SESEI Newsletter

SECONDED EUROPEAN STANDARDIZATION EXPERT IN INDIA

cen — European Committee for Standardization

CENELEC — European Committee for Electro Technical Standardization

ETSI — European Telecommunications Standards Institute

European Commission — European Commission

EFTA — European Free Trade Association

Dear Readers

Greeting from Project SESEI

The SESEI Newsletter- India, February 2025, brings with it latest information and advancements in EU on standardization, emerging and clean technologies, and international collaborations. This month holds special significance, with the visit of entire EU College of Commissioners led by European Commission President Ms Ursula von der Leyen, to India.

During their visit meetings and talks were held with PM Narendra Modi & other respective Indian Counterparts on Trade and Technology (TTC), FTA, Security Cooperation etc. A joint Statement and audio/visual link is provided in the newsletter.

The EU is constantly and consistently working in the direction to maintain and safeguard its position as technology leader, economic powerhouse, an investment destination and manufacturing centre. The European Commission has issued a communication on the "**Competitiveness Compass for the EU**", to strengthen the EU's ability to innovate, compete and grow. It recognizes the role of standards to achieve its objectives and highlights the need for more agile and responsive standardization system. CEN and CENELEC have committed to implement this vision and foster harmonization, ensuring that European standards continue to facilitate innovation, enhance competitiveness, and uphold EU values.

Similarly, recently released **Position Paper on the future European Research & Innovation Framework Programme (FP10)**, developed by CEN-CLC/BT Working Group 3 'STAIR' Standardization, Innovation and Research), of CEN and CENELEC outlines key strategic recommendations to enhance the role of standardization in European R&I. CEN and CENELEC also released a **Discussion Paper** that elaborates on why standardization is essential to Single Market and provide recommendations and benefits of standardization to strengthen the Single Market Strategy.

In the world of Digital Technologies, Artificial Intelligence and its framework is taking precedence. European Commission President has launched InvestAI, an initiative to mobilise €200 billion for investment in AI, including a new European fund of €20 billion for AI gigafactories. ETSI organised its 4th AI conference emphasising on the need for collaboration in shaping an AI-driven future that is responsible, secure, ethical, and aligned with the European AI Act. Juan Montojo, a leading expert in 3GPP, provided an overview of the 3GPP AI/ML projects and their progress at the ETSI AI Conference.

At ETSI a new Industry Specification group (ISG) on Multiple Access Techniques for 6G Networks and a Technical Committee on Data Solutions (TC DATA) to encourage the adoption of new standards in line with the European Data Governance Act were launched.

In the Clean & Green Technologies, the European Commission has launched a public consultation as part of the GreenData4All initiative, inviting everyone to share their thoughts on how to improve access to environmental data. The Commission has also sought public feedback on draft secondary legislation to implement the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA), whose objective is to boost the competitiveness of the clean tech sector across Europe.

The newsletter also provides details of upcoming events organised by European Standardization bodies which could be of interest to you. We hope that you will find this newsletter informative.
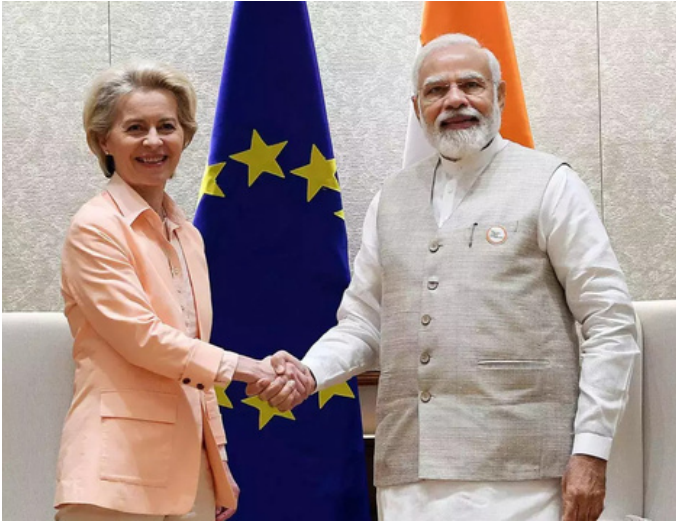
Happy Reading!!

Best regards,
Dinesh Chand Sharma
Director Standards & Public Policy

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Key outcomes of the second EU-India Trade and Technology Council

The European Union and India held their second ministerial meeting of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) in New Delhi on 28th February 2025, as part of one of the first visits by the College of Commissioners early in the new mandate.

The TTC is a key forum to deepen the strategic partnership on trade and technology between the two partners. Geostrategic challenges have reinforced the EU and India's common interest in ensuring security, prosperity and sustainable development based on shared values. The TTC will help foster EU-India bilateral trade, which is at historical highs, with €124 billion worth of goods traded in 2023. In 2023, €60 billion were traded in services, of which €20 billion were digital services.

