

## In this issue

Editorial	1
John Ketchell – Old head, new department	2
The sun rises on a sunset industry	2
CEN presence in China	3
Space: The final frontier	3
EUROCODES – A boon to construction sector	3
Standardization continues to help simplify legislation	4
News in brief	4



CEN President Dr Juan Carlos López Agúí shares a toast with CENELEC President Dietmar Harting at the New Year Cocktail on 23 January

# news networking

## 2008: Building a bright future

The excitement and promise of this New Year gives added momentum for CEN to continue to focus on ongoing improvements to the European Standardization System. This excitement was in the air at this year's annual New Year's Cocktail. We host this event every year with our partner organization CENELEC, but this year's event was charged with a special feeling.

This year will continue the trend of increasing cooperation between the European Standards Organizations. Last year CEN and CENELEC members forged an agreement, known as the 'Cyprus decision'. The Cyprus decision was a departure point for the implementation of a joint project known as 'The Future Landscape of European Standardization' (FLES). One of the key elements of the Cyprus decision, and a crucial objective of the FLES, is heightened cooperation between the two standards organizations. 2008 began with a simple yet powerful example of this: CEN and CENELEC have aligned the criteria for relations with countries outside of Europe, in the form of Affiliates and Partner Standardization Bodies.

This will make the European Standardization System not only simpler to understand, but easier to get involved in. Already this year we have welcomed Israel to our system with the relationship of Affiliate. The efficiency and effectiveness of the European Standardization System already attracts much interest from beyond our Member States; further efforts to simplify our operations will only increase our popularity and visibility.

The presence of a European Standardization Expert in China has been such a success that we are looking to engage this process in other locations as well. Another dynamic and fast-growing economy interested in strengthening relations with us is India. Our system works, and this success encourages greater and stronger cooperation.

The FLES has a number of elements that will continue to strengthen our European Standardization System and promote the benefits, both inside Europe and beyond our borders. However, CEN has not lost sight of its key objective: the production of European Standardization documents to meet manifest and anticipated needs. Last year we published 1124 documents and this year we have set a goal of 1100. Much work is required to meet our objectives but I have full confidence in our teams of experts, our members, our system, and our staff and I am looking forward to a busy and productive 2008.



Gaston Michaud  
CEN Secretary General

## John Ketchell - Old head, new department

At the end of 2007 CEN combined two departments: New Business Opportunities and Pre-Standards. This new combined department - New Opportunities and Pre-Standards (NOPS) consists of eleven staff members reporting to Director John Ketchell. Mr Ketchell has been with CEN for ten years as director of Pre-Standards, now incorporated into the larger department, which has been responsible for the concept of open CEN Workshops, producing rapid consensus in technical groups open to the participation of any interested company or organization. On the rationale behind the move, Mr Ketchell said "The Workshop is an ideal tool for standardization activities in new domains, and there is thus a clear link with our

overall business development. It was natural to bring the topics closer together." Of course, many new activities will also lead - sooner or later - to a formal European Standard, but the idea of having a single entry point for newcomers helps simplify the CEN system.

Mr Ketchell stressed that the activities which already occupy much of the focus (for example, services, protection and security of the citizen, defence procurement, eAccessibility, and eHealth) will continue as important areas for future standards. Further indications on the focus of the NOPS Department can be found in the clear link that has been established between standardization and

innovation. "The European Commission is in the process of preparing a Communication to the Council on standards and innovation. Standardization helps diffuse innovations and makes them usable in the market, so new, fast moving, and active businesses will continue to have a need for standardization activities, and help us continually to adapt to new areas." No doubt, the newly-formed NOPS Department will help CEN provide the necessary support.

An updated organization chart of the CEN Management Centre can be found online at [www.cen.eu](http://www.cen.eu) (About us - Structure - The CEN Management Centre).



Head of NOPS Department John Ketchell

## The sun rises on a sunset industry



Deepak Razdan, Chairman of CEN/TC 256

The railway is the oldest and fastest existing land-based public transportation mode in Europe. Chair of CEN Technical Committee 256, Railway applications, Deepak Razdan reminds us that it is also an environmentally sound one that is quick to respond to and adopt innovation. Pretty good for a transport option that was considered to be on its way out of fashion not too long ago!

