



Child Safety - Design for All - Domestic Appliances - Ecodesign

ANEC Annual Review 2015

Information Society - Innovation - Services - Sustainability - Traffic



Raising standards for consumers



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Key Events of 2015

ANEC governance bodies

The ANEC General Assembly (ANEC/GA) meeting, held in Brussels on 18-19 June, ratified the membership of the General Assembly for the 2015-2019 term. Of the 33 countries eligible for membership, a record 32 are now represented.

The meeting re-elected Arnold Pindar (UK) as ANEC President for a further term of two years (2015-2017), Dermott Jewell (Ireland) as Vice-President and Benedicte Federspiel (Denmark) as Treasurer.

The meeting also elected the members of the ANEC Steering Committee (ANEC/SC), the board of the association, for the 2015-2017 term. In October 2015, a new ANEC Guide was issued to support the ANEC/GA members in their roles, complemented by a series of webinars hosted by the ANEC Secretariat.

ANEC Annual Action Plans

In June 2013, the General Assembly adopted an ANEC Strategy 2014 to 2020, comprising a Vision and Mission supported by ten Strategic Objectives. The actions intended to implement the Strategic Objectives are set out in Annual Action Plans, drafted by the ANEC/SC and approved by the ANEC/GA. The final report on the ANEC Annual Action Plan 2014 was endorsed by the ANEC/GA in January 2015. Although most of its actions were completed, some were delayed by factors outside the control of ANEC (e.g. the impasse in Council on the Product Safety Package).

In January 2015, the ANEC/GA also adopted the Annual Action Plan for the next 12 months, with clear links to the detailed ANEC Work Programme 2015.

LINKS:

Progress Report on ANEC Annual Action Plan 2014,
<http://tinyurl.com/pzt3pll>

ANEC Work Programme 2015 (public version),
<http://tinyurl.com/z6ayou4>

ANEC Annual Action Plan 2015,
<http://tinyurl.com/larla6f>

Review of the European Standardisation System

In early 2014, the European Commission (EC) contracted EY to carry out an independent review of the European Standardisation System (ESS), an action in its Communication of June 2011¹. The review assessed the ability of the ESS to adapt to a quickly-evolving environment and its contribution to Europe's strategic internal & external objectives, especially in the fields of industrial policy, innovation & technological development. It also examined the adequacy of the ESS with regard to inclusiveness and representativeness, and in meeting market needs. ANEC contributed to the initiative throughout 2014, including supporting the need for increased inclusiveness through publication of a Position Paper.

Following publication of the EY study, and a "Friends of Standardisation" roundtable hosted by EC on 1 July 2015, ANEC co-signed a letter on

the participation of societal stakeholders to CEN, CENELEC and ETSI, the three European Standardisation Organisations. The letter, '*An effective contribution of societal stakeholders to ensure good quality standards*' - A joint proposal from ANEC, ECOS & ETUC' stressed that Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 on European standardisation confirms the vital role these organisations play in representation of consumer, environmental and workers' interests in the ESS.

In October 2015, the EC published a Communication, 'Upgrading the Single Market'. In the Communication, the EC expresses its wish to modernise the ESS and to establish a 'Joint Initiative on Standardisation' with the European standardisation community. In November, ANEC issued a position paper on the Communication, focusing on the consumer-relevant aspects linked

to standardisation. ANEC believes it essential for the Joint Initiative to give political impetus to the strengthened inclusiveness of the ESS in order to ensure European standards offer the highest levels of consumer protection and welfare practicable. The political aspects of the Joint Initiative should be complete by June 2016, with the supporting actions agreed by October. ANEC trusts a Steering Group will monitor the implementation of the actions for the rest of the present term of the Juncker Commission.

LINKS:

Independent Review of the European Standardisation System (March 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/gl2tp8o>

ANEC comments on the EY Report of the Independent Review of the European Standardisation System (June 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/hhvarnx>

EC Communication, 'Upgrading the Single Market (October 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/jnzwoct>

ANEC Position Paper on the Single Market Strategy (December 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/zju2nbm>

¹ COM(2011)311 final

TTIP and standards

On 31 March, the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) hosted a workshop, 'TTIP myths debunked – What's really in it for consumers?', supported by BEUC, the mainstream European Consumer Organisation. Its aim was to look at some common misperceptions and claims made in support of the proposed Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP). ANEC presented its views and stressed that standards should be seen not only as Technical Barriers to Trade but as elements of consumer protection when linked to legislation. ANEC had already presented this view at a DG TRADE stakeholder engagement event on 4 February, during the eighth round of TTIP negotiations.

In June 2015, ANEC contributed to a CEN-CENELEC position paper on the risks of mutual recognition.

