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,

Welcome to the May 2026 Edition of the SESEI Newsletter- India. This edition of the newsletter highlights the rapidly evolving landscape of European and global standardization, digital transformation, sustainability, and the deepening strategic partnership between India & the European Union.

As Europe commemorated Europe Day 2026, the importance of standards in strengthening the Single Market, enabling innovation, and building trust across industries was brought forth by CEN CENLEC. From cybersecurity and artificial intelligence to clean energy, semiconductors, and circular economy initiatives, standards continue to serve as the invisible backbone supporting resilient and future-ready economies.

A key highlight of this edition is the growing focus on secure and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence. ETSI's launch of the world's first global cybersecurity standard ETSI EN 304 223 for AI systems marks a significant milestone in strengthening resilience across the AI value chain. At the same time, the European Commission's draft guidelines on high-risk AI systems reflect Europe's continued efforts to balance innovation with accountability and safety. CEN and CENELEC welcomed the proposed Cybersecurity Act 2, advocating for European Standards Organisations to remain central to cybersecurity certification schemes.

The European Commission approved €288 million in German state aid to strengthen Europe's semiconductor supply chain through advanced semiconductor equipment manufacturing and silicon carbide material production, aligned with the European Chips Act objectives.

Further strengthening Europe's digital resilience, ETSI launched a new Technical Committee on Critical Communications Systems to support secure and interoperable emergency and mission-critical communications, including the future European Critical Communication System (EUCCS). ETSI also published a new interoperability testing framework for next-generation emergency communications networks, enhancing capabilities such as Advanced Mobile Location (AML), Next Generation 112, and multimedia emergency services.

Sustainability and Circular Economy continue to emerge as central pillars of policy and industrial transformation. A significant highlight is the launch of the India–EU joint initiative on EV battery recycling under the Trade and Technology Council (TTC), reinforcing shared priorities around critical raw materials, green mobility, Battery Passport, and sustainable industrial cooperation. Europe also advanced sustainability-related standardization efforts through initiatives such as the new CEN Workshop on identifying high-carbon products in advertising and the updated CEN-CENELEC Guide 32 on climate adaptation standards.

A new EU economic footprint report revealed that nearly 6,000 EU companies operating in India contribute approximately €186 billion to India's economy, support around six million jobs, and account for a significant share of India's manufacturing and exports. Alongside this, readers will also find updates on India's high-level engagements with European nations including the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Italy, and Switzerland, announcing multiple strategic roadmaps, joint action plans, and innovation partnerships, reaffirming the growing convergence between India & Europe on digital, trade, technology, and sustainability priorities.

Newsletter provides consolidated list of events being organised by the EU standardisation bodies, which might be of interest to you, along with the Annual Work Programme of the European Commission and ESO's.

We hope that you will find this newsletter informative.

Happy Reading,

Best regards,
Dinesh Chand Sharma

IN THIS ISSUE

Generic/ Standards

Europe Day 2026: How Standards Help the Single Market Work for People and Businesses

On the occasion of Europe Day on 9th May, a day commemorating the Schuman Declaration of 1950, which laid the foundations for peace, cooperation, and integration in Europe. CEN and CENELEC, reflected on how European cooperation continues to take concrete shape through the **Single Market**, and on the essential role that **European standardization plays** in making it work.

The Single Market is one of the European Union's greatest achievements. Its success relies on the ability of goods and services to move freely across borders, while ensuring high levels of **safety, quality, and trust**. European Standards are a key enabler of this system. Standards provide common technical rules across Europe by:

- reducing technical barriers to trade (easier cross-border selling/buying),
- making sure products and systems work together (interoperability), and
- building confidence in safety and quality (trust).

In this way, European standardization turns political ambition into practical, market-ready solutions.

An evolving European Standardization System

As Europe faces rapid technological change (with the likes of AI, cybersecurity, and new energy sources disrupting established sectors), global competition and ambitious policy objectives, the **European Standardization System is continuously evolving**. Built as a public-private partnership, it brings together European institutions, national members and a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that standards remain relevant, responsive, and market-driven.