Over the centuries, rail travel has increased its speed capabilities from 5 km/h to over 350 km/h. This current high speed, Mr Razdan pointed out, "is of critical importance in an increasingly borderless Europe where rapid transportation solutions are of daily importance. As well, the problems of road and air congestion, not to mention pollution, have led to the recognition that railways can play a crucial and increasingly large role in the new Europe." This position is borne out by the facts: rail travel has seen a huge growth in passenger and freight traffic over the last 15 years. The European Commission has recognized this resurgence and has published directives to assist the free flow of passengers and traffic across national borders within the European Union.

Railways are not only fast, they are also efficient. As climate change continues to climb higher and higher in the public

consciousness this will take on increasing importance. As Mr Razdan says, "the carbon footprint of rail is small compared with other competing forms of transportation, even at high speeds." One key factor is the life expectancy of products used in rail travel: twenty years or more for rolling stock. This is supported by the uptake of innovation in the industry. Emerging designs are optimized to meet set objectives. The associated innovations benefit the industry, the passenger and businesses using the service.

while applying the knowledge gained from these innovations to existing and new applications." The benefits of rail travel are magnified by harmonized European Standards (ENs). Instead of having to comply with up to 30 National Standards, single products can be developed for application over a much wider market. "Of course local differences such as track gauge or voltage of the power supply will remain for many years but the EN harmonizes the significant parameters. The keyword here is interoperability."

to the standards developers. Unfortunately there is a gap in the European Commission process; the funding for the EN cannot be granted after the end of the research programme. Mr Razdan believes that this is just an oversight which can be corrected through negotiations between the Commission and CEN. "It's only a matter of time in my opinion. How much time is the question."

This focus on research is crucial. "The sector has to manage knowledge transfer from universities and consolidate



Rail travel has grown substantially over the past 15 years

On the specific topic of European Standards and the rebirth of European railways Mr Razdan was more than happy to offer his perspective. "CEN/TC 256 is devoted to rail transportation including high speed passenger trains, suburban trains, metros, trams, locomotives and all types of freight vehicles," he explained, "the broad range of interests and expertise represented on this committee results in continuing improvements to the rail system, already in possession of an outstanding safety record." Railway's record on safety in Europe is exemplary in any way one cares to measure it. It is between 4 and 15 times safer than road travel depending on the road vehicle used. "All innovation in rail aims to maintain this safety record

As well, standardization effectively counters technical difficulties associated with the break-up of unitary national railways into organizations with much narrower responsibilities.

Despite these myriad benefits there are still issues to be worked out to secure a strong place for railway in Europe's transportation matrix. Some of the difficulties, Mr Razdan explained, have to do with policy. "These [European Commission] Directives on Interoperability have led to the development of research programmes to assist the implementation of the requirements." However, to develop ENs based on innovation, suitable technical and secretarial support needs to be provided

knowledge from innovation and find ways of retaining it. ENs are a part of this knowledge retention and should therefore be valued", said Mr Razdan. For a system that measures its assets in horsepower, there is a lot of focus on mind power.

As Mr Razdan puts it, "The innovation-based advances in all areas of rail transport still retain the key essentials of high safety, low environmental impact, and relaxed travel for passengers and reliable delivery of freight for business over both short and long distances." With these innovations shaping our already strong railway system, expect more people and goods to be riding off into the sunrise in high-speed comfort.

## CEN presence in China

As part of the EU-China Trade Project the European Standards Organizations have, since June 2006, had a European Standardization Expert in Beijing. The key function of this position is to support China's Integration into the World Trading System. The return on this investment was evident during the EU-China Conference on Quality and Energy Efficiency in Buildings, 29 - 30 January 2008 in Beijing.

This Conference brought together EU and Chinese representatives from government institutions, standards organizations, industry associations and businesses to discuss issues related to standardization in the construction sector in general, and energy saving standards in particular. Key points of discussion were energy performance in buildings, the impact of regulations and standards on energy efficiency as well as Eurocodes.

CEN was represented there by our European Standardization Expert, Klaus Ziegler, and Programme Manager for Construction Amilcar Da Costa. After the event Mr Da Costa remarked that there was a clear interest for Chinese experts to collaborate with EU experts to improve the energy efficiency at the national level with an overall improvement in trade relations.

