

**NEWS – ECIPE PRESS RELEASE – NEW OCCASIONAL PAPER**

# In Support of Market-Driven Standards

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**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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