

in 60 seconds



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How are European standards developed?

In principle, anyone can propose work that may lead to a (full) European Standard (EN) or other "standards deliverable" (e.g. Technical Specification (TS) or Technical Report (TR)). In CEN-CENELEC, most work is proposed by members i.e. National Standardisation Bodies or National Committees. ETSI is structured differently – for more information on ETSI and its processes, please contact the ANEC Secretariat.

If sufficient CEN-CENELEC members are willing to be involved in the development work, and financing is secured, CEN-CENELEC assigns the project to a **Technical Committee (TC)**, which delegates the drafting to a **Working Group (WG)**. Simultaneously, "standstill" is imposed on national work on the same topic. At the national level, mirror committees of stakeholders determine their national contributions to the development of the standard.

Experts appointed to a WG primarily express their opinions as individuals, whereas those sitting in the TC should follow a consensual position set by the national mirror committee.

As consumer experts are not present in the national standardisation process in most countries, ANEC WGs set positions in the collective European consumer interest that ANEC presents directly to the TC and/or WG.

The WG drafts the text of the standard. The TC decides when the draft is sufficiently mature to be sent to the national members for the public Enquiry stage as a draft European standard ("prEN"). During Enquiry, anyone may comment on the draft.

The draft may be adopted automatically if there is enough support. Otherwise, the WG considers comments submitted, revises the draft, and the TC usually sends it as an "FprEN" to the national members for the Formal Vote. Each national member may cast a vote at the close (YES, NO, ABSTAIN). Each vote has a weight (Annexes D1 & D2 to the [CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations Part 2](#)). CEN and CENELEC use different criteria to assess whether a vote has passed (see Clause 6.2 of the [CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations Part 2](#)).

ANEC does not have a vote but has rights as a "Partner Organisation" in decisions of the TC and can submit an "Opinion" on prENs and FprENs. An EN drafted in answer to a Standardisation Request/Mandate provides "presumption of conformity" to legislation (e.g. the Toy Safety Directive) once its reference is published in the Official Journal (OJEU).

The standardisation process