## Space: The final frontier



The Galileo satellite navigation system will benefit from new space standards

In support of the European Space Policy the European Commission forwarded mandate M/415 on establishing space industry standards to the three European Standards Organizations (ESOs) in June 2007. The mandate asks the ESOs to establish a programme for space related standards in order to: ensure an adequate level of safety for space hardware and services; foster European Union projects such as the Galileo satellite navigation system, the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and projects in the satellite telecommunications field; stimulate the emergence of European end-user terminals; mitigate space related threats such as debris; and support the international competitiveness of the European space industry.

The European Space Programme will help integrate a variety of existing space systems from the EU, the European Space Agency, and individual Member States into a cohesive European space infrastructure. The functioning of all systems within this integrative approach and the full utilization of its potential is to be guaranteed by the preparation of

*"A dedicated task force will be looking into system issues for interoperability"*

the necessary standards. A Working Group (BT/WG 202) has been established, and is currently preparing a standardization programme. As per the mandate, the work of BT/WG 202 will be carried out in two steps, both to be completed before the end of this calendar year.

First, a feasibility study will be carried out to assess the current state of space standardization and take inventory of existing and planned European space systems and terrestrial systems with which these space systems need to operate. Furthermore, it will identify priorities amongst the identified elements and sectors, the particular actors to be involved for each area of work, and propose directions for future standardization actions. Specific inventory meetings will be carried out for the following areas: Navigation and positioning, earth observation, telecommunications, space situational awareness, and planetary protection, and launch vehicles and exploration

(human as well as robotic). A dedicated task force will look into system issues for interoperability between space and other systems and liability issues related to space applications, including safety, security, data integrity and certification.

During the second phase of the work requested by this mandate, BT/WG 202 will detail standardization needs and prepare a comprehensive standardization programme. This will be done in the form of detailed dossiers for each of the areas identified in the first phase of the work. This activity will result in a comprehensive final report to be submitted to the European Commission at the beginning of 2009.

The project welcomes the participation of any stakeholder or interested party in this important initiative. For more information contact Working Group secretary Matthias Ludwig ([matthias.ludwig@din.de](mailto:matthias.ludwig@din.de)), or CEN Aerospace Programme Manager Anna von Groote ([anna.vongroote@cen.eu](mailto:anna.vongroote@cen.eu)).

## EUROCODES – A BOON TO CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

By Mathieu Denis

Since 1990, CEN/TC 250 has been developing Structural Eurocodes as a way of enabling design engineers to harmonize design rules for structures built within CEN Member States. So far 58 Structural Eurocodes have been produced, providing rules for basis of design, actions on structures as well as structural design rules for the use of all major construction materials. The design rules can be used for a majority of building and engineering structures utilizing the different materials, the Eurocodes also cover earthquake resistance and geotechnical design. They are a set of rules that provide a common approach for the structural design of buildings and other civil engineering works, and their many benefits are making their use increasingly popular.

The benefits of adopting the Eurocodes include: the harmonization of the services market in the construction sector; providing a common understanding regarding the design of structures; and increasing the competitiveness of European civil engineering firms, contractors, designers, and product manufacturers.

Structural Eurocodes are the recommended means of giving a presumption of conformity with the essential requirements of the Construction Products Directive for construction works and products that bear the CE Marking. They are also the preferred reference for technical specifications in public contracts. The 58 Structural Eurocodes parts are now available and will be used in parallel with existing national standards until 2010, when all conflicting standards will be withdrawn.



Construction of the Viaduc de Millau benefitted from the use of Structural Eurocodes

# Standardization continues to help simplify legislation

By Guido De Jongh

The use of standards as a supporting tool for legislation has been very successful in Europe. The principle is that the legal requirements are written down in regulations and the technical details and test methods are produced as European Standards. This relationship is known as the 'New Approach', and applies to products that fall under the CE Marking directives. For these directives, the 'presumption of conformity' principle with European Standards is well established. Recently, more 'traditional' legal frameworks have discovered that standards are a powerful tool to simplify legislation. The General Product Safety Directive (GPSD) of 2001 uses standards as an important instrument to increase the product safety (and quality) of consumer products. In 2003, a review of fertilizer

legislation resulted in the repeal of 19 fertilizer directives. At the same time, CEN was mandated to modernize the fertilizer test methods, which were previously part of the legislation, and to take these test methods over into European Standards. On 17 January 2008, the Commission organized an ad-hoc meeting of the Working Group on 'Textile names and labelling' to discuss the replacement process of three directives into one regulation. Again, one of the options is to transfer the test methods from legislation to the domain of standardization. A forthcoming impact assessment study will examine the different scenarios and options. Frank Moore, the Chairman of the European Standards Committee for Textiles (CEN/TC 248) firmly believes moving the test methods from the legis-

lation and publishing them as European Standards is the correct move to make as the standards will then be established and controlled by the standardization experts of European member countries.

