



***EUROSHNET 2005***

**EUROPE AND  
THE GLOBAL RELEVANCE OF  
STANDARDS**

***Olivier PEYRAT***

***AFNOR***

***Director General***

# WHAT IS A STANDARD ?

A **standard** is a document

- To be applied essentially **voluntarily**
- Intended as a **reference** on a market
- Drafted on a **consensus** basis by representatives of all the interested parties

# WHY DO WE HAVE STANDARDS ?

The context of **globalisation**, high **societal expectations** with respect to quality, safety and environmental protection

→ **extension of the scope of standardisation**

From traditional areas (dimensions, products, test methods )

... to management, organisation, services

... and on towards approaches, expertise

→ **the circle of stakeholders has been enlarged beyond the « historical » participants from business and industry :**

consumers, local authorities

trade unions

# FROM EUROPEAN STANDARDISATION TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDISATION

Following a phase with Europe leading the way

... a trend towards « **internationalisation** »

... which should intensify

... despite problems

# A NEW INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT FOR TECHNICAL HARMONISATION

## ➤ WTO principles

International standards to **facilitate global trade**

## ➤ ISO and the global relevance of standards

The criteria used by ISO to determine whether a standard is perceived as being **globally relevant**:

- in response to market and regulatory needs
- no adverse effect on fair competition
- requirements expressed in terms of results rather than means.

# EUROPE AND THE GLOBAL RELEVANCE OF STANDARDS: WHAT CHALLENGES ?

*In the short term* : **promote safety levels** already achieved in Europe

- go from « harmonised ENs » to « harmonised EN ISOs »
- define a genuine international policy for all fields covered by the New Approach

*In the longer term* : faced with the emergence of private rules, **consolidate the role of ISO standardisation**

# EUROPE AND THE GLOBAL RELEVANCE OF STANDARDS : A FEW SUGGESTIONS

- No regulation through private rules alone
- Structure the logical **complementarity** of regulation/social partners/standardisation
- Boost the **participation** of interested parties