CEN and CENELEC work closely with the European Commission and EFTA under the **New Legislative Framework** and **Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 on European Standardization.**

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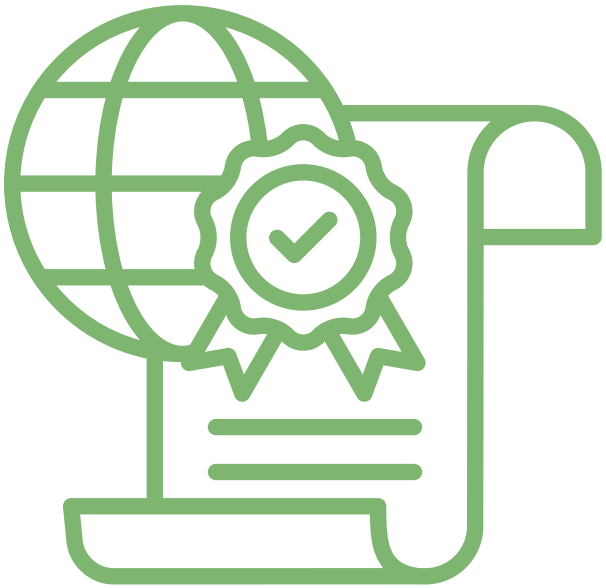
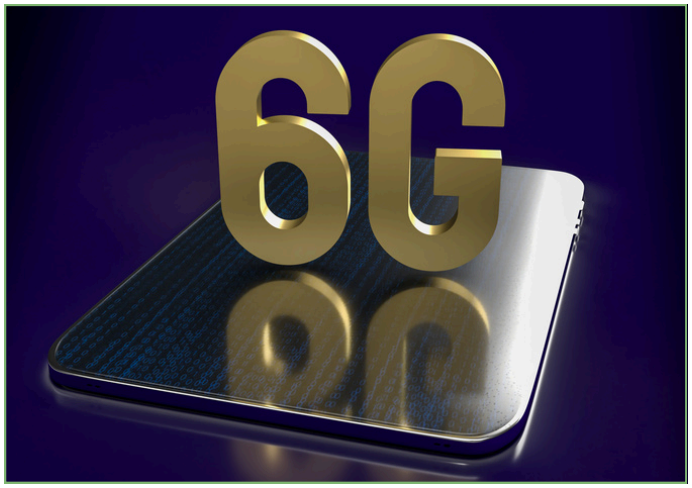


Digitization

A Perspective on 6G Progress



The GSMA 6G Progress Report - Advancing 6G through 3GPP developments and industry collaboration - is an in-depth paper on the work of 3GPP to date and an introduction to the 'GSMA 6G Community' areas initiated by the Association.

As a long standing supporter of the 3GPP standardisation efforts the GSMA has always been a motor for 'fostering early industry convergence to reduce fragmentation'. The GSMA 6G Community continues this work - tracking 3GPP developments and distilling key data into a series of white papers to assess emerging trends, key use cases and technologies shaping 6G.

In Section 3 of the report, there is a detailed snapshot of 3GPP's studies for 6G, as the TSG SA Working Groups take their lead from early requirement gathering to start detailed architecture, security, audio & video media, OAM, and Application enablement studies.

For the radio access network, the TSG RAN study on 6G scenarios and requirements (TR 38.914) will be completed in June (TSG#112). The GSMA paper identifies, remaining open issues around the follow-up studies from the Working groups, on the 6G architecture and migration to it, with several topics ongoing - due to be finalised by RAN#113 in September 2026. With that in mind, the next few months - including the June plenary (RAN#112) and August RAN Working Groups' discussions will be significant.

On the protocol side, TSG CT have approved the start of work on a number of Stage 3 studies, all with a strong dependency on the progress and stability of Stage 2 work, from TSG SA working groups. The report details the CT1, CT3 and CT4 (3 SIDs) discussions on 6G studies.

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A World First: The ETSI Global Cybersecurity Standard for AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping industries, powering everything from critical infrastructure to healthcare to finance. But as AI systems grow more sophisticated, so do the cyber threats targeting them. To help address existing and emerging security risks to AI systems, ETSI has developed ETSI EN 304 223 "Baseline Cyber Security Requirements for AI Systems and Models", the first global standard that sets minimum security requirements across the entire AI life cycle for all stakeholders in the AI supply chain.

The standard tackles evolving AI-specific threats such as data poisoning, model manipulation, and adversarial attacks – issues that can compromise not only system integrity but also public confidence in using the technology. The security requirements within the standard will uplift and strengthen essential security controls, setting consistent baseline protections that ensure robust assurance across the AI supply chain.

By building on global cyber security best practices, ETSI EN 304 223 offers clarity and consistency for developers, regulators, and businesses navigating the AI landscape. It sets out 13 principles across the five stages of an AI lifecycle: Design; Development; Deployment; Maintenance; End of Life

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Commission Seeks Feedback on the Draft Guidelines for the Classification of High-Risk Artificial Intelligence Systems

The European Commission has issued draft guidelines clarifying the classification of artificial intelligence (AI) high-risk systems and a list of practical examples for stakeholder feedback.

