Stakeholders' Event on TTC WG1 on technology standards cooperation

3 March 2022, Information Session

Summary:

As part of the **EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC)**, the '**Working Group 1 - Technology standards cooperation**' is engaging with stakeholders to gain perspectives and input from the business community, thought leaders, non-governmental organisations, government administrations, academia, and others to help inform the working group's efforts.

The **information session** took place in a virtual setting on Thursday 3 March – 14h30 – 16h30. The session started with a **presentation from the chairs** of the working group **followed by a Q&A session with the participating stakeholders** to listen to their views and suggestions about the context, priorities and (upcoming) work of the TTC Working Group 1 on technology standards cooperation.

Introduction by the chairs

The chairs of the working group, Thibaut Kleiner (DG CONNECT) and Gwenole Cozigou (DG GROW) - presented the **EU's vision on the digital transformation and standardisation**, the **context and goals of the TTC**, and zoomed-in on the **work and priorities of the working group** on technology standards cooperation. You can find the presentation which was used during the event on this page.

The meeting was attended by **more than 70 participants**. The 'Working Group on technology standards cooperation' plans to conduct future outreach events.

Questions and points raised by representatives of the participating stakeholders:

After the presentation, representatives of the participating stakeholders were invited to take the floor to provide their questions and positions to the working group chairs. The following stakeholders took the floor and asked questions:

A **consumer organisation** welcomed the EU efforts for inclusiveness, and asked for more information on stakeholder outreach activities from the US, and how inclusiveness can be further improved in the TTC-context. They further asked for clarification on how the EU (and TTC) will ensure that standards will not impact the application of different legal principles and fundamental rights.

A **company** asked for clarification on the set-up, structure and roles in the TTC and whether the EU foresees any sectorial work regarding standardisation.

A **standardisation organisation** asked if there have been discussions (in the context of the TTC) with the ISO, as well as with other standardisations organisations. The organisation pointed in particular to efforts needed to coordinate the discussions with international standardisation organisations between the EU and the US. The organisation also remarked that in Europe there are 3 ESOs (European standardisation organisations) and in the US there are more than 750 SDOs (standards development organisations) and that this sometimes creates a complex and challenging context to know who is working on which standardisations areas.

A **business association** indicated their appreciation for the presentation given on the EU Standardisation Strategy. The association also referred to their position paper of February 2022, which indicates the areas they would like to see covered as pilot projects in the TTC.

A **business association** asked a question on international standards in the context of Artificial Intelligence. The organisation indicated that coordination between EU and US on standardisation would be beneficial and make transatlantic commerce easier for companies. The association also asked to interact with US partners more concretely, as well as to receive more clarification on the approach to ISO, ITU and in which scope the EU wants to get involved.

An **US-based stakeholder** referred to the TrackStar Digital Economy working group proposal to hold a joint EU-US Workshop on IoT standards.

A **company** asked about the position of TelCom on the priority list for pilot projects, indicating that this sector is more relevant than sometimes perceived. The representative of the company also emphasized the importance of standardisation in the area of cybersecurity (especially in relation to mandatory certification for critical components).

A **NGO** (active in the field of standardisation) asked for the best way to support Next Gen Standards Professionals. The representative of this organisation thinks that the TTC is very important for their field. The representative further underlined that the EU should make sure that its values are embedded in international standards.

A **trade union** asked what strategy is being communicated to the US, also within the TTC, particularly with regards to stakeholder involvement.

A **business association** underlined the importance of inclusiveness (in particular of SMEs) in standardisation, and is looking forward to seeing how the EU will take this into consideration. The stakeholder also indicated that SMEs are relevant actors in standard-setting for the green transition.

A **business association** indicated that the field of semiconductors needs more attention and asked to elaborate on TTC-interactions in the context of semiconductors.

An **US-based standardisation organisation** asked whether the TTC dialogue takes into account the EU Rolling Plan on ICT Standards and the debates within the European Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) on ICT Standardisation.

A **research organisation** asked how the research side can be more involved and contribute to standardisation work.

Conclusions by the chairs of the working group:

The chairs concluded the meeting by thanking the participating stakeholders for their **useful and constructive questions and input** provided during the information session. The **next steps** for the TTC working group were briefly explained (in view of the next TTC Summit which is planned to take place on 15-16 May 2022), and a **commitment was expressed to continue engaging with stakeholders** through further stakeholder events.

Furthermore, the chairs indicated that they would **welcome further feedback from stakeholders through the Futurium platform** – in particular, on possible proposals for pilot projects/areas for the working group, and on how to better involve SMEs and societal stakeholders in standardisation activities.