



TECHNICAL BOARD

CEN/BT by correspondence

For vote in line with IR2 Clause 6.1.4

Issue date: 2023-05-03

Deadline: 2023-07-25

SUBJECT

New CEN/TC on Circular Economy

BACKGROUND

On 2023-04-28, SIS submitted a background document and a proposal to CCMC for the creation of a new Technical Committee in the field of Circular Economy (see Annexes 1 and 2).

The European Commission adopted, in March 2020, a very ambitious Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) that in turn has opened up for massive policy development to push the European market to maximize contribution to sustainable development. The European Commission has pointed towards standards as an important tool to reach a common understanding of what the circular economy entails and how to implement it at a European scale. The CEAP is pushing the internal market towards increased, concrete, actions within sustainable development. A concrete tool for catalysing the transition towards circularity is standardization, providing European business and policymaking to join forces.

The proposed TC would be responsible for standardization in the field of Circular Economy to develop horizontal standards relating to European specific prerequisites, legislation, and policy. The standards aim to provide recommendations, requirements, methodologies and tools to support and measure transition towards a circular economy.

The deliverables aim to unify international and European standardization while contributing to a sustainable green economy.

Excluded:

- Aspects of Circular Economy already covered by existing committees or future standardization falling within specific sectors, product groups, material, or data standardization.
- Aspects concerning standardization on Ecodesign and Digital Product Passport.

A proposal for the initial work programme and structure of the new CEN/TC is presented in Annex 2.

By Decision BT 65/2017, BT decided that the following criteria are to be met for acceptance of such a proposal for new work (in a new area):

- Vote according to Internal Regulations Part 2 clause 6.1.4;

Note: Possible votes are 'Agrees', 'Disagrees with comments' and 'Abstains'. Any vote indicating 'Deferred decision' will be counted as 'Disagrees with comments'.

- At least 5 Members express commitment to participate.

Consequently, BT members are requested to state explicitly, by means of the commenting field provided in the BT-balloting tool, whether or not they are committed to participate in the work.

PROPOSAL(S)

BT,

- having considered the proposal for a new field of technical activity submitted by SIS as included in Annex 1;
- considering that the following Members have expressed commitment to participate: <Members>
- decides to create a new CEN/TC xxx with the following preliminary title and scope:

Title: Circular Economy

Scope:

Standardization in the field of Circular Economy to develop horizontal standards relating to European specific prerequisites, legislation, and policy. The standards aim to provide recommendations, requirements, methodologies and tools to support and measure transition towards a circular economy.

The deliverables aim to unify international and European standardization while contributing to a sustainable green economy.

Excluded:

- Aspects of Circular Economy already covered by existing committees or future standardization falling within specific sectors, product groups, material, or data standardization.
- Aspects concerning standardization on Ecodesign and Digital Product Passport.

2023-04-28 – CV

Annex – letter from SIS

Dear BT members,

SIS is hereby proposing the establishment of a new CEN/TC on Circular Economy. The time to act at the European level is now, and we are convinced that a TC enables the needed harmonization in the field by establishing a common understanding and implementation of circular economy. Establishing a committee reduces the risk of fragmenting the European internal market. Furthermore, a TC provides European industry with a clear way to influence standards and provides long term monitoring of standardization needs and policy development in the area.

The following points require, in particular, BTs' attention:

- The proposal has been developed in close cooperation between SIS and DIN/DKE and with support by AFNOR to ensure the highest level of alignment and coherence, as well as avoiding potential overlap between the two proposed committees:
 - o SIS's proposal for a CEN/TC on Circular Economy
 - o DIN/DKE's proposal for a CEN CENELEC JTC DPP (Digital Product Passport), as already discussed and supported by the BTWG 06and the existing ISO/TC 323 Circular economy. It is highly prioritized to establish a liaison between the committees as soon as established.
- A European committee on circular economy will not conflict with the ongoing activities in ISO/TC 323 Circular Economy. The European committee should consider mirror the activities of ISO/TC 323, for potential implementation of International Standards at European level. These will however be complemented by regionally European Standards to address specific European needs and requirements.