We spoke at a European Parliament event, 'TTIP and beyond – trade in global and local politics', hosted by the Greens-European Free Alliance on 1 July. On TTIP and standards, we expressed concern about the risks to consumer protection that could arise from a mutual recognition of European standards and "standards developed in the USA".

LINKS:

ANEC presentation at the TTIP stakeholder presentations event (February 2015)
<http://tinyurl.com/ppnd9d2>

CEN-CENELEC paper, 'The risks of mutual recognition of voluntary industry standards within the context of a future EU-US trade agreement (TTIP)',
<http://tinyurl.com/j34rs93>

CENELEC ends work on use of appliances by vulnerable consumers

On 30 November & 1 December, CENELEC TC 61 WG4 held its last meeting to deal with work under Mandate M/392 and the revision of the EN 60335 series for electrical household appliances in order to address use by vulnerable consumers.

The previous version of the EN 60335 standards contained an exclusion or limitation clause that these standards do not

"..., in general, take into account the use of appliances by young children or infirm persons without supervision".

In 2003, ANEC argued the clause was discriminatory, leading to creation of CENELEC TC 61 WG 4 to revise the standards. Due to the complexity of European legislation governing domestic electrical appliances, and need to ensure safety and acces-

sibility, the revision process proved complex and time consuming. ANEC provided support in order to determine the technical solutions needed to facilitate the revisions.

The task of WG4 has now come to an end. The culmination of the work represents a huge step forward for the safety of European consumers, especially children, older people & those with disabilities.



Other stories

LINKS:

Final report of the ANEC/SC technical study, 'The benefits of consumer participation in standardisation to all stakeholders',
<http://tinyurl.com/j4chr8l>

ANEC leaflet: ANEC in 60 seconds,
<http://tinyurl.com/pzhjfyz>

ANEC leaflet: Standards in 60 seconds,
<http://tinyurl.com/j8rf8kc>

ANEC position paper on draft AUWP (May 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/qb8cabg>

Technical Studies 2015

'European cross-border online shopping - Learning from consumer experiences'

The purpose of this study was to collect data on examples of consumer complaints in the consumer online services area, with special attention paid to cross border data. The results revealed that, despite EC policies to encourage e-commerce cross-border, consumers still face notable barriers to reaping the benefits of a digital single market.

Two-thirds of shoppers surveyed had bought cross-border, with 15% finding a problem. Of these, 27% reported late deliveries while 22% said their orders never arrived. Respondents also reported problems when trying to place orders, such as unfair price differences, unclear or misleading information, and refusals to sell or deliver to the shopper's address.

An overview of the findings can be found in the ANEC leaflet, 'Key Facts on Cross-border online shopping within the EU'.

LINKS:

ANEC study, 'European cross-border online shopping - Learning from consumer experiences', <http://tinyurl.com/gvf28lw>

ANEC leaflet, 'Key Facts on European cross-border complaints' (December 2015), <http://tinyurl.com/pci9xek>

ANEC press release, 'Barriers to clicking cross-border' (December 2015), <http://tinyurl.com/jxvym6e>



'Drafting standards in a hazard-based format'

The purpose of this study was to develop the hazard-based approach to drafting standards for child use and child care articles. The study concludes improvements are possible. Safety requirements, incorporated in the standardisation requests directed to CEN and CENELEC, are a key element in the drafting of standards under the General Product Safety Directive (GPSD). They need to follow a hazard-based approach that completely and systematically identifies, assesses and addresses both hazards and risks.

One conclusion of the study is that the levels of safety, defined in the safety requirements, should be relevant to the significance of the hazards and risks, especially when the risk of harm is high. Another is that the levels of safety should be defined by the GPSD committee, not left to CEN-CENELEC, as the role of the standardiser is to find ways of addressing safety requirements, not to decide on their significance.

LINKS:

ANEC study, 'The development of safety requirements and hazard-based standards for child use and care articles', <http://tinyurl.com/j3rwwl7>



Child Safety

New standards for swimming pools

ANEC welcomed the adoption of six European standards for domestic swimming pools in 2015. Three standards in the EN 16582 series deal with requirements for in-ground pools and above-ground pools; three standards in the EN 16713 series address requirements & test methods for filtration systems; circulation systems & treatment of water systems. Drowning is a leading cause of injury death among

children in Europe. In order to prevent drownings at home and to keep children safe by water, ANEC participated in the drafting of all six standards and called for their adoption when they were circulated for the Formal Vote of national standards bodies. Further standards work on domestic swimming pools continues in CEN/TC 402, with the drafting of standards for mini-pools, spas and hot tubs. ANEC also participates in this work.