The ministerial meeting was co-chaired by Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy Henna Virkkunen, Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maroš Šefčovič, as well as Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation Ekaterina Zaharieva, on the EU side. On the Indian side, there was India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Commerce, Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Key outcomes

The EU and India have set up the TTC as a coordination platform to address key trade, trusted technology and security challenges. The ministerial meeting relied on the accomplishments of three working groups.

WG 1 : Strategic technologies, digital governance and digital connectivity

In line with their shared values, both partners reaffirmed the importance of deepening their digital cooperation. They committed to accelerating a human-centric digital transformation, as well as the development of advanced and trustworthy AI, semiconductors, High-Performance Computing and 6G for the benefit of both economies and societies.

Concretely, the EU and India:

- agreed to work towards the interoperability of their respective Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs), ensuring they respect human rights and protect personal data, privacy and intellectual property rights
- emphasised the need for e-signatures to be mutually recognised in order to enhance cross-border digital transactions while supporting the economic growth of the two partners.
- will explore joint research and development in the field of chip design. This shows the two partners' commitment to further strengthen the resilience of semiconductor supply chains.
- will encourage innovation and information exchange by deepening the cooperation between the European AI Office and India AI Mission, including on large language models (LLMs), and harness the potential of AI for human development and common good, including through joint projects such as developing tools and frameworks for ethical and responsible AI.
- welcomed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the EU 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association and the Indian Bharat 6G Alliance towards secured and trusted telecommunications and resilient supply chains.

The EU and India were also able to confirm financial support from both sides for the GANANA project, which seeks to foster a long-term partnership between the two in the development and application of HPC solutions. The project, launched in 2025, receives EU funding from EuroHPC JU with a total budget of nearly €5m stemming from Horizon Europe. GANANA will enhance cooperation not only on HPC, but also help towards common efforts in building capacities for AI applications.

WG 2 : Green and clean energy technologies

Both sides highlighted the progress made on Green and Clean Energy Technologies, which has been instrumental in advancing our shared ambition of achieving net zero emissions. The EU aims to reach this goal by 2050, while India is targeting 2070. Through their cooperation in battery recycling for electric vehicles they successfully connected Indian and EU startups with potential partners and investors. They also held a workshop on E-vehicles charging standards earlier in the week.

Looking ahead the EU and India will launch:

- Joint research cooperation under the Horizon Europe program, through exceptional coordinated calls with India. These will be published in 2025, focusing on key areas such as marine plastic litter and waste-to-renewable hydrogen. Additional calls on recycling of batteries for electrical vehicles are envisaged for 2026, and potential future cooperation on wastewater treatment technologies. Together they sum up a joint investment of around €60 million.
- An "Ideathon" on marine plastic pollution, where Indian and EU partners will create practical solutions to address this pressing issue.
- A dialogue on harmonising standards for the charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, which will facilitate mutual access to these growing markets.

WG 3 : Trade, investment and resilient value chains

India is an important trade and investment partner for the EU, with total bilateral trade in goods and services reaching €184 billion in 2023. Considering the rapid growth of the sizeable and dynamic Indian market, there is significant further potential in EU-India trade relations. The EU and India are currently negotiating a free trade agreement, an investment protection agreement and an agreement on geographical indications. The current geopolitical and economic context makes the conclusion of these talks a priority for both sides.

In such a context, closer trade relations are particularly valuable to secure and diversify both sides' value chains of inputs and final products, thus strengthening both sides' economic security. With that in mind, at today's TTC ministerial meeting the EU and India committed to fostering resilient and future-ready value chains notably by collaborating on contingency planning for food security and on sustainability of food systems, cooperating on the establishment of early warning systems to anticipate and mitigate disruptions in the supply of active pharmaceutical ingredients, and exploring synergies in clean value chains for technologies such as solar energy, offshore wind and green hydrogen.

The EU and India also:

- Made progress on a number of market access issues and agreed to continue their engagement to address these.
- Exchanged best practices on the screening of Foreign Direct Investments, a particularly important area of collaboration for enhancing both sides' economic security.
- Reaffirmed their commitment to the multilateral trading system, while recognising the need to reform the WTO.
- Held in-depth discussions on trade and decarbonisation, especially on the implementation of the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

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➤ **Audio/Video of the Press statement by Ursula von der LEYEN, President of the European Commission:**

Click Here ➤

➤ **President von der Leyen Speech (28 Feb)**

Click Here ➤

➤ **Leaders' Statement (28 Feb; post meetings)**

Click Here ➤

CEN and CENELEC Position Paper on Standardization in FP10

CEN and CENELEC have officially approved a Position Paper on the future European Research & Innovation Framework Programme (FP10). Developed by CEN-CLC/BT Working Group 3 'STAIR' (Standardization, Innovation and Research), this document outlines key strategic recommendations to enhance the role of standardization in European R&I.

