



CSN Core Group N 174 Rev

# Report of CEN construction Sector Network Conference 2009

Construction Standards: 2010 - 2015

Date: 14/15 May 2009

Venue: Ente Nazionale Italiano di Unificazione (UNI)  
Via Sannio, 2  
IT-20137 Milano  
Italy  
[www.uni.com](http://www.uni.com)

## DAY 1 – 14 May 2009

### *0. Welcome and opening addresses*

Mr Ruggero Lensi apologised for the absence of Mr Piero Torretta, President of UNI, and opened the Conference on his behalf. He explained that UNI had initiated a new strategic direction for standardization, identifying six strategic themes, which had led to restructuring into three main technical departments, one of which was construction with Alberto Galeotto as manager. For UNI, construction was therefore an important sector. He welcomed participants and wished them a successful conference.

### *1. Introduction*

#### **Dr John Moore - CEN Construction Sector Rapporteur**

Dr Moore thanked UNI for the invitation and arrangements. He mentioned the rationale for the programme for this conference. Following the last CSN conference in May 2007 an implementation plan had been developed for which actions had been completed or overtaken by other events. Each 6 months a sector report was made available on the CEN construction sector website. Over 100 new hENs had been published since May 2007. All 58 Eurocode parts had also been published, and CEN/TC 350 and CEN/TC 351 were fully active.

The aim of the conference was to look ahead and discuss issues likely to have an impact on standards development over the medium term, and to subsequently develop an action plan.

### *2. Setting the scene – the longer term drivers for standards*

#### **2.1 'CEN report on Global relevance of standards and other high level initiatives' - Mr Ruggero Lensi, UNI member of CEN/BT**

Initiatives were described to improve the CEN/BT decision making process related to market needs for standards. There was a close relationship with ISO activities, with one aim being alignment of ISO/CEN working methods. Whilst 25% of total EN ISO standards were listed in CEN catalogue, the total was only 6.6 % in the construction sector which was a matter of concern. He thought the sector needed to ask why the construction sector was differing. Was this related only to product standards, to process standards or both?

On the ISO global relevance policy, ISO standards must accommodate the needs of all regions, but where unique international solutions were not possible, ISO had introduced the option of 'options' to facilitate global harmonization. It was necessary for ISO and CEN to work together, between the Construction Sector Network in CEN and ISO/TAG 8 (Technical Advisory Group 8 – Building) in ISO.

On a horizontal approach, reference was made to CEN/BT WG 163 "standardization in the field of services" and CEN/BT WG 195 "qualification of profession/personnel". Also the difficulties of updating 700 harmonised standards under the machine safety directive and the forthcoming similar issues related to replacement of the Construction Products Directive by the proposed Construction Products Regulations could be of concern.

Dr Moore welcomed the common sense approach, with CEN/ISO cooperating on a lot of initiatives. Mr Loveday reported that in his sector, aggregates, ISO standards were voluntary and inspirational, but CEN standards were used in a regulatory context to support the CPD. Some examples were quoted by Anna Rossi (technical secretary of ISO/TAG 8) of CEN and ISO committees on similar subjects being reluctant to follow the Vienna Agreement. It was queried whether ISO could adopt the structural Eurocode approach using Nationally Determined Parameters.

Examples were also reported of the difficulties of horizontal technical committee work being integrated with vertical (product) technical committees, where it was questioned whether the traditional technical committee/Working Group structure was the optimum way to deal with this issue.

(See recommendations 2009/1 and 2009/2)

**2.2 'BSI initiative on rethinking standards in construction' - Mr Peter Caplehorn, Scott Brownrigg Architects,**

This initiative at BSI was to develop the next generation of construction standards, which should be relevant, clear and useful with joined up thinking. A new national committee structure had been developed with a new head committee, and seven advisory committees dealing with the main issues in the construction sector. The new structure had been in operation for about one year and had reinvigorated construction standardization. As an example in the design area, compliance with standards was mixed, and information was not getting across. There was no one answer, the delivery must be clear, in some cases guides to standards were required, gaps filled, clarity ensured, and practical answers that were usable provided. Areas where new standards are required had been identified, where one example was waste. Relation with building regulations have been identified as an issue. New challenges were sustainability, especially the definition of 'zero carbon', greater reliability, and better health and safety and, for all of these, standards needed to play their part. Therefore there were challenges but also opportunities.