Laundry detergent capsules

ANEC supported the OECD-DG JUST awareness raising campaign on laundry detergent capsules which took place in March. These products can be attractive to children and can pose a serious danger if not handled and stored safely. ANEC asked its members to spread the message of the campaign. ANEC also spread the word through Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, and through the ANEC Newsletter. The posting on the ANEC Facebook page alone was seen by more than 50.000 people. ANEC also continued to follow ASTM work on the same subject through teleconference meetings, with a view to its possible proposal to CEN.

LINKS:

Global awareness-raising campaign on laundry detergent capsules/packets #Laundrysafe, <http://tinyurl.com/z7q5vu8>

Standard for moveable goals

Several years ago, ANEC expressed concern about the fatalities and serious injuries that can arise when children are accidentally hit by moveable goalposts. As a result, CEN started work on EN 16664 "Playing field equipment — Lightweight goals — Functional, safety requirements and test methods". The standard was adopted in April 2015. EN 16664 is one of two standards: CEN TC 136 WG22 is also developing EN 16579 'Playing field equipment — Portable and fixed goals — Functional, safety requirements and test methods'.



ANEC endorses Toy Safety Tips

Children learn through play, and toys make an essential contribution to their development. In December, with the festive season approaching, ANEC was pleased to endorse a short video prepared by Toy Industries of Europe (TIE) which includes 12 simple tips to help children play safely with toys. The video is available in English, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian & Spanish language versions. A leaflet was issued to accompany the video. ANEC cascaded the toy safety tips to its network and promoted the video & leaflet on its social media sites. Several members offered to translate the tips into their own languages.

LINKS:

Safety First - Top Tips for Toys (video), <http://tinyurl.com/gm8drng>
Safety First - Top Tips for Toys (leaflet), <http://tinyurl.com/zm4y27n>



Design for All¹

European Accessibility Act

On 2 December, the EC published its long-awaited proposal for a European Accessibility Act. The directive would set accessibility requirements for certain key products & services to help people with disabilities participate fully in society. In a press release, we welcomed the proposed legislation. For many years, ANEC has been calling for regulatory action and use of standards in order to increase access to products and services for consumers of all ages and abilities. Moreover, we proposed that the legislation creates a market surveillance system of public authorities, harmonised at European level or at least well-coordinated and resourced. We are pleased the Commission reflects these suggestions in its proposal.

To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December, we published ANEC guidance on the use of ISO/IEC Guide 71:2014 & CEN-CENELEC Guide 6:2014 'Guide for addressing accessibility in standards'. This material provides tips and directions on taking accessibility into account when writing standards.

LINKS:

European Accessibility Act proposal (December 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/hb64w2l>

ANEC press release, 'European Accessibility Act: Standards to make products and services accessible for European consumers' (December 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/j7sna5y>

ANEC contribution to EC public consultation on a European Accessibility Act (February 2012),
<http://tinyurl.com/75ho8zj>

ANEC guidance on use of ISO/IEC Guide 71:2014 & CEN-CENELEC Guide 6:2014 'Guide for addressing accessibility in standards',
<http://tinyurl.com/jpydmsh>

Other stories

Design for All (M/473)

CEN and CENELEC accepted standardisation mandate M/473 with the aim of ensuring that accessibility is addressed in all relevant standardisation initiatives. ANEC supported the mandate and aids its execution, especially drafting of the standard, 'Accessibility following a Design for All approach in products, goods and services – Extending the range of users'. Sadly, the CENELEC community has not demonstrated much enthusiasm for the work.

LINKS:

ANEC comments on M/473 'Design for All deliverable D.1.2: Analysis of main areas of standardization and prioritization of work in standardization in relation to the needs of people with disabilities and older persons' (May 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/gmjatgd>

Touch screens in lifts

ANEC is working on revision of EN 81-70 "Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts –Part 70: Accessibility to lifts for persons including persons with disability". The revision is being carried out by CEN TC 10 WG 7 'Accessibility to lifts for persons including persons with disability', set up following an ANEC request. Together with the European Blind Union, the European Disability Forum and other national disability associations, ANEC was able to change the provisions on the use of touch screens which prove a problem for blind, partially sighted and elderly people.

LINKS TO OTHER STORIES:

ANEC comments on BSI and DIN proposal to transpose EN 301549 'Accessibility requirements suitable for public procurement of ICT products and services in Europe' to ISO (February 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/q85ozhc>



¹ The title of the ANEC Design for All WG has been changed to Accessibility WG in 2016.

Domestic Appliances

Proposal for Gas Appliances Regulation adopted

In January 2016, the European Parliament adopted the proposal for a regulation on gas appliances. ANEC is pleased some amendments were adopted on the prevention of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Nevertheless, no emission limit values were set for combustion gas parameters that could improve indoor air quality. When combustion products are emitted in living spaces, the exhaust

gas parameters affect not only performance of the appliance, but also the quality of the air, and thus pose a risk to health (e.g. CO poisoning is the cause of several deaths each year and numerous illnesses). It is not enough for the Regulation to incorporate a vague essential requirement for the appliance to be "safe". ANEC insists indoor air quality must be addressed in order to avoid both fatal and non-fatal accidents.