The guidelines will support AI providers and deployers in assessing whether their system is high-risk or not. Under the AI Act, a limited list of use cases of AI systems are considered high-risk when they endanger health, safety or fundamental rights. These guidelines will be complemented by other Commission guidelines to facilitate compliance with the obligations for high-risk AI systems.

The draft guidelines are published on the AI Act Single Information Platform. Stakeholders, including providers and developers of AI systems, businesses and public authorities as well as academia, research institutions & citizens, are invited to share their views by 23 June 2026.

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ETSI Launches New Technical Committee on Critical Communications Systems

ETSI has announced the creation of a new Technical Committee on Critical Communications Systems (TC CCS), reinforcing its commitment to the advancement of secure and resilient critical communication in Europe and globally. The inaugural kick-off meeting of the committee brought together over 50 participating constituencies from across the critical communications ecosystem. Part of the work will be carried over from the now closed ETSI committee TCCE while new work items will primarily be focusing on supporting the creation of the European Critical Communication System EUCCS.

One of the focus areas of the group are the maintenance and evolution of the TETRA standard and the development of international standards for mission-critical narrowband and broadband communications. These two pillars form the core of the committee's work, ensuring that critical communications users can rely on secure, interoperable and future-proof technologies.

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The committee brings together the whole ecosystem of critical communications, from governments to regulators, emergency services, mobile network operators, military organisations, transportation, utility and industrial sectors. It will collect and specify operational and technical requirements from these stakeholders to ensure that future standards support resilient, interoperable and secure communications capabilities across increasingly critical converged communications infrastructures.

A closer collegial relationship with other European and international standards bodies to promote alignment and avoid duplication of work is a foundational aspect of the TC's remit. It will also prepare specifications and reports in support of the European Critical Communications System (EUCCS), as part of its broader broadband related activities.

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New ETSI Standard Strengthens Interoperability of Next-Generation Emergency Communications

ETSI has announced the publication of ETSI TS 103 480, a new Technical Specification that establishes a framework for interoperability testing across next-generation emergency communications networks. The specification provides a standardised methodology to ensure that systems from different vendors can operate seamlessly, enabling reliable access to emergency and life-saving services across Europe and beyond.

As emergency communications shift towards next-generation architectures, ensuring interoperability has never been more critical. The specification describes interoperability tests enabling network-independent access to emergency services, including:

- verifying end-to-end interoperability between originating services
- testing location and transport procedures
- validating routing and policy functions
- providing a basis for standardised laboratory testing

It also ensures that essential functionalities such as location delivery, Advanced Mobile Location (AML) and multimedia communication are transmitted so that emergency responders receive the right information on time.

ETSI continues to play a central role in advancing emergency communications across Europe and globally. Its specifications have supported the development of:

- Advanced Mobile Location (AML), enabling accurate caller location information to be transmitted to emergency services
- eCall, which has been mandatory in all new cars since March 2018, automatically alerting emergency services in the event of a serious accident
- Next Generation 112, enabling multimedia emergency communications in a standardised way, including voice access, NG eCall, real-time text and video communications
- Public Warning Systems, supporting the delivery of alerts to citizens during emergencies

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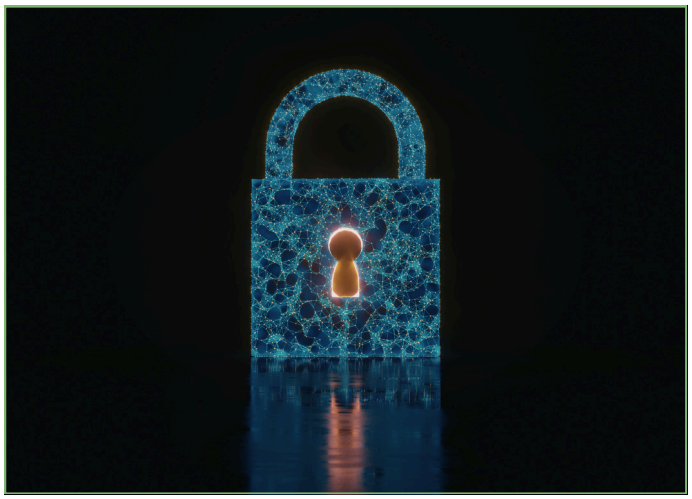
CEN and CENELEC Respond to the Commission Proposal for Cybersecurity Act 2



On 21 January 2026, the European Commission adopted its proposal for a Cybersecurity Act 2, aiming to revise the existing Cybersecurity Act of 2019. This revision responds to the significantly evolving cybersecurity threat landscape, shaped by increasing digitalization and a more complex geopolitical environment.

