



DIN position regarding the revision of the NLF as legal framework for products in the EU

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- The New Legislative Framework (NLF) has played a crucial role in the success of the European Single Market. Its revision should protect the allocation of tasks between legislator and standardization bodies and foster the benefits of the public-private-partnership.
- The revision of the NLF must complement the forthcoming revisions of the Standardization Regulation and the Omnibus IV for aligning product legislation with the digital age. This alignment will guarantee regulatory consistency and enhance clarity for stakeholders involved in standardization.
- Harmonized European standards should remain the preferred solution for the technical concretization of legal requirements. Common specifications should only serve as a fallback option in exceptional cases.
- Future regulation should harmonize legislation for the Digital Product Passport (DPP), introduce it across European product safety legislation, and support the digital transformation of public authorities.

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As a national standards body and German member of the European standardization organization CEN, DIN is pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the call for evidence for an impact assessment regarding the evolution of the New Legislative Framework (NLF) as legal framework for products in the EU. DIN welcomes the Commission's objective to update the NLF by integrating digital solutions into EU legislation and introducing the Digital Product Passport (DPP), supporting the EU's circular economy objective and improving practices of notified bodies.

Strengthening the NLF as a firm basis for an enhanced European Single Market

The NLF is the foundation of the European Single Market, providing a firm backbone for the free movement of goods. The evaluation of 2022 has found that the NLF has been successful and efficient in fulfilling its objectives by promoting coherence across various product legislations¹. It is built on a trusted partnership between the public and private sectors, separating the roles of lawmakers and standardization organizations: legislators define essential requirements, while experts from the European Standardization Organizations (ESOs) CEN, CENELEC, and ETSI provide technical guidance on how to meet those requirements through standards.

The partnership offers several significant advantages:

- 1) Legal acts remain concise and focused by forgoing detailed technical specifications, which are instead outlined through standards. These standards can be flexibly adapted to meet technical changes, ensuring the legal acts themselves remain consistent. This approach supports the stability of legal requirements and enhances reliability within the European internal market.
- 2) Harmonized European standards (hEN) are developed with broad participation from industry, academia and the public sector. Thereby, the technical implementation of legal requirements is managed by those who have the relevant expertise and practical experience, guaranteeing added value and high appreciation of hEN by stakeholders across Europe.
- 3) The practice of 'presumption of conformity' greatly benefits industries, particularly SMEs, by facilitating smoother access to the European market. It allows for manufacturer's declaration of conformity for many products, meaning that products manufactured according to harmonized standards are presumed to be compliant with relevant regulations. This saves time and costs by offering a streamlined alternative to complex and expensive third-party testing and certification.

DIN recommends: *The NLF has served Europe well. Its revision should protect the allocation of tasks between legislators and European standardization organisations and foster the benefits of the public-private-partnership.*

Coordinating legislative initiatives

For the revised NLF to be effective, it must align with other legislative initiatives related to Single Market policy, preventing any contradictory results or misunderstandings among stakeholders. It is vital to address relevant topics within the appropriate legislative documents.

Currently, three initiatives related to standardization should be considered during the NLF revision to ensure mutual complementarity: the revision of the Standardization Regulation, the Omnibus IV

¹ See the NLF evaluation SWD and Executive Summary as well as all contributions [here](#)

initiative, which seeks to adapt product legislation for the digital age, and the announced evaluation and revision of the Market Surveillance Regulation.

1) The Revision of the Standardization Regulation

DIN has contributed to the Call for Evidence with various examples and proposals to enhance the European Standardization System². We are committed to maintaining the unity of the European Standardization System (ESS) and support efforts to ensure a cohesive set of standards with strong international connectivity, reflecting our dedication to harmonious and aligned standardization activities. The NLF is important to a coherent approach in this context.

2) Omnibus IV on Aligning Product Legislation with the Digital Age

The European Standardization System (ESS) possesses high innovation potential and is best equipped to meet the EU's regulatory requirements with various products. The use of common specifications poses a challenge to the NLF's advantage, potentially undermining the framework. Under the New Approach³ as basis for the NLF, the role of legislation is to set out the essential requirements and establish a legal framework, while the detailed technical specifications are devised by standardization bodies. Common specifications adhere to the Old Approach, with legislators undertaking the technical detail regulation themselves.

