

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000318/25
to the Commission**

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(24 January 2025)

Subject: Harmonised standards for intelligent transport systems under Radio Equipment Directive 2014/53/EU

The European standard ETSI EN 302 571 can be used for assessing the conformity of cooperative intelligent transport systems (C-ITS) equipment to the Radio Equipment Directive ⁽¹⁾. The standard is essential for the EU's C-ITS deployment. Europe is a global leader in vehicle-to-everything (V2X) deployment, as it is serialised in cars and is used in cities by public transport operators and emergency services. The growth potential lies in the fact that such systems are interoperable. It appears that the Commission is intending to withdraw EN 302 571 because it is not 'technology neutral', even at the cost of causing radio interference for existing radio services that serve the public or hindering interoperability.

The European Telecommunications Standards Institute, ETSI, is tasked with delivering standards that promote the EU's policy goals. For C-ITS, it has the mandate to 'prepare a coherent set of standards, specifications and guidelines to support European Community wide implementation and deployment of Cooperative ITS systems'.

1. Does the Commission believe that 'technology neutrality' can be the legal basis for withdrawing a harmonised standard such as EN 302 571 under the Radio Equipment Directive?
2. Is the ETSI EN 303 798 standard compliant with the Radio Equipment Directive, despite it creating harmful interference?
3. Was public money used to draft ETSI EN 303 798?

Submitted: 24.1.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(23 April 2025)

Harmonised standards in support of the Radio Equipment Directive ⁽¹⁾ might be used by manufacturers on a voluntary basis for placing on the EU market purposes.

They aim to ensure compliance with the products' legal requirements and to ensure a level playing field for manufacturers, without prejudice to other EU policies on the deployment of a specific infrastructure.

With regards to the potential delisting of harmonised standard EN 302 571, the Commission is currently discussing the matter with Member States and stakeholders in the relevant expert group. No decision has been taken yet.

As underlined in the Vademecum on European standardisation ⁽²⁾, harmonised standards are expected to be performance based and technology neutral so to avoid to 'unfairly discriminate against certain products, services or economic operators, [...]'.

The standard EN 303 798 is not listed in support of the Radio Equipment Directive and has not been ever offered by European Telecommunications Standards Institute to the Commission in respect to the mandate M/536.

Therefore, it has no legal value as regards the aforementioned Directive. The Commission has not funded the development of the standard EN 303 798.

¹ Directive 2014/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of radio equipment and repealing Directive 1999/5/EC, OJ L 153, 22.5.2014, p. 62, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/53/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2014/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of radio equipment and repealing Directive 1999/5/EC (OJ L 153, 22.5.2014, p. 62-106); ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/53/oj>

⁽²⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/13509/attachments/1/translations>