CEN and CENELEC welcome the proposed Cybersecurity Act 2, which seeks to strengthen cybersecurity governance across the European Union and to support the development of a secure, resilient, and competitive Digital Single Market.

The Commission's **2026 Annual Union Work Programme for European Standardization** identifies cybersecurity requirements for products with digital elements as a key policy priority. In this context, CEN and CENELEC are actively developing **European cybersecurity standards**.

CEN and CENELEC in their feedback to the European Commission on the proposed Cybersecurity Act 2 has urged the Commission to:

- ensure that standards developed by the ESOs are maintained as the backbone of cybersecurity certification schemes.
- confirm that technical specifications developed by ENISA remain a last resort fallback option. The Article on Common Specifications from the Toy Safety Regulation could be used as inspiration for framing the use and development of ENISA technical specifications.
- start a dialogue with the ESOs regarding the exclusion of high-risk suppliers from the European technical committees developing cybersecurity standards.

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ETSI Launches TeraFlowSDN Release 7

ETSI announced the launch of TeraFlowSDN Release 7 with a broad range of new features spanning P4-device integration, sophisticated automation for multi-granular optical networks, and expanded Northbound Interface (NBI) capabilities, this release positions TeraFlowSDN as the most advanced open-source Network Automation Framework.

TeraFlowSDN Release 7 brings key advances, including:

- Advanced P4 Programmability and 5G UPF Support: This release significantly deepens the controller's integration with P4-programmable hardware, most notably through a new service handler designed for 5G User Plane Function (UPF) offloading providing developers with the granular control necessary for high-performance edge processing and hardware-accelerated networking.
- Next-Generation Optical Networking and Automation: TeraFlowSDN continues to lead in optical orchestration by implementing a robust closed-loop automation framework tailored for multi-granular nodes. This update integrates telemetry, KPI management, and analytics to enable self-healing capabilities, while new Northbound Interfaces (NBIs) for Optical Slices and Media Channel Services allow for the automated, flexible provisioning of high-capacity optical links.
- Standardised Interoperability and NBI Extensions: To ensure seamless adoption within carrier ecosystems, the release features extensive alignment with industry standards, including IETF NETWORK NBI extensions for IS-IS Traffic Engineering and updated YANG models. Furthermore, the integration of gNMI/OpenConfig SBI drivers for L2VPNs – validated through end-to-end testing with ETSI OSM -ensures that TeraFlowSDN remains a highly interoperable solution for multi-vendor, multi-layer environments.
- Enhanced DevOps and Ecosystem Reliability: The latest update prioritises carrier-grade stability with a comprehensive overhaul of the CI/CD pipeline and the introduction of the IETF SIMAP AI-Engine Framework.

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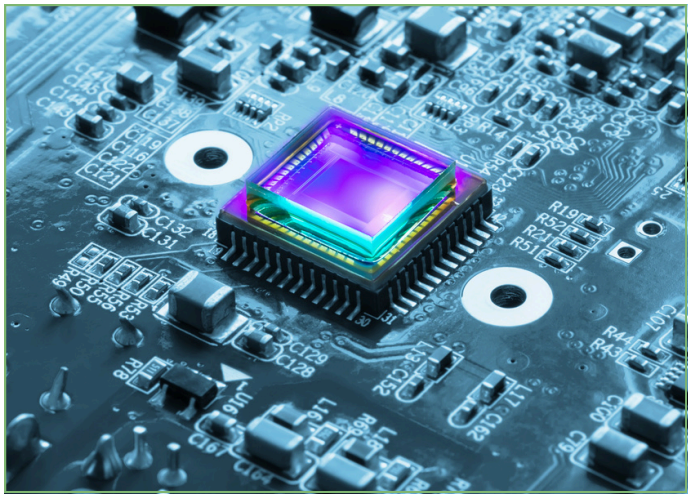
Commission Approves €288 Million German State Aid for First-of-a-Kind Facilities in Semiconductor Value Chain



The European Commission has approved €288 million in German State aid to support the setting up two new facilities in the semiconductor supply chain. The aid consists of a **€222 million** measure for **Carl Zeiss** to build a facility for the manufacturing of semiconductor production equipment in Oberkochen, Baden-Württemberg and a **€66 million** measure for **Zadient Materials Europe GmbH** to set up a facility for the manufacturing of semiconductor source materials in Bitterfeld, Saxony-Anhalt. The measures will contribute to strengthening the EU's position and autonomy in the semiconductor value chain, in line with the objectives set out in the European Chips Act and the Commission's 2024-2029 Political Guidelines.

