SESEI Newsletter

SECONDED EUROPEAN STANDARDIZATION EXPERT IN INDIA

European Committee for Standardization | European Committee for Electro Technical Standardization | European Telecommunications Standards Institute | European Commission | European Free Trade Association

Dear Readers,

At the outset we would like to convey our best wishes on the occasion of 77th Republic Day of India. We are very pleased to present our January 2026 edition of "SESEI Newsletter – India". This issue brings recent developments from Europe and its strategic partners through a coordinated partnership towards secure digitalisation, sustainable growth, and deeper international economic cooperation, with standards and innovation playing a central role.

Project SESEI, together with its project partners CEN, CENELEC, ETSI, the European Commission, and EFTA, heartily welcomes the concluded negotiations of the free trade agreement (FTA), reaffirmed commitment to deepening strategic cooperation in next-generation digital technologies, including 6G telecommunications, with a focus on security, trust, and resilient global supply chains and Joint India–EU Comprehensive Strategic Agenda Towards 2030. All of this will further deepen cooperation across trade, clean transition, emerging technologies, connectivity, and global governance. At these important milestones, Project SESEI reaffirms its commitment towards creating harmony both on standards, policy and regulatory alignments between the EU and India.

In the digital domain, ETSI's publication of **ETSI EN 304 223**, the world's first globally applicable European Standard for AI cybersecurity, establishes a robust, lifecycle-based framework to protect AI systems against evolving cyber threats such as data poisoning, prompt injection, and model manipulation. Complementing this, ETSI has also advanced preparations for 6G through new work items on Integrated Sensing and Communications (ISAC), addressing architecture, security, AI integration, and commercial viability to ensure future networks are intelligent, secure, and resilient. A newly published white paper has been released by "SNS JU Reliable Software Networks Working Group" exploring the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning in advancing smart networks and services, particularly in the context of 6G.

The European Commission has further strengthened its digital leadership through a €307.3 million investment under Horizon Europe, supporting trustworthy AI, data services, robotics, quantum technologies, photonics, virtual worlds, and next-generation AI agents. In parallel, Commission proposals to revise the EU Cybersecurity Act seek to enhance supply-chain security, simplify certification procedures, reinforce ENISA, and streamline compliance, strengthening Europe's cybersecurity resilience.

On sustainability and clean technologies, Europe continues to embed circularity and environmental responsibility into its regulatory and standardisation frameworks. The **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)** expands eco-design requirements and introduces the Digital Product Passport, with CEN and CENELEC coordinating technical work to ensure interoperability and global impact. In Transport sector, **EN 18071:2025** provides a harmonised European Standard for the safe bunkering of methanol in inland navigation, supporting low-carbon fuels while ensuring the highest safety and operational standards. Circular economy efforts are further reinforced through **CEN/TC 473**, which is shaping common concepts and standards aligned with the forthcoming Circular Economy Act and international cooperation via ISO.

Innovation in sustainable mobility is also advancing through the Stan4SWAP project, which has delivered a standardisation roadmap for swappable battery systems for light electric vehicles. Addressing fragmentation in battery design and infrastructure, the roadmap outlines actions to enable interoperability, safety, and futureproofing, supporting faster EV adoption and smarter energy integration.

The newsletter also carries the European Commission's Work programme for the year 2026, along with the Work programmes of CEN, CENELEC and ETSI. The newsletter also provides details of important forthcoming conferences and events being organised, concerning digital technologies and clean & green technologies

Happy Reading,

Best regards,
Dinesh Chand Sharma

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Digitization

India and European Union Reaffirm Cooperation in Secure 6G Technologies and Trusted Telecom Supply Chains

India and the European Union have reaffirmed their commitment to deepening strategic cooperation in next-generation digital technologies, including 6G telecommunications, with a focus on security, trust, and resilient global supply chains. This commitment was reflected in the Leaders' Statement issued during the visit of Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, and the EU College of Commissioners to India from 27–28 February 2025.