With a wide base of multinational corporations and SME's showing leadership in the transition towards circular economy, as well as prominent academic research, Sweden's strong commitment to transitioning to a circular economy that contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals included in the 2030 Agenda. Sweden has the experience and resources needed to take on the work of establishing a committee.

Based on the needs identified for establishing a European activity on circular economy, SIS and its employees are committed and experienced in the field and have the resources needed to run the secretariat for the proposed committee in close cooperation with the experienced and renowned Dr MSc Raul Carlsson at Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE) as Chair. We are sincerely hoping for your support on this and remain available for questions.

Webinars will be arranged in cooperation with the proposers of a CEN CENELEC JTC on DPP during the 12-week BT voting period where we discuss the proposals in detail and open for Q&A.



PROPOSAL for a NEW FIELD OF TECHNICAL ACTIVITY	
Date of circulation 2023-04-27	CEN/TC / SC N (where appropriate)
Secretariat SIS	CENELEC/TC / SC (Sec) (where appropriate)
Type of technical body proposed (TC / SC / BTTF)	TC CIRCULAR ECONOMY

IMPORTANT NOTE: Incomplete proposals risk rejection or referral to originator.

The proposer has considered the guidance given in Annexes 1 and 2 during the preparation

Proposal (to be completed by the proposer)

<p>Title of the proposed new subject (The title shall indicate clearly and unambiguously, yet concisely, the new field of technical activity which the proposal is intended to cover.)</p> <p>CEN/TC xxx Circular Economy</p>
<p>Scope statement of the proposed new subject</p> <p>Standardization in the field of Circular Economy to develop horizontal standards relating to European specific prerequisites, legislation, and policy. The standards aim to provide recommendations, requirements, methodologies and tools to support and measure transition towards a circular economy.</p> <p>The deliverables aim to unify international and European standardization while contributing to a sustainable green economy.</p> <p>Excluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aspects of Circular Economy already covered by existing committees or future standardization falling within specific sectors, product groups, material, or data standardization.• Aspects concerning standardization on Ecodesign and Digital Product Passport.

Purpose and justification for the proposal.

Globally, circular economy is increasingly permeating the political discourse. Regionally, the European Commission have adopted a very ambitious Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) that in turn has opened up for massive policy development to push the European market to maximize our contribution to sustainable development. The European Commission have pointed towards standards as an important tool to reach a common understanding of what the circular economy entails and how to implement it at a European scale.

The CEAP is pushing the internal market towards increased, concrete, actions within sustainable development. A concrete tool for catalysing the transition towards circularity is standardization, providing European business and policymaking to join forces.

The European policy setting, starting at the Green Deal, has placed Europe at the frontline in a transition towards a green and sustainable future. Several initiatives within the green deal intends to transform the European economy to support the goal of reaching Net Zero GHG by 2050, make sustainable products the norm and empowering the European consumers towards a green transition. A few are mentioned here, expecting that more will be developed in the future.

As a leading exporter and importer of goods and services, global value chains are an integral part of the European Union. An unsustainable use of resources has led to global warming and the following climate changes we are experiencing. The linear economy is not designed to extend the use phase of resources and utilize waste into new streams. A transition towards a circular economy will help lower Europe's negative impact on the environment by increasing resource efficiency.

European markets are leading efforts in transitioning towards increased circularity to meet the high ambitions of the European Green Deal. Different initiatives, such as strategies, roadmaps and legislation, are being developed at national level all around Europe. Given the high ambitions, it is crucial to establish a European forum with the aim to unify the initiatives by gathering the collected knowledge and political push within Europe. Doing this within the frame of voluntary standards provides a stable platform for European stakeholders to increase alignment and maximize their impact.

