

THE EUROPEAN STANDARDISATION SYSTEM - HOW STANDARDS SUPPORT LEGISLATION

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European standardisation ...

- ▶ **...is founded on the WTO principles** of coherence, transparency, openness, consensus, voluntary application, independence from special interests, efficiency;
- ▶ **...supports the Single Market** by eliminating technical barriers to trade, and facilitating the free movement of goods and services, network interoperability, means of communication, technological development and innovation.

Standards – Market Tool

Standardisation: voluntary activity of private bodies, mostly without a direct regulatory link

Standards: private voluntary consensus documents for repetitive use

- ▶ Most standards are developed on industry's initiative, by industry experts, for the use of industry, and using the financial resources of the industry
- ▶ European standards have a key role for the competitiveness of the European industry
- ▶ Economic contribution of standards to the economies of EU Member States: up to **1% of national GDP**



Standards – Legislative Tool

- ▶ **Single European Act:** Internal Market to be completed by Dec 1992
=> need for new legislative techniques
- ▶ **New approach** to technical harmonisation and standards:
 - ▶ Legislative harmonisation *limited to essential requirements*
 - ▶ Technical specifications laid down in hENs
 - ▶ Products manufactured in compliance with hENs benefit from presumption of conformity
 - ▶ Application of hENs remains voluntary (CPR excluded)
- ▶ **New Legislative Framework (NLF)**



Standards are not Legislation!!!

Standards :

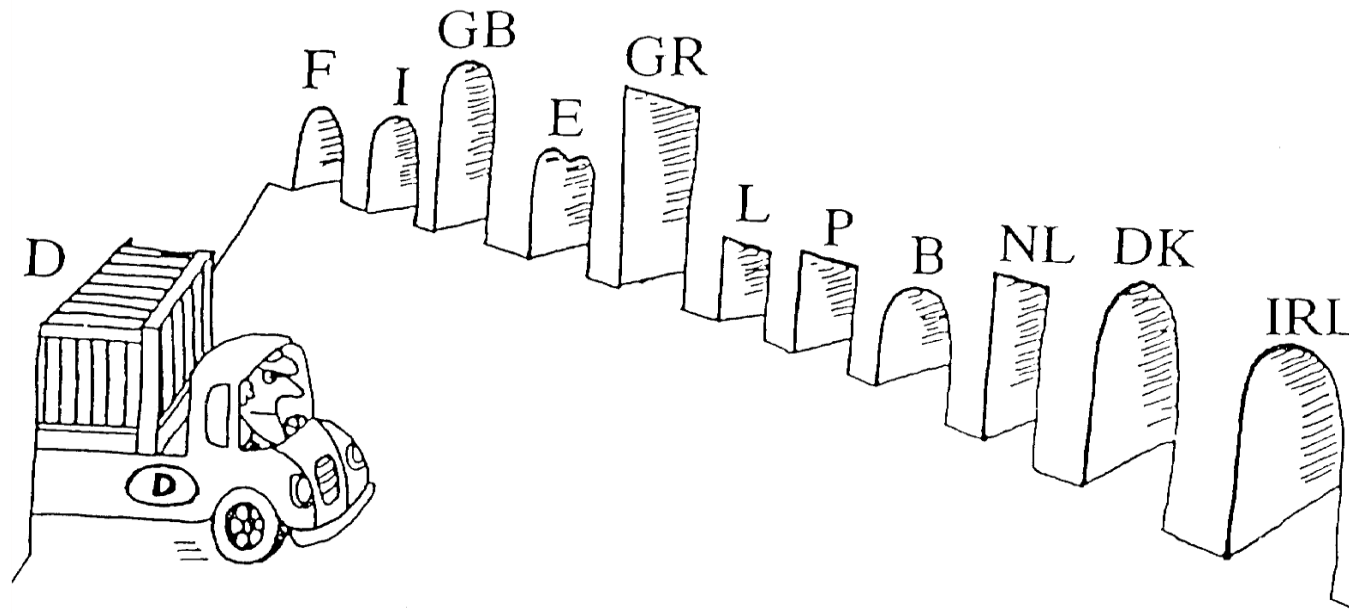
1. Voluntary
2. Consensual
3. Developed by independent organisations
4. Revised every 5 years
5. Provide specifications and test methods (interoperability, safety, quality, etc.)



