European process of standardisation and regulation for new radiocommunications devices or systems

Typical regulatory and standardization processes involved in the introduction of new radiocommunications devices and systems in Europe, as well as the cooperation between CEPT and ETSI in these processes are described in steps (1 to 27), as illustrated in the attached Annex (flow diagram). Boxes above and below the dotted line across the page in the annex are ETSI[1] and CEPT[2] activities respectively:

1.   The process is normally started in an ETSI technical group (meets 3-4 times per year) in response to an industry demand. The ETSI group reviews industry inputs and approves a work program sheet;

2.   The parent ETSI Technical Committee (TC) reviews, adopts or rejects the work program sheet (TC meets 3-4 times per year);

1'-2'.   Although normally a proposal for new radiocommunications devices/systems should be initiated through ETSI as shown in flowchart boxes (1-2), sometimes it could also happen that such a proposal is first presented within the CEPT family, typically within WGFM. In such cases WGFM would inform ETSI about the proposed new work item and would advise the promoter of new system to initiate development of a European standard through the ETSI mechanisms;

3.   If the new proposal does not involve demand for new spectrum allocation and when no sharing[3] or compatibility[4] issues exist, e.g. if there is already an exclusive frequency allocation for the application in question, then points 4 & 5 are not relevant and the process continues directly to point 6 where the design of the standard is made during multiple meetings;

4.   If there is a sharing or compatibility problem or when a new spectrum allocation is required, then the originating ETSI technical group is requested to generate a System Reference Document (SRDoc)[5] describing the RF characteristics and any RF compatibility issues (might require multiple meetings);

5.   After completion and approval by the responsible ETSI technical body, the SRDoc is forwarded to ETSI ERM/RM, who is responsible for coordination with CEPT. If the SRDoc is approved there, it is then sent directly to CEPT for their analysis and study of the involved sharing/compatibility issues (ERM/RM meets 3-4 times per year);

6.   The ETSI technical group develops the standard through several official meetings and often with some work outside the meetings, e.g. by correspondence.

7.   The technical group reviews the draft standard during a plenary meeting and submits it to the parent TC.

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[1] ETSI – European Telecommunications Standards Institute, with broad membership from administrations and industry
[2] CEPT (from French acronym) – European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications administrations, where members are administrations from 46 countries of European continent
[3] "Sharing" is a term usually used to describe co-existence with an incumbent radiocommunications application(-s) within the same frequency band as proposed new application
[4] "Compatibility" is a term used to describe co-existence with an incumbent radiocommunications applications(-s) in adjacent band(-s)
[5] According to the Working Procedures for ETSI ERM/RM, a 'System Reference Document' is to be produced for any new system, service or application requiring a change of the present frequency designation / utilisation within CEPT or a change in the present regulatory framework for the proposed band(s) regarding either intended or unwanted emissions

8.   The ETSI TC approves the draft standard for Public Enquiry (PE). If there is an on-going related compatibility study initiated in CEPT, then the approval for PE is postponed until conclusion of the study;

9.   PE lasts for 120 days, and all interested parties may comment the draft Standard via the National Standardization Organizations (NSO);

10.   All comments received during PE are dealt with in an ETSI PE Resolution meeting(s) where the draft Standard may be revised accordingly;

11.   The ETSI TC approves the Standard for a 60 day National Vote and subsequent publication;

12.   The ETSI Standard is published, thus the ETSI process is finished;

13.   When CEPT ECC[6] involvement is requested, see point 4, CEPT Working Group Frequency Management (WGFM) analyses the SRDoc and decides if the ETSI request shall be rejected or approved as a new work item (WGFM meets 3 times per year);

14.   If sharing or compatibility concerns are detected, then WGFM will send a request to Working Group Spectrum Engineering (WGSE) to perform the necessary sharing/compatibility studies.

