

European Commission
DG GROW H.3

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EPF feedback on the Call for Evidence on the European standardisation evaluation

The European Panel Federation (EPF) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Call for Evidence on the European standardisation evaluation and EPF believes that it is important to thoroughly assess the challenges ahead for EU standardisation especially with regards to the circular, energy and digital transitions.

Moreover, EPF considers that it is essential to ensure that standards are fit for use by manufacturers not only to meet regulatory needs but also to help the industry in terms of facilitating the production of quality products that meet the needs of customers and consumers alike whilst also enabling fair competition by providing transparent and known European assessment criteria.

To this end, it is required to establish a standardisation environment that enables proper engagement from all relevant parties and proper due process to ensure that standards are fit for purpose and useable within the future circular and digital economies (areas that are amongst EPF's priorities). The CPR acquis process's success is key to unblocking the situation of harmonised standards under the Construction Products Regulation, it is therefore vital that the standardisation process properly facilitates this cooperation between Member States, the European Commission and CEN TCs in a way that creates good quality standards that meet the needs of all in a timely manner.

In this respect, it is important that the EU standardisation process ensures proper harmonisation of standards to foster global competitiveness for EU companies while securing a level-playing field within the EU single market and beyond. Hence, EPF urges the Commission to proceed with the evaluation in a transparent, participatory and non-discriminatory manner. Involving the industry and industry associations in every step of the process will be of the utmost importance.

In order to do so, EPF is looking forward to participating in the consultation process and expects to be invited for the upcoming targeted stakeholder surveys, interviews and validation workshop.

EPF represents the European manufacturers of wood-based panels being particleboard, dry process fibreboard (MDF), oriented strand board (OSB), hardboard, softboard and plywood. EPF has members in 30 European countries. The EU wood panel industry has a turnover of about 25 billion euro every year and creates directly over 100,000 jobs. The production of wood-based panels in the EU-27 (+EFTA) in 2022 was an estimated 59.8 million m³. www.europanel.org

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