

6th EU Research Framework Programme launched

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On 11 November 2002, European Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin opened the "Research 2002" conference, which marks the start of the 6th EU Research Framework Programme (FP6 2003-2006).

With 9,000 participants, "Research 2002" was the biggest event of this kind ever organised in Europe. FP 6 provides a total research budget of 17,5 billion EURO until 2006. The first calls for proposals will be published shortly.



The conference brought together more than 9,000 participants from 61 countries, of whom more than 1000 from Candidate Countries. A total of 142 research projects and 65 research organisations were on exhibition, and the conference attracted over 300 journalists. 81 scientific events were organised by the participants themselves. 200 speakers, including 20 ministers, Nobel laureates and many business executives and policy-makers, addressed EU research policy with its three pillars.

With a 17% increase and an innovative approach, the main focus of FP6 is to create the European Research Area (ERA). Its prime Objective is to enhance greater integration of research efforts and capacities across Europe. While ensuring a number of traditional actions of the previous framework programme, FP 6 is structured around three targets: concentrating and integrating European research, structuring the ERA and strengthening its foundations. 85 % of the entire budget will be allocated to the first target and seven priority fields. These are 1. Life Science, Genomics and Biotechnology for Health; 2. Information Society Technologies; 3. Nanotechnologies, Materials and Production Processes; 4. Aeronautics and Space; 5. Food Safety and Quality; 6. Sustainable Development and 7. Citizens and Governance in a knowledge-based society. These seven fields are supposed to have a great potential in the context of the over arching objective of the European Union, namely to establish a knowledge-based globally competitive economy and society.

For more information on the 6th Framework Programme:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/index_en.html

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Council Resolution on Commission's Consumer Policy Strategy 2002-2006

At the Council Meeting on 2nd December 2002 in Brussels, EU Ministers responsible for Consumer Affairs expressed their political support to the Commission's new Consumer Policy Strategy 2002-2006 as submitted in May this year. In their resolution, Member States urged the Commission to ensure the effective application of the rules recommended to protect consumers and promote the participation of consumers' associations in various EU policies. Member States call on the Commission to ensure its activities give priority to defining suitable guidelines and standards in the context of the Directive on general product safety, presenting a review of the potential options for dealing with the issue of secure services and preparing sector-specific EU legislation on safety issues, such as new measures for chemicals.

The Council Resolution also refers to standardisation and urges the Commission and Member States to ensure consumer participation in standardisation, both at European and national level. In addition, the resolution mentions the need to improve consumer representation in international standardisation.

New ISO Secretary-General



Alan Bryden, currently Director General of France's national standardisation institute, AFNOR, has been appointed Secretary-General of ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation). Alan Bryden was born in 1945. He graduated from the *École Polytechnique* in Paris and has a diploma in further studies in nuclear physics. Alan Bryden is Director General of AFNOR since October 1999 and in this capacity serves on the Councils of both ISO and CEN. Between 1981 and 1999, Alan Bryden was Director General of one of France's leading establishments for metrology, testing and certification. During this period, he founded Eurolab (the European Federation of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories) and

served as its first President from 1990 to 1996. He also chaired the Laboratories Committee of ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation). He began his career in metrology, notably with the USA's National Bureau of Standards (today the National Institute of Standards and Technology), after which he held different responsibilities in the fields of quality and the rational use of energy. He was Vice-President of the first Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade in GATT, which has since become the World Trade Organization (WTO). Alan Bryden takes up the post of ISO Secretary-General on 1 March 2003.

SOLVIT

A conference to promote the SOLVIT problem solving network took place in Brussels on 30 October 2002. SOLVIT has been set up to help solve problems that are caused to citizens and businesses by the misapplication of Internal Market Rules by public administrations in another Member State. Examples of the problems faced by citizens and businesses that SOLVIT could deal with include: voting rights, social security, car registration, recognition of professional qualifications, market access of goods and services, public procurement, taxation, establishment of a company, setting up as self-employed, etc.



