

WORKSHOP # 3

“EUROPEAN QUALITY BRAND”

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Reminder: last workshop

- We thought that CE marking would afford some protection against low quality products. We know today that this was never the intention behind CE marking
- So our industry continues to be exposed to low cost, low quality products offering inferior performance
- In Europe we do have voluntary and CE marking, but are they adequate?

Proposition : to develop a European quality mark for ARGE members managed by Arge based or not on the CEN standard

Workshop output:

1. A European quality mark could provide an advantage to our members
2. ARGE could be the adapted organization to manage that quality mark?
3. It could be based on CEN standard, with more highest level of performance and/or more criteria of performance
4. **It is a strategic project which require more investigation and a business case**

ARGE BOARD ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

1. To invest in a new European quality marks requires a huge investment during many Years.

As an example: the US association BHMA who develops a quality brand for the north American Area, which use the same language, invested ~300 000 \$ to push that private label.



Are our members ready to make this financial Effort ?

2. According to the low engagement shown by our members on the workshop, (only one registration to the current workshop in Salzburg), **We feel that our members are not ready yet to invest time and money on that project.**

3. To have a better knowledge of quality brands in Europe, **we propose to start a small study, and we will ask you for collecting data.**

MAP OF QUALITY BRANDS IN ARGE COUNTRIES (1ST DRAFT)

		1. handles	2. Hinges	3. Window fittings	4. Shutter hardw.	5. Door closers	6. Sliding door gear	7. Glass door gear	8. Locks	9. Locking cylinders	10. Padlocks	11. Push button l.	12. Panic exit dev.	13. Elmech prod.	14. Letter boxes	
Denemark																
Norway																
Finland	SFS 7020								X	X	X					anti bulgary
Sweden	SS 3522	X							X	X				X		anti bulgary
France	NF - A2P	X	X		X	X			X	X			X	X		
Netherland	SKG	X	X	X					X	X	X		X	X		anti bulgary
UK	Kitmark - SbD - Sold secure									X	X					anti bulgary
Germany	VDS									X						anti bulgary
Switzerland	VDS									x						anti bulgary
Austria	VDS									x						anti bulgary
Italy																
Belgium																
Spain																
Tchech rep																
Poland																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	

We need your help to make up that map of national quality brands

CONCLUSION

1. European Hardware industry is not ready to invest in European quality brand.
2. ARGE propose to provide on the next Congress a more complete study of national quality brand in Europe, with the help of national associations.

If Yes, ARGE will sent to national association a small questionnaire on national quality brands.