CEN WORKSHOPS
THE WAY TO RAPID CONSENSUS

WHAT IS A CEN WORKSHOP?
A meeting place for market stakeholders to discuss critical standards issues and agree how to resolve them.

Involving any interested party with the minimum bureaucratic formalities, low participation costs and no geographical restrictions.

A flexible working platform for rapid elaboration of consensus documents at European level.

WHAT IS A CEN WORKSHOP AGREEMENT (CWA)?
A consensus document providing technical specifications, guidance material, best practice and information etc...

A CEN publication widely available from the 30 CEN member bodies, and sometimes online for downloading.

Follow-up possibilities Maintained as a CWA for three years and renewed, or transformed into more formal European or International Standards.

WHY CHOOSE A CWA?
One document for all
Reflects consensus agreement, usable in the entire market, on specific solutions.

Official recognition
CEN is officially recognized by the European Commission and EFTA as a European Standards Organization.

Economic growth
Helps markets develop in a co-ordinated way, taking account of different interests whilst removing barriers to trade.

Transparency
Gives visibility to good professional practices, or reference documents.

Flexibility
Proposes a flexible and tailor-made solution that meets the needs of companies, industry associations and other groups such as consortia and fora.
**EUROPEAN HANDBOOK FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT**

Ensuring a safer future: towards a common approach to European Defence.

**INITIATIVE**
The Workshop is linked to the European Security and Defence Policy (June 1999), and industry’s expressed need for a transparent and open European defence equipment market. The work is supported by the European Union, European Defence Agency and the European Defence Industry, as well as ISO and the NATO Standardization Agency.

**CONTENT**
The Handbook covers national procurement structures and procedures in 11 European countries as well as in NATO and lists standards used in national defence procurement systems. It recommends a set of preferred ones for each of the subjects covered.

**REASONING**
The challenge is to integrate defence production and technological development efficiently with commercial technologies. To achieve this, standardization reforms are necessary but difficult because of the high degree of market fragmentation.

A coherent approach in defence standardization is required to provide a common, transparent structure for the reform of European defence standardization. This must be linked to the existing civil standardization system in Europe and to international standards systems in both civil and defence areas.

**PARTICIPATION**
Public and private organisations and companies involved in defence procurement have been actively participating in this work.

**OUTCOME**
CWA 15517 – ‘European Standard Handbook for Defence Procurement”

Detailed information is encoded in a database maintained by AFNOR, the French national member of CEN – see www.defense-handbook.org. CEN is working on an extension covering eight new areas, to be completed in autumn 2008.

**METALEX**

Across platforms and across borders: towards an Open XML interchange format for legal and legislative resources.

**INITIATIVE**
The Workshop aimed at reaching consensus on an interchange format for legal documents, taking further initial outputs by the E-POWER project (IST 2000-28125), known as MetaLex.

**CONTENT**
The Workshop combined this original MetaLex framework (www.metalex.eu) with good design practices from other initiatives in that area such as the (Italian) Norme in Rete and (pan-African) Akoma Ntoso XML standards.

**REASONING**
Increasing legal convergence between governments in the European Union, and the growing importance of movement of people, services, goods, and money over borders of jurisdictions has led to an increased interest in foreign legislation.

Publication of legislation, and the development of tools for working with legislation, is however very much a jurisdiction-specific enterprise.

A jurisdiction-independent XML standard was therefore needed, to be used for exchange, but also as a platform for development of manipulation and search tools.

**PARTICIPATION**
Legal publishers, public administrations, academia/research groups, and businesses in the area of legal content management.

**OUTCOME**
One CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) has been produced, describing the open XML interchange format for legal documents. Additional work by the Workshop will be documented in planned CWA revisions.
INITIATIVE
Intergraf (the International Confederation for Printing and Allied Industries) and VPGI (the Association for Product Safety in Printing Industry) proposed that we set up a CEN Workshop for developing a security management system for secure printing.

CONTENT
Secure printing means printing of bank notes, bank cheques, identity cards, driving licences, visas, bonds and shares, and also lottery tickets, travel tickets, official documents, diplomas and so on. The CEN Workshop Agreements give a common set of certification criteria for companies in the business and define different levels of certification according to the different products/customer market segments.

REASONING
The lack of common specification in these specific areas allowed for an increasing number of printers to claim competency without having appropriate security management systems or adequate expertise. Having specifications to identify security printers helps fighting counterfeiting, theft and other fraudulent activity as well as facilitating global trade in securely printed products.

PARTICIPATION
Given the nature of the subject and the concentrated expertise, the participants were mainly suppliers and printers, as well as consumers (national banks, National Printing Authorities...).

OUTCOME
CWA 14641 – ‘Security Management System for Secure Printing’

Intergraf has used these two documents for certifying the adequacy of security printers and suppliers.

INITIATIVE
The Workshop aimed at facilitating product data exchange and electronic commerce between furniture manufacturers, retailers, architects, and interior designers.

CONTENT
The Workshop applied the STEP standard for manufacturing data exchange in the furniture sector. The workshop ran in parallel with an industry-based implementation project and operated in close association with an Interest Group of stakeholder companies.

REASONING
The furniture industry had a need of a neutral specification of product data structures. On one hand, furniture manufacturers and retailers, architects and interior designers need to exchange product data catalogues. On the other hand, retailers and interior designers have to carry out furnishing projects using their own software licenses and to send such projects back to the manufacturer with the support of a neutral data specification.

PARTICIPATION
Furniture associations from a number of European countries participated in the Workshop, together with research centres active in the application of software/ICT to the furniture industry.

OUTCOME
Four CEN Workshop Agreements (CWAs) were produced to describe the application protocol and adopted approach for its implementation. The basic CWA provisions are now an international standard in ISO. This was published in December 2006. The work was carried out under ISO Technical Committee 184/SC 4.
ABOUT CEN
The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) is a business facilitator in Europe, removing trade barriers for European industry and consumers. Its mission is to foster the European economy in global trading and promote the welfare of European citizens and the environment. Through its services it provides a platform for the development of European Standards and other technical specifications.

CEN’s 30 National Members work together to develop voluntary European Standards (ENs) in various sectors to build a European Internal Market for goods and services and to strengthen Europe’s position in the global economy. More than 60,000 technical experts, as well as business federations, consumer and other societal interest organizations, are involved in the CEN network that reaches over 480 million people.

For further information, please visit: www.cen.eu