The Leaders underscored the growing importance of advanced and emerging technologies under the India–EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and welcomed enhanced collaboration in areas such as telecommunications, digital infrastructure, and global standards development.

In this context, The Joint Statement welcomed the collaboration between the Bharat 6G Alliance and the 6G SNS IA, aimed at aligning research and innovation priorities for secure, trusted, and future-ready 6G networks. This industry-led engagement is expected to contribute to the development of resilient and diversified telecom supply chains, while promoting openness, interoperability, and security-by-design in next-generation communication systems.

Both sides emphasized the importance of cooperation in research and development, testing, and standardisation of 6G technologies, and reiterated their shared objective of shaping globally interoperable standards that support innovation, competitiveness, and inclusive digital growth.

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ETSI Releases World-Leading Standard for Securing AI

ETSI announces the publication of its new standard, ETSI EN 304 223, that provides baseline cybersecurity requirements for AI models and systems. Building on the foundational work set out in its recent Technical Specification, it is a first globally applicable European Standard (EN) for AI cybersecurity. The EN has been extensively reviewed, and formally approved by National Standards Organisations voting, giving it a broader international scope and strengthening its authority across global markets.

ETSI EN 304 223 establishes a robust framework to shield AI systems from growing and increasingly sophisticated cyber threats. Reinforcing the principles introduced in ETSI TS 104 223, the new standard guarantees a mature, structured & lifecycle-based set of baseline security requirements for AI models & systems.

The standard acknowledges that AI represents a cybersecurity challenge that traditional software has not offered. Traditional software introduced the world to the need for cybersecurity awareness. The risks emerging from AI require cyber defences that account for these new unique characteristics. These risks include data poisoning, model obfuscation, indirect prompt injection, and vulnerabilities created by complex data management and operational practices. The ETSI EN reconciles established best practices in cybersecurity with targeted, novel measures designed for AI systems.

Adopting a whole life-cycle approach, ETSI EN 304 223 defines 13 principles and requirements across five phases: secure design, secure development, secure deployment, secure maintenance, and secure end of life. Each one of these phases align with internationally recognised AI lifecycle models, ensuring consistency and interoperability with existing standards & guidance. Relevant standards and publications are referenced at the start of each principle to support implementation and harmonisation within the wider AI ecosystem.

The EN will be instrumental for stakeholders throughout the AI supply chain, from vendors to integrators and operators, and will provide them with a clear and logical baseline for AI security. Its scope covers AI systems incorporating deep neural networks, including generative AI, and is developed for systems intended for real-world deployments. It reflects the expertise of international organisations, government bodies, and the cybersecurity and AI communities whose contributions ensure this collaborative, cross-disciplinary effort is both globally relevant and practically applicable across diverse sectors.

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ETSI Issues New Report on Multiple Access Techniques for 6G

ETSI's Industry Specification Group on Multiple Access Techniques (ISG MAT) has released ETSI GR MAT 001, a comprehensive study comparing current multiple access techniques in downlink for the physical layer of the 3GPP radio interface with new candidate technologies being considered for 6G.

Multiple Access Techniques (MAT) are expected to play a central role in achieving the spectrum efficiency targets of IMT-2030, essential to support the massive growth in connected devices, new XR applications, and increasingly dense urban deployments.

The report analyses three promising candidate techniques, i.e., power-domain NOMA, Rate-Splitting Multiple Access (RSMA) and Cache-Aided MU-MIMO and compares them to established 3GPP methods such as Orthogonal Multiple Access (OMA), Multi-User MIMO (MU-MIMO) and Multi-User Superposition Transmission (MUST). It evaluates their performance under various channel conditions and identifies the additional processing, assistance information from the network and reference signals required for each scheme.

Key findings include:

- RSMA shows strong performance gains in scenarios with highly correlated user channels or power imbalance, improving both total throughput and fairness.
- Power-domain NOMA offers advantages for users with significantly different channel strengths, particularly for enhancing the weaker UE's bitrate.
- Cache-Aided MU-MIMO introduces a novel approach where receivers use cached data to cancel interference, enabling efficient multiplexing for cacheable content such as video-on-demand.
- The study highlights limitations of existing evaluation methods and identifies areas for further investigation, including link-level simulations with standardised modulations and coding.