In the ensuing discussion reference was made to work by CEN Management Centre to identify construction products not presently covered by the CPD, and the next challenge to improve the existing ENs. Mr Caplehorn indicated that the CPD did not impact architects in the UK, who selected products on other considerations. Reference was also made to the new approach to standardization in the 1980s, which had led to the transfer of difficult subjects to the standardization arena and led to initiation of CIB work on performance based buildings. Another problem reported was that standards reflected the efforts of those who could participate in the standards making process, and there was a need to rethink the appointment of technical experts to CEN committees, where an example quoted was the under-representation of architects.

*Note For background information see the 'general industry workshop report' available at <http://www.constructingexcellence.org.uk/resources/az/view.jsp?id=109>*

**2.3 'BT/WG 208 – SME needs' - Mr Maciej Grzeszczyk, BT/WG 208**

Development of a CEN guide was described, which had progressed to 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Draft stage, and gave guidance to standards makers on a range of topics of interest, principally general considerations, and issues to consider during the standards development process, and a self evaluation tool. This recommends that standards drafters take into account needs of SMEs at all stages in the standards development route. Examples of difficulties were ENs that had 20 normative references, which were difficult to use, if these supporting standards needed to be obtained; other possibilities were to provide a transition period for the EN, and supportive implementation assistance. The guide was expected to be available at the end of 2009, and could be followed by an ISO guide, promotion to selected TC/WGs and training for standards drafters.

Participants noted the difficulties of SMEs participating in standardization work, especially in ISO due to the greater costs of travel, and also NORMAPME did not have the same foothold in ISO. The possibility of CEN developing implementation guides to assist use of ENs, especially by SMEs, was suggested.

In conclusion Dr Moore suggested that participation of SMEs should be first of all encouraged in national mirror committees so that national delegations could go to CEN/ISO meetings with SME views. The aim must be to address quality of standards, then consider guidance on their application.

**3. Impact of the EC Lead Market Initiative**

**3.1 'Overview of progress' – Mr. Claes Andersson, European Commission**

The EU initiative was discussed together with possible implications for CEN on the structural Eurocodes, sustainable building and the CPR, especially BWR7 on sustainable use of natural resources. Much work was in progress but a report on collaborative

working in the construction industry had been published (March 2009), and reports on the role of insurance and future qualifications and skills were in progress. A Commission Steering Group and specific subgroups had been developed.

In the discussion reference was made to the extent to which the Commission coordinated its approach on LMI with other initiatives such as on better regulation, when Mr Andersson indicated that the ambition was for better linkages with other initiatives.

Reference was also made to areas where the Commission was closely involved in standards potentially setting regulatory requirements, which was an issue for the breakout groups on BWRs 1 and 7.

### **3.2 'Report from BT/WG 206 – CEN contribution to the EC Lead Market Initiative on sustainable construction, introduction' – Dr John Moore, BT/WG 206 Convenor**

This was a golden opportunity for CEN construction sector to review its future programme, which had led to establishment of CEN/BT WG 206 to identify new standards and improve coherence and consistency between existing standards. The methodology of its work and next steps were described. It was hoped to finalise its report for the CEN/BT meeting in October 2009.

### **3.3 'LMI initiative on recycling' – Mr. Jean-Francois Vicard, Convenor of CSNPE**

The criteria for the six LMIs were described as well as the regulatory context and some specific aspects on LMI recycling. The normative problems were for product standards to be more in performance terms, rather than descriptive standards, and how to create more demand for recycled content. Construction and demolition waste was a major waste stream, and an issue was whether the product standards containing recycled products were capable of similar or better performance than usual raw materials.

