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The European consumer voice in standardisation

ANEC REPRESENTS CONSUMER INTERESTS in standardisation and certification, also in policy and legislation related to standardisation. Our aim is a high level of consumer protection.



ANEC EMBRACES CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS from all EU Member States and the three European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries. Our General Assembly is composed of one national member per country.

ANEC WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1995 as an international non-profit association. ANEC is co-funded by the European Commission and EFTA. National consumer organisations contribute in kind.



Strive for safety and quality

ANEC HELPS to make products and services safer and to improve their accessibility, performance, and environmental aspects.

THE BRUSSELS BASED SECRETARIAT co-ordinates a network of more than 200 consumer experts across Europe. Our experts contribute directly to more than 70 technical and political committees in European and international standardisation.

OUR AREAS OF PRIORITY are: Child Safety, Safety of Domestic Appliances, Design for All, the Information Society, the Environment, Services and Traffic Safety.

RESEARCH IS KEY: ANEC needs to argue from the basis of established facts. The research we commission reflects our priorities and is designed by the Working Groups in the seven areas of priority.



Your interest is our objective

CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN STANDARDISATION is important. Consumers are the ones that are most affected by the standards at the end of the process. Consumers counterbalance the industry view. Goods and services based on standards developed with consumer participation are more easily accepted in the marketplace. Last but not least, in the European Union, standards complement legislation. Consumers ensure that the public interest is taken into account.



INFLUENCING EUROPEAN POLICIES requires networking with members of the European institutions. ANEC elaborates position papers on issues of consumer interests related to standardisation and inputs them into the process. Our website and monthly newsletter offer information and briefings on on-going work and recent developments.



What is a standard?

STANDARDS AFFECT US ALL every day and everywhere. They can help make our lives easier and the products we buy safer. Standardisation is not just about product safety, conformity and harmonisation. It also addresses new areas such as the environment, services and e-commerce. Standards deal with a variety of issues, for example, ensuring that a washing machine cannot be opened during operation, or that credit cards have the same basic features and can be used everywhere.

STANDARDS ARE DOCUMENTS elaborated by standardisation bodies and stakeholders on a consensus basis. They are voluntary in application and provide technical rules and guidelines for products and processes.

IN THE EU, UNDER THE NEW APPROACH to technical harmonisation, European standards complement legislation. The European legislator restricts himself to define the essential safety requirements. The technical solution is left to standard makers. Thus, standardisation has a regulatory role.

Spotlights

ANEC DEALS WITH A WIDE RANGE of products and services: toasters, toys, postal services, machine readable cards, baby walkers, e-signature, lighters, printers, to name a few.



CORDS ON CHILDREN'S CLOTHES Fatal accidents have occurred in playgrounds, caused by cords and drawstrings in the head and neck area of children's garments. These have a high potential for causing strangulation incidents. Thanks to ANEC's contribution, the final standard bans their use in the head and neck area on clothes for children up to the age of seven.

CAR SAFETY ANEC calls for tougher standards on back seat safety. The 2003 ANEC crash test illustrated that split foldable rear seats are rarely strong enough to fully withstand the force from luggage placed in the boot of a car.





DESIGN FOR ALL It is a basic consumer right to have access to products and services. Discrimination exists if older people and people with disabilities cannot use today's mainstream consumer products and services. ANEC calls for the implementation of CEN/CENELEC Guide 6 providing guidelines for standard-makers on how to address the needs of older people and people with disabilities.

SMART HOUSES combine home automation, communication network and intelligent control. ANEC welcomes their potential for increased safety, convenience, security and energy savings for most consumers. Standards must ensure the ease of installation and operation, safety, accessibility and interoperability.

Your participation matters

ANEC depends on the contribution of experts who volunteer and dedicate their knowledge and time to defend the interest of consumers in standardisation and certification.



**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CO-ORDINATION
OF CONSUMER REPRESENTATION IN STANDARDISATION**

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