



SESEI

SECONDED EUROPEAN
STANDARDIZATION
EXPERT IN INDIA

Newsletter



European
Committee for
Standardization



European Committee
for Electro Technical
Standardization



European
Telecommunications
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Commission



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Dear Readers

Greeting from Project SESEI

We welcome you to the SESEI Newsletter- India for the month of March 2025, as we bring the latest information on the key initiatives in EU on the topics of Digitization and Sustainable Technologies, and international collaborations.

At the outset, supporting the European priorities expressed by President Ursula von der Leyen during her visit to India, the SESEI Project role is acknowledged in playing a crucial role in fostering discussions and exploring future opportunities to realign EU-India ties around Standards.

European Standardization Organizations [CEN](#), [CENELEC](#) and [ETSI](#), along with [ENISA](#), the EU Agency for Cybersecurity, organised the 9th Cybersecurity Standardisation Conference. The conference focused on the importance of evolving landscape of EU cybersecurity legislation, its implications for standardization and the necessity, key role of standardization in supporting the EU's strategic priorities and enhancing cybersecurity were discussed in detail.

A new standard, "[Efficient Quantum-Safe Hybrid Key Exchanges with Hidden Access Policies](#)" (ETSI TS 104 015), on post-quantum security to guarantee the protection of critical data and communications in the future has been released by ETSI and is developed to enhance security mechanisms, ensuring that only authorized users with the correct permissions can access sensitive data to decrypt them. The ETSI Covercrypt encryption solution is designed to protect against emerging threats posed by quantum computing and offers a high-performance hybrid encryption system that can be easily and readily integrated into existing commercial security products.

Akin to India's efforts to reduce carbon emissions towards a sustainable future, European Commission has taken key step in advancing Europe's technological leadership and sustainability goals by creating three new European Partnerships on advanced materials, textiles, and photovoltaics. Established under [Horizon Europe](#), innovation in Photovoltaics will support the renewable energy generation, transformation of the textile industry towards sustainability and circularity and innovative advanced material will strengthen the industrial competitiveness.

Further, the European Commission has launched a [Strategic Dialogue on the Future of the European Automotive Industry](#). The Automotive Action Plan will work towards creating a secure and competitive supply chain for battery raw materials and transitioning towards AI-powered, "connected and automated" vehicles. Large-scale testbeds and regulatory 'sandboxes' will provide innovators with the freedom to test and refine their technologies for autonomous vehicles. The Action Plan includes Decarbonise Corporate Fleets Communication for green corporate fleets.

The European Commission has also published two new guidance documents on battery electric vehicle on fire safety in parking facilities and tender procedures for public charging infrastructure

India and Switzerland have gone ahead and signed a trade deal under the EFTA TEPA agreement, and this trade deal shall open Indian market for Swiss pharmaceutical products, watches, chocolates, coffee, etc. After the visit of EU President to India, respective leaders have directed their teams to conclude the EU-India Free Trade Agreement negotiations by this year.

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



Generic/ Standards



SESEI Project – a key asset for strengthening Europe-India ties



CEN and CENELEC fully support the European priorities expressed by President Ursula von der Leyen during her visit to India. In this context, the SESEI Project (Seconded European Standardization Expert in India) plays a crucial role in fostering discussions and exploring future opportunities to realign EU-India ties.

During her visit to India on 27-28 February 2025, President von der Leyen reached an agreement with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on a series of key priorities to strengthen EU-India ties. These priorities include:

- A Free Trade Agreement by the end of this year;
- Advancing digital technology through Artificial intelligence acceleration, 6G and digital public infrastructures;
- Joint investment for green projects: marine plastic litter, waste-to-renewable hydrogen, and E-vehicle battery recycling.

The SESEI project aligns closely with these priorities through the efforts of CEN and CENELEC, ETSI, the European Commission, and EFTA.

Established in 2013, SESEI promotes cooperation between Europe and India on standards and related policies and regulations. Its core objectives are to:

- enhance the visibility of European standardization activities,
- increase cooperation between Indian and European standardization bodies, and
- support European companies facing standardization-related issues which hamper market access to India.

