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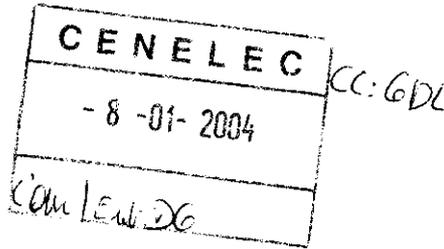
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Single Market : regulatory environment, standardisation and New Approach
Director

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Elena Santiago
European Committee for
Electrotechnical Standardisation
(CENELEC)
35, rue de Stassart
1050 Brussels



Subject: Request to develop a technical specification under Mandate M313

Dear Mrs. Santiago,

In August 2001, the Commission mandated CENELEC and ETSI to prepare standards covering EMC aspects of wire-line telecommunication networks including their in-house extensions, with a view to be harmonized under Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive 89/336/EEC (the EMC Directive).

Due to the inherent complexity of the subject and the apparent divergent views of various stakeholders, no standard has been developed to-date.

In the absence of such standards providing an agreed technical expression for the essential requirements of the EMC Directive for telecommunications networks, these essential requirements may be interpreted differently between Member States.

As a consequence, this regulatory uncertainty may prevent the deployment of alternative telecommunication infrastructures, such as powerline communications.

After having consulted the Member States and considering the results of experiments performed to-date, the Commission is of the opinion that a cautious and controlled roll-out of powerline communication infrastructure with close interference reporting should be encouraged.

In order to achieve this goal, the Commission intends to issue a recommendation on broadband communications through powerlines. One of the objectives of this recommendation will be to make available to the European Standardisation Organisations any relevant data with respect to conducted and radiated disturbance levels, interference problems and unwanted emission levels related to powerline communications networks. This approach will allow the gathering of necessary data in order for CENELEC and ETSI to converge towards the development of a stable and widely accepted standard.

This recommendation needs to be based on a sound technical specification reflecting the current state of the art of telecommunication networks, and in particular, powerline communications networks. This technical specification should be based on the technical work performed to-date by the Joint Working Group set up by CENELEC and ETSI in the framework of the mandate M/313 issued by the Commission.

Therefore, the Commission requests CENELEC and ETSI to:

- Define a technical specification providing test methods and limits for radiated disturbance (and possibly consistent conducted disturbances limits) compatible with state of the art powerline communication infrastructure. This technical specification should be made available by 31/03/2004
- Take due account of the data made available by the Member States during the deployment and operation of such networks, if and when proposing to revise the technical specification and proposing a standard for harmonisation.

Yours sincerely,



E. Vardakas

c.c.: MM. Mingasson, Colasanti, Langenheine, Montoya, Scott, Anselmann
Bogers, Koolen, Brefort