In the discussion reference was made to the large cost of water in construction, and also the additional cost created due to about 50 % of buildings not being used for their design life.

### **3.4 'Introduction to Break-out sessions on draft report from BT/WG 206' – Dr. John Moore, Convenor of BT/WG 206.**

### **3.5 'Break-out sessions on Basic Work Requirements (BWR) of proposed Construction Products Regulation'**

## **DAY 2 - 15 May 2009**

### ***3. Impact of the Lead Market Initiative (continued)***

#### **3.6 'Reports from Break-out sessions'**

Dr Moore welcomed participants, and reported that he was hoping that the BWR Groups would have done some blue sky thinking to address the issues raised by the LMI. Leaders then presented short reports and recommendations/conclusions.

Note. The reports from the BWR groups will be circulated separately. See also recommendation 4/2009.

#### **BWR 1 Mechanical resistance and stability**

Mr Leivestad described the use of existing structural Eurocodes and needs for supporting standards, the new proposed EN Eurocode Parts to address gaps in the existing series, which had led to the elements of a roadmap. The next step would be to map existing standards onto the roadmap to identify if there were any further gaps.

#### **BWR 2 Safety in case of fire**

Mr Carlsen reported that the BWR group had developed a series of recommendations which were described. A number of new possibilities for standardization had been identified.

#### BWR 3 Health, hygiene and the environment

Mr Vicard reported that the main findings were that installation and maintenance were included in BWR3, but it was not clear whether design or procurement aspects were included or excluded, and hence whether these were part of WG 206 work.

End of life was not an issue for this exercise, and it was thought that design and procurement may be included in CEN/BT WG 206 in its wider look for standards opportunities.

#### BWR 4 Safety in use and BWR 5 Protection against noise

Mr Breedveld reported that the group had held a brainstorming session, identifying the subjects to examine whether they were already covered by existing CEN work or presented new opportunities.

Dr Moore reported that the CEN/BT WG 206 work applied to both existing buildings and new buildings and also that for electrical aspects CENELEC would need to be involved.

#### BWR 6 Energy economy and heat retention

Mr Hogeling reported on the roadmap of standards prepared to support the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, and resulting issues. No new work items had been identified, but the current standards could be improved, which was to be pursued in conjunction with correspondence ISO committees, but one possible new subject for existing committees was microclimate issues.

#### BWR 7 Sustainable use of natural resources

Mr Ilomäki reported how the current work of CEN/TC 350 related to BWR7 and the resulting issues which needed to be addressed. As a result CEN/TC 350 work would address a performance based approach for BWR7, but a matrix could be developed to develop the indicators required over the life cycle of the works.

Dr Moore explained that the report had identified operational issues related to the CPR, but also the wider implications in relation to CEN/BT WG 206.

### *2. Setting the scene – the longer term drivers for standards (continued)*

#### **2.4 'Impact of Building Information Management - Final report from**

##### **STANDINN project' – Mr. Jeff Wix and Dr. Bruno Daniotti**

The background to the STANDINN project was described, including BIM which applied through all stages of the construction process. The key tools were being developed as ISO standards. The output of STANDINN was available as a Handbook for which copies were provided as a CD-ROM for participants.

A Reference Service Life database and a construction 'interoperable' database had been developed in Italy.

Dr Moore asked whether there were any implications for standards development. A framework for information had been developed, and new standards should be developed in a form which could include data exchange requirements. It was also important to work with consistent language, (an ontology - for which IFD standards were required).

There was also a proposed CEN-ANSI conference on the subject in 2010.

