

Harmonised European Standards must constitute a reliable technical reference for all stakeholders and must support legislation in a consistent manner, without contradictions, in order to contribute to fairness of competition and to the high level of safety called for by the EU Treaty.



Harmonised European standards should reflect the current state of the art and correspond to the highest level of safety and health that can reasonably be expected from a product.



■ Article 95 (3) of the EU Treaty

(3) The Commission, in its proposals envisaged in paragraph 1 concerning health, safety, environmental protection and consumer protection, will take as a base a high level of protection, taking account in particular of any new development based on scientific facts....



At European level, the adoption of ISO and IEC standards whenever possible is actively encouraged by CEN and CENELEC. In this context, a major challenge is to preserve the high level of safety and health that is expected of harmonised European standards supporting directives under Article 95 of the EU Treaty.



Efforts should be made to upgrade the system of Notified Bodies to a high-quality system. The outcome of the activities of the Notified Bodies and their Coordination groups is relevant for improvements to product safety in Europe.



The development of high-quality standards requires scientifically robust knowledge as an objective basis for negotiations between interested parties. Furthermore, standardisation can be a very effective means for the exploitation of OSH research or study results and can thus contribute to innovation and competitiveness, which are major goals of the European strategy, as expressed in the communication of the European Commission.



EUROSHNET is a communication and consensus-building platform, conceived as an actor in European OSH policy in the field of standardisation, testing, certification and related research.