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ETSI Launches New Standard Enabling Continuous Compliance for Dynamic AI Systems, Aligned with the EU AI Act

ETSI announces the publication of ETSI TS 104 008, a new Technical Specification that introduces a framework for Continuous Auditing-Based Conformity Assessment (CABCA). This framework helps organisations ensure their AI systems remain compliant with regulatory and technical requirements throughout their entire operational lifecycle.

As AI systems become increasingly dynamic and evolve through updates, retraining, and adaptations to new data, traditional point-in-time audits are no longer sufficient. ETSI TS 104 008 addresses this challenge by establishing a structured methodology for automated, ongoing conformity assessment, supporting the post-market monitoring obligations of the EU Artificial Intelligence Act.

CABCA encompasses the full scope of conformity assessment, including quality, safety, security, transparency and governance. Rather than focusing on a single misuse risk, the specification provides a way to monitor and confirm compliance across the AI system's lifecycle.

AI systems evolve as models drift, data changes, and risks emerge. CABCA takes this into account by operationalising high-level regulatory requirements into intelligible, measurable metrics and machine-readable specifications. By standardising the processes and activities that map legal obligations with technical monitoring, the specification allows providers and auditors to set up a framework to detect non-conformities in real time, ensuring that AI systems remain trustworthy, transparent and compliant post-deployment.

The specification outlines the principles, prerequisites, processes, and documentation practices required to implement CABCA within organisations. It reinforces stakeholder trust, adaptability, and transparency as core pillars of sustainable AI assurance.

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EU Invests Over €307 Million into Artificial Intelligence and Related Technologies

The European Commission has launched two new calls under the 'Digital, Industry and Space' cluster of the Horizon Europe Work Programme, allocating €307.3 million to bolster Europe's digital innovation and competitiveness.

A total of €221.8 million is dedicated to an initiative focusing on the development of trustworthy AI services, innovative data services, and securing of EU strategic autonomy. The call will fund projects contributing to AI development, including actions supporting the Apply AI Strategy, robotics, quantum technologies, photonics and virtual worlds. With over €40 million dedicated to the 'Open Internet Stack Initiative', both end-user applications and inside the stack technologies will be developed to support European sovereign digital commons.

An additional €85.5 million is available for the second call, which will support open strategic autonomy in digital and emerging technologies & raw materials. It will focus on topics like next-gen AI agents, robotics for industrial and service applications, and the development of new materials with enhanced sensing functionalities.

These calls drive sustainable innovation and European leadership in strategic digital technologies, aligning with the Commission's Competitiveness Compass. Through this investment, the Commission aims to secure leadership in strategic technologies through sustainable, human-centric innovation.

Cluster four of the Horizon Europe Work Programme, 'Digital, Industry and Space' is strategically designed to accelerate Europe leadership and competitiveness in key strategic digital sectors such as artificial intelligence, quantum, future digital networks, virtual worlds and other key technologies. These calls are open to businesses, public administrations, academia, and other entities from EU Member States and partner countries.

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ETSI Accelerates Next-Generation 6G Technology with New ISAC Work Items

ETSI announced at its upcoming plenary session on Integrated Sensing and Communications (ISAC) the launch of four new Work Items. These initiatives represent an important step towards shaping the next phase of ISAC, laying the foundations for future networks that integrate advanced sensing functions with communications systems.

The four WIs were identified by ETSI members to integrate security and new technologies such as AI within ISAC's development as well as solve key architectural issues that researchers at ETSI believe will face 6G. These items include:

- **Work Item 6 – Enhanced System and RAN Architectures for ISAC**

As the industry gets closer to deploying next-generation wireless systems, researchers will need to identify key architectural issues to support 6G. It will also provide important insights for the ISAC architectural eco-system, including deployment considerations, to pave the way for sustainable sensing services.