Germany notified the plan to support **Zeiss's** 'HNA@SCALE' project, which will introduce and industrialise the next generation of extreme ultraviolet ('EUV') optical columns. These columns are required for the next generation of EUV lithography machines produced by the Dutch company ASML. EUV lithography is crucial to produce leading-edge chips, needed in key fields such as high-performance computing and autonomous driving systems. The aid will take the form of a **direct grant** of €222 million.

Germany also notified the plan to support **Zadient's** 'Sic-Pro' investment project for the construction of a first-of-a-kind factory for ultra-pure silicon carbide (SiC) to be used as semiconductor source material.

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ETSI UCAAT 2026 Returns to ETSI Headquarters, Spotlighting AI Quality and the Future of Testing

After 11 years, the ETSI User Conference on Advanced Automated Testing (UCAAT), held from 14 to 16 April 2026, returned to ETSI headquarters, making one of the most successful and interactive editions of the event.

A strong message from UCAAT 2026 was that AI quality is becoming a central testing and standardisation challenge. Keynotes emphasised that regulatory compliance is only a baseline and that the next frontier lies in defining, measuring and continuously evaluating AI quality using testable, use case specific indicators, an area closely aligned with ongoing ETSI MTS work on AI testing methodologies, AI system documentation, and Continuous Auditing-Based Conformity Assessment.

Speakers also highlighted that automation alone does not guarantee quality. While successful CI/CD pipeline and AI-driven testing increase efficiency, they must be complemented by human insight, domain expertise, risk-based thinking, and meaningful traceability to ensure real business value.

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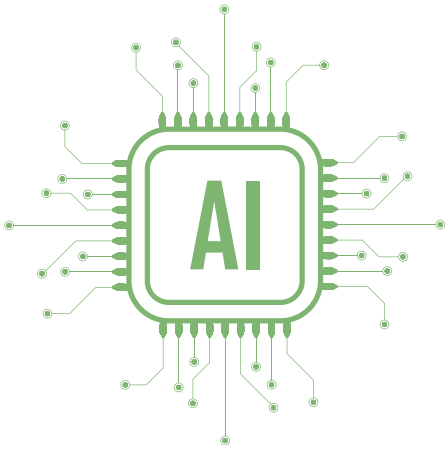

Green and Clean Technologies

India and EU Launched €15.2 Million/~₹169 Crore Joint Initiative to Strengthen EV Battery Recycling Under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC)-Working Group-2

Under the framework of the India-EU Trade & Technology Council (TTC)- Working Group 2 on Green and Clean Energy Technologies, the Government of India and the European Union announced the launch of a third coordinated call for proposals focused on the Recycling of EV Batteries on 5 May 2026. The submission deadline for the same is 15 September 2026.

The call for proposals aims to secure critical raw materials, accelerate the global transition to a circular economy, and strengthen bilateral relations between India and the European Union (EU). With a combined funding pool of €15.2 million (~₹169 crore), the initiative will be funded through the EU's Horizon Europe programme, while the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) will support the Indian component.

The programme will focus on developing advanced recycling technologies, including high-efficiency material recovery, safe and digitalised collection systems, and pilot-scale demonstration of innovative processes. It will also support the establishment of a joint India-EU pilot line in India to enable real-world validation and industrial deployment, bringing together leading researchers, industries, and startups. The call for proposal will focus on High Recovery Rates; Mixed Chemistry Handling; Logistics & Inclusion and Safety & Second Life for critical minerals like lithium, graphite, and cobalt.

On the launch of these calls, the Government of India remarked that this launch is a pivotal moment in the India-EU strategic partnership. As India's EV market continues its rapid expansion, creating a robust domestic recycling ecosystem is essential for our resource security and environmental commitments.

H.E. Mr. Hervé Delphin, Ambassador of the European Union to India highlighted the importance of batteries that sit at the core of the green transition. The goal is to translate the innovations from the development phase to real-world deployment; thereby, directly investing in mineral security and shared climate goals.

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Launch of the CEN Workshop "Framework for the Identification of Advertising for High-Carbon Products and Services"

A new CEN Workshop is being established to develop a CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) that will identify a standardized, science-based approach for defining high-carbon goods and services in the context of advertising and commercial communications.

At present, there is no harmonized definition or methodological framework for identifying high-carbon goods and services for advertising purposes. This lack of alignment creates inconsistency for organizations seeking to align advertising estates, sponsorships, and commercial partnerships with sustainability objectives, net-zero commitments, and other climate- or health-related policies.

The absence of a shared framework represents a barrier to coherent climate policy, public procurement practices, and commercial governance across jurisdictions. In this context, the CEN Workshop will address this gap by developing clear, transparent and evidence-based criteria and processes that can be applied across diverse advertising contexts.