CEN is looking forward to helping the Commission and member states in their future simplification of legislation, not only on textiles, but also other fields, in particular towards the services industry.



Labeling of textiles provides consumers with important information on product composition

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### CEN GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Aerial view of triumphal arch in Bucharest

© Romanian National Tourist Office

The CEN-CENELEC Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 June 2008 in Bucharest, Romania. The theme of the Annual Meeting is 'European Standards in support of market surveillance'. Adequate market surveillance is necessary to support the principles embodied in the New Approach Directives and therefore the European Standards Organizations should use their strengths in the area of standardization. The application of European

Standards enables manufacturers to demonstrate compliance of products with the essential requirements of those European Directives incorporating the principle of presumption of conformity. The host is ASRO, the Romanian Standards Association.

### TECHNICAL BOARD WORKING GROUP ON RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

The kick-off meeting of CEN/BT/WG 201 'Research, Development and Innovation activities (R&D&I)' took place in Madrid on 25 January 2008. The aim of this CEN Technical Board Working Group is to study the feasibility of developing European Standards in relation to research, development, and innovation activities and to prepare a draft Business plan for a possible future Technical Committee in this area. The secretariat and convenorship of the working group was allocated to AENOR.

### NEW RAILWAY CONSULTANT

Mr Robrecht Delmé has taken up the post of CEN consultant in the field of Interoperability of Railways (in the domain of the Infrastructure). Mr. Delmé has worked for many years in different functions within the Infrastructure Department of Belgian Railways (SNCB/NMBS). Starting as District Superintendent, responsible for maintenance and renewal of different main line sections of SNCB/NMBS network and ending as Department Manager, responsible for different infrastructure workshops and staff and machinery for all track renewal works on SNCB/NMBS network. He has prior experience in participating in a CEN working group and has been involved in consultancy on World Bank, Phare and Ispa projects.

He takes over from Mr Jean-Pierre Riondet who gave valuable support in this position for more than eight years.

### KEYMARK CONFERENCE 4 MARCH



The Keymark is the European certification mark that shows a product complies with the relevant European Standard(s) (EN). This Workshop in Brussels 4 March 2008, aims to strengthen the Keymark system by discussing the pros and cons of the system and exchanging experience between market operators. This will improve the mutual recognition between the various certification bodies involved and eventually improve the competitiveness of the actors who make use of the Keymark.

For more information see [www.cen.eu](http://www.cen.eu).

### STANDARDIZATION EDUCATION PROVING POPULAR

The fourth edition of CEN StandarDays is taking place on 14 and 15 February. This semi-annual event has been oversubscribed each time it has been offered, showing an ongoing high demand for education on the European Standardization System. To date CEN StandarDays have seen approximately 200 people come to the CEN Management Centre in Brussels to get a better understanding of standardization. As in each of the three previous occasions, registration has reached capacity. The next edition will be autumn 2008.

For more information see [www.cen.eu/go/standarddays](http://www.cen.eu/go/standarddays) or [contact\\_media@cen.eu](mailto:contact_media@cen.eu).

### SAD NEWS

The European standardization community has recently lost two important members, Ing. Paolo Scolari, President of the Italian National Standardization Body (UNI), and Mr Michel Ayrat, Director Regulatory Policy, European Commission, Directorate-General Enterprise and Industry, Directorate C – Regulatory Policy. Both passed away in January. The staff and members of CEN wish to express their deepest condolences.

### MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS

Important building works are being planned for the Gallery Toison d'Or located below the CEN Management Centre offices and the CEN/CENELEC Meeting Centre on Rue de Stassart. The works will give rise to disturbances, especially noise, dust, and road closures. As a result CEN will not be able to guarantee a high-quality meeting environment for the duration of this project, which is planned to begin in April 2008 and to last for two years. CEN apologizes for any scheduling changes and meeting relocations that will result. Should you need further information or assistance please contact the CEN/CENELEC Meeting Centre at [meeting\\_center@cenelec.org](mailto:meeting_center@cenelec.org).