The Position Paper emphasizes three core priorities for FP10:

1. **Enhanced Integration of Standardization in Research Projects** – Embedding standardization at all stages of R&I activities to strengthen the European Standardization System.
2. **Support Mechanisms for Skills Development in Standardization** – Expanding training and capacity-building initiatives to ensure researchers and innovators can effectively engage in standardization.
3. **Targeted Incentives and Resources for Standardization Activities** – Providing financial and structural support to projects that contribute to standardization efforts.

These recommendations aim to ensure that FP10 fosters greater alignment between research outcomes and standardization, boosting Europe's technological leadership, global competitiveness, and strategic autonomy.

Following its approval by the CEN and CENELEC Technical Boards, the Position Paper will serve as a key contribution to ongoing discussions on FP10, helping shape policies that maximize the impact of European researchers and innovators through standardization.

Download Position Paper ⊙

ETSI appoints Martin Chatel as Chief Policy Officer

ETSI announced the appointment of Martin Chatel as Chief Policy Officer, who will lead the Policy Affairs Department at ETSI. As Chief Policy Officer, Martin Chatel will spearhead ETSI's strategic policy engagement with the European Commission, EFTA, CEPT, international policymakers, societal stakeholders, and industry associations, under the leadership of ETSI Director-General Jan Ellsberger.

Martin Chatel with over a decade of experience in legal and public policy, has a strong track record in government affairs, stakeholder engagement, and policy advocacy at both European and national levels. His mission is to strengthen ETSI's position in delivering high-quality standards that align with EU policy objectives and global technological advancements, leveraging his expertise in European law, intellectual property, competition policy, and technology regulation. Holding a degree from Sciences Po Paris and the Brussels Institute of European Studies, Martin Chatel has worked with numerous European and international organizations, including key standardization bodies.

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Standardization strengthens the Single Market: CEN and CENELEC response to the Call for Evidence for the Single Market Strategy

CEN and CENELEC prepared a Discussion Paper that elaborates on why standardization is essential to the Single Market and provide recommendations on how to best utilise the benefits of standardization to strengthen the Single Market Strategy.

In particular, CEN and CENELEC ask that the European Commission:

— Consider standardization's importance to economic competitiveness and productivity
— Ensure the long-term stability of the public-private partnership
— Adopt a consistent approach to standardization across different initiatives.
— Ensure that new legislation, where relevant, reference standards through the NLF .

This Discussion Paper was prepared by CEN and CENELEC in response to the call for evidence launched by the European Commission on the upcoming **Single Market Strategy**. This Strategy aims to modernize the Single Market to better support European competitiveness and innovation. CEN and CENELEC, as two of the three official European Standardization Organizations (ESOs), took this opportunity to outline standardization's important contribution to the Single Market and how standardization can be used to support the goals of this strategy.

Read the full position paper **here**.

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CEN and CENELEC welcome the European Commission's Competitiveness Compass

European Commission's recently issued *Competitiveness Compass*. This strategic initiative is a positive and bold first step towards reinforcing the EU's ability to lead in the world economy and advance the twin green and digital transitions. CEN and CENELEC as one of the three European Standardisation Bodies welcome the European Commission's *Competitiveness Compass*.

CEN and CENELEC have a long-standing history of working closely with the European Commission on the basis of the **New Legislative Framework** to develop and implement standards that strengthen the Single Market, drive technological innovation, and enhance the global competitiveness of European industries.

European standards (ENs) are a cornerstone of economic integration: they facilitate the free movement of goods and services, ensure interoperability, and provide businesses — especially SMEs — with a clear and predictable regulatory framework. By reducing technical barriers to trade and reinforcing safety, sustainability, and performance requirements, standards contribute directly to the EU's strategic autonomy and industrial leadership on the global stage.

The **Competitiveness Compass** recognizes the role of standards to achieve its objectives and highlights the necessity for a more agile and responsive standardization system to meet the evolving needs of European regulators and industries. CEN and CENELEC are committed to working with the European Commission and other stakeholders to implement this vision and foster harmonization in the Single Market, ensuring that European standards continue to facilitate innovation, enhance competitiveness, and uphold EU values.

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DIGITALEUROPE joins CEN and CENELEC as a partner: a step forward in standardization for the digital industry

CEN (European Committee for Standardization) and CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization) are proud to announce a new partnership agreement with DIGITALEUROPE — a leading trade association that represents digitally transforming industries across Europe. This collaboration heralds a significant alignment between the digital industry and the European standardization ecosystem, strengthening efforts to address critical challenges and seize opportunities in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

By gaining the status of CEN and CENELEC Partner, DIGITALEUROPE will work closely with the two standardization bodies to drive innovation, sustainability, and competitiveness in the digital sector. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to the European Single Market, fostering a sustainable and competitive digital economy, and supporting technological progress in Europe.

DIGITALEUROPE's role in this partnership will include providing technical and strategic expertise to support standardization efforts in areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data governance, and smart technologies. These contributions will enhance CEN and CENELEC's ability to deliver standards that drive innovation while ensuring regulatory compliance and supporting the development of a green and digital economy.