15.   Within the WGFM, the new ETSI request is usually given to a particular Project Team (PT) for detailed consideration of frequency management issues and, eventually, for development of a proposal on the necessary spectrum designation for the proposed application (FM PTs meet at a frequency determined by the list and urgency of their work items, usually 2-4 times a year)
        Note: In special cases, when several involved issues (frequency management, spectrum engineering, regulatory) are closely interlinked, or when the considered new system is of very wide (global) importance, then a Joint PT between several WGs or even an ECC PT or a Task Group (TG) may be established to consider those wide inter-disciplinary issues and develop draft ECC regulation in the most speedy and efficient manner;

16.   The responsible PT develops the draft regulation on spectrum designation, which takes form of either an ECC Decision[7] or an ECC Recommendation[8];

17.   The WGFM (or several groups in case of Joint PT) approve the draft ECC regulation and send it to public consultation;

18.   The Public consultation of draft ECC deliverables is carried out by the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) and lasts for 8 weeks. Any interested party from anywhere in the world may comment on the draft by sending their comments directly to ERO;

19.   The results of the public consultation are summarised by ERO and considered by the WGFM. If many detailed comments are received, then the responsible PT will be asked to review the comments and propose a revision of the draft regulation. Having considered the comments, and the proposed revision of the draft regulation by the PT when appropriate, the WGFM may itself decide on final adoption of draft ECC Recommendations, whereas draft ECC Decisions are forwarded to ECC for adoption at that level;

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[6] ECC – CEPT's Electronic Communications Committee (the other CEPT committee deals with postal matters). The ECC area is further divided between several Working Groups and Project Teams
[7] ECC Decisions are measures on significant harmonisation matters. It is understood that all CEPT administrations should implement measures specified in ECC Decisions, except specially requested derogation cases
[8] ECC Recommendations are measures which Administrations are only encouraged to apply. They are principally intended as harmonisation measures for those matters where Decisions are not yet relevant or as a guidance to national administrations.

20.   After final adoption by WGFM or ECC, as appropriate, the final ECC Recommendation or Decision is published on ERO web site;

21.   If a sharing/compatibility study was requested of WGSE, see step 14, then WGSE (meeting 3 times per year) considers such a request and normally assigns it to one of its PTs to carry out the necessary studies;

22.   The responsible SE PT carries out the necessary sharing and compatibility studies via multiple meetings (the frequency of SE PTs meetings is also determined by their workload and typically this would be 2-5 meetings per year), often relying on input created between the meetings;

23.   At the end of studies, an SE PT formalises their results in the form of draft ECC Report on sharing/compatibility of considered applications. The liaison is maintained throughout the studies with the responsible FM PT (Joint PT) to exchange information related to the studies. Normally the development of sharing reports in SE PT would take from half a year to one year, but sometimes longer, for very complex or highly controversial issues;

24.   WGSE reviews the developed draft ECC Report and decides on sending it to public consultation. At the same time the liaison may be sent to ETSI to advise them on the tentative results of the studies;

25.   Public consultation of draft ECC reports is carried out by ERO and lasts for 8 weeks. Any interested party from anywhere in the world may comment on the draft by sending their comments directly to ERO;

26.   The results of the public consultation are summarised by ERO and considered by the WGSE. If many detailed comments are received, then the responsible PT will be asked to review the comments and propose a revision of the draft Report. Having considered the comments, and the proposed by PT revision of draft Report when appropriate, the WGSE may finally adopt the ECC Report;

27.   The adopted ECC Report is published on ERO web site.

Annex
FLOW DIAGRAM
Of typical European process for standardisation and regulation of new radiocommunications devices or systems

| 1 Idea presented in ETSI technical body | 2 ETSI TC approves work item | 3 If new spectrum designation is needed | 6 Tech body develops an ETSI standard | 7 Tech body approves standard | 8 ETSI TC approves standard for PE | 9 Public Enquiry 120 days | 10 PE resolution meeting(-s) revises Standard | 11 ETSI Technical body approves Standard for National Vote | 12 ETSI publishes standard after positive result of National Vote |

4 Technical body generates SRDoc, if required

5 ERM RM approves SRDoc

(A)

ETSI process
- -
CEPT/ECC process

| 1' Occasionally idea may be presented in WGFM | 2' ETSI is invited to consider standardisation aspect | 13 WG FM approves work item | 14 If spectrum sharing studies needed | 15 Considerations in a FM PT (Joint PT, or ECC PT/TG) | 16 Draft regulation (ECC Rec/Dec) on spectrum designation | 17 WGFM approves draft spectrum regulation | 18 Public consultation 8 weeks | 19 WGFM or ECC finally adopt the spectrum regulation | 20 ERO Publishes spectrum regulation |

21 Sharing study request sent to WGSE

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| 22 Sharing study in a SE PT | 23 Draft ECC Report on sharing/comp developed | 24 WGSE approves draft report on sharing | 25 Public consultation 8 weeks | 26 WGSE decides on final adoption of ECC Report | 27 ERO Publishes Report on sharing |