In order to reduce risk of CO poisoning, a requirement was also adopted for manufacturers to state in the instructions for use that it would be advisable for installation or maintenance work to be done by professionals. This requirement in line with our position. On the other hand, there is no specific reference to the periodic servicing of appliances. This is a crucial aspect in order to safeguard health and

safety. An appliance, even if manufactured to the most rigorous standards, may become unsafe and/or inefficient in operation due to poor, faulty or negligent installation and maintenance.

The Council of the European Union adopted the text in February 2016. The new Regulation is expected to enter into force in 2018.

LINKS:

ANEC position paper on the EC proposal for a Regulation on appliances burning gaseous fuels (November 2014), <http://tinyurl.com/kreb8bj>

Barbecues

In 2015, DG JUST proposed to establish safety requirements for barbecues, solid fuels & firelighters (among other products). ANEC nominated an expert to aid the EC in the drafting work and, at the beginning of 2016, conveyed its support for adoption of the requirements. The concern relates to the dangers from the indoor use of barbecues: in the past years, several campers died from carbon monoxide poisoning after using barbecues to keep their tents warm.

ANEC also participates in CEN TC 281 WG1 which is developing an amendment to EN 1860-1:2013 'Appliances, solid fuels & firelighters for barbecuing - Part 1: Barbecues burning solid fuels - Requirements & test methods' to address the indoor use of barbecues.



Information Society ¹

ANEC suppresses flame retardants

In March 2015, parallel votes were held in IEC and CENELEC on the transposition of the Technical Specification, IEC TS 62441 'Safeguards against accidentally-caused candle flame ignition', into a standard. ANEC was pleased to see the proposal rejected as the text included a provision on the use of flame-retarding chemicals. We believe protection against external ignition must be reached without flame-retardants which can be hazardous to people or the environment. We argue that resistance against external ignition can be achieved by design (e.g. sandwich construction) or use of materials (e.g. ceramics).

Despite rejection of the TS as a standard, IEC 60065-A1Ed8 'Audio, video & similar electronic apparatus – Safety requirements', and IEC 62368-1-A1/Ed2 'Audio, video, information

& communication technology equipment - Part 1: Safety requirements', included the candle flame test when submitted to parallel voting later in 2015. ANEC pressed for the rejection of both standards in IEC and CENELEC and welcomed the negative voting results. We trust these latest rejections settle the discussion on the candle flame test for TV sets once and for all.



Mobile phones - reflecting real consumer use

EN 50566:2013 'Requirements to demonstrate compliance of radio frequency fields from handheld and body-mounted wireless communication devices used by the general public (30MHz - 6GHz)' received a Formal Objection from France. Measurements showed SAR levels measured in contact with the rear surface of a mobile phone often exceeded the threshold of 2W/kg fixed by the Recommendation 1999/519/EC, and sometimes exceeded 4W/kg.

France believed current standards related to "body SAR" measurements should be revised so a manufacturer cannot choose a distance incompatible with the reasonably foreseeable use of the equipment, in line with Directive 2014/53/EU on radio equipment, and especially its Article 17.1.

ANEC had similar comments in 2011 when prEN 50566 was discussed by CENELEC TC 106x. Unfortunately, our comments were not accepted and we expressed regret during the vote

on the standard. We supported the French Formal Objection and urged CENELEC to revise the standard as soon as possible. The EC suggested the publication of a restrictive warning in the Official Journal, which we supported. It is expected the decision on the Formal Objection will be adopted early in 2016.

Other stories

LINKS:

ANEC position paper on the standardisation aspects of the proposal for a Directive on the Accessibility of Public Sector Bodies' Websites, <http://tinyurl.com/htvz6db>

ANEC press release, 'All for industry, nothing for consumers? Standards in Digital Single Market' (May 2015), <http://tinyurl.com/h4jcusf>

ANEC position paper on standards for the Digital Single Market (reply to public consultation), (December 2015), <http://tinyurl.com/hhdu97w>

ANEC position paper on the Draft Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation 2016 (August 2015), <http://tinyurl.com/zz6ec3m>

ANEC position paper on patents and standards (February 2015), <http://tinyurl.com/hygr3ys>

ANEC leaflet, 'Citizens' requirements for smart cities: what standards can do!', <http://tinyurl.com/h6bsb9b>

ANEC guides on privacy standardisation

On 29 January, to mark International Privacy & Data Protection Day (the anniversary of the signature of the Council of Europe Convention on Data Protection in 1981), ANEC released guidance to aid consumer representatives in standards committees address issues of personal data protection:

LINKS:

ANEC pocket guide, 'Using Consumer Data. Data transfer, trading and privacy, <http://tinyurl.com/qg92pqt>

ANEC pocket guide, 'Domestic privacy and the privacy of digitally connected devices', <http://tinyurl.com/prh7os5>

ANEC pocket guide, 'Overview of Privacy Guidance for Consumer Representatives in standards technical committees. Key Principles', <http://tinyurl.com/opo7thu6>

ANEC pocket guide, 'Overview of Privacy Guidance for members of standards technical committees who are Consumer Representatives: Key Principles for Digital Device Privacy Impact Assessment', <http://tinyurl.com/nuesbxr>

ANEC pocket guide, 'Using Consumer Data: Consumer Representatives Guide on Privacy', <http://tinyurl.com/zi96kqb>

¹ The title of the ANEC Information Society WG has been changed to Digital Society WG in 2016.

Innovation

Smart deployment of smart meters

Over half of Europe is rolling out smart meters. Whereas households in some countries have had smart meters installed for several years, others are about to fit their first generation. ANEC has reservations about the benefits smart meters bring to consumers. Although the use of minimum functionalities for smart meters and interoperability is important, we think these will not be enough to ensure active consumer participation in the smart energy market.

We have therefore proposed measures that could be used to assess whether deployment is truly benefitting consumers.

We believe smart meters can become a success story for consumers if consumers: (1) have easy access to usable consumption information, (2) have a high level of satisfaction with smart metering deployment, (3) are able to realise benefits from smart meters, (4) are engaged in the smart energy market. Compliance with these criteria could be assessed through indicators.

Mandate M/490 on smart grids closed in early 2015. Having followed the mandate for several years, we find the execution of M/490 to be positive for the most part but are critical

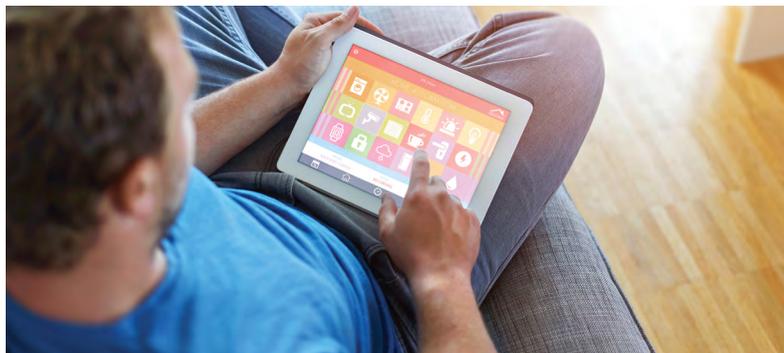
of issues related to implementation, notably provision of information on energy consumption, lack of interoperability between end-devices, and privacy. We also believe that with the advent of technologies such as flexibility services, it needs to be clarified how benefits can be shared and how vulnerable consumers can be protected. Consumers will need tailored support to help manage their energy consumption and independent advice when comparing competing offers.

LINKS:

ANEC position paper, 'Monitoring the success of smart metering deployment from a consumer perspective' (July 2015), <http://tinyurl.com/nrcg4fg>

EC report on the status of interoperability, standards and functionalities applied in large scale roll-outs of smart metering in EU countries, <http://tinyurl.com/jblbhvn>

ANEC press release, 'Let's be smart' (March 2015), <http://tinyurl.com/j6rbf87>



MarketWatch

MarketWatch

Insufficient market surveillance is a key obstacle to the realisation of the energy-saving potential of the EU Ecodesign & Energy Labelling Directives. Hence sixteen civil society organisations from across Europe have come together to form MarketWatch.

The Marketwatch project, launched in 2013, continued its work in 2015 with further

shop visits (physical and on-line), as well as the check-testing and full-testing of potential non-compliant products. Where non-compliance was confirmed, the manufacturer was informed and asked to respond within two weeks. At the same time, national market surveillance authorities (MSAs) where the product was sold were also informed of the results and next steps.



LINKS:

MarketWatch, www.market-watch.eu

Report of 2nd round of shop visits, <http://tinyurl.com/zcbypz8>

Report of 3rd round of shop visits, <http://tinyurl.com/hgmj685>

How NGOs and consumers can check products on energy labelling, <http://tinyurl.com/gnxjk78>

How retailers can get labelling right with the MarketWatch retailer guide, <http://tinyurl.com/jjsqef4>

Services

Safety of accommodation services



In spring 2015, DG JUST published a summary of the contributions to the Green Paper consultation on safety of tourism accommodation, including our contribution on consumer expectations for a minimum level of safety throughout Europe.

