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Hydrogen technologies

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Background: This is the fourth in a series of interviews with the Chair of ISO/TC 197 conducted by Karen (Hall) Quackenbush. This article deals with the relation between TC 197 and the development of European standards.

The other interviews can be found in documents N 740, N 741 and N 755.

All of the articles were published in the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Safety Report that is published by the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association.

Committee URL: http://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink/open/tc197

Interview with ISO/TC 197 Chair: Europe forms Technical Committee to address Gaps in Standardization

By Karen Quackenbush, FCHEA

In this fourth installment of FCHEA's "Interview with the ISO/TC 197 Chairman" series of articles, Dr. Andrei V. Tchouvelev describes a new initiative in European Standardization, which has an important relationship with ISO/TC 197.

"The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), are forming a new cross-cutting Technical Committee – CEN-CLC/TC 6 – to address areas not currently covered by other European and ISO activities", Dr. Tchouvelev explained. "A previous announcement on the subject anticipated the TC would be CEN/TC 446, however the CEN Sector Forum Energy Management WG 'Hydrogen' – a strategic-type forum that maps out H2 activities including Power-to-Hydrogen (P2H), recently announced a change", he stated. "The first meeting of the new CEN-CLC/TC 6 'Hydrogen' is intended to be held on June 9th and 10th in Brussels", Dr. Tchouvelev reported.

I asked ISO/TC 197 Chair Andrei V. Tchouvelev to summarize the relevance of the formation of this new European Technical Committee on hydrogen in relation to the activities of ISO/TC 197.

"ISO/TC 197 currently enjoys a direct connection with CEN/TC268/WG 5, which serves as a true mirror committee to our international activities under the Vienna Agreement and currently carries the European Commission (EC) mandate (M533) in the context of the implementation of the European Union (EU) Alternative Fuels Infrastructure (AFI) Directive", Dr. Tchouvelev noted. "While this relationship is perfect for ISO/TC 197, it is somewhat inconvenient for our European P-members – national ISO/TC 197 mirror committees. ", he continued. "Historically, CEN/TC 268 covers cryogenic vessels, while specific hydrogen technologies applications have been added to the scope only recently to address the above-mentioned EC mandate M533 via a newly formed WG5. As CEN/TC 268 is comprised of experts in cryogenic vessels, it has been somewhat difficult for some European national ISO/TC 197 mirror committees to provide input for voting on hydrogen documents unrelated to cryogenic vessels since there is no direct established link between those national ISO/TC 197 mirror committees and CEN/TC268/WG5", Dr. Tchouvelev observed. "Although this situation is outside direct control of ISO/TC 197, we will try to improve this situation working directly with individual European national standardization bodies."

"The new CEN-CLC/TC 6 is a rare, joint CEN/CENELEC Technical Committee which will cover standardization issues in areas not presently covered by existing standardization efforts, such as for example Power-to-Hydrogen, blended fuels

(H2NG), multifuel fueling stations, terminology and metrology – to mention the topics relevant to ISO/TC 197", he advised.

When asked what opportunities this new CEN-CENELEC activities can present to the international community, Dr. Tchouvelev offered that "I don't think many people are aware of how important this new effort is in the global hydrogen standardization scheme", Dr. Tchouvelev commented. "There is mutual respect between the leadership of CEN and ISO which makes it possible for CEN-CLC/TC 6, CEN/TC268/WG5 and ISO/TC 197 to develop a harmonized win-win relationship playing to the strengths and competences of each party under the Vienna Agreement. On one hand, it will allow to fully address hydrogen technologies standardization under ISO/TC 197 leadership with CEN/TC268/WG5 serving as the CEN mirror committee for ISO/TC 197. On the other, it will help to fully investigate the field of Power-to-Hydrogen and other areas that are not quite in the scope of existing efforts under CEN-CLC/TC 6 leadership with ISO/TC 197 providing support in relevant areas", he continued. "Such relevant efforts initiated in and led by CEN with ISO/TC 197 participation may be brought back to ISO/TC 197, for parallel voting and publication of ISO International Standards". "In addition", Dr. Tchouvelev noted, "pre-normative research has been an integral part of this discussion – not just standardization. If this is supported by stakeholders willing to develop and fund pre-normative activities, this could be very beneficial". Dr. Tchouvelev concluded.

About CEN:
CEN provides a platform for the development of European Standards and other technical documents. CEN works closely with the European Commission to ensure that standards correspond with any relevant EU legislation. CEN cooperates with ISO to reach agreement on common standardization needs that can be applied worldwide.

About the Vienna Agreement:
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The Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN
(Vienna Agreement)
The Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement) is an agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN). Formally approved on 27 June 1991 in Vienna by the CEN Administrative Board following its approval by the ISO Executive Board at its meeting on 16 and 17 May 1991 in Geneva, it replaced the Agreement on exchange of technical information between ISO and CEN" (Lisbon Agreement) concluded in 1989. The 'codified' Vienna Agreement was approved by ISO Council and the CEN Administrative Board in 2001.
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