

## NEWS – ECIPE PRESS RELEASE – NEW OCCASIONAL PAPER

# In Support of Market-Driven Standards

By **Matthias Bauer**, *Director at ECIPE*, **Fredrik Erixon**, *Director at ECIPE*, **Oscar Guinea**, *Senior Economics at ECIPE*, **Vanika Sharma**, *Junior Economist at ECIPE*.

**Brussels, 27 March 2023** - The EU published its new Standardisation Strategy in 2022. While the strategy contains some good ideas to improve the way European standards are set, the new ECIPE paper warns that the regulatory changes included in the strategy could have **unintended consequences that may undermine a standardisation system that has delivered significant economic benefits for the EU and the world**.

One of the most significant changes is giving more responsibility to EU's National Standardisation Organisations, which could turn a European discussion into 30 (EU and EEA) national debates, diluting the contribution of small companies.

The fragmentation of standards along national borders also may lead to **fewer resources for Research and Development spending**. Furthermore, **the time required to adopt a technical standard may be extended rather than shortened**, which is the opposite of what the European Commission wants to achieve.

Instead, this paper suggests **that supporting greater participation of European firms in the European standard system could ease the EU's concerns without the downside risks** associated with changing the rules of the governance of European Standardisation Bodies. EU policymakers should be cautioned when tinkering with the European market-driven approach to set standards that have produced economic specialisation and innovation.

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**Contact a corresponding author:** Oscar Guinea at [oscar.guinea@ecipe.org](mailto:oscar.guinea@ecipe.org)

**Media inquiries:** [info@ecipe.org](mailto:info@ecipe.org) or +32 2 289 13 50