- **Work Item 7 – Solutions for Security, Privacy, Resilience and Trustworthiness**

As ISAC technologies introduce new forms of environmental and contextual data, **WI7** focuses on ensuring that security, privacy and trustworthiness are embedded at the core of ISAC deployments. It will develop a framework for secure ISAC operations and procedures, which will not only serve ISAC standardisation but also operators and the broader telecoms ecosystem for operationalising ISAC.

- **Work Item 8 – AIML and Data Handling**

AI will play a critical role in interpreting sensing data, enabling situational awareness, and optimising communication processes. The goal of **WI8** will be to enhance interoperability and implementation of AIML-aided ISAC and ISAC-aided AIML in 6G systems.

- **Work Item 9 – Demonstrability, Adoption and Technology Evolution**

To ensure long-term viability, **WI9** will focus on ISAC demonstrability, techno-economics, and interplay with existing and emerging technologies to help clarify the real business value of ISAC and support the case for its adoption and commercial success in standardised and non-standardised systems.

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New Measures to Strengthen Cybersecurity Resilience and Capabilities

The Commission has proposed **new cybersecurity measures** to further strengthen the EU's resilience and capabilities in the face of these growing threats. The Commission has proposed to revise the 2019 Cybersecurity Act, which sets the framework for EU-wide cybersecurity certification of digital products, services and processes. The revision aims to

- enhance the security of the EU's information and communication technologies supply chains, by reducing the risks from third-country suppliers that raise cybersecurity concerns
- ensure that digital products and services used by EU citizens are tested for security in a more efficient way, by clarifying rules and simplifying procedures under the European Cybersecurity Certification Framework

Beyond revising the cybersecurity act, the measures include additional steps to

- make it easier for companies to follow cybersecurity rules by simplifying jurisdictional rules and streamlining data collection on ransomware attacks
- reinforce the EU Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) so it can better support EU countries in understanding, preparing and responding to common threats

These proposals will now be discussed by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. Once approved, they can be applied across the EU.

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ETSI Plugtests Advance SDN Interoperability for Wireless Transport

ETSI has published the official report from its fifth mWT SDN Plugtests™ for Wireless Transport, held from 10–14 November 2025 at ETSI headquarters.

Microwave (MW) and millimetre wave (mmW) technologies are essential for future telecom networks, enabling 5G access and backhaul connectivity and forming a critical foundation for emerging 6G transport architectures. These networks require far greater performance and flexibility, which SDN and NFV deliver through intelligence and programmability. SDN also uses real-time data for dynamic, efficient services and ensures seamless integration across equipment, network segments, and vendors.

Building on previous ETSI Plugtests™, this edition validated and further matured NETCONF/YANG-based Southbound Interface (SBI) implementations across microwave and millimetre wave equipment under realistic deployment scenarios.

Automation Use Cases Tested

- Network and Service Auto-discovery for automatic identification of network elements.
- Service Provisioning for faster, error-free setup of transport services.
- Performance Analysis and Prediction for insights to optimise capacity and quality.
- Smart Alarm Analysis and Fault Prediction for earlier detection and quicker resolution to minimise downtime.

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Green and Clean Technologies

Moving Forward with ESPR

The European ecosystem is moving, and it is moving fast. The **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation**, known as ESPR, expands the range of products covered while maintaining those already included in the Ecodesign Directive. ESPR introduces new types of ecodesign requirements that are pivotal to ensuring an effective implementation of sustainability and circularity principles.

At the heart of this dynamic is the CEN and CENELEC Coordination Group on Ecodesign (**CEN CLC/COG Ecodesign**). Chaired by Fern Snowden and coordinated by its secretary Alice Dorandeu under the secretariat of **AFNOR CEF**, the COG monitors developments related to the ESPR and the transition from the Ecodesign Directive. The COG coordinates the work mandated by the European Commission among the different CEN and CENELEC Technical Committees, which also include the **CEN CLC/JTC 24 'Digital Product Passport Framework and System'**. JTC 24 develops the Digital Product Passport (DPP) architecture, carrying out essential work on DPP interoperability in preparation for product data exchange among the stakeholders involved in circularity. As a requirement originating from EU legislation, the DPP is expected to have a strong impact on sustainability implementation that extends beyond the EU's borders.