India, as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, is a key trade and investment partner for Europe. SESEI serves as a vital link, bridging the European and Indian standardization sectors.

Now in its sixth phase, which started in August 2024, SESEI will continue its activities over the next 3 years, further deepening EU-India cooperation in standardization. For more information, please visit the [SESEI website](#).

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Digitization



Cybersecurity Standardization Conference 2025: Paving the Way for a Safer Digital Europe



The hybrid event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and experts to discuss the evolving landscape of EU cybersecurity legislation and its implications for standardization. Continuing the tradition of success from previous years, the ninth edition of the conference attracted over 200 on-site attendees and 1500 online participants.

The conference, titled "[European Standardization Supporting New Legislative Cybersecurity Landscape](#)," addressed critical topics such as the state of play of European standardization, the interplay of cybersecurity legislation, and overarching cybersecurity by standards. The event aimed to foster dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of EU cybersecurity legislation.

Key highlights of the conference included:

- **State of Play of European Standardization:** discussion on the current challenges and the role of European Standardization Organisations (ESOs) in the global ecosystem, together with potential synergies. Speakers emphasised the necessity of standardization in supporting the EU's strategic priorities and enhancing cybersecurity.

- **Interplay of Cybersecurity Legislation:** how to map requirements from the current and upcoming EU legislative framework to specifications and standards and discussed on their progress. This interactive session explored the concept of harmonized standards (hENs) and their beneficial role in serving both consumer protection and industry interests while also supporting the EU legislative initiatives.
- **Overarching Cybersecurity by Standards:** The discussion on the different approaches and methodologies towards standardization. Participants shared their views on the potential blend of the risk-based approach in the new regulatory framework with horizontal standards for risk management.
- **Visions of the Future:** Current and the future course of standardization industry amidst technological advancements and the geopolitical context.

The conference attracted a significant number of stakeholders, reflecting the growing importance of cybersecurity standardization in Europe. ENISA, CEN, CENELEC, and ETSI express their gratitude to all participants and look forward to continued collaboration in enhancing European cybersecurity standards.

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New Release of Open Source, oneM2M CSE

ACME is an open-source implementation of a Common Service Entity (CSE) based on oneM2M standards. It is widely used for educational, concept testing, and research purposes. A new release is now available with security and configuration enhancements. It also contains experimental features that build on discussions in oneM2M's Technical Plenary working groups. They include implementations of a new "No Response" feature, to reduce data traffic and improve energy use, and revised FlexContainer procedures. Updates to the new release also address small improvements, corrections, and internal refactorings.

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ETSI launches new standard for Quantum-Safe Hybrid Key Exchanges to secure future post-quantum encryption



ETSI announced the launch of its post-quantum security standard to guarantee the protection of critical data and communications in the future. The specification "[Efficient Quantum-Safe Hybrid Key Exchanges with Hidden Access Policies](#)" (ETSI TS 104 015) has been developed to enhance security mechanisms, ensuring that only authorized users with the correct permissions can access sensitive data to decrypt them.

The new ETSI specification defines a scheme for Key Encapsulation Mechanisms (KEMs) with Access Control (KEMAC), called Covercrypt, that ensure both pre-quantum and post-quantum security through hybridization. This means that encryption remains secure against both current threats and future quantum computing capabilities, offering a seamless transition to a more advanced cryptographic landscape. Namely, session keys will be locked based on user-attributes, kept anonymous and any user having attributes fulfilling the encapsulation policy will be able to retrieve the session keys, while those who are not authorized will not be able to. For instance, while an IT department can define who enters applications, the ETSI KEMAC standard helps to determine who can decrypt the data inside those applications through a specific access policy.

This new solution is a real breakthrough in terms of efficiency: it only takes hundreds of micro-seconds to encapsulate and decapsulate session keys.

Organisations need to start using quantum-resistant encryption today to future-proof their data security, safeguard sensitive information from malicious actors, and ensure compliance with evolving standards. The ETSI Covercrypt encryption solution is designed to protect against the emerging threats posed by quantum computing and offers a high-performance hybrid encryption system that can be easily and readily integrated into existing commercial security products.