Harmonized European standards should remain the preferred option, while common specifications should only be used in specifically defined and well-justified cases⁴. The recent Omnibus IV introduces an article on common specifications with fewer conditions compared to those in the Machinery Regulation, the Artificial Intelligence Act, and the Toy Safety Regulation. This discrepancy could lead to inconsistencies across legislation and cause confusion among stakeholders, including industry, SMEs, social entities, public authorities. Such inconsistencies could negatively impact the NLF.

As an alternative to common specifications, CEN and CENELEC already offer a wide range of deliverables, from hENs directly compliant with WTO/TBT principles to Technical Specifications, that fulfil the needs of a variety of stakeholders and provide timely compliance. These deliverables combine flexibility in consensus and time required for their delivery, allowing the European standardization organizations (ESOs) to quickly respond to new technologies and market needs. The Commission should clarify which current or future deliverables of the ESOs might best support legal requirements, thus rendering parallel standardization processes and the need for common specifications obsolete.

3) The Revision of the Market Surveillance Regulation

The Market Surveillance Regulation 2019/1020 as part of the NLF has significantly contributed to enhancing and sustaining the European single market. It ensures that products are compliant with Union harmonisation legislation and fulfil essential health and safety requirements. It interlinks with the framework described in the NLF by detailing provisions for market surveillance. Its evaluation has been announced by the EU Commission with a call for evidence planned for the fourth quarter of 2025.

DIN recommends: The revision of the NLF must complement the forthcoming revisions of the Standardization Regulation, the Omnibus IV and the Market Surveillance Regulation. This alignment will guarantee regulatory consistency and enhance clarity for stakeholders.

² Our contribution (in German) is available [following this link](#).

³ EU Commission [A new approach to technical harmonisation](#) [last accessed August 21, 2025]

⁴ Our contribution to the Call for Evidence is available [following this link](#).

Adapting the New Legislative Framework to the digital age

The Digital Product Passport (DPP) initiative serves as a strategic tool in Europe's shift towards a more competitive and sustainable economy. Its objectives include empowering consumers, aiding regulatory compliance, and promoting reuse, repair, and recycling. Future legislation should harmonize legislation for the DPP, introduce it across European product safety legislation, and support the digital transformation of public authorities (see more on this topic in the supplementary).

To avoid unnecessary additional work and to enable the development of further accompanying standards, the future DPP should be built on existing standardisation work, especially taking international standards into account. DIN as leading actor in DPP standardization supports the European perspective being transferred to international standardization initiatives to maintain a strong and leading role in global DPP standardization.

As part of the NLF, the CE marking claims that a product complies with essential health and safety requirements, serving as a reliable and uniform regulatory tool throughout the Union. The widespread introduction of the DPP complements this marking and provides further avenues for Europe's digitalization. DPP and CE marking should be viewed as complementary instruments working in tandem to enhance the Single Market by promoting transparency, competitiveness, safety and sustainability.

DIN recommends: *To ensure coherence, the DPP must be integrated across the NLF in a manner that preserves the clarity of CE marking, avoids overlapping obligations, and aligns with harmonized standards. The DPP provides a data space, enhancing traceability and supporting sustainability by providing data on circularity, environmental impact, and product attributes such as reparability and the use of critical materials. Together, these tools can strengthen each other and drive innovation and sustainability without complicating the regulatory environment.*

Supplementary: Exploring the full potential of the Digital Product Passport

Reducing bureaucracy through harmonized initiatives

Using the Digital Product Passport as a trusted carrier of product information across the NLF could free both member states and businesses from overwhelming bureaucracy, thus contributing to the self-imposed target of the EU Commission stated in the Competitiveness Compass to reduce bureaucratic burdens by 25%, and for SMEs by 35%⁵.

An integrated DPP could boost Europe's competitiveness by automating repetitive bureaucratic processes, enabling market surveillance and industry to allocate resources more effectively. Harmonized regulation offers businesses the advantage of operating a unified DPP system, reducing costs and enhancing efficiency.

Examples:

- Various national standardisation bodies, such as DIN, AFNOR and BSI, are developing SMART standards. These standards will be machine-readable and interpretable. If the documentation of compliance with (SMART) standards would be included in the DPP, authorities would be able to automatically check the plausibility of any statement of conformity.