Through ESPR, but not limited to it, the European Commission is implementing the **Green Deal**, which is a complex and broad framework that calls for close monitoring by the COG, technical expertise from the industries, and dialogue with the authorities.

The European Commission recently organized its second **Ecodesign Forum** session, where CEN and CENELEC, represented by Benjamin de Ville de Goyet, were given the opportunity to contribute to the implementation of the ESPR. The platform provides an opportunity for industry to be informed by the Commission on the most recent ongoing regulatory developments and the challenges ahead, reflecting the fast pace of current developments.

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A New European Standard Supports the Safe Use of Methanol as a Green Fuel for Inland Navigation

As Europe accelerates its transition toward cleaner transport, inland waterways are expected to play an essential role. One promising solution is methanol, a fuel that can be produced from renewable sources and that burns more cleanly than traditional fuels. To support its safe uptake, CEN/TC 15 'Inland Navigation Vessels' has developed EN 18071:2025 'Inland navigation vessels – Methanol bunkering', a new European Standard that sets out clear technical and operational requirements for refuelling vessels with methanol.

This new standard is an important contribution to the European Union's climate ambitions. It supports Standardization Request M/581 and the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (EU) 2023/1804, both of which call for harmonized interoperability frameworks to enable wider deployment of low-carbon energy in transport.

Methanol offers many environmental advantages, but handling it safely requires specific procedures due to its particular properties, such as its low flashpoint, corrosiveness, and the fact that its flames may be nearly invisible in daylight. EN 18071:2025 addresses these challenges by providing a harmonized set of rules that ensure bunkering operations are carried out with the highest levels of safety, reliability, and interoperability across Europe's inland waterways.

The new standard covers the entire bunkering chain. It defines requirements for the design of transfer systems, including hoses, flanges, emergency shutdown devices and vapour-management systems. It also specifies how bunkering equipment must be inspected, maintained, and identified so that both suppliers and vessel operators can work with full confidence in the systems they use.

Beyond technical components, EN 18071:2025 places strong emphasis on operational safeguards. It introduces detailed procedures for risk assessment, mooring arrangements, communication protocols and pre-transfer safety checks. During bunkering, dedicated supervisors, manifold watchkeepers, and hose watch personnel ensure continuous monitoring and the ability to activate the emergency shutdown system at any time. To facilitate consistent practice, the standard provides a complete series of methanol bunker checklists, covering planning, pre-operations, transfer, simultaneous activities, and post-transfer verification.

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Europe Goes Circular

Circularity is no longer optional in Europe: it has become both an economic necessity and an environmental obligation. CEN/TC 473 'Circular Economy' stands at the centre of this shift by shaping the concepts and frameworks that will make the transition truly operational.

Circular economy is reshaping the way Europe produces, consumes, and manages resources, driven in part by the upcoming Circular Economy Act, the EU's future legislative framework designed to accelerate circular practices across the Single Market. As the CEA moves forward and prepares to set binding requirements, the need for shared concepts and a harmonized approach becomes even more critical, making the work of CEN/TC 473 directly relevant to its implementation. The Act will strengthen rules on durability, reparability, and recyclability, and it will clarify obligations for producers and public authorities.

CEN/TC 473 brings together specialists from across Europe committed to making the transition more accessible and more actionable. The committee develops standards and guidance documents. These help translate policy objectives into practical and usable European standards and provide a shared reference point for public authorities, industry, and other stakeholders. TC 473's work is also closely aligned with international developments through its cooperation with ISO/TC 323 'Circular economy', helping ensure coherence between European and global approaches and supporting the international uptake of circular economy principles.

