Global ICT Standards for Europe

DIGITALEUROPE

Perspectives from the EU ICT Industry

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Background: ICT Industry Perspective on Standards

Global scale is the ICT industry's innovation motor - three foundational principles for effective ICT standards policies:

- Emphasis on global standards

- Emphasis on voluntary, industry-driven standards

- Emphasis on consensus-based, transparent and inclusive standards development processes adhering to WTO TBT principles and criteria

The more successfully the EU can implement these principles, the better will our European environment be prepared for a flourishing ICT economy and for delivering on the digital agenda for European citizens

Implications

• **Global and voluntary, industry-driven ICT standards, adhering to WTO TBT principles and criteria are developed by a variety of different organisations, whether they are formal standards organisations or industry fora & consortia**

• **From an industry perspective and a global context, there is no general need for policy to differentiate between these different sources of standards**

> Global competitiveness of an ICT standard is not determined by whether it has been developed by a formal standards organisation or an industry consortium

In order to have access to the best ICT standards for supporting EU policies and competitiveness, the EU needs to:

• **Continue investing in contributing to global standards**

> Europe is a leading contributor at global level via industry's direct participation in ETSI and partnership projects (e.g. 3GPP), national delegations in international bodies, incl. CEN/CENELEC contributions, and industry work in fora & consortia

• **Leverage the full landscape of global standardization**

The MSP – Taking Stock

- **The MSP is an essential and previously missing key enabler for the EU to leverage the full landscape of ICT standards in support of EU policies and interoperability**
    - It is also the first institutionalized platform for cooperation between stakeholders towards that aim
        - ESOs, ISOs as well as global fora & consortia
        - Member States as well as direct participation of stakeholders with beyond-national interests

- **The MSP has proven to be able to successfully fulfil its mandate**
    - Identification of first sets of global ICT specifications
    - Healthy pipeline of evaluation projects on proposals for identification
    - First collaboratively developed Rolling Plan for EU ICT standardisation, taking global perspectives into account
    - Joint work, especially in task forces, has significantly increased trust between stakeholders and generated previously absent common understanding on many standards policy aspects

The MSP – Our Hopes Going Forward

1. **Identification of ICT Specs - Move from building trust among stakeholders to routine operations**

   • Evaluation processes of ICT specifications proposed for identification need to be streamlined

   • Average duration of process long vis-a-vis aim of responding to fast ICT innovation cycles by making state-of-the-art specs quickly available to procurers

   • Risk of member's fatigue in contributing resources to working groups

   • There is room for increased process discipline

   • Fully embrace enabling role of global fora & consortia specs

   • Avoid defensive attitude towards identification of ICT specs – keep in mind that the role of identified ICT specs in the overall system is clearly delimited and "modest": A completely non-binding offer for voluntary use – no obligation or even recommendation for use

The MSP – Our Hopes Going Forward

2. **The Rolling Plan - Move from collaborative plan development to collaborative implementation**

    • Having the global ICT standards landscape contribute to supporting EU policy objectives will be a significant competitive advantage for the EU

    • Need to develop instruments to stimulate global fora & consortia work towards supporting EU policy objectives

    • Instruments for stimulating ESO work are established and in place: standards mandates, financial support etc

    • Effective instruments for stimulating fora & consortia work need to be developed – may be similar, or may be different kinds of tools

    • The MSP is ideally set up to develop proposals

The MSP – Our Hopes Going Forward

3. **Scope of Work - Move from tackling initial tasks to filling the full MSP mandate**

   • Mandate of MSP is broad and applies to all issues around ICT standardisation

     • Yet, initial work has focused on first identification processes and Rolling Plan

   • Many other standards-related policy topics have been presented to the MSP by the EC, but few have been followed up

   • Due to its set-up, the MSP offers a unique opportunity to develop collective stakeholder views on many issues:

     • E.g.: ongoing discussions around standards-essential patents, standards in TTIP, …

The MSP – A Final Request to the EC

Please ensure that a decision to continue the MSP beyond the end of this year is prepared in time!