Furthermore, a European committee on circular economy provides a single point of entry for standardization requests from EC on all matters relating to circular economy. Establishing a committee provides a base where decisions and standardization activities can be effectively managed, thereby meeting the needs of the European Commission.

Since 2018, standardization activities in circular economy have been dealt with on a global level (ISO/TC 323). In the ISO committee, the horizontal standards currently under development strive towards establishing a common understanding of circularity and how it can be implemented. However, from a European perspective there is an increasing need for regionally adapted standardization initiatives within circular economy. This can be managed in a CEN/TC for Circular economy, where coordination and standards development for supporting, implementing and measuring the circular economy at European level. These needs could build on appropriate parts of the ISO foundation (ISO 5900- series) but with European prerequisites in mind.

A Chair Advisory Group (CAG) and a number of potential working groups are envisioned, however **please note that these are initial ideas** on what to include in the structure of the proposed TC and is open for changes and adjustments.

• Chair Advisory Group (CAG)

The main tasks of a CAG could be to advise, coordinate, plan and assist in steering the work of the TC and potential WG's. The coordination of ongoing activities and work progress will serve to facilitate efficiency in standardization related initiatives within circularity, as well as sharing of best practice. In its coordinating capacity, the group can arrange alignment meetings with relevant groups to enable a coherent foundation for standardization activities on circular economy at the European level.

Coordination is expected to be needed between TC's within CEN-CENELEC, ISO as well as other liaison organizations and strategic groups/forums.

• WG 1 Frameworks and terminology

There is a need for a European TC on Circular Economy that serves a purpose to ensure maximal alignment in the standardization system between CEN-CENELEC and ISO, but also to encompass all circular economy related activities under one umbrella. Terminology and frameworks may be examples of areas in need of coordination to maximize compatibility between standardization systems.

The proposed working group will have an important role in coordinating ongoing activities related to circular economy within CEN, CENELEC and ISO. Furthermore, the group can advise on and provide recommendations for new work or need of implementing ISO-standards as European.

• WG 2 Information sharing

An integral part of a circular economy is the ability to trace resources and share relevant information across value chains. The expected regulation on Digital Product Passport (DPP) from the European Commission will introduce this at scale, enabling more circular business models to be developed. DPP will be an important tool in the circular economy where sustainable products will be the norm and is closely interlinked to other parts of the circular economy such as circular business models. The DPP has been proposed to be based on open and neutral standards, which are made possible by CEN-CENELEC standardization.

As already discussed in and supported by the BT WG 06, a JTC on DPP is expected to be set up in the near future (pending approval by the CEN-CENELEC BT members), and the aspects of the DPP system and potentially data/digitalization related aspects will be handled by the JTC.

However, some aspects of the standards needed to implement the DPP will be cross-sectoral and concern a wide range of stakeholders representing different sectors. These standards may include content driven/related and stakeholder

disclosure aspects. A group with wide representation and in-depth knowledge of circular economy is a prerequisite for these standards to gain acceptance and reflect the needs of European industry.

- **WG 3 Extended producer responsibility**

The TC on Circular Economy will strive towards horizontal standardization in providing unified systems for areas of the circular economy that can be further adapted for product group specific areas, such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). A mature EPR system may establish relationships between producers and their customers, which may in turn support and accelerate transformation towards a circular economy. It may incentivize producers and industry to develop more recyclable products and materials available to industries, which renders both longer lifetime which value resources, as well as create awareness and participation among consumers concerning recycling. By standardizing key aspects of EPR schemes, a fair and level playing field is opened up and creates clarity for producers.

- **WG 4 Circular business models**

Current predominant business models are based on sales of products and maximising profit, with little respect to the overall life cycle and resource use. Existing laws and regulations as well as standards are developed within a linear economy, thus suited to make this type of sales more efficient and effective.

