Getting started …
How to develop a European Standard

Ashok Ganesh
Unit Manager
Standards Development

- Who can propose a new standard?
- How are standards made?
- Why are European Standards so valuable?
- Is speed important?
- Standards and laws?

How to make a standard

Q. Who can propose a new standard?

→ A. Everyone

Q. Who writes the standard?

→ A. Volunteer experts

Q. Who provides support help?

→ A. CEN Members & CEN Management Centre

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Who can propose a new standard?

→ A. Everyone who has a need

- Business
  - Manufacturing
  - Buying
  - Testing
- Users and consumers
- Law makers
- Non-Governmental Organizations

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Writing a standard

Q. Who writes the standard?

→ A. Volunteers

- Technical experts
- Coordinated through CEN members
- In technical committees
- Guided by CEN Management Centre and CEN members

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Proposing a new standard

Q. Who can you speak to about your proposal?

→ A. CEN members
- National Standards Bodies
- CEN Associates

→ A. The CEN Management Centre
- Programme Managers
- Innovation & Business Development
- **Contact innovation@cen.eu**

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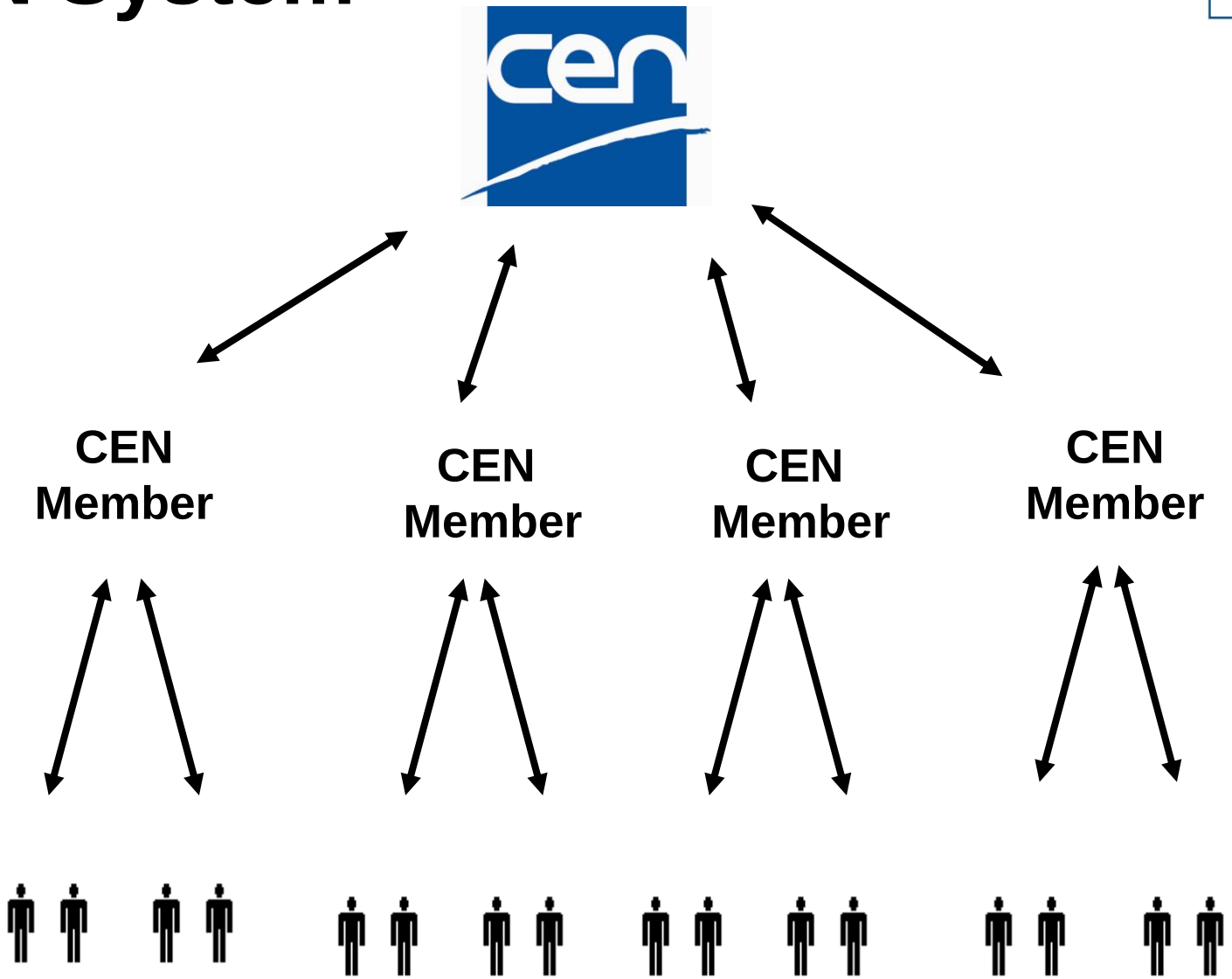
CEN System



