



## Press Release: The EU needs a strategy on fire safety

24 November 2016

ANEC-PR-2016-PRL-011

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**ANEC agrees on the need for a coordinated approach to fire safety in the EU as expressed in a call today from a wide-ranging alliance of stakeholders. Nevertheless, we believe such an holistic strategy also needs to foresee closing the gaps that exist in legislation addressing hazardous chemicals in products relevant to consumers.**

Today saw the publication of a [call for action for an EU fire-safety strategy](#), signed by several stakeholders under the leadership of Fire Safe Europe. ANEC welcomes the initiative and congratulates Fire Safe Europe for taking the lead in defining the policies that need to be coordinated in an holistic way to achieve better fire safety at European level.

ANEC Secretary-General, Stephen Russell, remarked, "All consumers should benefit from common essential safety requirements across Europe, with risk assessment ensuring that measures are proportionate and appropriate. Further to our call for an holistic strategy for sustainable construction<sup>1</sup>, we have been seeking legislation in the area of (tourism) service safety for several years now. Our view<sup>2</sup> is that staff training, fire safety management and emergency planning are particular aspects that need to be strengthened in any fresh regulatory approach. Market surveillance and enforcement is also crucial".

Moreover, ANEC stresses a systematic approach to address hazardous chemicals in products relevant to consumers<sup>3</sup> becomes even more urgent in the debate on sustainable and safe buildings. Going beyond the paper issued today, ANEC believes that a comprehensive discussion on how to avoid toxic flame retardants and to find safer substitutes is necessary, especially where safety cannot be ensured otherwise e.g. by using materials which are inherently fireproof.

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<sup>1</sup> [ANEC position paper 'Laying the foundations for sustainable buildings'](https://goo.gl/WPfybg) (<https://goo.gl/WPfybg>)

<sup>2</sup> [ANEC Response to Green Paper: Safety of Tourism Accommodation Services](https://goo.gl/Lzloay) (<https://goo.gl/Lzloay>)

<sup>3</sup> [ANEC position paper: "Hazardous chemicals in products - The need for enhanced EU regulations"](https://goo.gl/gUpWkt) (<https://goo.gl/gUpWkt>)

## About ANEC

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ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending consumer interests in the processes of technical standardisation and conformity assessment, as well as related legislation and public policies.

ANEC was established in 1995 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law and is open to the representation of national consumer organisations in 33 countries.

ANEC is funded by the European Union and EFTA, with national consumer organisations contributing in kind. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels.



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ANEC is supported financially by the European Union & EFTA

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