(see recommendation 5)

#### **4. Impact of the (draft) Construction Products Regulation (CPR) on CEN**

##### **4.1 What will need to be done by CEN?**

- The European Commission – *Mr. Vicente Leoz Arguëlles, Head of Unit DG ENTR I5*

Current Commission work was reviewed and their interest in CEN initiatives which could lead to a Commission Communication in due course. The Commission thought that the impact of the CPR on EN's was virtually nil, at least technically and initially. The CPR had undergone its first reading in the European Parliament, which had adopted 102 amendments, and the Commission was now reviewing its responses to the 102 amendments. Points under consideration were relations between declaration of performance and CE marking, where there were inconsistencies between articles 4 and 5.

Particularly points concerned amendment 118 relating to membership of CEN committees, where the Commission view was that this was a horizontal issue to be considered in relation to Directive 98/34.

The impact on hENs did not modify the concept of a h EN, which remained performance based. Whether annex ZA continued to exist was a decision to be taken by CEN.

The CPR introduced BWR 7 which would lead to revision of the hENs only following a mandate from the Commission. But there were also changes related to factory production control. There were also options for CEN to define classes of performance, but which would also require a mandate.

Therefore very few modifications would be introduced in the CPR, and all existing hENs would remain in force until they were revised.

Dr Moore commented that there were a few non-technical changes which may be required to hENs to align with the CPR, as had been required for the Machine Safety Directive. Mr Leoz commented that the same number of AOC levels would be retained, and that the introduction of the CPR should not place additional work on CEN. This was an encouraging message for CEN.

- CEPMC – *Mr Pascal Bar, Technical Affairs Manager*

A summary was presented of the views of product manufacturers first on standards supporting the Construction Products Directive, and secondly mentioning the concerns related to the draft CPR. Main concerns related to the text of articles relating to declaration of performance, procedures related to ETAs, provisions for micro-enterprises and simplified procedures. CEPMC also had concerns on some of the amendments voted by the European Parliament.

As long as the CPR was not agreed CEPMC thought that CEN should continue to publish the outstanding hENs supporting the CPD, improving them by amendment/revision where necessary.

(see recommendations 2009/6, 2009/7 and 2009/8)

- Group of Notified Bodies - *Mr Jiri Sobola*

The role of the GNB was described, including limitations of existing situation concerning guidance papers and relationship with CEN/TCs, including clarification for hENs, on cumulative attestation of conformity and alternatives to testing.

(see recommendation 2009/9)

##### **4.2 How will CEN TCs proceed? (brief overview of work and implications for what TCs need to do)**

- CEN TC Chairman, *Mr Giorgio Timellini, CEN/TC 67 "Ceramic tiles"*

A summary of the ceramic tile industry was given including the progress made to address environmental concerns, which was thought would prove useful when the committee addressed basic works requirements 3 and 7 of the CPR in its h ENs.

- CEN/TC 350 (on Basic Works Requirement 7) – *Mr. Ari Ilomaki, CEN/TC 350 Chairman*

The work of CEN/TC 350 in providing indicators, methods and communication provisions was described relating to EU initiatives. The environmental indicators developed by CEN/TC 350 would be used to support BWR 7 of the CPR.

CEN/TC 351 (on dangerous substances) – *Mr. Jeroen Bartels, CEN/TC 351 Chairman* (report from workshop on 13 May 2009)

Key points of CEN/TC 351 were reviewed, in which cooperation with 68 CEN product TCs was required. The first Technical Reports had been published, with others in progress. The second phase of the work was in progress, with the funding for validation of the test methods the major issue to be addressed.

#### ***5. Recommendations and conclusions***

'To agree recommendations and conclusions from the Conference' – *Dr John Moore – CEN Construction Sector Rapporteur*

The recommendations, see annex A, were briefly highlighted.

#### ***Closing remarks – Dr John Moore - CEN Construction Sector Rapporteur***

Dr Moore closed the conference by thanking UNI for the arrangements, to CMC for help with organising the conference, to all the speakers for their presentations and to all participants for attending.