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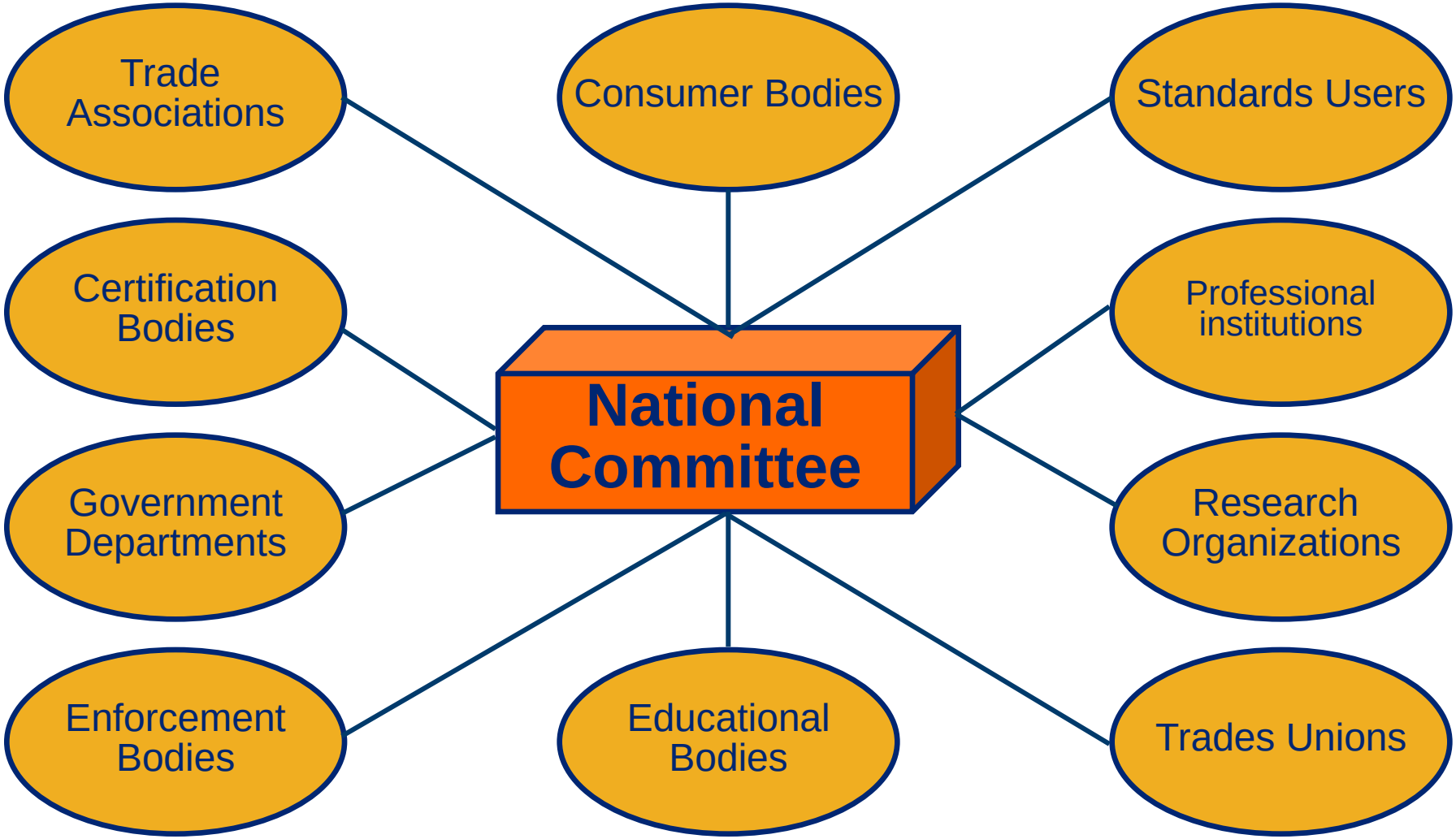
Representation on Technical/Sub-committees



