

International and regional items of interest for February 2020 are as follows:

1. WTO Members discuss LDC technology transfer, highlight progress on transparency obligations
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2. WTO and World Bank showcase updated version of Services Trade Policy Database Smart Grids For Europe: CEN, CENELEC and E.DSO sign a Partnership Agreement
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3. WTO members advance new Aid for Trade work programme, host workshop on rural economy
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ISO items of interest for February 2020 are as follows:

1. New Work Item Proposal for Consumer Incident Investigation Guideline
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2. Capitalizing on Human Capital: International Guidance on Competence Management Just Updated
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3. Keeping Biometric Data on the Same Page with New International Standards
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IEC items of interest for February 2020 are as follows:

1. Free webinar on Circular Economy
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2. New year, new tech and a new Secretary General and CEO at the helm of the IEC
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* For further information about any article please email: mail@standards.org.au

International

1. [Members discuss LDC technology transfer, highlight progress on transparency obligations](#)

At the meeting of the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on 6 February, WTO members continued last year's detailed discussions on how best to implement the Agreement's obligations relating to technology transfer to least developed countries (LDCs). Members also noted the positive impact of the new e-TRIPS platform in increasing notification efforts and facilitating the fulfilment of transparency obligations

Learn more [here](#).

2. [Smart Grids for Europe: CEN, CENELEC and E.DSO Signed a Partnership Agreement](#)

The Agreement aims at facilitating the collaboration between CEN and CENELEC, two of the officially recognised European Standardization Organizations, and E.DSO, the interface between Europe's Distribution System Operators (DSOs) and the European institutions. The objective is to ensure an appropriate exchange of knowledge as well as high quality and consensus-based support in the delivery of standards for the large-scale development of smart grid technologies.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [WTO members advance new Aid for Trade work programme, host workshops on rural economy](#)

WTO members moved closer to finalizing the new Aid for Trade (AfT) work programme for 2020-2021 at a meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development dedicated to AfT on 11 February 2020. Delegations also discussed at a workshop how Aid for Trade can help support rural economic transformation. Members welcomed the draft Aid for Trade work programme for 2020-2021, entitled "Empowering Connected, Sustainable Trade", tabled by the chair, Ambassador Chad Blackman of Barbados. He invited delegations to help finalize the biennial work plan, with the objective of agreeing to it ahead of the General Council's next meeting on 3 March. Updates by the Enhanced Integrated Framework, the Standards and Trade Development Facility and the International Trade Centre on Aid for Trade activities were warmly welcomed by members.

Learn more [here](#).

ISO

1. [New Work Item Proposal for Consumer Incident Investigation Guideline](#)

A proposal to establish a new ISO project committee on consumer incident investigation guidelines has been submitted by COPOLCO (ISO). ISO member bodies are invited to review and vote on the proposal.

Consumer incidents are incidents where consumers suffer physical injury or death in the process of using products, services, facilities or the things related to them. Consumer incident investigation means an investigation aiming to prevent incident recurrence, and to contribute to the safety of consumers.

To learn more about the proposal or provide feedback, please contact us at sem@standards.org.au.

2. [Capitalizing on Human Capital: International Guidance on Competence Management Just Updated](#)

Ensuring people have the right skills for the job is a key element of an organization's success. A recently revised and revamped International Standard will help integrate competence management into its daily work.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [Keeping Biometric Data on the Same Page with New International Standards](#)

Biometric data interchange formats provide the common language that allows for interoperability between different biometric technologies. As the field of applications has grown to give rise to different generations of such formats, so too has the need to ensure they are all compatible with one another. New International Standards have just been published that help to do just that.

Learn more [here](#).

IEC

1. [IEC Webinar on Circular Economy](#)

A new economic model is emerging that re-evaluates our current approach to production and consumption. It is based on circular mechanisms in which products and materials can be reused, repaired, refurbished, remanufactured and, ultimately, recycled. The IEC will host a free webinar to help better understand the circular economy and material efficiency and their impact on the development of standards. Members of the IEC ACEA will explain why the circular economy and material efficiency are important for the technical standardization work of IEC.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [Looking to the future: New year, new tech and a new Secretary General and CEO at the help of IEC.](#)

At the beginning of the year, we bade farewell to Frans Vreeswijk who held the position of Secretary General and CEO of the IEC for the past eight years. During his time at the IEC, Vreeswijk worked tirelessly to raise the organization's visibility and create new opportunities for cooperation. He is succeeded by Philippe Metzger, whose previous positions include that of Director General of the Swiss Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM). Metzger, who was appointed by the IEC Council, brings to the IEC his solid leadership skills and strong vision for driving the organization forward.

Learn more [here](#).

Please contact SEM@standards.org.au for comments or further questions.