



Trade and international standardisation

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Use of international standards in trade agreements

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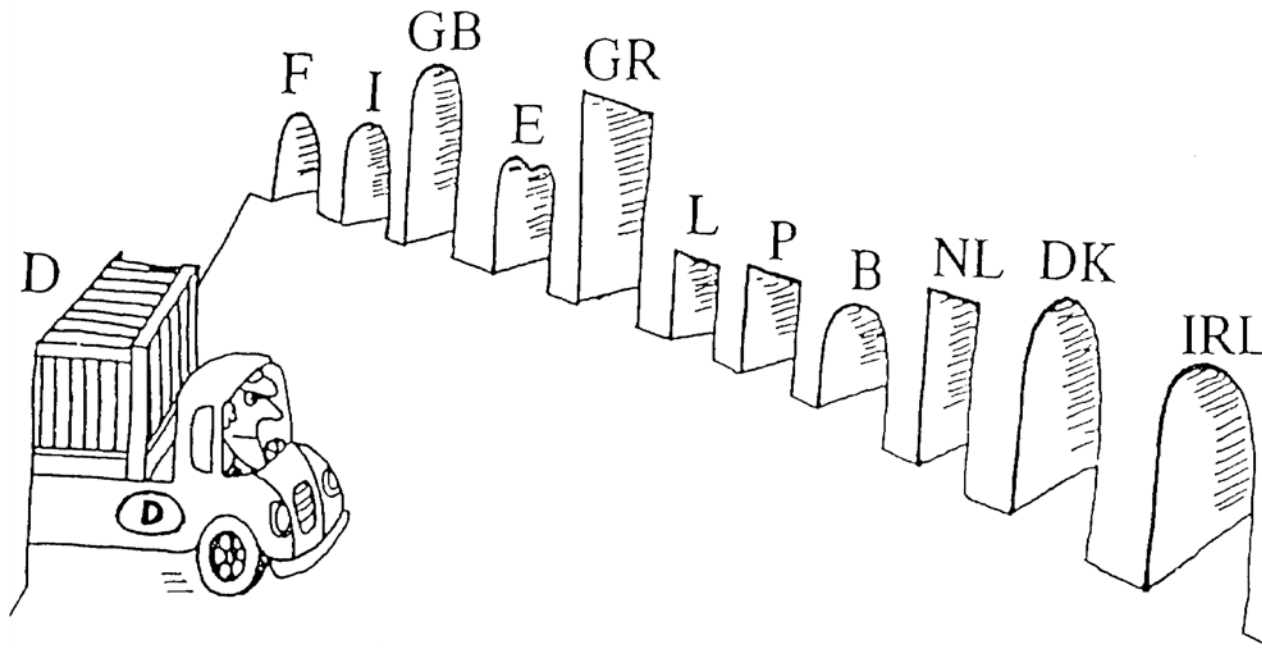
**European
standards are
voluntary and
consensus-
based**

**Standards
support
European
policies and
legislation**

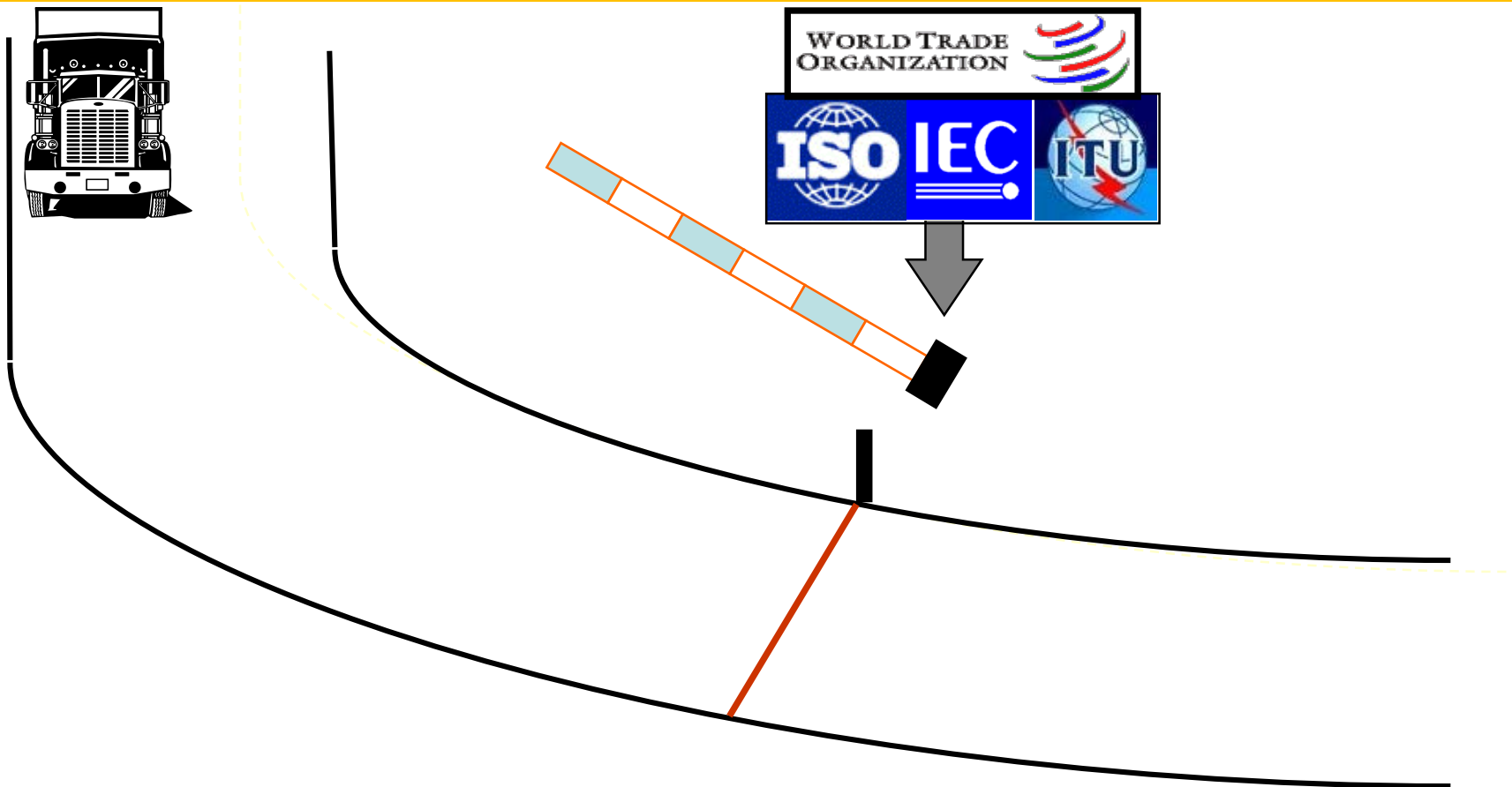
**European
Standardisation is a
success story**