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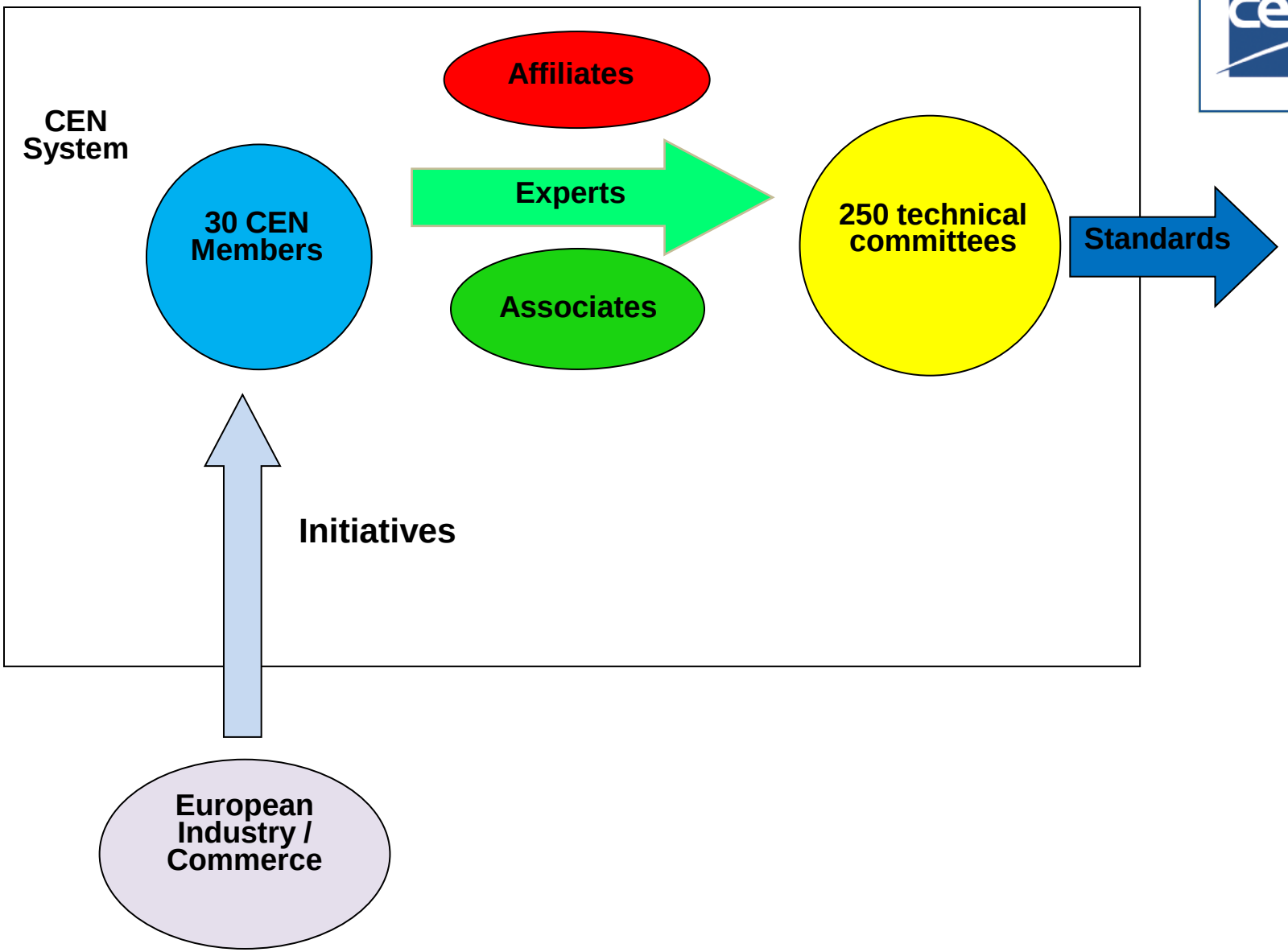

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- Who can propose a new standard?
- How are standards made?
- Why are European Standards so valuable?
- Is speed important?
- Standards and laws?

How are standards made?

