

**EURAS Workgroup “Standards and Conflict Resolution” (SCR),**

organized by

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**Version of July 5, 2006:** On the occasion of the last membership meeting of the European Academy for Standardization (EURAS) it was agreed that workgroups on selected topics will be organized in order to intensify research and communication. If you are interested to participate in the EURAS Workgroup on "Standards and Conflict Resolution" (SCR), please send an e-mail to Manfred J. Holler ([holler@econ.uni-hamburg.de](mailto:holler@econ.uni-hamburg.de)).

Please add further topics to the following (very preliminary) list:

1. When and what kind of standards reduce conflicts (or the potential for conflicts) or lead to conflicts? – Can we describe categories for the one or the other type of standards?
2. How do standardization bodies such as CEN, CENELEC, ISO, IEC and ITU handle conflicts? – To what extent is voting a means of conflict resolution in these organizations?
3. How do mechanisms of conflict resolution (such as mediation, arbitration and bargaining) apply to conflicts in standardization? – Is there empirical material?
4. Are standards the source of “conflicts of interest” or “conflicts of misperception”?
5. Can we observe significant interaction between politics and standardization and what is the “logic” of it? – Are there cases which illustrate this relationship?

Comment on item 2 by *Peter Walsh*: “One area of specific interest is an extension of item 2 associated with the issue of conflict resolution during the process of developing standards. The dynamics of this do vary between

- the international/regional bodies, where single national views are expected, and
- national bodies where there are a range of stakeholders involved who often has quite opposing views.

In my view, the conflict resolution process involved in national standards bodies, be it to do with development of national standards or the formulation of national positions on international standards, is a “truer form” of conflict resolution. - *You are invited to respond.*