Circular business models have a different objective. Circular business models challenge existing practices and standards by rearranging the ways of designing, evaluating, and measuring products and services from a life cycle perspective. Rethinking e.g., what the end-of-life of a product is when used over a long time but in different contexts and applications creates the need of new standards for business models to fit in a new context. The primary focus is on creating and providing as high and useful value as possible in relation to the resource use over time.

There is a need of common understanding of what a circular business model is. To maximise the contribution to sustainable development, it is important to understand which choices and models are best suited for an organization in the process of establishment or transitioning towards circularity. A framework and/or methodology is needed for common criteria on e.g. the intention to prolong product life, solve customer needs (e.g. customer who wants to own short term), making sure the business model is sustainable etc. Furthermore, enabling the design of circular business models where crossing several traditional value chains is made possible may support the creation of value networks. This supports a collaborative business environment where resources are used in an optimal way.

- **WG 5 Circular procurement**

A circular procurement process would play a key role in transitioning to a green circular economy. Each year, public authorities in the EU spend around 2 000 billion euro, approximately 14% of GDP, on public procurement. The public sector should take lead and set an example by using their purchasing power to stimulate sustainable production and consumption.

Furthermore, public procurement is an important policy tool to support circular business models in scaling up their businesses. Circular business models are not likely to succeed without public policy support, as they compete with more linear business models in what is still a predominantly linear economy.

Small to medium-sized enterprises (SME's) make up over 99% of all companies, and in EU countries especially, they are key to ensuring economic growth, innovation, job creation and social integration and are a driving force in the transition towards a circular economy. However, they are largely excluded from public procurement processes due to an unlevel playing field mainly based on lowest price criteria as requirement in public procurement.

If public agencies procure more sustainable and circular solutions, it will facilitate a foundation for companies to innovate and grow new, more sustainable, circular business models and solutions. A framework for defining common procurement criteria how to evaluate and measure over time would be an effective tool in procurement processes at European level.

Proposed initial programme of work

A proposed programme of work is outlined below. **Note that these are initial ideas on what to include in the structure of the proposed TC and is open for changes and adjustments.** The specific working programs, including priorities and target dates, will be developed within the new TC, taking into account the specific needs, expectations and experiences of the different national members.

GEN/TC xxx Circular Economy

Chair Advisory Group (CAG)

If needed, a CAG may be set up in order to support the chair in coordination of the set up of WG's and allocation and time planning of work items.

WG 1 Frameworks and terminology

Potential work items:

Potential implementation of ISO-standards as European, primarily ISO 59004 Circular Economy – Terminology, Principles and Guidance for Implementation.

WG 2 Information sharing

Potential work items:

- *Framework of data sharing.* A framework is needed for guidance on which data sharing is necessary, but also for regulatory functions and control, for stakeholder responsibility and actions (including all B2B, B2C, C2C, C2B), and for performance measurement of circular actions, solutions, business models and actors involved.
- *Content and stakeholder disclosure - Requirements and guidelines.* This draft may specify what information to disclose to whom.
- *Case studies.* Produces technical report(s) on how data on circular economy is shared, map ongoing pilot projects and extract best practice from them.

WG 3 Extended producer responsibility

Potential work items:

- *Circular Economy – Extended producer responsibility – Reporting requirements and quantification.* An EPR scheme should be measurable and quantifiable in a standardized way with crucial parameters like weight or dimensions in metric standard.
- *Circular Economy – Extended producer responsibility – Use of tariff codes in EPR schemes.* Tariff codes are an efficient, international way of classifying products and when included in EPR schemes may simplify reporting.

WG 4 Circular business models

Potential work items:

- *Circular Economy – Guidelines for circular business models and common criteria.* An overview of circular business models and their suitability in different types of organizations.

WG 5 Circular procurement

Potential work items:

- *Circular Economy – Guidelines for addressing circular economy in procurement processes.* A guideline may be used to set up circular procurement criteria based on the principles of circular economy.

A statement from the proposer as to how the proposed work may relate to or impact on existing work, especially existing CEN, CENELEC, ISO and IEC deliverables.