1. Proposal – evaluate and decide
2. Draft and build agreement
3. Public enquiry – generate comments
4. Consider comments
5. Approve the final draft
6. Publish the standard
7. Review the standard

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How are standards made?

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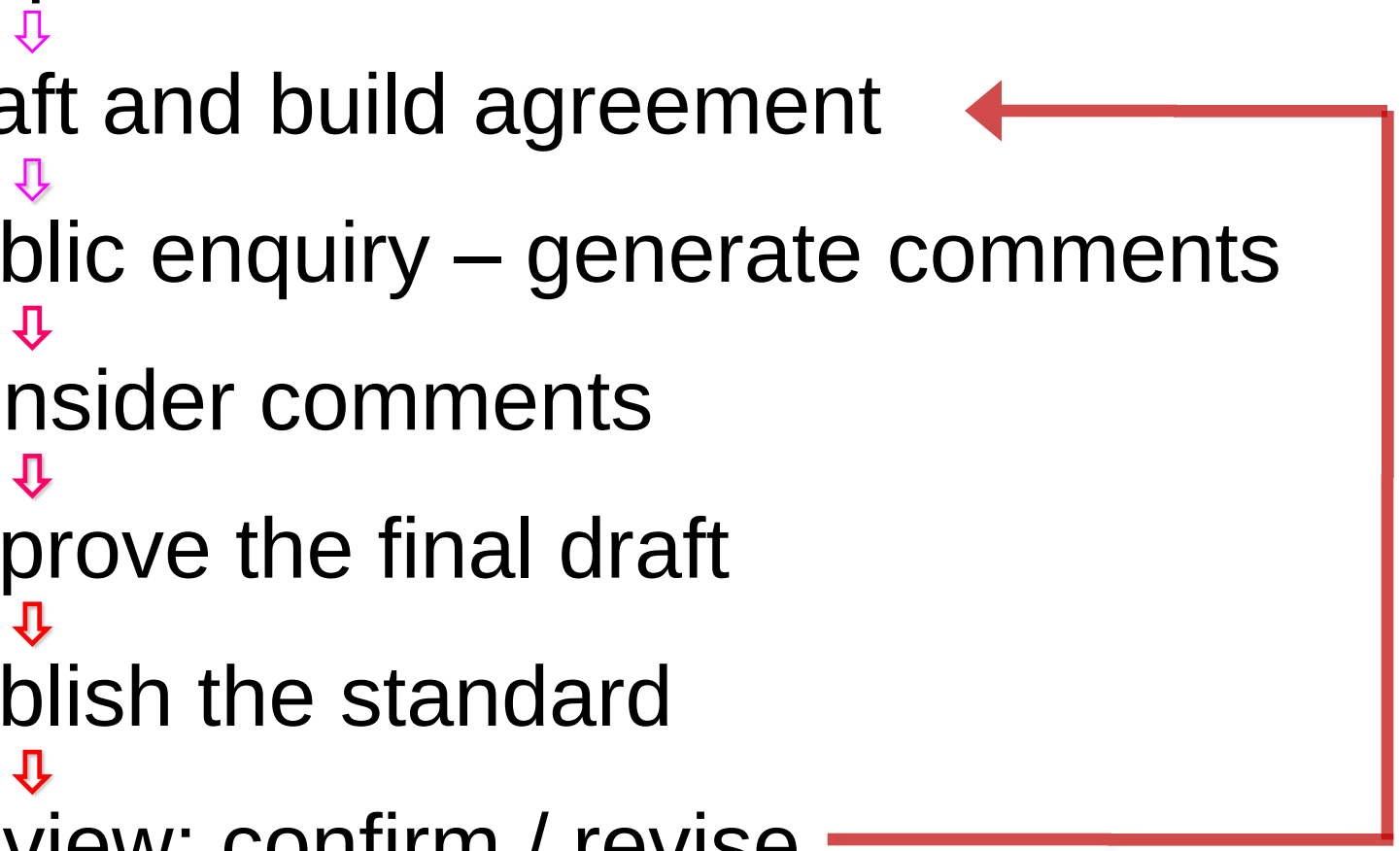
7. Review: confirm / revise



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How are standards made?

1. Proposal

→ Proposals originate

- Existing technical committees
- European Commission
- CEN Members
- New partners

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How are standards made?

1. Proposal - Evaluate and decide

→ Evaluate
- Specific need
- Feasibility
- Resources

→ Decide
- To go ahead or not
- Precise development route

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How are standards made?