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Digitization

ETSI Launches New Group on Multiple Access Techniques for 6G Networks

ETSI has announced the establishment of a new Industry Specification Group (ISG) focused on Multiple Access Techniques (MAT) for 6G mobile systems. The group aims to build industry consensus on innovative multiple access techniques, based on 3GPP specifications.

The ISG MAT will explore candidate techniques such as Orthogonal Multiple Access (OMA), Spatial Division Multiple Access (SDMA), Non-Orthogonal Multiple Access (NOMA) and Rate-Splitting Multiple Access (RSMA) that enhance the transmission efficiency across parameters such as spectrum efficiency, power consumption, latency and user fairness. Relevant deployment environments considered in the ISG MAT are indoor hotspot, urban macro (e.g., High Demand Density areas) and rural settings. The ISG MAT will concentrate on downlink multiple access techniques for the physical layer of the 3GPP radio interface.

The new ETSI Group will deliver Group Reports to be considered by 3GPP and other relevant industry bodies in their 6G standardization activities. It will contribute to the development of 6G as a pervasive general-purpose communication system connecting humans and machines across a wide range of use cases. This initiative aligns with the evolving needs of future wireless networks, which are expected to support - amongst others - new interactive immersive experiences and overcome the challenges of connectivity in High Demand Density areas. It will also provide more efficient and reliable media delivery (live and on-demand) over mobile networks at scale.

Read more about the scope and areas of activities of the Industry Special Group (ISG) on Multiple Access Technologies (MAT)

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EU launches InvestAI initiative to mobilise €200 billion of investment in artificial intelligence

During the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit in Paris on 10-11 February 2025, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has launched InvestAI, an initiative to mobilise €200 billion for investment in AI, including a new European fund of €20 billion for AI gigafactories. This large AI infrastructure is needed to allow open, collaborative development of the most complex AI models and to make Europe an AI continent.

The EU's InvestAI fund will finance four future AI gigafactories across the EU. The new AI gigafactories will be specialised in training the most complex, very large, AI models. Such next-generation models require extensive computing infrastructure for breakthroughs in specific domains such as medicine or science. The gigafactories will have around 100 000 last-generation AI chips, around four times more than the AI factories being set up right now.

The gigafactories funded through InvestAI will be the largest public-private partnership in the world for the development of trustworthy AI. They will serve the European model of cooperative, open innovation, with a focus on complex industrial and mission-critical applications. The goal is that every company, not only the biggest players, can access large-scale computing power to build the future.

InvestAI will include a layered fund, with shares of different risk and return profiles. The EU budget would derisk the investment of other partners. The Commission's initial funding for InvestAI will come from existing EU funding programmes which have a digital component, such as Digital Europe Programme and Horizon Europe, and InvestEU. Member States can also contribute by programming funds from their Cohesion envelopes. Funding of AI gigafactories with a mix of grants and equity will serve as one of the pilot cases for strategic technologies announced in the Competitiveness Compass.

The Commission has already announced the initial seven AI factories in December and will soon announce the next five. The existing support for AI Factories of €10 billion, co-financed by the EU and the Member States, is already the largest public investment in AI in the world, and will unlock over ten times more private investment. It already provides massive access for start-ups and industry to supercomputers.
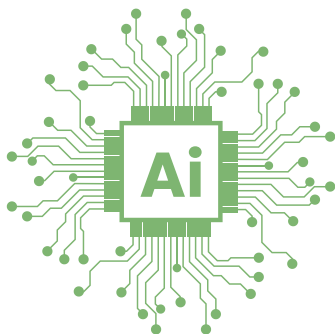
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ETSI's AI Conference Highlights How Standardization is Shaping the Future of AI

While Paris became the artificial intelligence (AI) capital of the world during the AI Action Summit, ETSI held its AI conference, How Standardization is Shaping the Future of AI, at its premises. The event provided a unique opportunity for all stakeholders of the AI/ML ecosystem - including industry, governments, academia and other standardization bodies - to share their insights, research, experiences, and questions on the evolving AI landscape. SMEs emphasized that in AI, speed is more critical than size.

With extensive experience in AI-related standards and a holistic perspective shaped by its diverse membership, ETSI is considered as a key competence center for AI in Europe. ETSI's strong expertise in AI can help deliver timely, impactful standards to support the AI Act and benefit the newly established Technical Committee on Data. This 4th AI conference organized by ETSI reinforced the importance of collaboration in shaping an AI-driven future that is responsible, secure, ethical, and aligned with the European AI Act.

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Overview of AI/ML related Work in 3GPP

Juan Montojo, a leading expert in 3GPP TSG Radio Access Networks (RAN) and rapporteur for the work item Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning for NR air interface (NR_AIML_air), has spoken during the ETSI AI Conference on February 11, 2025 - delivering an overview of the technology's progress in 3GPP to date and the future prospects as we consider 6G priorities.