Unfortunately, the EC concluded there was insufficient stakeholder support for new legislative initiatives in the field. Nevertheless, there was near unanimous support for EU action on data collection and the sharing of best practices, topics on which ANEC has also campaigned.

ANEC expressed its concern at the EC conclusions in several meetings during the rest of 2015, including the European Tourism Forum, and European Parliament roundtable, 'What next for tourism accommodation safety in the EU?'. We also continued to collaborate with our partners in the Tourism Safety Accommodation Campaign (TASC).

LINKS:

Summary report of the public consultation on the Green Paper on the Safety of Tourism Accommodation Services,
<http://tinyurl.com/jhmt6wx>

Green Paper consultation on safety of tourism accommodation,
<http://tinyurl.com/zcmx2v8>

ANEC response to Green Paper consultation,
<http://tinyurl.com/p2yynus>

ANEC presentation to European Tourism Forum (September 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/jfa3kdd>

ANEC Secretary-General's speech at EP roundtable 'What next for tourism accommodation safety in the EU?' (November 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/zot2mo6>

ANEC views on cross-border parcel delivery

ANEC gave its views on cross-border parcel delivery in July. Taking into account national experiences shared by our members, the paper describes key consumer aspects we trust will be tackled in future EC activities to improve the quality and efficiency of the delivery market. These range from transparency of information (on price, returns policy delivery) and effective tracking & tracing of parcels, to quality of delivery service, affordability and accessibility of the service.

Meanwhile, CEN TC 331 WG 1 accepted our comments on draft CEN/TS 15472, intended to measure transit time for cross-border parcels using "Tracking & Tracing" and CEN/TS 16819 'Postal services - Parcel boxes for end use - Technical features'.

LINKS:

EC consultation on cross-border parcel delivery 'Initiative to enhance the affordability, quality and convenience of cross-border parcel delivery',
<http://tinyurl.com/pyo48fh>



Other stories

LINKS:

ANEC presentation to JRC-CEN-LEC-EARTO Workshop, 'Putting Science into Standards Evidence-based quality assurance - an example for breast cancer',
<http://tinyurl.com/hbczwx3>

Sustainability

Circular economy package rewind



In August, ANEC issued a paper on its expectations from the new proposal for a strategy on the circular economy, highlighting that the objective needs to remain the reduction of the use of resources as well as a cut in environmental and human health impacts. We believe it cannot be presumed a circular economy automatically leads to reduced material and energy flows, or that recycling is beneficial per se.

The new package on the circular economy was launched on 2 December. It aims at covering the full lifecycle: from production & consumption, to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials. The Communication announces measures in the Ecodesign working plan for 2015-2017 and a strategy on plastics in the circular economy.

ANEC is also keen to follow actions announced in the areas of construction and demolition in light of our paper 'Laying the foundations for sustainable buildings' in which we propose consideration of accessibility and adaptability at the design stage, as well as recyclability and the reusability of building parts. We call for development of a European strategy for sustainable construction to achieve a reliable performance assessment of buildings, provision of measurement indicators, and advice to consumers and building professionals.

LINKS:

ANEC comments in support of its response to the EC public consultation on circular economy (August 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/jc234sp>

The Circular Economy Package,
<http://tinyurl.com/zvh4j5v>

ANEC position paper, 'Laying the foundations for sustainable buildings' (October 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/q6ejqom>

Ecodesign

Renewed narrative for Ecodesign

ANEC has highlighted the potential of Ecodesign in improving not only the energy efficiency of products but also their overall sustainability. We welcome that the Circular Economy package echoes our view and commits to exploit Ecodesign as a policy avenue to increase the durability, reparability and recyclability of products. The next Ecodesign Working Plan, the publication of which is pending, is expected to outline how to accomplish this.

Other stories

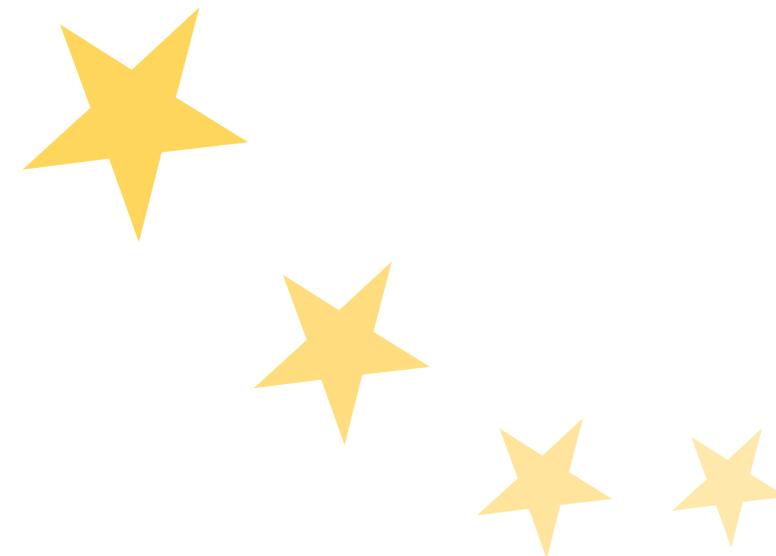
LINKS:

ANEC on benefits and challenges of environmental thinking,
<http://tinyurl.com/jdt85pq>

ANEC press release, 'EU Energy Label overhaul will simplify sustainable shopping' (July 2015),
<http://tinyurl.com/h9aof2g>

EC proposal to revise the EU Energy Label,
<http://tinyurl.com/znajw2l>

ANEC presentation, 'Tools for sustainable development: standardisation in Sweden & Europe',
<http://tinyurl.com/jbkn2wz>



Chemicals in consumer products

Roundtable on hazardous chemicals

On 3 March, ANEC and the Consumer Council of the Austrian Standards Institute held a roundtable, 'Less hazardous chemicals in our products for a non-toxic Europe', hosted by Christel Schaldemose MEP. The aim of the event was to raise the attention of MEPs to the ANEC strategy set out in the position paper 'Hazardous chemicals in products - The need for enhanced EU regulations'.

We repeated our call for a framework addressing hazardous substances in products to be established, with regulatory gaps closed in priority areas. The event continued our debate with European and national institutions, among others, on the chemical safety of consumer products.

Mrs Schaldemose, as well as some national authorities & NGOs, voiced support for a horizontal legislative approach underpinned by sectoral legislation. ANEC believes European standards for consumer products cannot aim at achieving safe products until the legislation on chemicals is tightened.

In May, ANEC criticised the Juncker Commission for hesitating in introducing regulation to set safety requirements for tattoo inks and permanent make-up.

LINKS:

ANEC position paper, 'Hazardous chemicals in products - The need for enhanced EU regulations' (May 2014), <http://tinyurl.com/mw1xvu6>

ANEC press release, 'Juncker Commission stalls on regulating dangerous tattoo inks' (May 2015), <http://tinyurl.com/hryatpg>

Toys - lower chemicals limits

ANEC welcomed the opinion of the EC Toy Safety Committee on 8 June to include new limit values in Appendix C of the Toy Safety Directive for formamide (used in puzzle mats) and the sensitizers, CMI, MI, CMI/MI 3:1 and BIT. The new values were established by the EC's Subgroup on Chemicals in Toys, in which ANEC participates. The Subgroup was created in 2010 – in answer to a request of ANEC and

several Member States - to make proposals for improving the chemical requirements of the Toy Safety Directive. During the second half of 2015, draft amendments to the Directive for kathone, CMI, MI, BIT and formamide received positive opinions from Member States, a success for ANEC. The amendments to Appendix C of the Toy Safety Directive for formamide, CMI and MI were published in the OJEU on 24 November.

LINKS:

Directive (EU) 2015/2115 of 23 November 2015 amending, ..., Directive 2009/48/EC on the safety of toys, as regards formamide, <http://tinyurl.com/zd8rtak>

Directive (EU) 2015/2116 of 23 November 2015 amending, ..., Directive 2009/48/EC on the safety of toys, as regards benzisothiazolinone, <http://tinyurl.com/j9sspd3>

Directive (EU) 2015/2117 of 23 November 2015 amending, ..., Directive 2009/48/EC on the safety of toys, as regards chloromethylisothiazolinone and methylisothiazolinone, both individually and in a ratio of 3:1, <http://tinyurl.com/hzd29nb>

Other stories

LINKS:

ANEC recommends stricter requirements on candle emissions to the indoor air (September 2015), <http://tinyurl.com/htatntk>

ANEC response to the EC consultation on quality of drinking water in the EU (September 2014), <http://tinyurl.com/mfwc4g9>

ECORYS analysis of the responses to the public consultation on the quality of drinking water (February 2015), <http://tinyurl.com/jo258zh>



Traffic

Child safety

CI/ANEC attended the meeting of the UNECE Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP) in December 2015. Prior to this, we submitted an ANEC/CI document proposing to withdraw the Isofix provision from R44, and our representative made a presentation to the meeting to explain our concerns. Phase 1 of R129, dealing with integral Isofix child restraint systems (CRS), entered into force on 9 July 2013. Initially, the aim was to finalise phase 2 (non-integral CRS) and phase 3 (belted CRS), and phase out R44 (no new approvals) once all phases had entered into force, as we had advocated. However, work is still on-going on phases 2 and 3, so permitting new integral CRS with Isofix connections according to R44 to be approved. Since the beginning of this work, ANEC/CI argued to keep the transitional period short due to the short-comings of the old R44. Hence we proposed that no new R44 approvals be granted to Isofix integral CRS and

that the transitional provisions be amended accordingly. The ANEC proposal was generally supported and GRSP agreed to consider a revised proposal at its May 2016 session.

