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NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Council (Competitiveness)
Subject: 3133rd Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry and Research) Council

Item:

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Standardisation and amending Council Directives 89/686/EEC and 93/15/EEC and Directives 94/9/EC, 94/25/EC, 95/16/EC, 97/23/EC, 98/34/EC, 2004/22/EC, 2007/23/EC, 2009/105/EC and 2009/23/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council
 - *Information from the Presidency*
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Delegations will find below an information note from the Presidency on the above-mentioned subject which will be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the "Competitiveness" Council on 5 and 6 December 2011.

Information from the Presidency

The proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European standardisation was presented by the Commission at the Council Working Party on Technical Harmonisation meeting **on 19 July 2011**, when **the first exchange of views and discussion of the impact assessment** took place.

The **examination of the legislative proposal started** at the meeting **on 21 September 2011**. The Technical Harmonisation WP examined all the articles and annexes at its **four meetings**: on 21 September, 6 October, 4 November and 28 November. Delegations have examined the text in a constructive manner and in a focused way, so considerable progress can be stated.

The Member States expressed their concerns about several provisions, including those relating to **speeding-up the standardisation process**; the **recognition of technical specifications** adopted by fora and consortia **as ICT standards**; as well as the **involvement of SME and societal stakeholders** in European standardisation, both at the meetings and in their written comments.

In its latest compromise proposals the Presidency suggested:

- to maintain the **principle of standstill** (currently in Articles 4(1) and 7 of Directive 98/34);
- to establish the concept of **recognising technical specifications** produced by fora and consortia, and bind such recognition to well-defined requirements, **for both EU policies and public procurement**;
- to clarify that the **list of stakeholders** is only **limited to the organisations** to be **publicly funded**, and not representing all stakeholders;
- to better reflect the **principle of national delegation** and the fact that the **involvement of some stakeholders** in the standardisation process, including **SME**, can be most effective **at national level**.

The **latest compromise text** will constitute the basis for further negotiations in 2012.