2. Draft and build agreement

→ Allocate work to technical body
- ISO?
- CEN member delegations
- Expert volunteers

→ Technical body
- Experts develop draft standard
- Members discuss the draft
- Reach agreement

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How are standards made?

3. Public enquiry

- Draft issued to CEN members
- Members launch enquiry (3 languages)
- Circulate draft widely (5 months)

- Public submit comments
- Technical committee receives comments

→ Enquiry contributes to the strength of the standard

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How are standards made?

4. Consider comments

- Technical committee considers all comments
- Improves draft
- Agrees on content

- Decides when it is ready to be approved as European Standard

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How are standards made?

5. Approve the final draft

- → Final draft issued to CEN members
- → Launch Formal Vote (3 languages)
- → Two months
- → Members vote

- → 71% positive votes → European Standard

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How are standards made?

6. Publish the standard

- European Standard given to CEN members
- Publish as national standard
- Withdraw conflicting standards
- May translate into new language

- CEN members sell European Standards

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How are standards made?

7. Review the standard

- Review every 5 years (at least
- Ensure standard still current
- Options
  - confirm
  - withdraw
  - amend or revise

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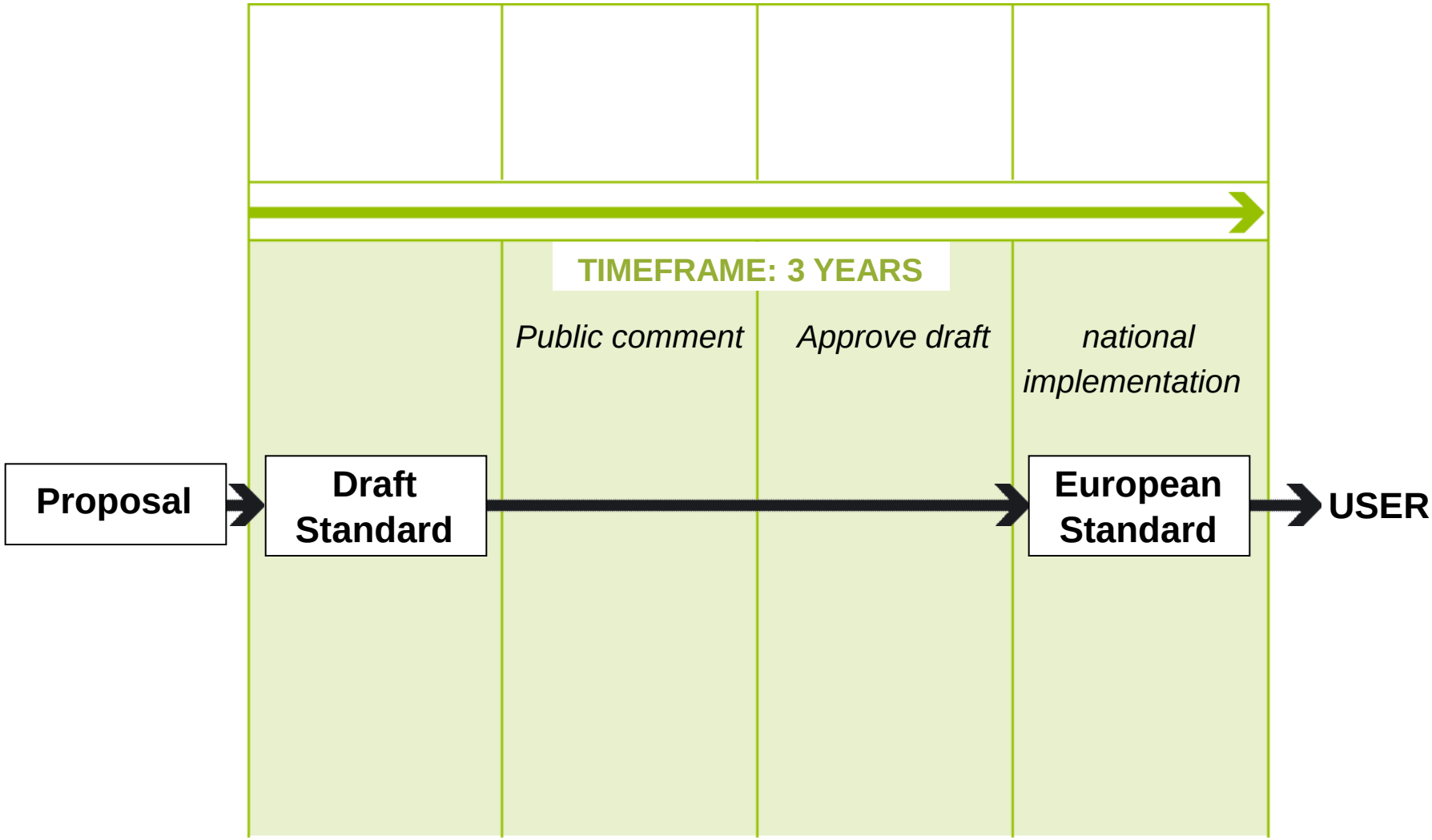
How standards are made