AI models have been in use by vendors and network operators for some time, as an implementation choice, enhancing some conventional methodology in areas such as network management and automation (SON, etc) as well as various processing algorithms at the network and device sides.

3GPP Priorities:

Juan Montojo told the conference that 3GPP AI/ML projects have been chiefly to help improve those specific areas, given that there are no plans in sight to specify AI/ML models themselves. The priority in 3GPP groups has been to ensure some basic – but key – advances in the areas of:

- Infrastructure/operator control.
- AI/ML model performance monitoring.
- AI/ML model activation and deactivation.
- Air interface extensions specific to AI/ML implementations.
- Establishing early standards-based approaches for devices' data collection, as well as AI/ML model transfer and delivery.
- Testing, interoperability and consistent device behaviour.

Looking at the industry engagement in AI/ML, Montojo gave a personal assessment of the pro's and con's of current day AI/ML in cellular networks. He said that at this early stage in its development, the technology is very good for bringing a lot of information together for localized data-driven decision making. On the other hand, it is not so good for solving complex problems with analytical solutions at hand.

AI/ML based implementations are expected to shine in complex non-linear problems with a high degree of if/then/else conditions to consider, which are currently solved from heuristics from multiple generations of wireless technologies. Another byproduct of that complexity has been that AI/ML processing is not good for energy consumption in the network or on the device side.

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ETSI OpenCAPIF launches Release Two Common API Framework based on 3GPP Release 18

ETSI SDG OpenCAPIF, the Software Development Group developing an open-source implementation of the Common API Framework (CAPIF) defined by 3GPP, has just launched their Release 2.0.0. This version has been upgraded to support CAPIF Release 18 Technical Specifications from 3GPP and the associated YAML templates available in the 3GPP Forge.

This new Release also introduces significant updates, enhancements, and new features aimed at providing a more robust, secure, and efficient API management platform. One of the main new features is the Software Development Kit (SDK) designed to lower integration complexity and provide developers, whether they are beginners or experienced, with the basic API invoker and exposer logic, so they can focus on the development of network applications and network exposing functions.

Along with this release, ETSI is now offering an OpenCAPIF Sandbox environment allowing developers to test and validate their functions and applications against OpenCAPIF Release 2.0.0. Release 2.0.0 also includes new tools for testing and multiple recently developed or updated scripts.

To know more about all the new features in OpenCAPIF Release 2.0.0, you can check the Release Notes or the OpenCAPIF Documentation.

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European Commission published the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) standardisation request

The European Commission published the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) standardisation request. The harmonised standards will be built upon EN 18031, ensuring its ongoing significance in the compliance process. To ease the transition from RED Delegated Act compliance to the CRA, the European Standardisation Organizations (ESO) – CEN, CENELEC, and ETSI – may adjust EN 18031 to better align with CRA requirements.

Read more/Download ❯

ETSI launches a Technical Committee on Data Solutions (TC DATA) to encourage the adoption of new standards in line with the European Data Governance Act

The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) announced the establishment of a new Technical Committee on Data Solutions (TC DATA) aimed at advancing data-driven technologies and supporting the development of new industry standards. TC DATA-

-will provide a center of expertise in data infrastructures, services, and applications, developing data solutions specifically designed to support services for IoT, telecommunications systems and networks, as well as human services and other industries.

The TC DATA will also develop technical standards to support data interoperability and semantic interoperability.

ETSI's TC DATA aims to promote responsible data sharing, enhance privacy and security, and drive innovation in relevant data intensive technologies -namely advanced Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. With the proliferation of AI and in turn, agentic AI applications, means data sharing patterns become more complex and require open infrastructures to address unprecedented interoperability requirements. Data representation and availability, data access control, data consistency and data privacy preservation are all fundamental aspects that need to be considered as data volumes and the need for cross-sector data sharing soars.

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Commission endorses the integration of the voluntary Code of Practice on Disinformation into the Digital Services Act

The Commission and the European Board for Digital Services endorsed the integration of the voluntary Code of Practice on Disinformation into the framework of the Digital Services Act (DSA). This integration will make the Code a benchmark for determining platforms' compliance with the DSA.

In January 2025, the signatories of the Code – including companies designated under the DSA as Very Large Online Platforms and Search Engines (VLOPEs), such as Google, Meta, Microsoft and TikTok) – submitted all the necessary documents supporting their request for its conversion into a Code of Conduct under the DSA.

To be recognised as a DSA Voluntary Code of Conduct, the Code needs to fulfil the criteria set out in the Digital Services Act. The Commission and the Board adopted separate positive assessments in this regard, **endorsing the official integration of the Code into the DSA framework.**

With its integration, full adherence to the Code may be considered as an appropriate risk mitigation measure for signatories designated as VLOPs and VLOSEs under the DSA. As such, the Code will become a significant and meaningful benchmark for determining DSA compliance. Compliance with the commitments under the Code will also be part of the **annual independent audit**, which these platforms are subject to under the DSA.

