

Title	From the workplace to design and back: the commitment of Trade Unions in the enlarged Europe
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Brief Introduction	<p>I am delighted to have the opportunity to speak today at the 2nd European Conference on standardization, testing and certification in the field of occupational safety and health: it is a privilege to join this outstanding panel. Let me thank the organisers for the invitation, but also for their dedication and support.</p> <p>We trade unions follow with much attention the Euroshnet efforts to coordinate OH&S institutions in the field of standardization: Euroshnet's vision reflects the clear message sent out by the Lisbon Strategy: the competitiveness of the EU relies not only on markets and power, but also on people and democracy, because the social dimension is an integral part of a functioning market economy. From another angle, standardization is both a technical and social matter, as production – in all its aspects – must serve human well-being.</p> <p>The topics of this Conference – the connection between European directives and harmonised standards, as well as European and international standardization – have always been on the agenda of the ETUI-REHS since its creation 15 years ago. We have always considered standardization to be the privileged arena for dialogue between market and trade players, authorities, and social partners. As many of you are probably aware, for the past ten years our focus has been on the dialogue between designers and users of work equipment.</p>