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Where can I buy a European Standard?

- From National Standards Bodies
- European Standards are published as national standards
- CEN works in 3 official languages
  - English
  - French
  - German
- Members translate into other languages

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An example

- EUTC requirements (Evaluation)
- requirements for translation service providers
  - resources
  - quality
  - management
  - contracts
  - Services
- EUTC – CEN Member links?

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A proposal for a new standard - example

- European Association of Translation Companies (EUATC)
- European Standard
- Requirements for providers of translation services
- CEN - EUATC discussions (Proposal)
  - EUATC requirements
  - How to work with EUATC

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An example

- Work began April 2003 (Drafting & building consensus)
- Enquiry - September 2004 (Gather public comments)
- Consideration of comments
- Formal vote - January 2006 (Approve the final draft)
- Published May 2006 (Available to publish nationally)
- EN 15038: 2006 Translation services - Service requirements

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Why is a European Standard so valuable?

→ Strength and recognition due to

- Shaped by those who contribute
- Open and transparent process
- Market driven
- Representation of all interested parties
- Reached through agreement
- 1 European Standard = 30 national standards = access to a market of over 480 million people

→ Integrate with international work

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Is speed important?

- Developing a European Standard takes time
- However, the market needs the standard
- Therefore CEN delivers European Standards in 3 years

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What if 3 years is too long?

- The market might need a standard in less than 3 years
- Other CEN products can meet this need
- For example:
  - CEN Technical Specification
  - CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA)

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CEN Technical Specification

- A document that gives rules and requirements

- Can benefit
  - **New technologies**
  - **Less urgent**
  - **Simple development process**