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Stan4SWAP Launches Standardization Roadmap for Swappable Battery Systems for Light-Category Electric Vehicles

Horizon Europe funded project Stan4SWAP on how swappable batteries for light-category electric vehicles (L-cat EVs) can support Europe's transition to sustainable urban mobility. Through the efforts of this project a roadmap for the standardization of swappable battery systems for light-category electric vehicles has been developed. A concluding event was organised to present the roadmap and the milestones achieved.

The introduction was given by the project coordinator, **Enrico Mayrhofer** from Piaggio, and followed by a presentation of the current state of play in standardization and regulation by **Professor Peter van den Bossche** from VUB. The event emphasized the growing pressure from pollution and congestion that cities are faced with and to which light electric vehicles, **powered by swappable batteries**, can provide an efficient, space-saving, low-emission alternative. As such, swappable batteries address two major barriers to EV uptake: **long charging times** and **range anxiety** by enabling instant "refuelling" at swapping stations.

However, to reap the many benefits of swappable battery systems, standards are needed. The analysis of the market state of the art, which was presented ahead of the roadmap, showed a fragmented marked with batteries varying greatly in size, shape, electrical interface, capacity, communication protocols, and safety features, preventing interoperability across brands or regions.

The roadmap is structured around four domains, namely: battery pack, vehicle, infrastructure, and interfaces. It identifies gaps and proposes short-, medium- and long-term actions, including:

- harmonizing vehicle type-approval rules to accommodate standardized batteries,
- developing unified communication and data-exchange protocols,
- ·defining risk models and fire-safety requirements for swapping stations,
- enabling modular battery design to future-proof systems, and
- leveraging swapping stations for **smart-grid and storage services.**

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EU/EFTA-India

EU and India Conclude Landmark Free Trade Agreement

The EU and India concluded negotiations today for a historic, ambitious and commercially significant free trade agreement (FTA), the largest such deal ever concluded by either side. It will strengthen economic and political ties between the world's second and fourth largest economies, at a time of rising geopolitical tensions and global economic challenges, highlighting their joint commitment to economic openness and rules-based trade.

European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, said: *"The EU and India make history today, deepening the partnership between the world's biggest democracies. We have created a free trade zone of 2 billion people, with both sides set to gain economically. We have sent a signal to the world that rules-based cooperation still delivers great outcomes. And, best of all, this is only the start - we will build on this success, and grow our relationship to be even stronger."*

The EU and India already trade over €180 billion worth of goods and services per year, supporting close to 800,000 EU jobs. This deal is expected to double EU goods exports to India by 2032 by eliminating or reducing tariffs in value of 96.6% of EU goods exports to India. Overall, the tariff reductions will save around €4 billion per year in duties on European products.

This is the most ambitious trade opening that India has ever granted to a trade partner. It will give a significant competitive advantage for key EU industrial and agri-food sectors, granting companies privileged access to the world's most populous country of 1.45 billion people and fastest growing large economy, with an annual GDP of €3.4 trillion.

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Towards 2030: A Joint India-European Union Comprehensive Strategic Agenda

This Joint India-EU Comprehensive Strategic Agenda, endorsed at the 16th India-EU Summit held on 27 January 2026 in New Delhi, aims to further reinforce the strategic partnership by broadening, deepening and better coordinating EU-India cooperation to deliver mutually beneficial, concrete and transformative outcomes for both partners and for the wider world.

The strategic agenda covers key areas: prosperity and sustainability, technology and innovation, security and defence, connectivity and global issues, reinforced by enablers across pillars. Building on more than 20 years of strategic partnership, it is a forward-looking action plan that reflects the commitment of both sides to work together in an increasingly complex geopolitical environment as trusted, predictable and like-minded partners.

PROSPERITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Boosting Trade and Investment
- Strengthening supply chains and economic security
- Advancing the clean transition and resilience

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

- Supporting critical emerging technologies
- Advancing a conducive digital environment
- Promoting research cooperation

CONNECTIVITY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

- Strengthening regional connectivity
- Promoting cooperation in third countries
- Shaping effective global governance

ENABLERS

- Expanding skills mobility
- Promoting mutual understanding
- Involving business communities
- Reinforcing institutional architecture

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Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Visits Liechtenstein, Reviews India–EFTA TEPA Implementation and Pitches for Investments

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry undertook an official visit to Liechtenstein on 7 January 2026. The first ministerial visit of 2026 reflects India's commitment to accelerate the implementation of the India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) and translate it into sustained trade, investment, and manufacturing partnerships.