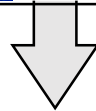
Legislation :

1. Mandatory
2. Imposed by Law
3. Established by public authorities
4. Revised when legislators decide
5. Sets requirements to protect public interests

Where we come from: Trade barriers hindered the European economy



Where we are going: European/international Standards – a tool for free trade



and how: by integrating the national standardisation with the regional and the international one



“Vienna Agreement” with



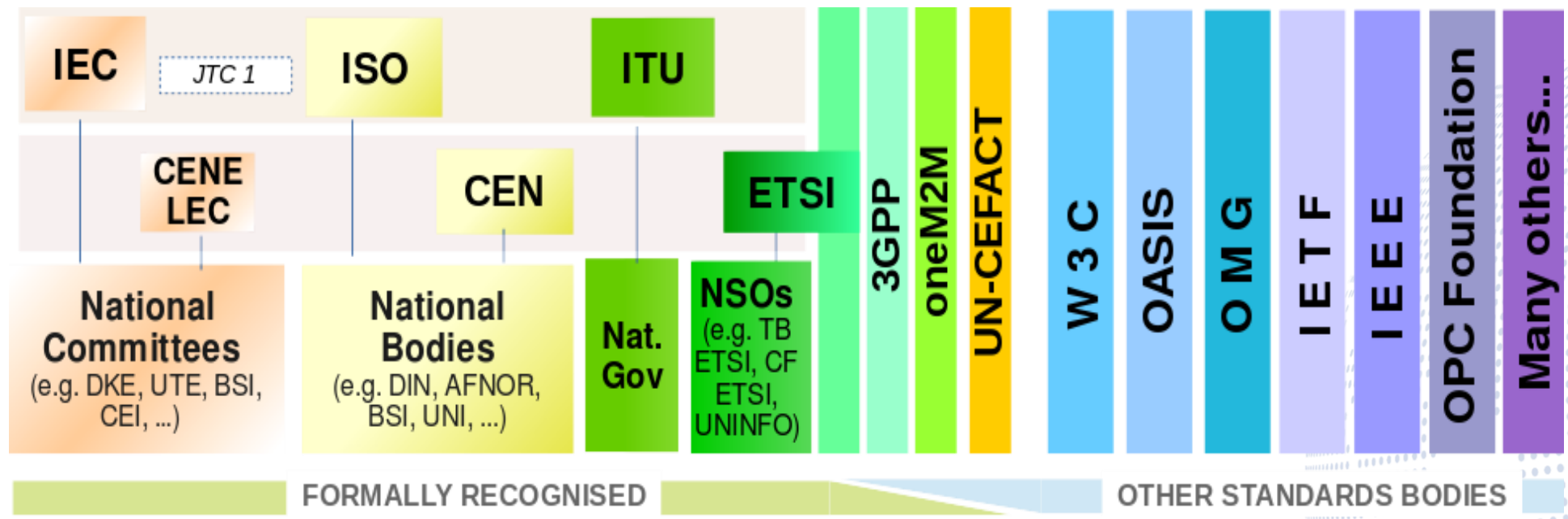
“Frankfurt Agreement” with



MoU for telecommunications sector (ITU-T)
Agreement on radio-communication sector (ITU-R)



High-level overview of the global standardisation ecosystem



European standards (VOLUNTARY) and EU legislation (MANDATORY)