A key issue for successful transition towards circularity in Europe is to have a common understanding of circularity. It is important not to overlap the work already done by ISO/TC 323, CEN-CENELEC/JTC 10 or other adjacent work.

A wide range of groups are relating to the work. The intention is to cooperate with and to establish liaisons with relevant groups, to be decided in the TC upon approval. The following is a non-exhaustive list of potentially related work:

CEN-CENELEC

CEN-CLC/JTC 10 Material efficiency aspects for products in scope of Ecodesign legislation
CEN-CLC/JTC 13 Cybersecurity and data protection
CEN-CLC/JTC 19 Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies
CEN/TC 88 Thermal insulating materials and products
CLC/TC 111X Environment
CEN/TC 134 Resilient, textile, laminate and modular mechanical locked floor coverings
CEN/TC 155 Plastics piping systems and ducting systems
CEN/TC 183 Waste management
CEN/TC 207/WG 10 Furniture circularity
CEN/TC 225 AIDC Technologies
CEN/TC 248/WG 39 Circular economy in textile products and the textile chain
CEN/TC 249 Plastics
CEN/TC 254 Flexible sheets for waterproofing
CEN/TC 261 Packaging
CEN/TC 261/SC 4 Environmental aspects in packaging
CEN/TC 319 Maintenance
CEN/TC 350/SC 1 Circular economy in the construction sector

ISO/IEC

ISO/TC 38/WG 35 Environmental aspects
IEC/TC 56 Dependability
ISO/TC 59 Buildings and civil engineering works
ISO/TC 61 Plastics
ISO/TC 82 Mining and ISO/TC 82/SC 7 – Mine closure and reclamation management
IEC/TC 111 Environmental standardization for electrical and electronic products and systems and its ad-hoc group on circular economy
ISO/TC 122 Packaging
ISO/TC 122/SC 4 Packaging and the environment
ISO/TC 176 Quality management and quality assurance
ISO/TC 184 Automation systems and integration
ISO/TC 204 Intelligent transport systems
ISO/TC 207 Environmental management
ISO/TC 224 Service activities relating to drinking water supply wastewater and stormwater systems
ISO/TC 255 Biogas
ISO/TC 282 Water reuse
ISO/TC 287 Sustainable processes for wood and wood-based products
ISO/TC 301 Energy management and energy savings
ISO/TC 308 Chain of custody
ISO/TC 322 Sustainable finance

Strategic bodies

CEN-CENELEC Strategic Advisory Body on Environment (SABE)
CEN-CENELEC Strategic Advisory Body on Environment Circular Economy Topic Group (SABE CE-TG)
CEN-CENELEC Ecodesign Coordination Group (Eco-CG)
CEN-CENELEC Sector forum on energy management and energy transition (SFEM)
CLC-CG Circular plastics

A listing of relevant existing documents at the international, regional and national levels.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of potentially relevant documents:

Legislative framework:

2009/125/EC Ecodesign requirements for energy-related products / Revised Ecodesign ESPR

Digital Product Passport (DPP) Regulation under development

Directive on substantiation and communication of explicit environmental claims (Green Claims Directive)

Mandate M/584 from the European Commission on Plastics recycling and recycled plastics in support of the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

Mandate M/574 from the European Commission on Circular design of fishing gear in support of Directive (EU) 2019/904

Sector/product group specific strategies such as the Strategy for sustainable and circular textiles, Plastics Strategy and Construction Products Regulation may also be of relevance to the proposed CEN/TC on Circular economy.