As an example, the company Cosmian is launching its new encryption solution based on ETSI standard.

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Green and Clean Technologies

Standards in support of trustworthy environmental claims: read our new brochure!



Consumers often struggle to decipher labels that claim sustainability or outline a product's environmental impact. With greenwashing on the rise, misleading claims can make it difficult to distinguish truly sustainable choices from marketing spin. To address this, CEN and CENELEC have released a new brochure that helps organizations achieve their environmental goals while providing consumers with clearer, more verifiable information.

The European Commission is developing the [Green Claims Directive](#) to make green claims reliable, comparable and verifiable across Europe. This effort contributes to a circular and green economy and protects consumers from greenwashing.

Already existing technical standards can support the Commission's objectives: they help improve organizations' sustainability performance and to ensure the information presented to consumers is clear and transparent.

Our new publication explains the benefits of using technical standards when making green claims, including how it helps auditors and verifiers, and presents an indicative compilation of already existing environmental standards.

The list includes standards in the following areas:

- Circular economy
- Bio-based and biodegradability claims
- Climate-related claims
- Agri-related claims
- Claims on Management level
- Life cycle assessment

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EU boosts innovation with new European partnerships in advanced materials, textiles and photovoltaics

The Commission has taken a key step in advancing Europe's technological leadership and sustainability goals by creating three new European Partnerships on advanced materials, textiles, and photovoltaics.

Established under [Horizon Europe](#), these partnerships will drive growth, sustainability and resilience, contributing to a strong, inclusive and globally competitive Europe.

Identified as essential in the [Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027](#), the three partnerships are:

- **European Partnership for Innovation in Photovoltaics:** It will strengthen Europe's position in the global photovoltaics (PV) industry, supporting the transition to renewable energy, particularly to solar power, as outlined in the [European Green Deal](#), the [REPowerEU Plan](#) and the [2023 Renewable Energy Directive](#). It will scale up the European PV manufacturing capacity, develop a more resilient value chain in the EU and reduce dependency on fossil fuels through collaboration across the entire PV value chain. The Commission and the private partners plan to invest up to €240 million each from 2025 to 2030 in the partnership.
- **European Partnership for Textiles of the Future:** It will drive the transformation of the textile industry towards sustainability and circularity, aligning with the [EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles](#). The initiative will leverage digital innovations and new business models within the sector and enhance Europe's strategic autonomy. At the same time, it will help to keep the industry competitive, resilient, and sustainable in a rapidly changing global market. The Commission and the private partners plan to invest up to €30 million each from 2025 to 2030 in this partnership.
- **European Partnership for Innovative Advanced Materials for the EU:** In line with the [Communication on Advanced Materials for Industrial Leadership](#), it will strengthen technology sovereignty and industrial competitiveness in advanced materials. The partnership will respond to industrial needs and accelerate design, development and industrial uptake of safe and sustainable advanced materials and associated technologies fit for the circular economy. The Commission and the private partners plan to invest up to €250 million each by 2030 in this partnership.

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Commission Boosts European Automotive Industry's Global Competitiveness



The European automotive sector is at **critical turning point**, challenged by **rapid technological changes** and **increasing competition**. To address the changes ahead, President von der Leyen in January launched a [Strategic Dialogue on the Future of the European Automotive Industry](#), a collaborative and inclusive process designed to tackle the sector's most pressing challenges. The Commission puts forward an Action Plan, which builds on the Strategic Dialogue, and presents concrete actions that will ensure a robust and sustainable automotive sector and help unleash its innovative power. To maintain a strong European production base and avoid strategic dependencies, we will make available €1.8 billion to create a **secure and competitive supply chain for battery raw materials**, which will help support the growth of the European automotive industry.