All the presentations would be placed on the CEN Construction Sector website, as would the report of the conference, together with recommendations. Comments were requested before 9 June 2009 (to be sent to [alan.hall@bsigroup.com](mailto:alan.hall@bsigroup.com))



CSN Core Group N 174 Rev

Annex A Action plan from CEN CSN Construction Sector Conference May 2009, (developed by CSN Core Group June 2009)

Number		CSN Core Group agreed action	Who to action	Timescale
2009/1	To review the reasons for the poor implementation of the Vienna Agreement in the construction sector and seek ways to reduce duplication of work	1) Promote adoption of VA principles, where relevant, in Construction Sector using decision tree produced by CEN/BT 2) For WG 206 to consider a Workshop to consider extension of Eurocode principles (NDPs etc) to other design principles 3) To encourage adoption of VA, where relevant, for methods of test, using Guidance paper M as background	1) CMC to distribute a letter  2) For CEN/BT WG 206  3) JM/AH to review	31 July 2009  30 Sept 2009  31 July 2009
2009/2	To review problems in work on horizontal subjects, e.g. dangerous substances and sustainable construction, in the construction sector in the context of the global relevance of standards to seek ways of closer working with vertical (product) technical committees	1) To ensure members of horizontal committees understand objectives/constraints of products committees, the Core Group encourages active liaison between horizontal and vertical committees 2) To ensure members of products TCs are aware of work of horizontal committees. Core Group members to consider BSI solution of circulating a newsletter relating to TC 350/351 to members of all national mirror committees for product committees	1) JM to draft a letter for CEN Sector News or CEN website  2a) Core Group members  2b) JM to draft a letter for CEN Sector News or CEN website	31 July 2009-06-09  Ongoing  31 July 2009
2009/3	To refer the conclusions from the BWR breakout sessions held on 14 May 2009 to CEN/BT WG 206 to include in their report to CEN/BT	For CEN/BT WG 206		31 August 2009
2009/4	To make available all the presentations from the conference, plus the reports of the BWR Groups and report of the conference on the CEN website	Completed, but presentations given to BWR groups also to be loaded, as also will the report of the conference, on CEN Construction website	M Denis	30 June 2009
2009/5	To facilitate introduction of BIM, new standards should be developed in a form which could facilitate data exchange, e.g. for standards to incorporate an annex giving the information requirements	1) Core Group strongly supported delivery of these standards from ISO/TC59/SC13 and asked its members to report this to ISO/TAG 8.d 2) AJH to consult J Wix/J Mehus on whether there is any work in hand on how this can be facilitated and	1) CSN Core Group members  2) AJH	Ongoing  31 August 2009

	specified according to ISO 29481-1 (IDM manual) It was also important to work with consistent language (an ontology - IFD standards required).	what it would mean for standards. 3) JM/AJH to develop a paper for ISO/TAG 8 listing existing standards and their responsible committees. A draft paper to be circulated to Core Group for comments	3) JM/AJH	31 July 2009
2009/6	CEN would need to follow developments in finalizing the CPR concerning amendment 118 relating to membership of CEN committees, where the Commission view was that this was a horizontal issue to be considered in relation to Directive 98/34.	For CEN/BT WG 102	CMC to circulate to CEN/BT WG 102	30 June 2009
2009/7	Consultations would need to continue with the Commission on any (predominantly non-technical changes) required to hENs to align with the CPR, (where comparison was made to the large number of amendments or revisions of ENs supporting the Machine Safety Directive).	For CEN/BT WG 102	CMC to circulate to CEN/BT WG 102	30 June 2009
2009/8	As long as the CPR is not agreed CEN should complete the outstanding hENs supporting the CPD, and improve existing hENs by amendment /revision where necessary.	For CEN/BT WG 102	CMC to circulate to CEN/BT WG 102	30 June 2009
2009/9	To refer Issues raised in the presentation by Mr Sobola to CEN/BT WG 102 'Construction Task Force' for review	For CEN/BT WG 102	CMC to circulate to CEN/BT WG 102	30 June 2009