Standards of importance

International

ISO/DIS 59004 Circular Economy – Terminology, Principles and Guidance for Implementation

ISO/DIS 59010 Circular Economy — Guidance on the transition of business models and value networks

ISO/DIS 59020 Circular economy — Measuring and assessing circularity

ISO/CD 59014 Environmental Management and Circular Economy – Sustainability and traceability of secondary materials recovery– Principles and requirements

ISO/CD 59040 Circular Economy — Product Circularity Data Sheet

ISO 20400:2017 Sustainable procurement – Guidance

ISO 14001 Environmental management systems - Requirements with guidance for use

ISO 14044 Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Requirements and guidelines

ISO/TR 14062 Environmental management - Integrating environmental aspects into product design and development

ISO/IEC 82474-1 Material declaration - Part 1: General requirements

European

EN 50625-1 Collection, logistics & Treatment requirements for WEEE - Part 1: General treatment requirements

EN 50614 Requirements for the preparing for re-use of waste electrical and electronic equipment

EN 17615 Plastics - Environmental Aspects - Vocabulary

EN 4555x-series on material efficiency

National

BS 8001 (2017) Framework for implementing the principles of the circular economy in organizations.

Pr XP X30-901 (2018) Circular economy – management system of circular economy project – Requirements and guidelines

Known patented items

Yes No If "Yes", see CEN-CENELEC Guide 8 and provide full information in an annex

A simple and concise statement identifying and describing relevant affected stakeholder categories (including small and medium sized enterprises) in particular those who are immediately affected from the proposal (see Annexes 1 and 2) and how they will each benefit from or be impacted by the proposed deliverable(s)

Since circular economy is a horizontal matter and the proposed deliverables are applicable in any organization, public or private, regardless of their size, location and field of activity, all types of stakeholder categories are affected.

- Industry and commerce, including small and medium sized enterprises (SME)
- Government
- Consumers
- Labour
- Academic and research bodies
- Non-governmental organisations (NGO),
- Standards application business

Liaisons:

A listing of relevant external European or international organizations or internal parties (other CEN, CENELEC, ETSI, ISO and/or IEC committees) to which a liaison should be established (in the case of ISO and IEC committees via the Vienna or Dresden Agreements).

JTC on DPP (pending approval)
ISO/TC 323 Circular Economy
CEN/CLC JTC 10 Material efficiency aspects for ecodesign

Joint/parallel work:

Possible joint/parallel work with:

- CEN (please specify committee ID)
- CENELEC (please specify committee ID)
- ISO (please specify committee ID) **323**
- IEC (please specify committee ID)
- Other (please specify)

Name of the Proposer

(include contact details)

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An expression of commitment from the proposer to provide the committee secretariat if the proposal succeeds.

In case of acceptance of the proposal, SIS is willing to provide the resources needed to undertake and successfully run the secretariat of the Technical Committee.

Signature of the proposer

Annex(es) are included with this proposal (give details)

Informative Annex 1 "Principal categories of market needs"

- Consumer protection and welfare
- Environment
- Innovation
- Support to:
 - public policy
 - European legislation/regulation
- Market access/barriers to trade, i.e. enhancing the free movement of:
 - services
 - goods
 - people
- Interoperability
- Health/Safety
- Terminology

Informative Annex 2 "Principal categories of stakeholders"

- Industry and commerce,
 - where particularly appropriate, to be identified separately as
 - Large enterprises (those employing 250 staff or more)
 - Small and medium sized enterprises (SME), (those employing 250 staff or fewer)
- Government
- Consumers
 - including those organizations representing interests of specific societal groups, e.g. people with disabilities or those needing other particular consideration)
- Labour
- Academic and research bodies
- Non-governmental organisations (NGO),
 - including organizations representing broad or specific environmental interests
- Standards application business (e.g. testing laboratories, certification bodies)

Sometimes it is valuable also identify the immediate affected stakeholders from industry and commerce in terms of their position in a product value chain, as follows:

- Supplier
- Manufacturer
- Intermediary (e.g. warehousing, transport, sales)
- Service provider
- User of the product or service
- Maintenance / disposal

NOTE: 'Immediately affected stakeholders' are considered to be those who, within the context of the proposal, would be in a position to implement the provisions of the intended standard(s) into their products, services or management practices.