

## ITALY

### Ente Italiano di Normazione (UNI)

### Supporting the EU's climate change policy

#### Overview

Anthropogenic climate change is widely recognized as a major challenge compelling us to commit to broader, more ambitious actions within a limited time frame. There is currently a discernible trend for developing ISO standards that address climate change, with active involvement of the European Union (EU) at the level of individual countries. But international standardization doesn't always provide the answer to all European needs, which is why regional coordination through a dedicated technical committee is extremely useful.

With this in mind, the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) recently established a new technical committee with the aim of developing frameworks, requirements and guidance to support the EU's policies on climate change. The EU has always been a frontrunner when it comes to implementing climate policy, so CEN/TC 467, *Climate change*, has the potential to make a big difference in this area.

In this context, voluntary standards must be able to support the full implementation of the EU's mandatory framework, enhancing synergies at the national and European levels. To strengthen these synergies, a decision was made to start mapping the mandatory and voluntary carbon management frameworks existing within the EU in order to clarify their relationships. This resulted in Workshop Agreement CEN/CWA 17675, published in March 2021, which gives a general overview of the legislative framework and its links to standardization. The new document provides a clear and definitive mapping of tools for carbon management within the European Union.

#### Outcomes and benefits

Implementing the European Green Deal policy initiative by 2030 will require the development of political and technical tools, and standardization will play a crucial role in this respect. This is why CEN/TC 467 is crucial for tackling standards work in the field of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and their related social and economic aspects.

ISO standards currently do not support organizations in setting mitigation targets, nor do they help flesh out associated strategies and action plans. Meanwhile, there is a growing interest from

companies wanting to set themselves greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets in accordance with recognized international initiatives such as SBTi or ACT. Climate change mitigation standards may therefore be useful in helping EU companies meet their carbon reduction targets in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Adaptation standards are equally important when it comes to tackling climate change and local authorities have a central role to play in increasing EU resilience. Having a common technical standard to facilitate the exchange of experience and knowledge is therefore essential in order to get maximum results for minimal resources and effort.

Objectives such as revising the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), reducing national emissions for sectors outside the ETS, or changing land and forestry use for long-term climate change mitigation, can be achieved more easily if the mandatory and voluntary regulatory framework is clear and well defined. CEN/CWA 17675 is a good place to start to realize these objectives. It helps maximize the effectiveness of GHG mitigation actions, facilitate climate change adaptation and make the path established by EU policies interact with market dynamics.

From the Kyoto Protocol to the EU Emissions Trading System and the European Green Deal, from the environmental footprint of products and organizations to sustainable finance as mandatory policies, this document identifies possible synergies with EN ISO 14064, EN ISO 14065 and EN ISO 14067 – a suite of standards on greenhouse gases – after providing a mapping of greenhouse gas emissions in Europe by sector. CEN/TC 467 seeks to promote broader, more effective collaboration between EU national standards bodies, maximizing synergies and avoiding overlap. To this end, it maintains close cooperation with the relevant ISO technical committee on greenhouse gas management (ISO/TC 207/SC 7).

CEN/CWA 17675 is applicable to industry, commerce, service providers and their suppliers, academic and research bodies, standards application businesses such as testing laboratories, certification bodies, consumers and government, in particular agencies dealing with environmental safety. All stakeholders are invited to take part in the activities of CEN/TC 467 and provide their contribution and viewpoint. This will ensure that standards are more effective going forward and take into consideration the needs, expectations and experiences of national members as well as progress made in implementing the European Green Deal.

CEN/CWA 17675 can support EU policy makers in developing future climate legislation as well as helping international accreditation and verification bodies find their way around the European normative framework. It also holds the potential to help market players take stock of the climate action tools at their disposal. Ultimately, the new Workshop Agreement can assist organizations in meeting their climate goals and navigating the articulated European legislative and regulatory framework.

## Partners involved

Published in March 2021, CEN/CWA 17675 was based on a proposal from UNI, with the support of other national standards bodies, such as DIN (Germany) and BSI (UK), and European companies including JRC, ADEME and CLEOPA.

## Timeline

Technical committee CEN/TC 467, *Climate change*, was created in November 2020 at the initiative of UNI, with the aim of supporting EU policies on climate change. The proposal for a CEN Workshop Agreement was presented in June of that year and resulted in the publication of CEN/CWA 17675 on 17 March 2021.