Enable EU INTERNAL
MARKET

Instruments of EU
POLICY

Protect EU CITIZENS

EU legislation makes reference to Standards

*Direct reference: mandatory –
mandatory for specific use*

***Indirect reference →
« New Approach »***

References to Standards in «New Approach» legislation

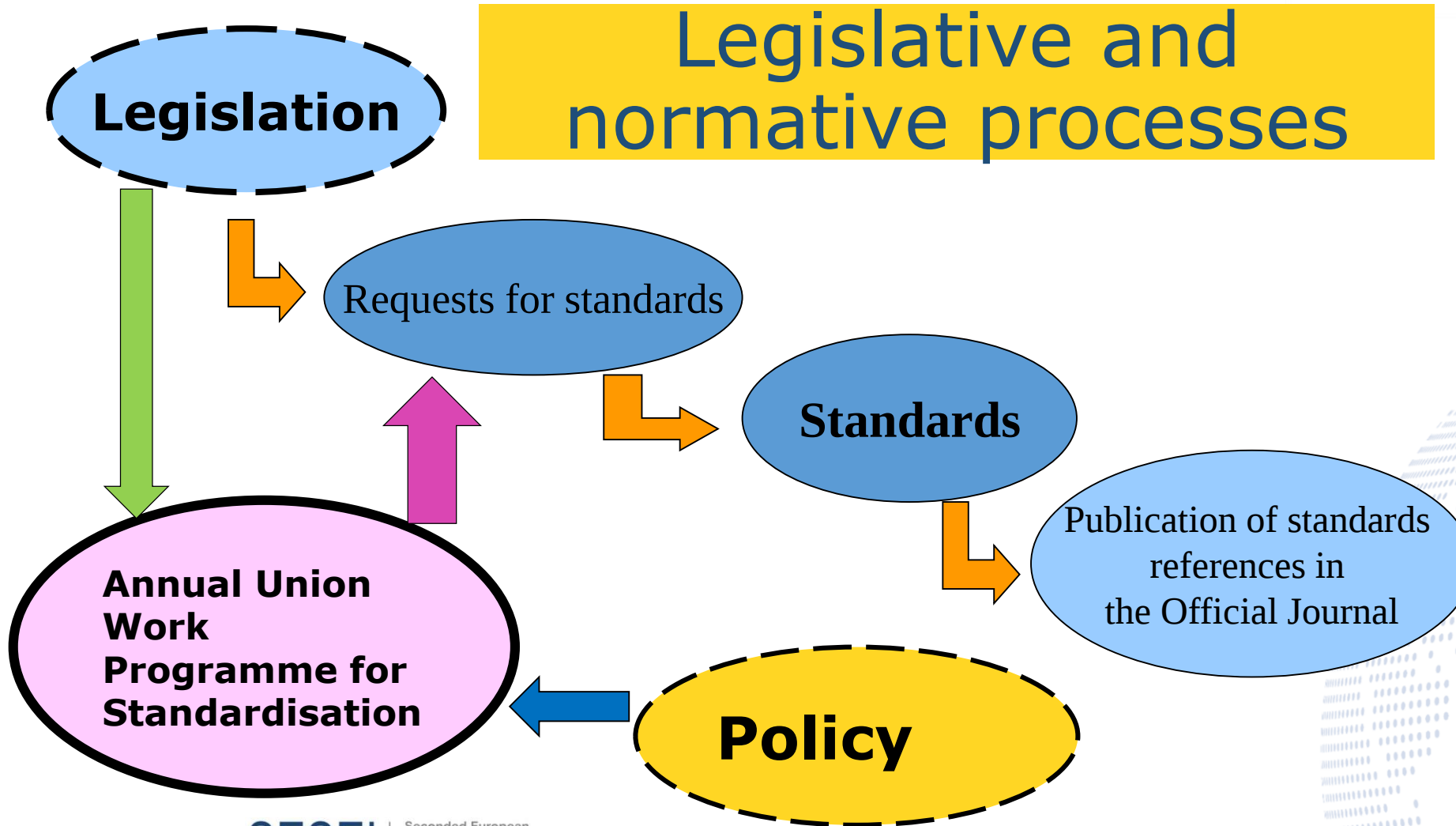
► Objective: remove barriers to trade in the EU Single Market

How? By task sharing:

