnologies and material efficiency.

AccESS has directly increased the involvement of environmental stakeholders in standardisation, something which has been highly welcomed by the standardisation community. AccESS has the potential to increase the interest and involvement from civil society in standards development in the coming years and make standardisation more inclusive and valuable for society as a whole.

Chain of custody

ECOS actively contributed to the development of a draft international standard on chain of custody for wood and wood-based products. As a result, ECOS has helped protect existing sustainable forest management schemes and prevent consumers from being misled with inaccurate information on wood-based products.

Bio-based products

The EU-funded research and innovation project STAR-ProBio successfully kicked off in May 2017. STAR-ProBio aims to promote a more efficient and harmonised policy regulation framework to promote the market-pull of bio-based products. This will be achieved by developing a fit-for-purpose sustainability scheme, including standards, labels and certifications for bio-based products. An integral part of STAR-ProBio will be the adoption of life-cycle methodologies to assess the roll-out of bio-based products.

As the only environmental NGO in the consortium, ECOS' role is to encourage the production and use of sustainable bio-based products by identifying key criteria characterising these products and ensure their added value compared to fossil-based counterparts from an environmental perspective.

Cement and concrete

Through a scoping and evaluation study, ECOS identified standards from the cement and concrete sector which could help deliver GHG savings if improved.

Our findings show that moving away from Portland cement-focused standards such as EN 197-1 to more performance-based assessments could significantly improve the environmental performance of cement-like products currently on the market. These findings will serve as the basis of the continuation of our work in this field.

Chemicals

ECOS successfully contributed to the production of a CEN Guide on how to address chemicals in consumer-relevant products. This is the first guide aimed at standardisers providing comprehensive information and recommendations on chemicals.

Ecodesign standards and material efficiency

With its continuous participation, concrete proposals and leadership, ECOS has been instrumental in the standardisation work aimed to include material efficiency in Ecodesign standards. The set of assessment methods under development will lay the foundation for a systematic consideration of material circularity in regulatory measures for products.

Throughout the year, ECOS has significantly contributed to fostering a collaborative environment amongst a wide variety of stakeholders, resulting in drafts of valuable technical content, fewer loopholes, and better accounting of environmental considerations.

Ecodesign and resource efficiency

2017 saw the first steps of introducing resource efficiency into the scope of Ecodesign and the Energy Label. ECOS advocated in favour of this new direction for Ecodesign policies, notably with this [policy brief](#) on how these policies can contribute to a Circular Economy.

ECOS also defended the first proposed recyclability requirements on IT products, and requirements to boost the reparability of domestic appliances. Should these requirements be adopted by the end of President Juncker's mandate, they will constitute a solid precedent for upcoming product measures and revisions.

Ecodesign product regulations

In 2017, ECOS worked hard to build the momentum needed for the relaunch of the EU Ecodesign policy process following the Brexit-related stagnation in this work area. As a result, 13 draft Ecodesign & Energy Labelling measures were put forward by the European Commission, including on important products such as electronic displays, servers, domestic appliances and lighting.

ECOS worked towards more robust policy frameworks, notably with the revision of the Energy Labelling policy framework. [Our unique guide](#) and analysis on the Energy Label revision scrutinising its strength and weaknesses became a key document in the aftermath of the revision.

Ecodesign test methods

ECOS has contributed to the finalisation of a methodology to help make testing more consumer relevant within CENELEC. The methodology provides the foundation for product testing methods that are more representative of real-life household conditions.

In the aftermath of Dieselgate and other Ecodesign-related examples, ECOS had strongly advocated for standards to better reflect how consumers use products at home, and thus help realise energy savings. The methodology is a direct outcome of ECOS' insistence and efforts.

ECOS Annual Workshop

Completing the circuit: Electronics in a European circular economy

Our sold-out [Annual Workshop](#) in 2017 brought together key players from the European institutions and stakeholders to discuss the role Ecodesign product policy and standards can play to integrate electronic products into a European circular economy.

Looking at the electronic product lifespan from cradle to grave, we set out to answer which policy measures and standards can drive the sustainable use of electronics, and we explore if there is in fact space for electronics in a circular economy.

The Workshop was once again one of the rare occasions where civil society stakeholders, industry and standardisation bodies come together to discuss the impacts standards have on the environment, and it is clear it has become a valuable exchange for the standardisation community.