SOLVIT represents an informal and pragmatic approach to problem solving. It seeks to ensure that Internal Market benefits can be enjoyed as intended without the need for legal action. Often, cases can be resolved more quickly through SOLVIT than through more formal proceedings. The deadline within which cases should be resolved is ten weeks, although this can be extended by four weeks in exceptional cases. In order to ensure the effectiveness of SOLVIT it is essential that these deadlines be respected. The Commission

will monitor the performance of the SOLVIT Centres, which will help create pressure to speed up problem resolution. The system is free of charge.

For further details see: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/solvit/index_en.htm

Child Safety

Child Resistant Lighters

Following a failed resolution, the CEN Technical Board at its November meeting discussed the issue of child resistant cigarette lighters. There is currently a discussion going on whether or not luxury lighters should be included in the revision of the European standard EN 13869:2002 "*child resistance for lighters – safety requirements and test methods*". To date, this standard only covers disposable lighters (up to 2€). ANEC members do not see any reason why luxury lighters should not have to comply with the same requirements as disposable lighters. Even though being a luxury item, they are just as likely to be left around where children can grasp them as cheaper ones. Equally, luxury lighters are even more likely to have a child-appealing design than disposables, in particular table lighters are more likely to be accessible to children than pocket lighters. The matter has been transferred to CEN/BT TCMG on 17 December 2002, where ANEC will defend its position.

EU Expected to Sign Convention on Rights of Children

On 2 October 2002, the European Commission adopted a proposal for the European Community to sign the Council of Europe's Convention on contact concerning children. The Council of Europe, which plays an important role in developing common standards and improving justice, adopted the Convention on contact concerning children on 3 May 2002. The Convention sets out general principles, safeguards and guarantees to ensure the proper exercise of contact orders for children and to establish co-operation between central and judicial authorities on a national and international level. It was opened for signature in Strasbourg on 14 October 2002 at the 6th European Conference on family law. The Commission's proposal is currently before the Council of Ministers.

Design for All

ANEC Design For All Working Group Meeting

The ANEC Design for All Working Group held its bi-annual meeting in Brussels on 12 November 2002. The discussion focussed on the activities with which ANEC would contribute to the European Year of Disabled Citizens 2003. It was decided to revise and update the ANEC Policy Statement on Design for All Standardisation. The policy statement will be launched at the Open Meeting of the next **ANEC General Assembly on 4 June 2003** that will equally be dedicated to the challenge of modern standards based on the Design for All principle. To date, most standards for mainstream products and services have not addressed the needs of consumers who are older or disabled. But it is a basic consumer right to have access to and usability of domestic products and services.

European Year of Disabled Persons Launched



The European Year of People with Disabilities

On Thursday 14 November 2002, a number of international organisations have launched "The European Year of people with disabilities 2003" in Aachen, Germany. During the launch, more than 1000 representatives from several Member States called to strive against discrimination of disabled people. The organisations are in favour of a European law, which should give equal opportunities to these people on the job market.

The official start of the European Year of disabled persons will be on 2 January 2003 in Athens. The theme will be "Nothing about us without us". In the EU, there are approximately 40 million people with disabilities.

Domestic Appliances

Conference on Energy Efficiency in Domestic Appliances – Turin, September 2003

Following two successful conferences in 1997 and 2000, "EEDAL'03" will provide a forum to discuss and debate the latest developments in energy and environmental impact of domestic appliances and lighting, the policies and programmes adopted and planned, as well as the technical and commercial advances in the dissemination and penetration of energy-efficient domestic appliances. The three-day conference will include plenary sessions where representatives of governments and international organisations, manufacturing industry and academia will present their views and programmes to advance energy efficiency in domestic appliances. Parallel sessions on specific themes and topics will allow in-depth discussions among participants. The conference will be organised by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. Abstracts for the conference are due by 31 January 2003. More information on the conference can be found on <http://energyefficiency.jrc.cec.eu.int/events>.