To help the industry lead in the transition towards AI-powered, connected and automated vehicles, the Action Plan presents a gear-shift. A **dedicated European Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Alliance** will bring together Europe's automotive stakeholders to shape the development of next-generation vehicles and help develop the shared software and digital hardware needed to bring this technology to life. Large-scale testbeds and regulatory 'sandboxes' will provide innovators with the freedom to test and refine their technologies for autonomous vehicles. The Commission will further develop the regulatory framework for autonomous vehicles. These actions will be supported by joint **public-private investments of around €1 billion** backed by the Horizon Europe Programme over the 2025-2027 period.

The Action Plan is accompanied by the **Decarbonise Corporate Fleets Communication** highlighting best practice examples and encouraging Member States to take further actions to green corporate fleets, which account for around 60% of new car registrations.

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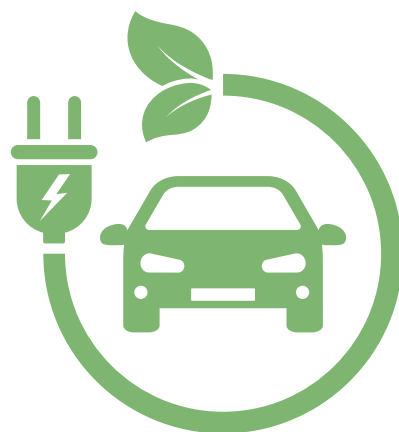
New EU guidance supports safe and strategic rollout of electric vehicle infrastructure

The European Commission has published two new guidance documents on battery electric vehicle (BEV) adoption, focusing on fire safety in parking facilities and tender procedures for public charging infrastructure. Developed by the Sustainable Transport Forum (STF), an expert group on alternative fuels infrastructure, these documents aim to address safety and regulatory challenges as BEV uptake increases.

The **guidance on fire safety for electric vehicles parked and charging infrastructure in covered parking spaces** focuses on identifying and mitigating fire risks and ensuring the safe installation of charging infrastructure. It is intended for public authorities, as well as parking operators, designers, risk assessors, fire services, and original equipment manufacturers. It recommends fire risk assessments, advanced fire detection systems, clear evacuation routes, and fire-resistant materials. The guidance also highlights the need for specialised firefighting equipment for BEV-related incidents.

The **guidance on tender procedure for deployment of public electric recharging infrastructure for cars and vans** is designed to support public authorities in planning, launching, and managing tenders for public EV charging infrastructure for light-duty vehicles. This is particularly relevant in the context of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR). The document underscores the importance of integrated, long-term mobility and energy strategies, such as National Policy Frameworks (NPFs) and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs). It also stresses the need for early engagement with distribution system operators and other stakeholders to ensure grid-friendly deployment. The guidance covers additional considerations, including infrastructure ownership at the end of the tender period.

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EU/EFTA-India



India, EU discuss efforts to accelerate FTA talks

The delegations from India and the European Union held delegations on a range of topics in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and EU President Ursula von der Leyen, and the leaders have directed their teams to conclude the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations by this year, the Ministry of External Affairs. At the time, Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (West) Tanmaya Lal highlighted that 20 union cabinet ministers and Ministers of State engaged in discussions, and issues ranging from trade to digital green technology, energy, environment, and connectivity were discussed. The European Commission President was on a two-day bilateral visit to India, accompanied by members of the European College of Commissioners.

“The leaders have directed their teams that the India-EU FTA should be concluded within the year. This is, of course, a very important outcome,” Tanmaya Lal said.

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Switzerland approves trade deal with India

Switzerland's parliament approved an historic trade deal with India. The deal will give Swiss businesses an advantage over EU, US and UK competitors whose governments have yet to reach trade deals with India.

The deal was supported by 131 versus 22 parliamentary votes. The main opposition came from Socialist Party members keen to see investments associated with social and environmental damage excluded from any agreement.

The successful vote, which accepted a deal covering nearly 95% of Switzerland's exports to India, is the result of 16 years of negotiations. The agreement, which was signed a year ago, was negotiated between Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and India.

The trade deal will further open the Indian market for Swiss pharmaceutical products and remove tariffs on most machine exports. In addition, the deal will benefit Swiss watch and food exporters, chocolate and coffee exporters in particular.