The resulting CWA is intended to support consistent decision-making while remaining adaptable to local or institutional policy priorities. It will complement existing sustainability management frameworks, including relevant ISO standards, established industry practices relating to permitted and prohibited advertising content, and applicable national and international legislation.

By providing a common European reference, the CWA will support a more coherent and evidence-based approach to the governance of advertising-related sustainability issues across sectors and jurisdictions.

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Choosing the Right Policy Mix is Essential to Promote a Circular Economy

Circular economy aims to keep materials in use for as long as possible, while reducing the generation of waste. This approach can help limit the volume of primary materials consumed by society: a particularly pressing concern when global consumption of goods is projected to double by 2050 due to growth in future income and population.

The EU was one of the first movers, globally, to promote circular economy principles, with the European Commission adopting the first Circular Economy Action Plan in 2015, which was further updated in 2020 and became a central part of the EU Green Deal. Under the action plan, Member States are responsible for their own transition towards a circular economy (CE). Circularity rates and the level of progress substantially varies across countries – and in recent years rates of circular material use have stagnated or declined in some economies (for instance in Ireland & Türkiye, according to EEA reports).

This new study aims to provide insights for policymakers by evaluating CE policies not only by the impact on material use but also on their economic and social impacts, including possible trade-offs from transitioning away from traditional production to circular approaches. The study modelled the impacts of a range of CE and climate change policies on the extraction and consumption of primary materials as well as assessing broader economic, social and environmental impacts. Its results suggest current climate change policies are not enough to significantly reduce material use and it will require a combination of supply and demand CE policies that target a range of commodities (fossil fuels, metals and non-metallic minerals) across all stages of the value chain (from mining and processing to intermediate use and final consumption). This is in line with the recommendations developed at the global level in UNEP (2024).

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New CEN and CENELEC Guide 32 Strengthens Climate Adaptation Standards

CEN and CENELEC have published a new edition of Guide 32: Guide for addressing climate change adaptation in standards, underlining the growing importance of climate resilience in European standardization. As climate risks intensify across Europe, adaptation is becoming an essential consideration for infrastructure and the standards that support it.

The 2026 edition brings together **the 2016 version of Guide 32 and the 2022 tailored guidance for Technical Committees** into a single reference document. By consolidating earlier materials, the new guide removes inconsistencies and makes the guidance easier to use.

It introduces a **more structured approach** to assessing climate risk across the life cycle of a standard, helping Technical Committees consider how climate change and extreme weather could affect relevance, performance, and durability over time.

By offering **practical guidance** rather than a one-size-fits-all model, Guide 32 helps Technical Committees integrate climate adaptation where it is most relevant. This supports the development of standards that remain **robust and useful** under changing climate conditions.

Overall, the revised guide strengthens the role of standards to resilience and long-term sustainability across the European Single Market.

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Expert Group Recommendations on Making Smart Charging & Demand Response Easier

The Smart Energy Expert Group and the Sustainable Transport Forum of European Commission alongside the European Coalition of the Willing on Bi-Directional Charging, established by Germany, have presented a comprehensive set of recommendations to simplify data exchange for flexibility, smart charging, and bi-directional charging.

Simplifying flexibility provision is critical to integrate higher shares of renewables, reduce dependence on volatile gas and oil markets, lower costs for consumers using electric vehicles or heat pumps. This initiative represents a European milestone, as all key stakeholders from the electricity and e-mobility sectors have agreed on a shared direction for market organisation, and common interoperability requirements (including standards, digital identity, operating principles, and governance).

The recommendations extend beyond electric vehicles to create a framework for data exchange that also covers heat pumps, storage, and other flexible assets. The Joint Report was presented at a high-level meeting hosted by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action.

The final, indexed report and its annexes will be officially published in the coming days.

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EU/EFTA-India

EU Companies Fuel India's Growth: New Report Reveals Nearly 6,000 Firms Driving GDP, Jobs and Manufacturing Excellence

The European Union in India released its economic footprint report, titled "**The Economic Footprint of EU businesses in India**" detailing the deepening integration and growing contribution of European firms to Indian growth and development. The comprehensive study provides a complete update on the extent of EU economic presence: around 6000 EU firms are active in India, generating €186 billion in turnover in 2024, equivalent to around 5% of India's GDP and nearly a quarter of its manufacturing sector turnover.

The report tracks a decade of growth, illustrating how EU businesses have moved beyond trade to become vital pillars of India's socio-economic fabric over the period 2014–2024. It highlights that European companies have become deeply embedded in India's economy and are significant contributors to jobs, trade, and public revenues. Their economic footprint includes supporting **close to 6 million jobs** (comprising **3.7 million direct employment** and around 2 million jobs across supply chains and related services), while generating **€23.5 billion in exports** (around 6% of India's total), and contributed approximately **€7 billion in taxes** in 2024, alongside **€271 million in corporate social responsibility spending**. Furthermore, the EU companies in this period generated €218 billion in cumulative investments between 2014 and 2024.

