

It is anticipated that ETSI will develop a common European standard for terminals (see next subsection). In the interim, however, approvals will be based on national standards. But national authorities can demand only that products meet certain "essential requirements" with regard to electrical safety (which simply requires a manufacturer's declaration under the Low Voltage Directive), electro-magnetic compatibility (which requires third-party testing), no harm to the network (either physical or logical), and interoperability in justified cases (end-to-end operability).

European Telecommunications Standards Institute

To encourage telecommunications standardization, the EC Commission has encouraged the establishment of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and has recognized it as the European focus for developing appropriate standards. Like CEN and CENELEC, ETSI will receive mandates from the Commission to develop certain standards.

ETSI has been established as an autonomous body (i.e., not a PTT monopoly) whose members are national administrations (regulators and licence grantors), network operators, manufacturers, users, value-added service providers, and research bodies. The organization is also open to observers from EC and EFTA countries, and representatives of third countries may attend plenary sessions of the Institute as "special guests". "Special guests" will not, however, have access to the technical committees.

ETSI has a support staff of about 50, which is paid for by the members, each contributing according to ability to pay.

ETSI is to produce European telecommunications standards in telecommunications, in information technology (in cooperation with CEN and CENELEC), and in broadcasting (in cooperation with the European Broadcasting Union). The European telecommunications standards are to be produced based on a system of weighted voting, world-wide enquiry, standstill on national standardization (once ETSI has begun to deal with an issue), and obligatory transposition into national standards once agreed.

Integrated Services Data Network

By way of an EC Council recommendation (86/659 OJL382/86), member states have agreed to the coordinated introduction, by 1992, of the Integrated Services Data Network (ISDN). This recommendation was formalized by a Memorandum of Understanding, which signed in April 1989 by 22 telecommunications administrations in the 18 EC and EFTA countries. The Commission followed up the Memorandum by giving ISDN, in June 1989, a mandate to undertake standardization work. ISDN is to have an open network provision.

By way of an EC Council recommendation and directive (87/371 and 87/372, OJL96/87), member states have agreed to the introduction of a pan-European mobile telephone system. The Commission expects that a Memorandum of Understanding for the introduction of the system will be signed by the middle of 1991, with the first commercial operations starting about that time. The standardization work will likely be given to ETSI.