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ETSI OpenSlice announces 2024Q4 Release Advancing beyond Network-as-a-Service towards Telco Cloud

ETSI announced the second Release of the open-source software platform developed by the Software Development Group OpenSlice. This Release continues to drive the evolution of Network-as-a-Service (NaaS) solutions, offering service providers and consumers a powerful framework for orchestrating and managing end-to-end (E2E) network services across private and public clouds.

Additionally, OpenSlice 2024Q4 builds on its comprehensive, service-based Operations Support System (OSS) capabilities to meet the evolving demands of the telecom industry. It extends developments beyond NaaS to embrace Telco Cloud scenarios, incorporating support for CAMARA and TMF Operate APIs. These enhancements enable the capability exposure essential for a contemporary Operator Platform.

Key Highlights of ETSI SDG OpenSlice 2024Q4 Release:

- **OpenSlice Addons**: The continuously updated Addons repository leverages Custom Resource (CR) orchestration support to enable modern telco features and use cases, such as:

  - **LF Sylva:** Provides a Kubernetes operator to manage Sylva workload clusters;

  - **CAMARA QoD extension:** Allows the exposure and usage of the Quality on Demand (QoD) API.

- **Kubernetes support extension:** The enhanced CR orchestration logic, boosts stability, expands Kubernetes resource exposure, and introduces intuitive resource mapping and lifecycle management.

- **TM Forum APIs extensions:** Incorporating Resource Activation and extending the Product Layer TM Forum APIs, which further supports the capabilities exposure of a modern Operator Platform.

- **Robustness and Performance enhancements:** Bringing significant enhancements to concurrent, multi-tenant usage while optimizing key components to minimize their footprint for sustainable long-term deployments.

- **End-to-end testing pipelines:** Enabling seamless, repeatable validations of deployment and orchestration examples with every codebase update.

To learn more about OpenSlice version 2024Q4: Check the Release Notes and User Documentation and follow the detailed Deployment Guide to explore OpenSlice 2024Q4 in your own environment.

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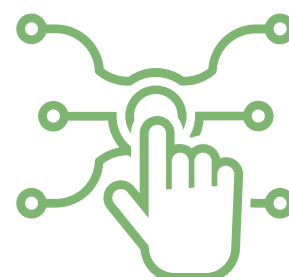## 221 emerging technologies that could shape Europe's future

A new Joint Research Centre (JRC) report has confirmed Europe's leadership in scientific research on emerging innovations such as AI, digital twins, and biotechnology. However, challenges remain, and strategic investment is needed for Europe to maintain its competitive edge.

Europe holds a strong position in scientific research on emerging technologies, according to the Joint Research Centre (JRC) technical report on Weak signals in Science and Technologies – 2024. The new report analyses emerging technologies in key areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and biotechnologies, which have the potential to improve Europe's competitiveness across different fields.

The aim of the report, the fourth of its kind, is then to provide new insights into the latest developments in emerging technologies and analyse their potential impact on society. In it, experts have looked at a set of 221 emerging technologies detected over the course of 2024 and have distributed them in twelve thematic clusters going from e-Health to aerospace.

Many of the emerging technologies detected are also related to artificial intelligence and machine learning, with applications in fields such as healthcare, finance, and transportation. The report highlights the potential of these technologies to transform industries and improve people's lives. For example, artificial intelligence can be used to develop personalised medicines, while machine learning can improve the efficiency of transportation systems.

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Green and Clean Technologies

Commission seeks views on provisions to implement the Net-Zero Industry Act

The Commission has opened a series of calls for public feedback on four pieces of draft secondary legislation to implement the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA), whose objective is to boost the competitiveness of the clean tech sector across Europe.

The three implementing and one delegated acts will support businesses and public authorities in identifying the types of projects that can qualify for faster permitting processes and the 'net-zero strategic project' status. They will help ensure that the implementation of the NZIA is consistent and transparent across EU Member States, notably thanks to a series of common assessment criteria, as well as a list of the components of the key clean technologies that are automatically supported by the regulation.

These acts also set out a list of main components, the supply of which will have to be diversified as part of public procurement, auctions for green power and other support schemes, in those cases where the EU is highly dependent on a single source of their supply. For renewable energy auctions, these acts further define non-price criteria such as sustainability, resilience, cybersecurity, and timely delivery. This will be key not only to support the EU's efforts to diversify its sources of supply for technologies enabling decarbonisation, but also to foster production in the domestic clean energy sector and further attract clean investments to Europe.

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Commission launches GreenData4All public consultation

The European Commission has launched a public consultation as part of the GreenData4All initiative, inviting everyone to share their thoughts on how to improve access to environmental data. This initiative is crucial for supporting Europe's green and digital transformation by making environmental data more available, accessible, and reusable.

The GreenData4All initiative addresses the growing need for the better sharing of environmental data. It is essential for developing effective policies that protect our environment and support a strong data economy. By making environmental data more accessible, GreenData4All aims to support evidence-based decision-making and empower European businesses and startups to create more innovative services.