Where we come from:

Trade barriers hindered the European economy



Where we are going: European/international Standards – a tool for free trade



and how: by integrating the national standardisation with the regional and ultimately with the international one



“Vienna Agreement” with



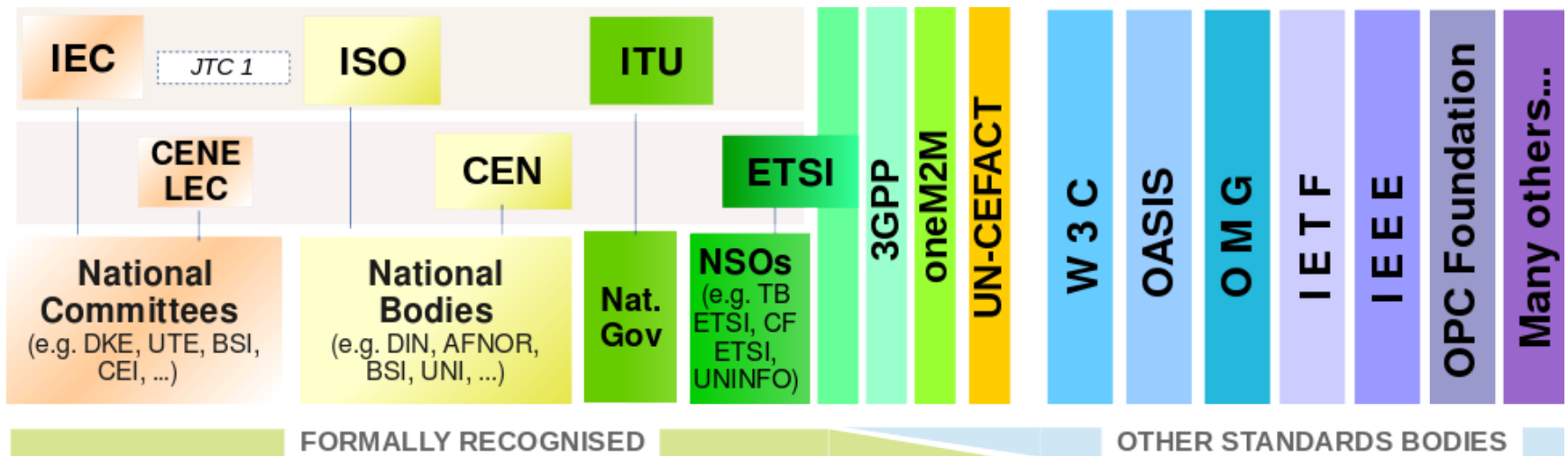
“Frankfurt Agreement” with



MoU for telecommunications sector (ITU-T)
Agreement on radio-communication sector (ITU-R)



High-level overview of the global standardisation ecosystem



European standardisation ...

...is founded on the WTO principles of coherence, transparency, openness, consensus, voluntary application, independence from special interests, efficiency;

...supports the Single Market by eliminating technical barriers to trade, and facilitating the free movement of goods and services, network interoperability, means of communication, technological development and innovation.

Standardisation in Free Trade Agreements

- Reference to '**international standards**' and **WTO TBT Agreement**
- Standardisation is part of the Technical Barriers to Trade (+ conformity assessment + transparency)
- New 'standard format' of the FTA TBT chapter
- **The level depends on the partner** (ex. Canada – CETA, South Korea FTA, Japan – EPA, Mercosur...)
- **All agreed texts are freely available** on the European Commission DG TRADE website

Why European standards are special?

European standards (ENs) support the functioning of the internal market

- **One EN replaces 34 different national standards:** one product-one standard, priority to international ones
- National Standards Bodies are obliged to **adopt ENs as national standards** and **withdraw any conflicting ones**
- **The system is transparent, stable and predictable**





http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/european-standards/index_en.htm

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