White Paper on ICT Standardisation preliminary results of the public consultation

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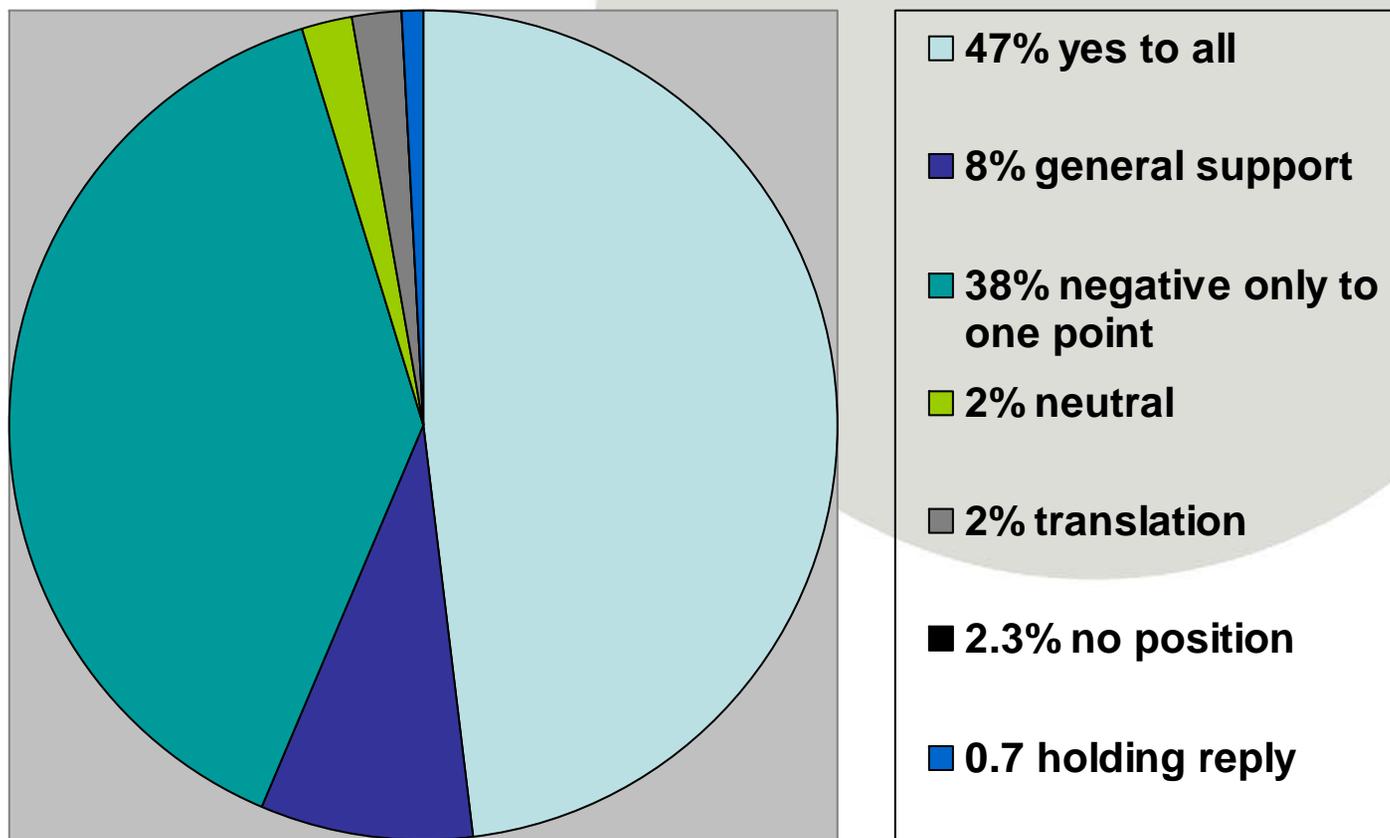
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The White paper

- **ICT standardisation policy in support of Interoperability**

- **ICT standardisation policy, CD 87/95, complements Directive 98/34**

- **Consolidated consensus resulting from an open and transparent consultation; started in 2006**

- **Proposes new policy orientations for potential review CD 87/95**

Questions= policy orientations

- **Attributes**
- **Public procurement**
- **Link ICT standardisation & ICT R&D**
- **IPR policy in standards development**
- **Synergies with fora & consortia**
- **Stakeholders policy platform**

Overview of the 128 responses

- 47% yes to all
- 8% general support
- 38% negative only to one point
- 2% neutral
- 2% translation
- 2.3% no position
- 0.7 holding reply

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List of attributes

- A very large majority support the list of attributes and the link to WTO criteria;

- Comments related to:
  - Development of assessment methodology (ISO/IEC JTC1 ARO and CAMSS ….),including escalation
  - Clarifying specific attributes (openness and balance) or adding a new one 'coherence'
  - IPR policy attribute was the most controversial as expected

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Use of ICT in Public Procurement

- Impact on innovation widely recognised
- Large majority in favour of Council Decision 87/95 updated
- Comments related to:
  - The need to respect principles of openness, fairness, transparency and non-discrimination for referencing standards in public procurement;
  - Interoperability remains the major objective but there is also a need to better respond to accessibility expectations;
  - Clarifying the possibility of making standardised interfaces.

ICT Research/Innovation and Standardisation

- Support for a better link between ICT research and standardisation.
- Comments related to:
  - Links should not be mandated but standards should follow ICT research where there is a market need;
  - They should be based on a regular informal exchange of ideas between communities – they should not be bureaucratic;
  - SDOs need not review R&D related processes since fora and consortia already adequately cover the liaison issue.
  - Perhaps some need for promotion by public authorities.

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IPR in ICT Standardisation

- Despite controversy, broad agreement that ESOs should implement clear, transparent and balanced IPR policies.
- Reactions to the possible *ex-ante* declaration of maximum licensing terms were mixed
  - Many felt that SDOs should not enter financial discussions or that insufficient information existed at the beginning of the standardisation process
- Supporters of FRAND claim it works well but could be improved with greater transparency and predictability
- Most respondents felt that "Royalty Free" approaches needed to be considered in addition to FRAND
  - Some respondents suggested that standards referenced in legislation should be R.F. and called on the Commission to lead discussions on the issue

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Integration of Fora and Consortia

- Majority of comments back the White Paper's innovative proposals on integration
- Comments related to:
    - The process of selection of fora and consortia and application of attributes must be clear and transparent under the responsibility of the Commission and Member States;
    - Certain fora and consortia such as OASIS, W3C and IETF are already viewed as complying with the attributes
    - Processing of a specification towards European Standards via ESOs broadly supported (but not rubberstamping)
    - Referencing in "New Approach" legislation should be restricted to ENs published by ESOs

Stakeholders' Platform

- Great majority of respondents support the creation of a multi-stakeholder policy platform

    - Tasks should include advising Commission on ICT standardisation policy issues, evaluation of deliverables on the basis of attributes, etc.

    - Transparency of rules for participation in the platform of the utmost importance.

    - ICTSB has received a broad support as an 'operational' platform to complement the stakeholders' 'policy' platform

Further Information

- **DG ENTR unit web site:**

  http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/index_en.htm

- **Contact**

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