LINKS:

Proposal to remove Isofix CRS provisions from R44 and to cease all new type approvals for CRS under R44,
<http://tinyurl.com/jnnuy5o>

ANEC/CI presentation in support of the proposal,
<http://tinyurl.com/z2zvv9g>



Bicycles - lighting and reflective devices

ISO 6742 'Cycles - Lighting and retro-reflective devices' was published in May 2015. ANEC contributed to the drafting of the standard in ISO TC 149 SC 1 WG 10 to address the concern that bicycles are often effectively "invisible" at dawn, dusk and at night, so putting cyclists at risk. The ANEC technical study 'Requirements on Lighting (Light Intensity)

and Reflectors of Bicycles', was used to argue for "to be seen lights" to be required. We welcome the standard in offering added safety to cyclists.

LINKS:

ANEC Technical Study report, 'Requirements on Lighting (Light Intensity) and Reflectors of Bicycles',
<http://tinyurl.com/opod46s>

Other stories

LINKS:

ANEC/CI present results of Euro NCAP crash tests on quadricycles to 57th session of GRSP in May 2015,
<http://tinyurl.com/zcmhldm>

ANEC supports ETSC campaign to urge President Juncker to re-adopt target for serious road injuries,
<http://tinyurl.com/hwtpey7>



FOR A EUROPEAN TARGET
TO REDUCE SERIOUS ROAD INJURIES

Members of the ANEC General Assembly

NOTE: Each member of the ANEC General Assembly is nominated to represent the interests of all national consumer organisations in his/her home country. Hence organisations listed provide only a contact address for the GA member.

Country	Member
Austria	Dr Franz Fiala Consumer Council of the Austrian Standards Institute
Belgium	Bénédicte Valet AB-REOC/BV-OECO
Bulgaria	Prof Elka Vasileva Bulgarian National Consumer Organisation "Active Consumers"
Croatia	Ida Kovacic Croatian Union of Consumer Protection Organisations
Cyprus	Andreas Pavlikas Cyprus Consumers' Association
Czechia	Libor Dupal Czech Consumer Association
Denmark	Benedicte Federspiel Danish Consumer Council
Estonia	Linda Läänesaar Estonian Consumers Union
Finland	Katri Jakosuo Consumers' Union of Finland
France	Anne Lucet-Dallongeville National Confederation of Housing
Germany	Dr Holger Brackemann Stiftung Warentest
Greece	Nikoloas Floratos Consumers' Association, "The Quality of Life" (EKPIZO)
Hungary	Dr György Morvay National Association for Consumer Protection in Hungary
Iceland	Johannes Gunnarsson The Consumers' Association of Iceland
Ireland	Dermott Jewell The Consumers' Association of Ireland
Italy	Prof Marino Melissano Altroconsumo
Latvia	Silvia Viksnina Latvian National Association for Consumer Protection
Lithuania	Alvita Armanaviciene Lithuanian National Consumer Federation
Luxembourg	To be appointed
Malta	Grace Attard Association for Consumer Rights
Netherlands	Tineke van Eerden Consumentenbond
Norway	Audun Skeidsvoll The Consumer Council of Norway
Poland	Elzbieta Szadzinska Polish Consumer Federation
Portugal	Fernanda Santos Associação Portuguesa para a Defesa do Consumidor (DECO)
Romania	Sorin Mierlea InfoCons Association
Slovakia	Milan Machalec Association of Slovak Consumers
Slovenia	Breda Kutin Slovene Consumers' Association (ZPS)
Spain	Conchy Martin Rey Confederacion de Consumidores y Usuarios (CECU)
Sweden	Jens Henriksson Swedish Consumers' Association
Switzerland	Florence Bettschart Fédération Romande des Consommateurs (FRC)
UK	Arnold Pindar National Consumer Federation
EFTA-CC	Audun Skeidsvoll The Consumer Council of Norway

Candidate accession countries to the EU	
Macedonia FYROM	Marijana Lonchar Velkova Consumers Organisation of Macedonia (OPM)
Turkey	Nerkis Kural Federation of Consumer Associations (TÜDEF)

LINKS:

The list of GA members and their full contact details is available on the ANEC website:
<http://tinyurl.com/bm9kj8y>



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**ANEC Governance Structure
ANEC Secretariat**

ANEC is the European consum-
er voice in standardisation,
defending the collective con-
sumer interest in the process-
es of technical standardisa-
tion, conformity assessment,
accreditation and market sur-
veillance, 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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