TEPA is India's first free trade agreement with a developed group of EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland). It signals the improving quality of Indian products, the expanding and diversified range of Indian exports, and a steady strengthening of India's manufacturing capabilities that support "Make in India" and "Make for the World".

The Minister underlined that TEPA represents a shift to a higher-quality economic relationship. India's manufacturing ecosystem is increasingly combining scale, competitiveness, and reliability for global markets.

In meetings with the Liechtenstein leadership and business community, the Minister set out India's growth story as a stable and scalable base for long-term partnership. India is today the fourth largest economy, with an estimated GDP of USD 4.13 trillion (EUR 3.52 trillion approx.) in 2025. India offers both scale and reform momentum, a large and expanding consumer market, a deepening industrial base, and a sustained focus on ease of doing business, digitisation, and infrastructure-led competitiveness.

Both sides also exchanged views on the global business environment. With supply chains facing disruptions, uncertainties, and sharper volatility, India and Liechtenstein can combine strengths to offer stability and predictability to investors and enterprises. India's scale, talent, and manufacturing depth can complement Liechtenstein's specialised industrial capabilities, high-value innovation, and financial expertise. Together, these can create resilient value chains and a reliable investment bridge, sending a signal of confidence and hope in an increasingly unsettled world.

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India and Germany Sign Joint Declaration of Intent on Telecommunications Cooperation

India and Germany have signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on Telecommunications Cooperation. Both sides have agreed to enhance cooperation through regular exchange of information and best practices, promotion of collaboration in emerging and future technologies, and joint efforts in areas such as policy and regulatory frameworks, manufacturing, and facilitation of ease of doing business in the telecommunications and ICT sectors.

The Declaration was signed during the official visit of the Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich Merz, to India from the 12th to the 13th of January 2026. This cooperation in telecommunications, Information and Communication Technologies, supports the shared objective of inclusive and sustainable digital transformation. This reflects the shared commitment of both countries to deepen bilateral cooperation in the fields of telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), building upon the strong momentum in India-Germany relations and sustained high-level engagements.

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Whitepaper/Publication

New SNS JU White Paper: The AI/ML Landscape for Smart Networks and Services

The SNS JU Reliable Software Networks Working Group has created a new white paper exploring the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in advancing smart networks and services, particularly in the context of the sixth-generation wireless network (6G).

This paper serves as a primer that clarifies key AI/ML terminology, summarises major current standardisation efforts, and explores open implementations and innovation pathways. It provides a foundational resource for researchers, industry stakeholders, and policymakers, with the primary goal of aligning efforts and accelerating the development of AI-native networks and systems, particularly within the framework of SNS-JU research projects.

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New Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-27

The European Commission Work Programme for 2026-2027 sets out the R&I funding opportunities under Horizon Europe.

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European Commission work programme 2026

The 2026 Commission work programme sets out the key strategies, action plans and legislative initiatives that will lay the foundation for the work ahead during this mandate and help deliver on our ambition to build a strong, secure, and prosperous Europe.

The Commission aims to building a more sovereign and independent Europe and reduce its dependencies with regard to critical technologies. Therefore, the Commission plans to propose the Cloud and AI Development Act, the Chips Act 2.0 and the Quantum Act in the first half of 2026. Simplification agenda holds significant relevance for the innovative digital sector, with upcoming initiatives including 28th Regime, a European Research Area Act, and a European Innovation Act to facilitate business and access to financing for all innovative companies, including SMEs.

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ETSI Work Programme 2025

The ETSI Work Programme 2025 provides an overview of our current standardisation projects.

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CEN and CENELEC Work Programme 2025!