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European Commission invites India to explore association with Horizon Europe

The European Commission has extended an invitation to India to consider joining Horizon Europe, the EU's €93.5 billion research and innovation programme. If India accepts, it will join an exclusive group of countries, including the United Kingdom, Israel, Switzerland, Canada, and South Korea, that have associated with the programme. This move signals a deepening of research and innovation ties between India and the European Union, paving the way for collaborative projects across various cutting-edge fields.

Strengthening EU-India Research Collaboration

The invitation was extended by EU research commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva during her visit to New Delhi, where she met with India's science minister Jitendra Singh. Although no timeline has been provided for the negotiations, the potential association would mark a significant milestone in EU-India relations, further enhancing scientific cooperation and technological advancements.

During the visit, Zaharieva participated in the **EU-India Trade and Technology Council** meeting, where discussions focused on areas of mutual interest, such as **climate neutrality, disaster prevention, ocean research, biotechnology, semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), security, and space technology**. The EU is particularly keen on strengthening partnerships in semiconductor supply chains and chip design, as well as increasing collaboration between the **European AI Office and India AI Mission**.

€60 Million in Joint Research Projects

Even before a formal agreement on Horizon Europe is reached, the EU and India have already committed to joint research cooperation on pressing environmental challenges. The two sides have launched **coordinated calls for research worth €60 million**, covering:

- **Recycling of electric vehicle (EV) batteries** – As India is expected to have **200 million EV batteries in use by 2030**, research in this area is crucial for sustainable energy solutions.
- **Marine plastic litter** – With **10 million tons of plastic waste generated annually**, India and the EU aim to develop advanced technologies to tackle ocean pollution.
- **Waste-to-hydrogen initiatives** – Aimed at promoting green hydrogen as a sustainable fuel alternative.

The European Commission has confirmed that it will match India's contributions to these projects through the Horizon Europe budget, further cementing the research partnership.

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Whitepaper/Publication



European Commission work programme 2025

The Commission has adopted its **2025 work programme**, outlining its ambition to **boost competitiveness, enhance security, and bolster economic resilience** in the EU. The work programme focuses on the flagship initiatives the Commission will take in the first year of its mandate, responding to the issues that matter most to Europeans. It reflects the need for **more opportunities, innovation, and growth** for EU citizens and businesses, ultimately fostering a more secure and prosperous EU.

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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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ETSI Work Programme

The ETSI Work Programme 2024-2025 provides an overview of our current standardization projects. These include the development of technologies which have had a major global impact. But at the same time, ETSI is exploring the latest emerging areas to keep in step with – and even ahead of – market demand.

ETSI work programme is constantly evolving and the most up to date version is publicly available [online via our database](#). It contains full details of all upcoming standards and specifications.

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Upcoming Events

Video Surveillance Plugtests

When: 07-09 April 2025
Where: Sophia Antipolis, France

The objective of this Plugtests on “IP Video Surveillance systems by enabling the transmission of IP data over coaxial cable infrastructures” is to confirm the full interoperability of these systems.

[More Information](#) >

Cyber Resilience Act and the horizontal standards

When: 08 April 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. This workshop will highlight the work on the horizontal standards required for CRA compliance.

[More Information](#) >

Swappable Battery Systems: A Clean Revolution for European Urban Mobility?

When: 09 April 2025
Where: European Parliament, Brussels

On the 9 April the Stan4SWAP Project in cooperation with CEN-CENELEC and the Swappable Batteries Motorcycle Consortium invites all interested stakeholders to an afternoon discussion of clean of urban mobility in Europe and how swappable battery systems can help decarbonise the urban transport.

[More Information](#) >

Sustainable Digital Multiservice Communities Conference

When: 10 April 2025
Where: Sophia Antipolis, France

ETSI and the French Non-Governmental Organization eG4U (e-Green for users) are organizing the Sustainable Digital Multiservice Communities (SDMC) Conference, focusing on the challenges faced by communities and territories around the sustainable development of communication infrastructures, including roads, green spaces, energy supply, construction & renovation of buildings.

[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.



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