

Maintaining and expanding the world market position of European companies



in cooperation with



Technical, Environmental
Affairs and Sustainability



European Single Market – The success story

A trading volume of 3,110 billion euro, a growth rate of 1.3 percent just in 2016 – this alone already makes the European Single Market a unique success story. One significant consequence of this is what according to the EU Commission is the highest employment rate ever recorded, with 72.2 % in the second quarter of 2017.

VDMA, ZVEI, DIN and DKE therefore support the European Commission's initiatives to continuously transfer the strength shown by the internal market in its core areas of goods, services and capital to other areas.

Three established pillars of economic growth

The success story of the European Single Market is based on three established pillars. We are convinced that the enlargement can only succeed by trusting and building on this safe, proven foundation:

- A deregulative, unbureaucratic division of responsibilities between the European regulator and the specific individual standardization bodies (CEN/CENELEC) with significant participation of the industrial sector and other stakeholders from society at large.
- Trust in consensus-based standards as acknowledged rules of technology to ensure rapid development and prompt market access for innovative products and services. Consensus-based standards support fast market access as well as effective market surveillance.
- Abolition of technical trade barriers, preferably with reference to international standards (ISO/IEC) according to WTO agreements to continue expanding the strong position of European companies in the world market.

Fit for the future without reinventing the wheel

Future success does not depend on reinventing the wheel. The important objective of fully exploiting the internal market can only succeed if:

- The New Legislative Framework (division of responsibilities between regulators/standardizers) is applied consistently to new legislative initiatives for products.
- The regulator gives the standardizers CEN/CENELEC an open standardization mandate to specify the essential requirements for products and services according to the law, featuring only the strategic objectives and tasks.
- The regulator ensures unbureaucratic, swift listing of harmonized standards in the Official Journal of the EU.
- The regulator refrains from retrospectively reviewing and amending the contents of draft standards by authorities themselves.