



DRAFT FOR INFORMATION

COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISO AND EASC

The parties to this Agreement are:

The **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**, at Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland,

and

The **Euro-Asian Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC)** at Melezha str, 3-801, PO box 566, Minsk, 220113, Republic of Belarus

Considering ISO/Council Resolution 26/1992 relating to cooperation with regional standards organizations,

ISO, represented by its Secretary-General, Mr. Sergio Mujica and EASC, represented by its Chairman, Mr. Arman Shakkaliyev, have agreed to the following:

1. Basis for cooperation

This Cooperation Agreement (the "Agreement") aims to strengthen the cooperation between ISO and its members that are members of EASC and to support the practical realization of the following objectives for the mutual benefit of both organizations:

- Strengthen the support of ISO international standardization activities and improve the ability of EASC's members that are members of ISO to participate in these activities effectively;
- Encourage the adoption of ISO standards as regional standards by the members of EASC that are also members of ISO in a manner that is compliant with the ISO policy on copyright and sales (POCOSA).
- Improve the quality and capacity of standardization in economies of the region;
- Reduce the risk of duplication of work in such a way that expert knowledge is effectively focused and used in the interests of international and interstate standardization;
- Support free and fair trade within the region and with economies in other regions;
- Support improvement of economic efficiency and development of the region through the promotion of standardization; and
- Interact with other bodies that represent elements of the standardization technical infrastructure such as industry, consumers and government.

2. General exchange of information at the Secretariat level

The ISO Central Secretariat shall provide the EASC Secretariat with access to the following documents:

- The ISO Strategy and ISO Action Plan for developing Countries (APDC) and their yearly implementation plans, as well as other general policy documents;
- Via the ISO web site, the ISO technical work programme indicating states of progress;
- Proposals for new fields of technical activity;
- Meeting reports prepared for CASCO, COPOLCO, DEVCO and REMCO meetings.

The EASC Secretary shall regularly issue to the ISO Central Secretariat:

- The directory of EASC members;
- The EASC Action Plan indicating its work programme with states of progress and target dates;
- Resolutions of EASC and the EASC General Assembly, linked to standardization and conformity assessment activities; and
- Access to the EASC website.

Further exchange of available general information shall be possible subject to agreement between the EASC Secretary and the ISO Central Secretariat.

3. Representation at annual meetings

Under this Agreement, ISO has a standing invitation to attend and report on key ISO initiatives at the annual EASC meeting, and EASC has a standing invitation to attend and report on key EASC activities at the annual ISO General Assembly. The ISO Central Secretariat and the EASC Secretariat may indicate a designee from among their officers to fulfil this role as necessary.

4. EASC members' participation in and use of ISO technical work

EASC commits to encourage its members, through an adequate level of membership, to actively participate in ISO technical work relevant to their national interests. In addition, EASC commits to encourage its members that are also ISO members to promote the use of ISO standards either directly or via national adoption (where appropriate), taking into account the implementation of the policy for the distribution of ISO publications and the protection of ISO's copyright (ISO POCOSA in its latest version).

5. Additional areas for cooperation and contribution

In addition to the above, EASC encourages its members that are also ISO members to contribute to the following ISO activities:

- Studies on the economic and social benefits of standardization;
- Innovative areas of new ISO standardization work;
- Cooperation between ISO and IEC;
- Promotion of the benefits of standardization and conformity assessment;
- Understanding the relationships between ISO standards and technical regulations;
- Support the capacity building of standardization and conformity assessment infrastructures and technical assistance in developing countries;
- Enhancing the participation of developing countries in ISO technical work;
- Development of ISO information technology tools supporting standards development;
- Education and training programmes related to standardization and conformity assessment.

When relevant, EASC may organize regional awareness-building and cooperation on the above issues and invite ISO to engage with EASC as relevant.

6. Implementation, amendment and duration of this agreement

The implementation of this agreement shall be monitored by the ISO Secretary General and the EASC Secretary General, who shall issue progress reports to their appropriate governance groups at regular intervals. This agreement may be terminated for any reason with three months prior written notice by either EASC or ISO.

The term of this Agreement will be for 2 years from the date of the last signature. It may be renewed subject to the mutual agreement of both EASC and ISO.

7. Dispute settlement

In the event of a dispute, or controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Cooperation agreement, or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof, ISO and EASC will use their best efforts to resolve the dispute through direct negotiation, including through escalation to a consultation between the ISO Secretary General and the EASC Secretary-General, or their respective representatives. Both parties commit to give full and sympathetic consideration to any proposal for amicable settlement from each other.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, duly authorized representatives of the respective parties, have signed this cooperation agreement in the English language, in two (2) originals.

Sergio Mujica
ISO Secretary General

Date:

Place:

Arman Shakkaliyev
EASC Chairman

Date:

Place:

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