  - A Technical Specification can be transformed into a European Standard

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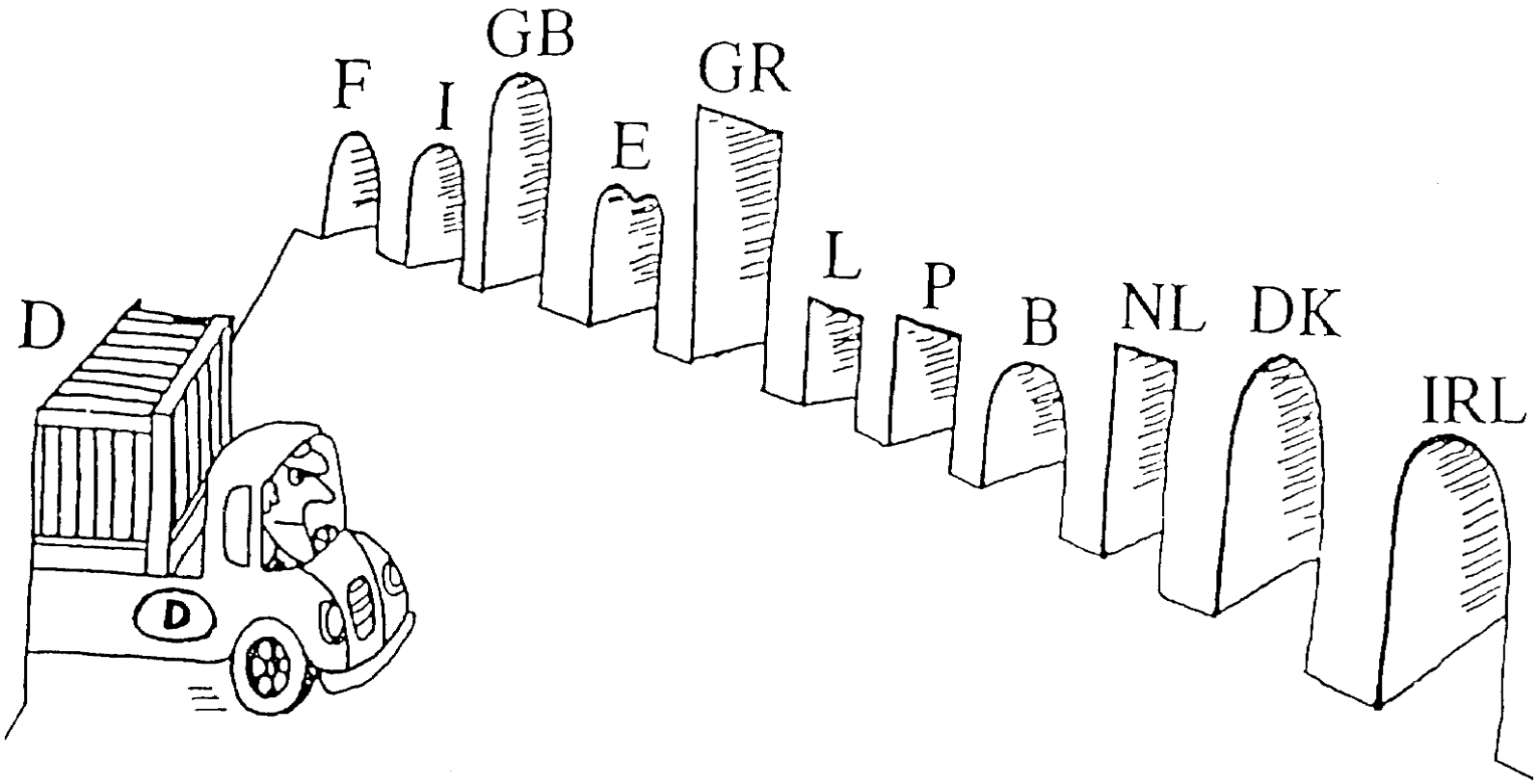
Before: Trade barriers hindered the European economy



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European law

- The free movement of goods is a cornerstone of the single European market

- Protect health and safety of
  - users
  - consumers
  - workers

- Protect property and the environment

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European law

- **European Directives regulate important industrial sectors**
  - Machinery
  - Lifts
  - Construction
  - Low voltage equipment
  - Pressure equipment
  - Packaging and packaging waste
- **New Approach**

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The New Approach

- **Essential requirements**
  - State the desired outcome without specifying how it should be achieved
- **European Standards specify how to meet essential requirements**
- Products made according to these standards are **presumed to comply** with essential requirements
- Such products **carry the CE mark** and are allowed to be sold in Europe

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European Standards & laws

- European laws
  - essential requirements
- Some European Standards support laws
  - Provide solutions to essential requirements
- (Harmonized) European Standard provide
  - Means to conform with laws
  - CE marking
  - access to European market

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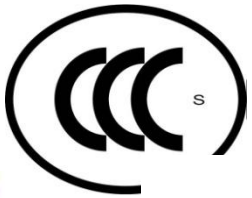
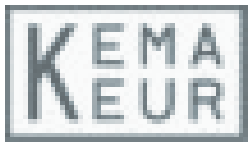
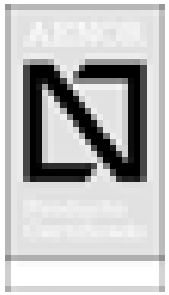
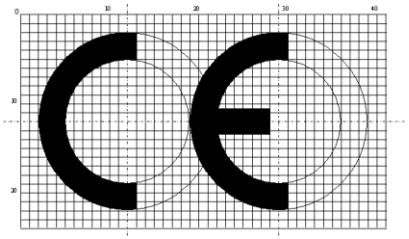
Quality marks & CE marking

Examples of familiar quality marks



CE Mark



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Quality marks vs. CE marking

Quality mark

- Is voluntary
- Issued by a ‘third’ party
- Addresses users and consumers
- On ‘approved’ products
- Is a marketing tool
- Issued on contractual basis
- Product conforms to a standard

CE marking

- Mandatory (on all product)
- Responsibility of manufacturer
- Addresses market surveillance authorities
- Product conforms to all applicable Directives
- Complies with European Standard
- ‘Passport’ to EU market
- Not a marketing tool

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What next?

→ Look forward to

- answering your questions
- helping you with your needs

→ www.cen.eu

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