Electric vehicles

ECOS has introduced and secured technical requirements for bi-directional power transfer, power islanding, time synchronisation and service provider IDs in the standard that governs communication between the electric vehicle and the supply equipment (ISO/IEC 15118).

The new standard which will be published in 2018 will allow electric vehicle owners to supply electricity back to EU power systems and establish nano-grids. It will also allow to safeguard grid stability, integrate commercial and residential renewables, and enable consumers to become active participants in energy systems. ECOS was able to collaborate with major vehicle OEMs to explain key environmental concepts and promote ECOS as a constructive and valuable member of standardisation.

Market Surveillance

ECOS successfully contributed to the development of the new digital tool PocketWatt. Alongside the Digi-Label project, it sets out to make the EU Energy Label easier to understand and more readily available online and in stores.

ECOS joined the Advisory Board of the EEPLIANT2 project, which is run by Market Surveillance Authorities. It aims to develop knowledge-sharing between Member states and to carry out product testing activities on household refrigeration appliances, professional refrigeration products, and the energy consumption resulting from appliances on network standby.

ECOS successfully applied for a Horizon 2020 project in the field of market surveillance and test methods, which is due to kick-off in April 2018. The project is named ANTICSS: ANTI-Circumvention of Standards for better market Surveillance.

Nanomaterials

ECOS successfully contributed to the development of European guidelines on waste management of nano-objects manufacturing and processing processes, ensuring that the EU's waste hierarchy was followed particularly with a strong element of waste prevention.

The guidelines also encourage a wider environmental management approach, to put waste management into a more horizontal context, and a precautionary approach to the classification of wastes containing nano-objects as hazardous waste, in the absence of information allowing more precise classification.

National workshops Standards and civil society

For the first time ever, ECOS held workshops together with its national members. The first was held in Portugal together with ECOS' members Quercus and ZERO, and the second in Belgium with Inter-Environnement Wallonie (IEW) and Bond Beter Leefmilieu (BBL).

Both workshops raised awareness about the impacts standardisation can have on the environment and why civil society, both at national and European levels, are crucial for the integrity of the standardisation system.

Plastics

As part of the [Rethink Plastic Alliance](#), ECOS coordinated activities and messaging with its partners to shape the content of the European Commission's much anticipated 'Plastics in a Circular Economy' Strategy. These efforts included several meetings with key representatives of the European Commission working on the dossier, including high-level encounters with Vice-Presidents Timmermans and Katainen, Environment Commissioner Vella, and Internal Market & Industry Commissioner Bieńkowska.

ECOS' role has been instrumental in raising awareness on the exact scope of existing technical standards in relation to plastics and plastic packaging. This has significantly contributed to clarifying the confusion between bio-based plastics and biodegradability features of certain plastics. As a result, the EU Plastics Strategy rightly states that biodegradation properties for a plastic product cannot be considered as a potential solution to the littering issues because plastics do not biodegrade in the same way across all matrixes.

Refrigerants

ECOS was instrumental in the successful development and adoption of the European Commission's F-Gas Standardisation Request, which is an agreement by the European standardisation organisations, CEN and CENELEC to identify and remove barriers to natural flammable refrigerants in European standards.

The F-Gas Standardisation Request has been under negotiation since June 2016, to address the shortcomings highlighted in standards by a Commission' study on barriers to climate friendly alternatives to fluorinated refrigerants. By accepting the Request, CEN and CENELEC committed to undertake an analysis of existing standards to identify issues that should be updated and to draft technical specifications to enable larger amounts of natural flammable refrigerants to be used with risk mitigation measures.

ECOS was involved in discussions on the F-Gas Standardisation Request to ensure that the agreement would lead to meaningful change in European standards. If completed successfully, the agreement will support the achievement of the EU's Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulation No 517/2014 and the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol to avoid 0.5°C of future global warming.

Smart home and buildings

The establishment of ECOS as a primary, long-term driver of the Customer Energy Manager (CEM) standard has created the foundation to better promote and communicate our smart home and grid activities, as outlined in our [leaflet](#).

Waste electronics

ECOS successfully contributed to laying down conditions for the collection, optimal re-use, safe treatment and recycling of WEEE. We advocated for an ambitious collection system facilitating the re-use and/or treatment of WEEE and constructively elaborated standardisation deliverables minimising the burden on preparation for re-use operators.