While the EU firms maintain a presence in every Indian State and Union Territory, the footprint is strongest in India's major economic hubs. **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Haryana** host around 85% of all EU firms.

With bilateral trade nearing **EUR 200 billion** and an investment stock of **EUR 140 billion**, today the EU is India's top trading partner and leading foreign investor. Their expanding presence and long-term commitment to Indian market reinforces the EU's role as a trusted economic partner of India. The adoption of Joint EU-India Comprehensive Strategic Agenda in January 2026 further reflects converging interests, shared values and economic synergies.

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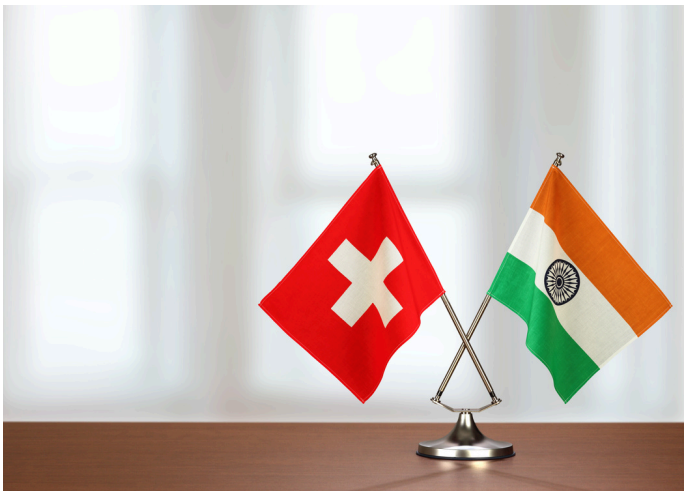
India and Switzerland Review TEPA Implementation, Discuss Measures to Expand Trade and Investment Cooperation



Commerce Secretary, Government of India undertook an official visit to Switzerland from 06–07 May 2026 to advance the implementation of the India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) and strengthen India–Switzerland trade and investment engagement.

The visit focused on translating TEPA's market-access outcomes into concrete business partnerships, investment commitments and greater industry utilization. The visit built upon the high-level engagement held in February 2026, when Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal met H.E. Mr. Guy Parmelin, President of the Swiss Confederation, in New Delhi and reviewed the roadmap for taking the agreement from policy framework to commercial delivery.

Both sides reviewed the progress achieved since TEPA became operational and discussed measures to expand trade and investment, strengthen regulatory cooperation, address non-tariff barriers and promote deeper business linkages.

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Report of Significant Meetings and Strategic Partnerships Signed During the Prime Minister of India's Visit to the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Italy

Netherlands:

Adoption of a Strategic Partnership Roadmap under which India and the Netherlands agreed to work through regular and structured cooperation across multiple areas, including political engagement, trade and investment, defence and security cooperation, cybersecurity, critical and emerging technologies such as semiconductors, space, AI and quantum systems, science and innovation, sustainability, health, sustainable agriculture and food systems, water management, climate change and energy transition, sustainable transport, maritime development, education, culture, and people-to-people ties. The two sides also agreed to explore exchanges in the domain of policy planning.

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Sweden:

In Sweden, the leaders adopted the ***India-Sweden Joint Action Plan 2026–2030*** under four key pillars covering security, economic partnership, emerging technologies and sustainable development. Both sides also highlighted the significance of the recently concluded India-EU Free Trade Agreement in boosting trade, investment and resilient supply chains.

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Norway:

India and Norway strengthened their science and innovation partnership through new agreements signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), and leading Norwegian research institutions. Key agreements included cooperation with the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and SINTEF focusing on climate, clean energy, oceans, health, offshore wind, circular economy, carbon capture and sustainable technologies.

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Italy:

India and Italy greed to establish Foreign Ministers-led mechanism to review the **India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29** and provide strategic guidance to India-Italy Special Strategic Partnership.

The two countries also signed an MoU on maritime transport and ports and directed their respective ministries and departments to establish a joint working group to implement the MoU at the earliest.

They further announced the creation of INNOVIT India, an innovation hub located in India aimed at strengthening cooperation between the respective innovation ecosystems, supporting startup acceleration programmes, market access and business matching, joint research, university collaboration, and talent mobility in sectors including fintech.

