

Brexit 'meaningful vote' delayed

BSI's membership status in CEN and CENELEC unaffected by no deal Brexit

Prime Minister Theresa May announced this week that the 'meaningful vote' – the vote to determine the future direction of Brexit – has been delayed until Tuesday 12 March. Further announcements were also made regarding what will happen should this vote be rejected by Parliament. If the 'meaningful vote' is rejected, the Prime Minister has offered two further votes: one to rule out a 'no deal' Brexit and one to request an extension to Article 50 that would delay UK exit.

We will have more clarity on the manner of the UK's exit following the vote, but no matter the circumstances after exit, whether on 29 March or another date, BSI will continue to be a full member of CEN and CENELEC.

BSI experts will still be entitled, as now, to participate in CEN and CENELEC technical committees while BSI will continue to enjoy full voting rights in both organizations' decision-making bodies.

There will be a transition period for the CEN and CENELEC statutes beginning on the date of UK exit, during which they will be reviewed with a view to BSI's permanent full membership from the end of the period in December 2020. If the exit date of 29 March is altered by Parliament and Article 50 extended, our membership of CEN and CENELEC will remain unchanged, however the end of the transition period will remain the same.

BSI's position enjoys overwhelming support among UK stakeholders. UK manufacturers, service providers, trade associations, consumer bodies and others have been clear and consistent in their message that they want to continue to work within the European standards system, influencing the content of the standards used in common across 34 countries in Europe, and that the continued membership of BSI in CEN and CENELEC is therefore critical.

Should a 'no deal' Brexit be the outcome, preparations are taking place across government to ensure regulatory continuity will be maintained. This includes both the designation of standards to support regulations under the UK regulatory model that will replicate the EUs' New Legislative Framework and the introduction of a new UK regulatory mark that will be required to be affixed to products or their packaging. The role of the UK mark will be to support the authorities and provide clarity to manufacturers placing products on the market in the UK post-Brexit – but only in the case that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Further information is available on the BSI [Brexit and standards webpage](#).

For any specific query, please contact the BSI Brexit and standards team using europeanpolicy@bsigroup.com.