CEN and CENELEC Work Programme 2025 is setting out the priorities and most important actions in European standardization for the year ahead.

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Upcoming Events

Software & Standards for Smart Networks & Services 2026

When: 02-05 February 2026
Where: ETSI, Sophia Antipolis, France

With a multidisciplinary approach, the SNS4SNS event brings together open-source communities, industry standardisation, and cutting-edge research initiatives to discuss best practices and opportunities for global collaboration in defining tomorrow's networks and services. Through a series of engaging talks, panel discussions, interactive workshops and live demonstrations, participants will explore a wide range of collaborative frameworks and opportunities for driving innovation, fostering interoperability, and contributing to the long-term viability, security, resiliency, and sustainability of communication networks.

More Information

ETSI AI and Data Conference 2026

When: 09-11 February 2026
Where: Sophia Antipolis, France

The ETSI AI and Data Conference - Bringing AI and data together will take place face-to-face on 09-11 February 2026, in ETSI premises, Sophia Antipolis, France. The 2026 ETSI AI and Data Conference is the 3rd edition of the event. Focusing exclusively on AI in the past, the scope is now extended to intertwine AI and Data management technologies. Standardisation Requests in support of the EU AI Act and the EU Data Act, means that European Standardisation Organisations are actively contributing to EU policy.

More Information

Future Connectivity Summit Europe 2026

When: Brussels
Where: 18-19 February 2026

ETSI is pleased to support and participate in the Future Connectivity Summit, taking place on 18 -19 February in Brussels. Reflecting the evolving shape of Europe's digital landscape, the Future Connectivity Summit Europe merges the European 5G Conference and the European Connectivity & Competitiveness Summit to provide a new, single flagship platform for dialogue on connectivity, policy, and innovation.

More Information

EU Energy Summit 2026

When: 4-5 March 2026
Where: Egmont Palace, Brussels

The EU Energy Summit 2026 will explore how to transform Europe's policy foundations into real-world progress: deploying clean energy infrastructure, accelerating innovation and building an energy system that is stable, affordable and fit for a net-zero economy.

More Information

Upcoming Events

CSC Cybersecurity Standardisation Conference 2026

When: 12 March 2026
Where: Brussels / Online

The European Standardisation Organisations CEN, CENELEC and ETSI together with ENISA, the EU Agency for Cybersecurity, are pleased to announce 10th Cybersecurity Standardisation Conference

European standardisation supporting new legislative cybersecurity landscape.

More Information

12th UCAAT - User Conference on Advanced Automated Testing

When: 14-16 April 2026
Where: Sophia Antipolis, France

ETSI's UCAAT conference, now in its 12th year, is dedicated to all aspects of automated testing including model-based testing, cloud testing, mobile testing, test methodologies, test management and standardised test specification by focusing on the practical challenges that are often faced in industry and standardisation.

More Information

Electronic Attestation of Attributes (EAA) Plugtests

When: 04 May- 01 June 2026
Where: Online

ETSI's Centre for Testing and Interoperability, with the support of ETSI's Technical Committee for Electronic Signatures and Trust Infrastructures (TC ESI), is organising the Electronic Attestation of Attributes (EAA) Plugtests event. This event is co-funded by the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). The aim of this event is to check the interoperability of EAA, a key component of the European Digital Identity Wallet (EUDI Wallet). The testing will cover the ETSI Technical Specification TS 119 472-1, with a special focus on the formats built on SD-JWT VC and ISO 18013-5.

More Information

10th MCX PLUGTESTS

When: 18-22 May 2026
Where: Sophia Antipolis, France

ETSI, with the support of the Critical Communications Association (TCCA) and the Union Internationale des Chemins de fer (UIC), is organising the tenth MCX Plugtests. Co-funded by the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA), this Plugtests event will take place in the ETSI premises in Sophia Antipolis, France.

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

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ETSI
European Telecommunications Standards Institute
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EC
European Commission
www.ec.europa.eu

EFTA
European Free Trade Association
www.efta.int