⁵ EU Commission: [A competitiveness compass for the EU](#) [last accessed August 12, 2025]

- The Commission is currently developing the EU Business Wallet. This will enable secure digital identification, data sharing, and legally valid notifications across the EU. Businesses could use the Business Wallet to identify themselves, while contributing data to a DPP. Public services could require the EU Business Wallet to be used alongside the DPP, e.g., when providing a statement of conformity or a customs declaration.
- QI-Digital is a German initiative of quality infrastructure (QI) stakeholders, supported by the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE). Its objective is to foster the success of innovative technologies, products, and processes. While various systems that enable market surveillance are being digitalised, such as metrology, accreditation and certification, the goal of QI-Digital is to integrate these new solutions into a cohesive system. This could serve as best practice also for the European level.
- Member states are already working to digitalise their market surveillance authorities. Reducing and digitalizing bureaucracy across EU legislation needs a horizontal approach while keeping various aspects of digitization and modernization in the EU's public sector in mind. Including the DPP horizontally in the NLF will support digitalisation initiatives of member states for market surveillance.
- Several EU regulations already include a DPP, for example the Batteries Regulation and the Eco-design Regulation. These legal acts share the aim of creating a coherent DPP system that is easy to use, safe, efficient, interoperable and reliable. By adopting the general approach of the NLF, the Commission can set horizontal rules for the DPP.

Harnessing the full potential of the DPP through internationalization

While the Business Wallet should be the preferred identifier for manufacturers contributing data to a DPP, companies not based within the Union are not currently anticipated to have access to the EU Business Wallet. Should this situation arise, non-European businesses would either be unable to automatically contribute data to a DPP, or the DPP would require the expensive integration of additional identification tools, significantly diminishing its efficiency.

To make the DPP as cost-effective as possible within the context of global value chains, any future standardisation work on the DPP should be linked to the relevant ISO and IEC projects. The reasoning behind this is twofold:

- 1) Data included in the DPP should also be automatically contributed by businesses outside the EU. It is in the interests of European businesses for the international DPP standards to correspond as closely as possible with the European approach.
- 2) Various nations outside the EU are currently considering the introduction of DPP-like solutions. There is an opportunity to establish the European DPP as a regulatory role model. If other countries were to develop their own DPP based on the European model, this would support European competitiveness and reduce the cost of adaptation for the market.

ISO and IEC are the most important international standardisation organisations and can shape the international DPP standards. At the same time, due to the national delegation principle within ISO and IEC, national standardization bodies (NSBs) of EU member states are well placed to lead the standardization discussions within these organisations. The integration of the DPP across NLF legislation should support this approach.

DIN recommends:

- 1) ***Other key EU projects, such as the EU Business Wallet, should be aligned with the NLF's and DPP's needs, thereby automating and reducing bureaucracy.***

- 2) *The revision of the NLF and integration of the DPP into various product legislation should embrace horizontal alignment with other initiatives already requiring the use of the DPP.*
- 3) *The implementation of the DPP throughout all NLF product legislation should take into account existing standardisation work based on the Eco-design Regulation and CEN-CENELEC JTC 24 as well as be aligned with international discussions.*
- 4) *The NLF revision should support digital transformation of member states' market surveillance authorities.*

Conclusion

DIN emphasizes the critical importance of strengthening the New Legislative Framework as the backbone of the European Single Market by preserving its innovative public-private partnership. We advocate for aligning the NLF revision with other legislative efforts, including the Standardization Regulation, Omnibus IV initiatives and market surveillance, to ensure regulatory coherence across the EU.

In the digital age, DIN supports the integration of the Digital Product Passport into the NLF, which will enhance transparency and sustainability while complementing existing structures such as the CE marking. Harmonized EU regulations supporting a unified DPP system will streamline bureaucratic processes and optimize market surveillance resources efficiently.

Globally, we see an opportunity to promote the European market and its international links by introducing the DPP into the NLF. By working with organizations such as ISO and IEC, the European model can serve as a benchmark for DPP standardization. This can help to share successful strategies and make the European quality infrastructure more efficient, benefiting all stakeholders.

About DIN

DIN, the German Institute for Standardization, is the independent platform for standardization in Germany and worldwide. Together with industry, scientific institutions, public authorities and civil society as a whole, DIN plays a major role in identifying future areas for standardization. By helping to shape the green and digital transformation, DIN makes an important contribution towards solving current challenges and enables new technologies, products and processes to establish themselves on the market and in society. More than 40,000 experts from industry, research, consumer protection and the public sector bring their expertise to work on standardization projects managed by DIN. The results of these efforts are market-oriented standards and specifications that promote global trade, encouraging rationalization, quality assurance and environmental protection as well as improving security and communication. For more information, go to www.din.de.