Objectives:-

- **Enhance data sharing:** Contribute to making environmental data more accessible and reusable for all users, thereby boosting competitiveness and innovation across the EU.
- **Support environmental policy:** Ensure that environmental data is easily accessible and meets the needs of end-users, facilitating better policy implementation and decision-making.
- **Promote digital transformation:** Contribute to a coherent ecosystem for environmental data sharing, making the existing legal framework for sharing geospatial data (INSPIRE Directive) future-proof and aligned with other European data sharing legislation (Open Data Directive; Data Governance Act).

The public consultation is available on the 'Have Your Say' portal in all 24 EU languages. Stakeholders can submit their feedback for the twelve weeks after its publication.

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EU invests over €1.2 billion in cross-border infrastructure contributing to build our Energy Union and to boost competitiveness

The Commission will allocate almost €1.25 billion in grants from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) to **41 cross-border energy infrastructure projects, which have** obtained the status of **Projects of Common Interest** and **Projects of Mutual Interest** (PCIs and PMIs) in 2024 under the Trans-European Networks for Energy (TEN-E) policy framework.

This is the largest call for proposals under the current CEF Energy programme, both in terms of applications received and funding awarded and goes beyond the call's initial indicative budget of €850 million. It is also **the first call under the revised TEN-E Regulation which includes hydrogen and offshore electricity grid projects.**

As underlined by the Draghi report, such cross-border energy infrastructure investments are key to securing Europe's competitiveness. They will contribute to the EU's goals of integrating energy markets and decarbonising the energy system.

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EU/EFTA-India

New Business Support Desk to help EFTA companies Make the Most of TEPA

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and India have taken a significant step towards deepening their economic engagement with the launch of the EFTA Desk by Invest India on 10 February 2025.

This dedicated resource is designed to help companies from the EFTA States navigate the Indian market, build connections and prepare for the opportunities unlocked by the EFTA–India Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) signed on 10 March 2024.

While the TEPA has yet to formally enter into force, businesses across the four EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – are actively preparing for the new trade conditions, exploring investment opportunities and strengthening commercial ties with Indian partners. The EFTA Desk will play a key role in this process by providing practical support to companies from the EFTA States navigating the Indian market, facilitating partnerships and enhancing trade cooperation.

The EFTA Desk will serve as a central point of contact for businesses looking to expand into India, addressing investor concerns and resolving any issues they may face, providing support and guidance on expansion into new markets and maintaining a comprehensive database of investment opportunities, to name a few of the key services offered.

Read More ⏵

India, EU to hold next round of talks on proposed FTA from March 10

India and the European Union will hold the next round of talks on the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) from March 10 to 14, a senior government official said. Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce said that before the round the entire delegation of the European Commission will be in India from February 28.

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India-France Declaration on Artificial Intelligence (February 12, 2025)

1. Acknowledging the progress in developing artificial intelligence, India and France will seek to ensure that norms and standards governing their use reflect democratic values, and harness the potential of artificial intelligence for human development and common good.

2. India and France, recalling their joint commitment to promote safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems to accelerate progress towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as their efforts to call upon the international community to foster an enabling environment for international cooperation on artificial intelligence capacity-building, emphasize that international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms, must be respected.

3. India and France, recalling the 2023 Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of digital technologies, and in view of the upcoming India-France Year of Innovation in 2026, will take part in the development of this emerging technology, and commit to ensure its positive impacts on their economies and societies.

4. India and France share the importance to build a framework to ensure:

— a conception, design and development of AI for the public interest, respectful of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in compliance with applicable legal frameworks regarding intellectual property rights, privacy and use of personal data;

— a conception, design and development of AI and generative AI that does not result in discrimination and inequality nor in the dissemination of misinformation and disinformation, exacerbating bias;

— the development of free and open resources for all countries, innovators, researchers and citizens, to promote decentralization and avoid concentration of this transformative technology;

— that economic and market players may ensure safe and trusted development, in particular for training data for their models, authorized uses, transparent rules and control procedures;

— the development of generative AI supporting both linguistic and cultural diversities;

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India-EU agree to strengthen ties on smart and sustainable urbanisation

Building on the 2017 joint declaration on partnership for smart and sustainable urbanisation, the 4th India-EU Urban Forum was held on 13th February 2025, marking a significant milestone in the EU-India collaboration on sustainable urban development, a statement stated.

The statement stated that the event brought together officials and experts from India, the European Union (EU) and its Member States to discuss policies and best practices to work towards integrated approaches to sustainable urban development, reinforcing the EU's global gateway strategy in India.

"The forum explored transformative initiatives and innovative financing mechanisms to foster gender-inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban development, focusing on three key themes: Urban alliance and integrated approaches in Indian cities, promoting innovation and circularity at the city level, and inclusive urban mobility as a social enabler," the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said in statement.