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Prime Minister Modi also addressed the **European Round Table for Industry (ERT**) in Gothenburg, where he invited European industry leaders to partner with India in manufacturing, telecom, AI, semiconductors, clean energy, infrastructure, mobility and healthcare. He underlined India's emergence as a trusted investment and innovation destination and emphasized the importance of resilient and diversified global supply chains.

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Whitepaper/Publication

AI-Native Infrastructure, Next Phase of Telco Cloud Evolution	This ETSI whitepaper outlines the critical evolution of the Telco Cloud into an AI-native infrastructure, marking a fundamental shift from cloud-native to embedding intelligence and autonomy into the cloud platform's core. The transition is driven by the increasing scale and complexity of telecom networks, which render traditional, human-driven operations inadequate. AI, particularly with advancements in large-models and agentic systems, offers the necessary analytical power and adaptability to manage these environments effectively. Read More/Download
EU 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 and help deliver key objectives to build a strong, secure, and prosperous Europe. Read More/Download
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. Read More/Download
ETSI Work Programme 2025	The ETSI Work Programme 2025 provides an overview of ETSI's current standardisation projects. Read More/Download
CEN and CENELEC Work Programme 2026	CEN and CENELEC announced the Work Programme 2026, outlining the key priorities and actions that will shape European standardization in the year 2026. Read More/Download

Upcoming Events

EuCNC & 6G Summit

When: 02-05 June 2026
Where: Malaga, Spain

ETSI is pleased to support the **EuCNC & 6G Summit** on 2-5 June 2026, taking place at FYCMA Malaga, Spain. The 2026 EuCNC & 6G Summit builds on two successful conferences in the area of telecommunications: EuCNC, in its 35th edition of a series, supported by the European Commission, and the 6G Summit, in its 8th edition, originated from the 6G Flagship programme in Finland, one of the very first in its area

More Information

ETSI/IQC Quantum Safe Cryptography Conference 2026

When: 16-18 June 2026
Where: Ottawa

Designed for members of the business, government, and research communities with a stake in cryptographic standardisation, this forward-looking conference facilitates the knowledge exchange and collaboration required to transition cyber infrastructures and business practices to make them safe and resilient in an era with quantum computers. It will showcase both the most recent developments from industry and government and cutting-edge potential solutions coming out of the most recent research.

More Information

Critical Communications World 2026

When: 16-18 June 2026
Where: London, UK

ETSI is pleased to join this year again Critical Communications World.
Critical Communications World is the annual global gathering for mission-critical and business-critical communications professionals. Join the event for three days of expert content, networking, and hands-on tech innovation.

More Information

CRA Standards Unlocked - Deep Dive Session: Technical Component Requirements for ACS

When: 18 June 2026
Where: Online

This deep dive session provides a comprehensive overview of the technical component requirements for ACS in line with EN IEC 62443-4-2: prAA. It explores how OT vertical harmonised standards interact with EN IEC 62443-4-1 and 62443-4-2, with a focus on selecting relevant cybersecurity requirements and assessment techniques tailored to specific product verticals. The session will also guide manufacturers through the applicability process, including how to apply mandatory requirements and identify any additional measures needed to achieve presumption of conformity for their products.

More Information

Upcoming Events

Webinar 'OpRa: A New Transmodel-Based Exchange Format for Operational Raw Data'

When: 25 June 2026
Where: Online

This one-hour webinar is a presentation of the new CEN Technical Specification for the exchange format of operational raw data in support of the "observed data" category of the MMTIS EU delegated regulation. Targeted audience: Public Transport Authorities, Public Transport Operators, National Transport Regulatory Authorities, MMTIS data producers and consumers.

More Information

Webinar 'How to Become Compliant with EU Digital Product Passport Legislations: Guidance on the Recent Published European Standards'

When: 25 June 2026
Where: Online

The webinar aims at informing the audience on the following essential aspects of European Digital Product Passport (DPP): Set the scene with the evolution of European standardization around DPP, Present the EU regulatory landscape shaping the EU DPP, Clarify the application scope of the DPP across current and upcoming EU legislation, Introduce the first six standards published by CEN-CLC/JTC 24 ‘Digital Product Passport - Framework and System’ as essential elements to support implementation of European DPP, Highlight the cross sectoral function of the new set of standards, their product agnostic nature and their relevance for all industries.

More Information

Webinar: ISAC System and RAN Architectural Considerations at ETSI and 3GPP

When: 1 July 2026
Where: Online

This webinar will discuss ISAC architectural enablers as defined in 3GPP for 5G-Advanced on one hand, and in ETSI ISAC ISG GR003 towards 6G, on the other hand. It will also shed some light on the standardisation road ahead for ISAC in 6G and beyond, based on the ongoing studies in 3GPP Release#20 and the activities in ETSI ISAC ISG Release#2.

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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