



COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE
PRESS RELEASE

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BEUC and ANEC Statement on Toy Safety

BEUC and ANEC welcome the European Commission's aim to revise the Toy Safety Directive. Consumer organisations across Europe have, for a long time, been calling for the directive to be adapted to the toys which are currently on the market and which are very different from the toys that were on sale in 1988.

We will consider the proposal very closely, but at first glance we can already see several important deficiencies.

First, on the issue of dangerous chemical substances: although the proposal contains a prohibition of CMRs (substances which are carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic) it only refers to the accessible parts of toys, and foresees exceptions which would make it easy to get around this prohibition. Furthermore, there are no measures foreseen for other problematic substances, such as endocrine disruptors.

Secondly, we consider that the list of allergens to be prohibited in toys is not exhaustive; it only covers some fragrances, despite the fact that many other substances can also provoke allergies.

We regret that the precautionary principle¹ has not been included as a basic principle of the directive, and that more flexibility has not been foreseen in order to make it possible to adapt the directive quickly to emerging risks.

Finally, we emphasise once again our concerns regarding CE marking, which consumers wrongly believe to be a safety label. We want CE marking to be used solely in the accompanying technical documentation meant for the market surveillance authorities and for it no longer to be placed on the toys themselves or their packaging.

Stephen Russell, the ANEC Secretary-General, commented: "The new directive is a step in the right direction but warnings and labels are no substitute for requiring a manufacturer to put safe toys on the market".

Monique Goyens, BEUC Director General added: "We support the Commission's objective to address the problem of dangerous toys but we need much stricter rules, particularly concerning chemical substances in toys."

¹ According to which a product can be removed from the market if there are suspicions that it could be dangerous