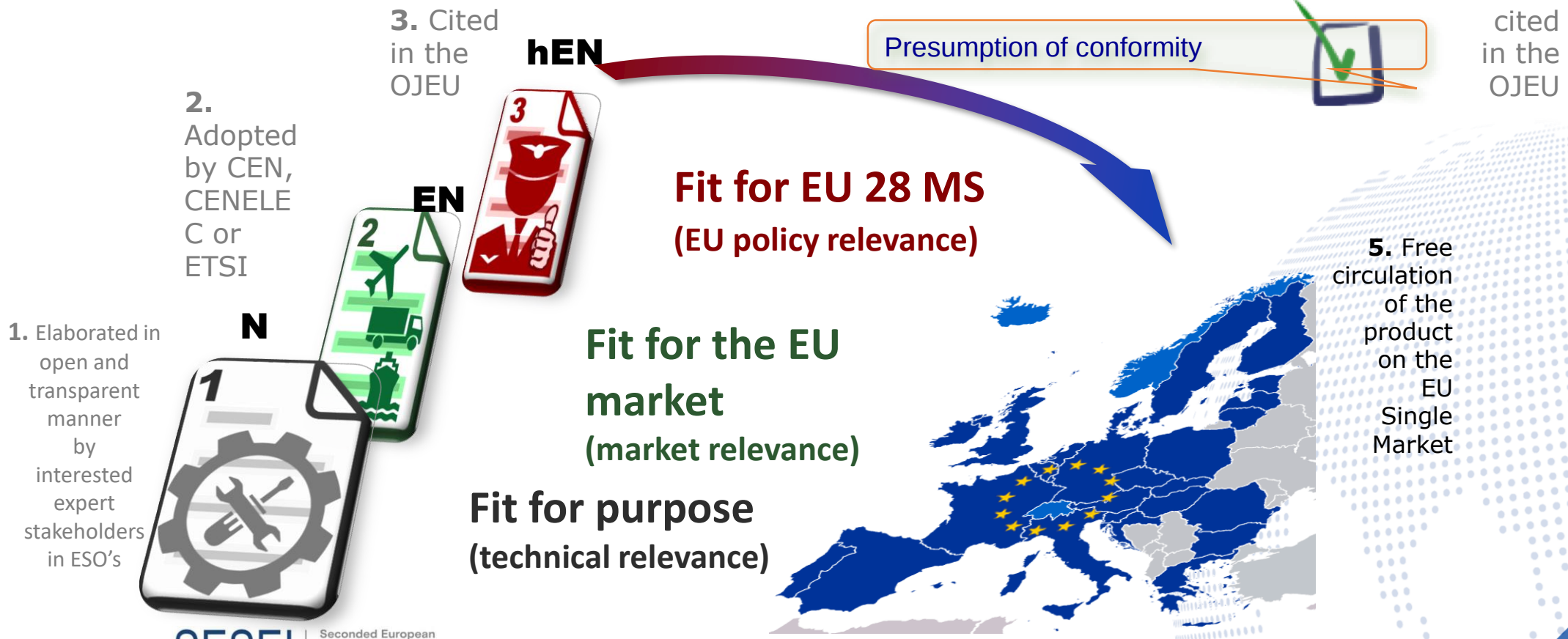
- Legislation: mandatory, stable, predictable and safeguarding public interest (via listing the essential requirements)
- Standards: voluntary, constantly updated to the state-of-the-art, predictable, harmonising the technical specifications

► Areas: Protection of **health, safety, environment** and **consumers**





Harmonised standards



Why European standards are special?

European standards (ENs) support the functioning of the single market

- **One EN replaces 34 different national standards:** one product-one standard, priority to international ones
- National Standards Bodies are obliged to **adopt ENs as national standards** and **withdraw any conflicting ones**
- **The system is transparent, stable and predictable**



Why is the system working?

- ▶ **VOLUNTARY STANDARDS** even when harmonised
- ▶ **PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP** – task-sharing and cooperation between the regulators and the European standardisers
- ▶ **TRUST** – the whole European system of standardisation and quality infrastructure is based on trust



DO NOT FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/european-standards/index_en.htm

Thank you
for your attention!

Any questions?

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