

ANEC in brief

ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending consumer interests in the process of technical standardisation, 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 & EFTA, with national consumer organisations contributing in kind. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels. In 2016, ANEC celebrated its 21st Anniversary (#ANEC21).

ANEC has signed the European Transparency Register and accepted its Code of Conduct: Identification Number 507800799-30

European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation, aisbl

Avenue de Tervuren 32, box 27
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium
Phone +32 2 743 24 70
Fax + 32 2 706 54 30
anec@anec.eu – www.anec.eu

 www.facebook.com/ANEC.Standards

 [@anectweet](https://twitter.com/anectweet)

©ANEC 2017



Raising Standards for Consumers

**ANEC's right to
submit an Opinion on
draft standards**



Background

The broader use of standards in European legislation and policies of public interest makes the participation of societal stakeholders more crucial than ever in ensuring that standards are robust and able to serve the interests of industry and society.

Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 foresees a more inclusive European Standardisation System (ESS) and some welcome changes have taken place since its entry into force in 2013.

Among these is the decision of CEN-CENELEC to grant the three European societal stakeholders organisations (SSOs), recognised under Annex III of Regulation 1025, **the right to submit an Opinion** on draft standards submitted to the Enquiry or Formal Vote. These organisations represent consumers (**ANEC**), environmental interests (ECOS) and workers (ETUC).

The right to submit an Opinion was implemented on 1 January 2017.

The right to submit an opinion

The decision on the adoption of a European Standard (EN) remains with the national members of CEN-CENELEC through the national delegation principle. Hence ANEC needs to continue to lobby at the national level.

Nevertheless, the Opinion allows each SSO to express whether it supports adoption of the standard through a "Favourable" or "Not Favourable" statement, accompanied by comments as needed. It is an additional right that does not affect the usual commenting process, nor the right to send comments on a draft standard during its development.



How it works

An SSO is not required to submit an Opinion on every draft standard and, indeed, is encouraged to submit an Opinion only where it contributed to the development of a standard. Moreover, the Opinion does not remove the right of an SSO to appeal against ratification of a newly-adopted standard.

Opinions are sent to the Technical Committee (TC) responsible for the standard. Where an EN is adopted on the vote of CEN-CENELEC members, but at least one Opinion from an SSO is not supportive ("Not Favourable"), the TC must consider the justification provided and advise the parent Technical Board (BT). If the TC agrees with the justification, it should propose an action to the BT.

Opinions will be recorded in the summary of voting results published at the close of the Enquiry or Formal Vote.