



PRESS RELEASE

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DIGITALEUROPE JOINS CEN AND CENELEC AS A PARTNER: A STEP FORWARD IN STANDARDIZATION FOR THE DIGITAL INDUSTRY

CEN (European Committee for Standardization) and CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization) are proud to announce a new partnership agreement with DIGITALEUROPE – a leading trade association that represents digitally transforming industries across Europe. This collaboration heralds a significant alignment between the digital industry and the European standardization ecosystem, strengthening efforts to address critical challenges and seize opportunities in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

By gaining the status of CEN and CENELEC Partner, DIGITALEUROPE will work closely with the two standardization bodies to drive innovation, sustainability, and competitiveness in the digital sector. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to the European Single Market, fostering a sustainable and competitive digital economy, and supporting technological progress in Europe.

DIGITALEUROPE's role in this partnership will include providing technical and strategic expertise to support standardization efforts in areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data governance, and smart technologies. These contributions will enhance CEN and CENELEC's ability to deliver standards that drive innovation while ensuring regulatory compliance and supporting the development of a green and digital economy.

The agreement underscores the importance of collaboration in achieving the European Union's goals for a digital and sustainable future. Through this partnership, DIGITALEUROPE and CEN and CENELEC aim to:

- Promote interoperability and compatibility in digital technologies to foster a seamless Single Market.
- Support the development and deployment of green and digital technologies.
- Address emerging challenges in areas such as Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Cybersecurity.

- Enhance the global competitiveness of Europe's digital industries.

Attending the signing ceremony for DIGITALEUROPE were Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director General; Milda Basiulyte, Senior Director for Cyber, Infrastructure, Competitiveness & Digital Transformation; Omar Dhaher, Technical Associate Director for Standardisation & Compliance Policy. Representing CEN and CENELEC were Elena Santiago Cid, Director General; Andreea Gulacsi, Director Policy & External Affairs; Raíssa Soares, Project Manager – Stakeholders Engagement.

This agreement is a testament to the shared vision and collaborative spirit of CEN, CENELEC, and DIGITALEUROPE. Together, they will work to create a standardized framework that supports Europe's leadership in digital innovation, strengthens economic resilience, and contributes to a sustainable future for all.

Speaking on the signing ceremony in Brussels on 4 February, **Mrs Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl**, Director General of DIGITALEUROPE, said: *"A strong and economically viable European Standardization System (ESS) is driven by a competitive industry that have the right incentives to contribute to standards development, invest in the next generation of experts, and reduce compliance burden. With key digital laws like the AI Act and Cyber Resilience Act moving into action, having the right standards in place is more important than ever. We will be working closely with CEN-CENELEC to ensure standards are developed and cited on time, align with global benchmarks, and keep Europe at the forefront of critical technologies and strategic innovation."*

Mrs Elena Santiago Cid, Director General of CEN and CENELEC, added: *"European standards are key to creating a cohesive Single Market, advancing digital transformation, and global competitiveness. By partnering with DIGITALEUROPE, we strengthen our system and our Members' and experts' ability to create standards that meet the needs of a fast-changing digital economy while promoting trust and interoperability across borders"*.

CEN and CENELEC

CEN (European Committee for Standardization) and CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization) are recognized by the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as European Standardization Organizations responsible for developing standards at European level.

The members of CEN and CENELEC are the National Standardization Bodies and National Electrotechnical Committees of 34 European countries. European Standards (ENs) and other standardization deliverables adopted by CEN and CENELEC, are accepted and recognized in all of these countries. European Standards (ENs) contribute to enhancing safety, improving quality, facilitating cross-border trade and strengthening the European Single Market. CEN and CENELEC work to promote the international alignment of standards in the framework of technical cooperation agreements with ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission).

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DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE is the leading trade association representing digitally transforming industries in Europe. We stand for a regulatory environment that enables European businesses and citizens to prosper from digital technologies. We wish Europe to grow, attract, and sustain the world's best digital talents and technology companies. Together with our members, we shape the industry policy positions on all relevant legislative matters and contribute to the development and implementation of relevant EU policies, as well as international policies that have an impact on Europe's digital economy such as standardisation.

Our membership represents over 45,000 businesses who operate and invest in Europe. It includes 102 corporations which are global leaders in their field of activity, as well as 41 national trade associations from across Europe.

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