Environment

ANEC Environment Working Group Meeting

The ANEC Environment Working Group met on 14 November 2002 in Brussels. The Working Group discussed packaging, environmental labelling and the work of the ISO Technical Committee 207 on Environmental Management in which ANEC will in future participate. The Environment Working Group discussed a proposal for a European directive on the emission limits of exhaust gases from domestic heating appliances using gaseous or liquid fuels. The Group furthermore defined the ANEC Environmental Work Programme, focusing on environmental labelling, environmental reporting, environmental management systems, packaging waste and energy labelling. The Group also discussed the ANEC Research and Testing project on the suitability of ecolabel criteria for deriving environmental baselines requirements and decided on the products to be selected for Phase 2 of the project.



European Commission's New Eco-design Plans

At the end of October 2002, the European Commission has circulated a proposal for a new directive merging two previously separate initiatives to set eco-design requirements and minimum energy efficiency standards for consumer appliances. The new proposal will cover all end-of-use equipment (EUE) regardless of energy source, whereas EEE only targeted electrical equipment. More significantly, it is proposed as a framework directive. The draft explicitly suggests that the eco-design requirements might include quantitative limits on the consumption of resources in the production and use of appliances, as well as minimum recycled material content.

On 18 November, the European Commission organised a stakeholder meeting to discuss the working paper on the draft directive on eco-design of end-of-use equipment. ANEC participated in the meeting where it welcomed that the draft directive is proposed as a framework directive. ANEC feels that the proposal is a step in the right direction (especially with respect to product-specific requirements) although certain doubts remain. In particular, ANEC called for the deletion of the option for an Environmental Management System, which is maintained in the draft proposal. As there were only a few days between the circulation of the draft proposal and the stakeholder meeting, ANEC – like most of the other stakeholders - was unable to consult its members on the draft proposal prior to the Commission meeting. ANEC is in the process of preparing a comment on the proposed directive.

EU Commission outlines 2003 work programme

Resource management issues feature strongly in a list of policy themes on the European Commission's agenda next year, according to its recently published 2003 work programme of the European Commission. Next March will see a communication presaging the thematic strategy on the sustainable use and management of resources, a white paper on integrated product policy and a policy paper on environmental aspects of product standardisation.

Otherwise, next year is shaping up to be one of policy papers rather than legislation. There will be communications on sustainable tourism and financing the Natura 2000 network in September, on environmental technologies in November and on organic farming and the urban environment in December. Two initiatives previously thought to be imminent - a strategy on dealing with PVC waste and a draft directive on volatile organic compounds from paints and varnishes - appear on neither this year nor next year's schedule.

Information Society

ANEC ICT Working Group Meeting

The 13th ICT Working Group meeting was held on 25 and 26 November 2002 in Brussels. The first day of the meeting was dedicated to the final update of the ANEC report on **Consumer Requirements in Standardisation related to the Information Society**, which will be submitted to the European Commission and the European standards bodies at the beginning of next year. The Working Group stressed the importance of this document in the light of the new Commission's Paper on Consumer Policy Strategy 2002-2006 and the need to improve consumer representation in standardisation at national, European and international level.

During the plenary meeting, ICT Working Group members strongly rejected the proposal for participation fees to CEN/ISSS Workshops, which are a New Deliverable of CEN, in particular in the ICT area. Societal groups need to be exempted from any kind of

participation fees in order to avoid discrimination or exclusion, which would go against the democratic principle.

The Working Group also criticised the Best Practice Manual of TB8 on User Requirements of the Smart Card Charter. In its comment, ANEC asked to set up a small group in order to restructure and rephrase the document, in particular regarding references to quoted and copied documents. Other items on which ANEC will take action are the CEN/ISSS Initiative on Privacy Standardisation, WS e-Commerce and CEN/ETSI joint initiative on Network and Information Security.