The EU-India collaboration is crucial, considering urban areas account for two-thirds of global energy consumption, emissions, and pollution, it said.

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Evaluation of EU-India Science & Technology Agreement Reveals Major Achievements and Future Breakthroughs

On 25 February 2025, the Commission published the evaluation of the EU-India Science and Technology Agreement of the EU-India Science and Technology Agreement for the period 2020-2025. The report confirms its vital role in fostering collaboration in key research and innovation areas. It also provides a legal and political framework for advancing joint research in energy, health, water, ICT, and innovation. Notable initiatives include support to smart grids, vaccine development, wastewater treatment, and artificial intelligence.

Mobility and talent development remain key pillars of this collaboration. Over 600 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions grants have been awarded to Indian researchers, making India the top-ranking non-EU country in this programme. Indian researchers also rank among the top five non-EU beneficiaries of European Research Council grants, highlighting the strength of EU-India academic and research exchanges.

This strong collaboration is further reflected in India's participation in 88 Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects, which have significantly contributed to advancements in research and innovation.

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Whitepaper/Publication

Discover the CEN and CENELEC Work Programme 2025!

CEN and CENELEC have published the 2025 Work Programme which is one of the flagship publications of CEN and CENELEC, setting out the priorities and most important actions in European standardization for the year ahead.

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ECOS Work Programme 2025

In 2025, Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS) will work to create momentum for an ambitious vision, backed with political decisions, allowing for fundamental, systemic changes to the way we consume and produce.

Read More/Download ❯

6G-IA Security WG Position Paper

The 6G-IA Security working group published on 22 January, the Position Paper titled "Innovative Approaches for 6G Security". This paper addresses cutting-edge research and innovative solutions in the realm of 6G security, emphasizing the importance of trustworthiness, privacy, and resilience in future network architectures. Looking at collaborative projects funded by EU through SNS JU calls, it provides a comprehensive overview of 6G security research challenges in scope ranging from distributed cloud systems to physical layer protection.

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📅 Upcoming Events

Webinar 'Standards supporting the Cyber Resilience Act'

When: 10 March 2025

Where: Online

The Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) aims to enhance EU cybersecurity by ensuring that digital products and services remain secure throughout their lifecycle. It promotes proactive risk management and accountability, enabling businesses and users to collaborate in building a safer digital future. To support CRA implementation, the European Commission has issued a standardization request to the European Standardization Organizations focusing on both horizontal standards for a generic framework and vertical standards for specific product risks.

More Information ❯

Webinar 'How can CEN/TC 442 support digitalization of data in design and product standards'

When: 12 March 2025

Where: Online

Digitalization is a fundamental cornerstone of the EU's strategy for a greener, more efficient and more resilient economy. The availability of digital product information based on common standards plays an important role in this. Initiatives such as the Digital Product Passport (DPP) and the revised Construction Products Regulation (CPR) provide the regulatory framework.

More Information ❯

Cyber Resilience Act : deep dive session

When: 18 March 2025

Where: France

The Cyber Resilience Act (CRA), which is first European legislation about the cyber security of numeric products, aims at protecting consumers and businesses that purchase software or hardware products which contain digital elements. The CRA was enforced in all EU Member States on December 11, 2024, and will be mandatory from December 11, 2027.

More Information ❯

European standardization supporting new legislative cybersecurity landscape

When: 20 March 2025

Where: NHow Hotel, Brussels / Online

The European Standardisation Organizations CEN, CENELEC and ETSI, are pleased to join forces with ENISA, the EU Agency for Cybersecurity, to organise the 9th Cybersecurity Standardisation Conference.

More Information ❯

ABOUT PROJECT

The SESEI project (Seconded European Standardization Expert in India) is a project cofunded by five European partners, operating from New Delhi, India, with the objective to increase the visibility of European standardization in India and to promote EU/EFTA-India cooperation on standards and related activities. The SESEI Project (http://sesei.eu/) is managed by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI - http://www.etsi.org/ and is further supported by two other EU recognized Standards Organization, namely the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) – http://www.cencenelec.eu, as well as by the European Commission (www.ec.europa.eu) and the European Free Trade Association (http://www.efta.int/). It is a Standardization focused project, with a priority emphasis on the sectors falling under Digitization and Clean & Green Technologies etc.

SESEI | Seconded European Standardisation Expert in India
Enabling Europe–India Cooperation on Standards

Address: AltF Coworking, 2nd Floor,

101, NH-19, CRRI, Ishwar Nagar,

Okhla, Delhi, New Delhi-110044

Mobile: +91 9810079461

E-mail: dinesh.chand.sharma@sesei.eu

Website: www.sesei.eu

CEN	CENELEC	ETSI	EC	EFTA
European Committee for Standardization www.cen.eu	European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization www.cenelec.eu	European Telecommunications Standards Institute Institute www.etsi.eu	European Commission www.ec.europa.eu	European Free Trade Association www.efta.int