Services and Standardisation

ANEC Research Project on Services Standardisation

Following a restricted call for tender, ANEC awarded – at the end of November 2002 - a service contract to a German Institute on “services standardisation: Opportunities, risks and best practices”. The study will review and assess existing standards or draft standards for services elaborated both at European and national level in order:

- To assess whether standardisation is the appropriate instrument to address consumer needs in the services area
- To identify opportunities and risks of the standardisation approach in the services area
- To define verifiable minimum consumer requirements for services standardisation
- To assist ANEC experts and consumer representatives in national committees in their role when contributing to the development of standards and other deliverables in the service area to the benefit of consumer protection.
- To facilitate the formulating of an ANEC strategy in the services arena.

Traffic Safety

ANEC/BEUC Letter on Pedestrian Protection

On 4 November 2002 ANEC and BEUC have written to the European Commissioners on the draft directive on pedestrian safety, which is currently going through interservice consultation. While ANEC / BEUC are pleased that the Commission is delivering its promise to issue legislation by the end of 2002, we are very disappointed with the content of the proposal.



ANEC / BEUC have already raised many concerns with respect to the voluntary agreement reached earlier this year between the car industry and the European Commission on pedestrian safety. The voluntary agreement failed to implement with certainty the state of the art pedestrian protection crash tests developed and scientifically validated by the European Enhanced Vehicle Safety Committee (EEVC). We were also very concerned that the European Parliament was only consulted on the voluntary agreement, while it has co-decision in transport.

We were pleased that the European Parliament called on the Commission to issue a directive on pedestrian safety but we are not at all happy with how the issue progressed. Again, the car industry has been extensively consulted but not consumers nor safety organisations. The draft legislation does not offer improved pedestrian safety with respect to the voluntary agreement but takes on board all the weaknesses of the voluntary agreement

and fails to implement, with certainty, the four EEVC tests. ANEC / BEUC thus call on the European Commission to ensure that the Four EEVC tests are mandatory for new types of cars. This could save 2000 lives each year in the EU.

ANEC Traffic Safety Working Group Meeting

ANEC Traffic Safety Working Group met on 28 November 2002 in Brussels. The Working Group agreed that the criteria of the frontal and side impact directives, which are currently under review are far too low and inappropriate. A revision on the international regulation on child restraints (R44/03) is also necessary. Pedestrian protection is another main consumer issue and the latest EuroNCAP crash test has demonstrated again that car industry is doing little to protect pedestrians.

With respect to child restraints, the ANEC Traffic Safety Working Group discussed transponder systems. This device senses if a child restraint is placed on the front seat of a car and then automatically switches the airbag off. Consumer groups are very concerned about these transponder systems and ask that consumers should be clearly informed.

With respect to ISOFIX child restraints, the ANEC Working Group expressed its concerns about the mix of 2 and 3-point ISOFIX systems in current and future car fleets. In addition, there are 5-7 different size categories of ISOFIX child restraints, which make it difficult for consumers to fit the right sized seat in their cars. In addition, consumers need clear labels with respect to where the ISOFIX anchorages are in the car and guidance on how to use ISOFIX.

News from ANEC Secretariat

New Programme Manager for ICT and Design for All



The ANEC Secretariat welcomes a new colleague. On 2 December 2002, **Chiara Giovannini** joined the ANEC team as the new ANEC Programme Manager for ICT and Design For All. She is a lawyer by education and half Italian - half Swiss by nationality. For the last two years, she worked with one of the member organisations of ANEC (Fédération Romande des Consommateurs). She has in-depth knowledge in the ICT area and was involved in standards making for e-commerce. The ANEC team is looking forward to working with her.

Terms of Reference for ANEC Chairpersons

At the end of November 2002, the ANEC General Assembly approved the Terms of Reference and Requirements for Chairpersons of the ANEC Working Groups. The document describes the rules and guidelines applicable to all ANEC Working Groups when choosing a Chairperson.

Miscellaneous

Forthcoming Meetings of Standards Bodies/Other Organisations

December	Date	Title
	4	CEN Certification Board, Madrid
	4	IPSE, Pre-Kick-off meeting, Brussels
	5	CEN STAR, Brussels
	5	Meeting of CEN Associates, Brussels
	10-11	Training seminar for ANEC representatives, Brussels
	13	European Commission Consumer Committee, Brussels
	17	CEN BT TCMG, Brussels
	18-19	European Commission Working Party on the Machinery Directive, Brussels
January 2003		
	27-28	European Commission, Environmental Governance and Civil Society, Brussels
	29	CENELEC Forum, Brussels

Standards Out for Public Enquiry

	Date	Title	Reference Number	Technical Committee
Child safety	03.04.2003	High performance helmets for equestrian activities	prEN 14572	TC 158
	24.04.2003	Playing field equipment	PrEN1271,1510,750,749,748 Reviews	TC 136
	24.04.2003	Stationary training equipment - Part 10: Exercise bicycles with a fixed wheel or without freewheel, additional specific safety requirements and test methods	prEN 957-10	TC 136
Domestic appliances	30.04.2003	Independent gas-fired convection heaters	EN 613:2000/prA2	TC 62

Standards Out for Formal Vote

	Date	Title	Reference Number	Technical Committee
Child safety	21.01.2003	Safety of toys - Part 8: Swings, slides and similar activity toys for indoor and outdoor family domestic use	prEN 71-8	TC 52
	21.01.2003	Safety of toys - Part 2: Flammability	prEN 71-2 REVIEW	TC 52
	25.01.2003	Stationary training equipment - Part 2: Strength training equipment, additional specific safety requirements and test methods	prEN 957-2 REVIEW	TC 136
Horizontal	05.03.2003	Textiles and textile products - Burning behaviour of bedding items - Classification scheme	prEN 14533	TC 248
Services	12.03.2003	Postal Services - Quality of service - Measurement of the transit time of end-to-end services for bulk mail	prEN 14534	TC 331

Published Standards

	Date	Title	Reference Number	Technical Committee
Design For All	08.09.2002	Technical aids for persons with disabilities - Classification and terminology	EN ISO 9999:2002	TC 293
Domestic appliances	09.09.2002	Domestic water kettles for use on top of stove, cooker or hob - Requirements and test methods	EN 13750:2002	TC 194
	18.10.2003	Safety of machine tools - Small numerically controlled turning machines and turning centres	EN 12415:2000/A1:2002	TC 143
Horizontal	09.09.2002	Decorative oil lamps - Safety requirements and test methods	EN 14059:2002	CS Subsector H99
Services	16.10.2002	Postal services - Mail item processing - Optical characteristics for processing letters	EN 13619:2002	TC 331

Latest ANEC Comments

	Title	Reference Number
Child safety	Comments from ANEC on prEN 1466 review "Child care articles - carry cots and stands"	ANEC2002/0499
	ANEC Comments on CEN/BT WG 117 document "Child Safety - Guidance for its inclusion in standards"	ANEC2002/CHILD/0505
	Comments from ANEC on the Draft Scoping Report for the STOA project on "Inedibles in food product packaging " from the European Parliament	ANEC2002/0536
Domestic appliances	ANEC Comments on the update of the Low Voltage Directive	ANEC2002/0423
	Lobbying request for negative vote on prEN 61121:2002 "Tumble dryers for household use - Methods for measuring the performance"	ANEC2002/0526
Environment	ANEC Position Paper on Environmental Management System Standards	ANEC2002/ENV/024
	ANEC Letter to the European Commission for its withdrawal from CEN Technical Committee 261 on Packaging and the Environment	ANEC2002/0500
Traffic Safety	ANEC/BEUC letter to the European Commissioners on the draft legislative proposal on pedestrian safety	ANEC2002/TRAF/22

Further Information

For comments, further information or if you wish to write an article for the ANEC Newsletter, please contact: Claudia Seybold (c.seybold@anec.org)



Dear reader,

*The ANEC staff would like to take this opportunity
to wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.*



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